The FELLOWSHIP

for readers of The Urantia Book

Report to the General Council on the February 5, 1998 Meeting of the Executive Committee of The Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book

Prepared by Marilynn Kulieke, Secretary-General 3/18/98

In an effort to provide more frequent communication between the Executive Committee and General Councilors, the following is a summary of some of the most relevant discussions at the February 5, 1998 Executive Committee Meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Scheduled Meeting with Urantia Foundation. The Executive Committee would like to meet with the full board of URANTIA Foundation trustees on April 17. If the full board is not constituted, we will send a smaller group of the Executive Committee at 9:00 A.M. on April 17 to talk with the trustees.

Discussion occurred about other resources that we can bring to bear in order to create positive changes in the movement. We would like to suggest specific actions that the Foundation could take to help us achieve our mission. These actions include:

- Book distribution (the adequacy)
- Reader referrals
- · Mailing to inform readers of study groups
- Efforts in international book distribution
- Fair use policy
- Joint outreach projects
 - -Joint conference mailings
 - -Encourage each other to go to each other's conferences
 - -A leadership conference
- International cooperation
 - -Translations
 - -International book fairs
- Include names of other viable organizations in The Urantia Book
- Unity between IUA (International Urantia Association) and The Fellowship

The July, 1998 Executive Committee and General Council Meetings. There was a motion to change the date and time of the scheduled July 8-9 Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will now meet on July 12 between 1:00 and 6:00 PM. The General Council will meet at 7:00 PM on July 12, 1998.

FLOWERS Program. Marilynn Kulieke reported that a loan has been made to the Pilot Light Society of Seattle for securing a conference sight for a regional meeting in August. An article will be placed in the Mighty Messenger on the FLOWERS Program.

Office Oversight. The Executive Committee agreed to create charter field offices in Oklahoma, the San Francisco Bay Area of California, and Boulder, Colorado. We would assign the responsibility of accounting to Oklahoma, the website to San Francisco and reader services to Colorado. The Chicago office will remain as the headquarters of The Fellowship. The officers will oversee the creation of the field offices. David Kantor, Paula Thompson, and Harry McMullan will make a report at the April Executive Committee Meeting. Matt Block will leave the Chicago office after three months. During these three months Matt will work half time at full salary. We would like to communicate to John Hales the value of the contributions that he has made and the organization's commitment to find the best role possible for him in the restructured organization. Harry McMullan and Joe Liszka will make a report at the April Executive Committee meeting on the cost/benefits of the Chicago office.

The Executive Committee will execute a national search and hire an Executive Director. The Executive Director Search committee was appointed by Janet Farrington Graham and includes: Michelle Klimesh, Marilynn Kulieke, John Lange, Janet Farrington Graham and Mo Siegel with Mo Siegel as chair. A job description will be developed and presented at the April meeting.

Janet Farrington Graham reported that she plans to work with the officers to help work out the administrative tasks. The president will write a letter to the members and the secretary-general will write a quarterly letter to the General Council.

Web Subcommittee. A thank you to Mark Turrin for all his work on the website will be extended by the president. Mo Siegel is working with David Kantor to develop a procedure for collecting names on the website and to expand membership. El Libro de Urantia was placed on the web last week. It is an educational research tool on our website. A variety of precautions will be taken to make sure that the translation is used in this way. Susan Ransbottom will be the website liaison for the International Fellowship Committee. The Education Committee needs to provide a liaison to the website committee.

Progress Report on General Council Resolutions.

Resolution on Public Relations.

Public information software has been purchased. Alison Gardner is writing public information materials that can be presented to others. Brian Smith, Tonia Baney and Saskia Raver are interested in participating. A PR firm could be hired to help us. Richard Omura has some experience with this kind of work.

Resolution on Study Group Consultants.

The idea of refocusing the role of area coordinators on study groups was discussed. It was suggested that the area coordinator program be discontinued. It was also agreed that a certificate be sent to the area coordinators. We are not creating a new program but are refocusing our efforts on study groups.

Resolution on Religion.

A report on the original resolution, the further discussion in the council and the current lawsuits suggest a reevaluation of the original resolution. Two resolutions are being proposed which address the concerns stated in the original resolution. The report will forwarded to the General Council for discussion and action.

Resolution on the Spiritual Fellowship Journal

The Publication Committee recommended that the Spiritual Fellowship Journal not be taken over by The Fellowship.

Treasurer's Report. The total assets are \$610,571. The excess of expenses over revenues for the year ending on December 31 was \$109,945. Our cash position has declined dramatically over two years. More creative fund raising efforts, PR and efforts towards spiritual unity need to be undertaken. We need to leave this weekend with a compelling vision. The finance committee and treasurer will come up with actions to enhance fund raising. We need to execute some internal public relation activities to aid fund raising.

Education Committee. The summer seminars will meet from Thursday, July 9 until Sunday, July 12 in Washington DC. Registration materials will be sent out within the next ten days. The local readers are making the majority of the decisions with regards to the conference. One Wrightwood series is in preparation on "The New Cult."

Charter Committee. A member-at-large application for Henry Funston was approved. The member-at-large application was revised.

International Fellowship Committee. John Lange will be attending the conference which is taking place in Finland this summer and will also go to Estonia. It was suggested that we attend a book fair in India and sell the Urantia Foundation edition of The Urantia Book.

Publication Committee. The president of the Fellowship will have oversight functions and should review publications with regard to organizational issues. A new publication is currently in the planning stages which will be called ³The Fellowship Herald². It should be completed in July. It most likely will be printed in black and white.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Executive Committee members for more information.