

CONSTITUTION

*P. Parke*

OF

THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY  
OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PREAMBLE

Believing that the comfort, happiness and well being of mankind will be enhanced by knowledge of the truths expressed in the URANTIA PAPERS and that the spreading of these teachings among all peoples can best be accomplished through the mutual efforts of a body of people working together for a common cause, we do hereby join together as a voluntary association and fellowship for the purposes hereinafter expressed under the name of THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES and we do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this association shall be THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purposes of THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES are the study and dissemination of the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK; the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness and well-being of man as an individual and as a member of society through the medium of fraternal association, ever obedient to the laws of this country and to the regulations of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD. |

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3-1 Any person who shall, as adjudged by this Urantia Society, evidence a desire and willingness to learn and understand the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK and who shall declare his willingness to accept this Constitution and the Constitution of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD shall be eligible for membership in this Society.

Membership in or affiliation with any church, religious organization or fraternal society shall not disqualify a candidate for membership in this Society. Such candidate shall have attained the age of fourteen (14) years and shall be a resident in good standing in this community and in this country.

Any person, upon becoming a member, shall, ipso facto, become a member of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

Sec. 3-2 Application for Membership Formal application for membership in this Urantia Society shall be made in writing by the candidate to the Secretary of the Membership Committee in such form as may from time to time be required by the Membership Committee.

Sec. 3-3 Initiation of Members A candidate shall be received as a member of this Urantia Society by one (1) or more members of the Membership Committee in the presence of any officer of this Urantia Society. The ceremony of initiation shall follow the suggestions for procedure as outlined by the Charter Committee of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD. Upon the completion of these ceremonies, the Senior Officer present shall declare the candidate to be a member of this Urantia Society and also a member of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

Sec. 3-4 Record of Membership A permanent record of each member shall be made, kept and preserved in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

Sec. 3-5 Transfer of membership A member shall have the right to transfer his membership to another Urantia Society upon obtaining the consent of the other Society and complying with the requirements of the By-Laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

Sec. 3-6 Expulsion No member shall be expelled from membership in this Urantia Society, unless, as adjudged by the Society, the attitude, conduct or influence of such member shall be prejudicial to the interests and work of the Society. Upon the expulsion of a member he shall cease to be a member of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD, except as provided by appeal to URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### GOVERNMENT

The Government of this Urantia Society shall be of the congregational form of organization, known as The Assembly of the Society and fully autonomous in all matters of its government and activities including the determination of its membership, except as limited by the Constitution of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD. Its officers shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be determined by the By-Laws of this Urantia Society.

The Secretary-General of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD shall be notified of the names and addresses of the officers of this Society within thirty (30) days subsequent to their election.

#### ARTICLE V

##### THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SOCIETY

Sec. 5-1 Informal meetings The members of this Urantia Society may

hold informal meetings for the purpose of studying the URANTIA BOOK or for any other purpose at such time or times as may be determined from time to time by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum at any Formal Meeting. At such Informal Meetings so established, this Urantia Society may extend welcome to non-member students of URANTIA BOOK and to other interested visitors.

Sec. 5-2 Formal Meetings The attendance at Formal Meetings of this Urantia Society shall be restricted to members in good standing and such meetings shall constitute "The Assembly of the Society". Such Formal Meetings shall be as follows:

(a) Regular Annual Meetings A regular Annual Meeting of the members of this Urantia Society shall be held once each calendar year at its usual place of meeting or at the time and place designated by the Governing Committee. Written notice of such Regular Annual Meeting shall be posted at least fifteen (15) days prior to such meeting at the usual place of meeting of this Society.

(b) Special Meetings Special meetings of the members of this Urantia Society may be called at any time by the Governing Committee or upon the written request of twenty (20) percent of the members. Notice thereof shall be given as required in the case of the Regular Annual Meeting but such notice shall also state the purpose or purposes for which such Special Meeting is called.

(c) Triennial Meetings At any time after the receipt of a notice from the Secretary of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD setting the date of a meeting of the Triennial Delegate Assembly (pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD) but not later than sixty (60) days before the date of the called meeting, a meeting of the Assembly of the Society shall be held for the purpose of electing one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate Delegate to such Triennial Delegate Assembly. The nomination and the election of such Delegate and Alternate Delegate shall be in accordance with the provisions for the election of officers in Article VI of this Constitution. The Secretary of this Urantia Society shall notify the Secretary of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD of the name of the Delegate and of the name of the Alternate as provided in the Constitution and the By-Laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

Sec. 5-3 Quorum A quorum at any meeting of the Assembly of this Urantia Society shall consist of a majority of such members, but a lesser number may meet and adjourn. The presiding officer at any meeting may vote only in case of a tied vote. Any question presented at any meeting of the Assembly of the Society at which a quorum is present shall be decided by a majority vote except as provided otherwise in this Constitution.

Sec. 5-4 Powers The Assembly of the Society shall have the following powers:

(a) All powers which are not specifically conferred upon the Officers, the Governing Committee, the Membership Committee and such other

Standing Committees as may, from time to time, be established, and which are not prohibited to the Assembly of the Society by this Constitution or any amendment thereof, may be exercised by the Assembly of the Society.

(b) The Assembly of the Society shall have the power to and may adopt By-Laws which shall be known as the By-Laws of The First Urantia Society to make effective the terms and provisions of this Constitution and to regulate the conduct of this Urantia Society.

(c) The Assembly of the Society shall have the power by By-law to delegate its authority and powers or part thereof, to the Governing Committee and to revoke such delegation at any time.

## ARTICLE VI

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Sec. 6-1 Election The Officers shall be elected by the Assembly of the Society at its Regular Annual Meeting and shall hold office for a term of one (1) year and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The election of Officers shall be by secret ballot from candidates nominated for each office by a Nominating Committee appointed by the Governing Committee, or from the floor, and a candidate receiving a majority of the ballots cast shall be declared elected to the office for which he was nominated. When ever it shall be necessary to cast more than one (1) ballot, the candidates for office shall be restricted in each succeeding ballot to the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the preceding ballot, or, in the case of a tie by three (3) or more candidates, then to the candidates so tied.

Sec. 6-2 President The President shall be the principal executive officer; he shall preside at all meetings of the Assembly of the Society and of the Governing Committee; and he shall have such other powers as may from time to time be conferred or imposed upon him by the By-Laws of this Urantia Society, or by the Assembly of the Society, or by the Governing Committee.

Sec. 6-3 Vice-President In event of the inability of the President to act, the Vice-President shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in his place and stead; and he shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as may from time to time be imposed upon him by the Governing Committee and the President.

Sec. 6-4 Secretary The Secretary shall keep and preserve the records of the meetings and proceedings of the Assembly of the Society and of the Governing Committee; he shall keep and preserve the official record of the members of this Urantia Society; he shall have the power to certify to the correctness of any copies of records in his custody and possession; and he shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as may from time to time be imposed upon him by the By-Laws. In the event of the inability of both the President and Vice-President to act, he shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the President. If no Assistant Treasurer is

elected then the Secretary shall serve as the Assistant Treasurer.

Sec. 6-5 Treasurer The Treasurer shall be the principal financial officer and shall have general supervision and control over the moneys and properties of this Urantia Society; he shall collect and receive all moneys and properties due this Urantia Society; he shall render reports to the President and Governing Committee at such times as either shall require; he shall have the custody and control of, and shall preserve financial and property records of this Urantia Society; and he shall render a full and complete final report on the financial affairs of this Urantia Society and the conduct of his office at the Regular Annual Meeting of the Assembly of the Society. If no Assistant Secretary is elected then the Treasurer shall serve as the Assistant Secretary.

Sec. 6-6 Bonds The Officers shall give bond in such sums and with such sureties as may from time to time be required by the By-Laws. All such bonds shall be payable to the Governing Committee of this Urantia Society.

Sec. 6-7 Vacancies Whenever any vacancy shall occur in any of the foregoing offices, such vacancies may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the assembly of the Society which may elect a successor or successors to such office or offices, to serve during the unexpired term thereof, from nominees submitted by the Governing Committee or made from the floor.

Sec. 6-8 Limitations of Officers Except as in this Article provided, no person shall hold more than one (1) office, nor shall any officer serve as an officer of any Standing Committee except as provided hereinafter.

## ARTICLE VII

### GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Sec. 7-1 Organization There shall be a governing Committee of this Urantia Society to be known as the "Governing Committee", which shall be comprised of the Officers of this Urantia Society and the Chairman of each of the Standing Committees.

Sec. 7-2 Officers of the Governing Committee The President of this Urantia Society shall be the Chairman of the Governing Committee and shall preside at all meetings thereof. The Secretary of this Urantia Society shall be the Secretary of the Governing Committee and shall make and preserve all records of the meetings, proceedings and actions of the Governing Committee.

Sec. 7-3 Powers and Duties The Governing Committee shall be vested with the power to actively manage all the affairs of this Urantia Society in accordance with this Constitution and pursuant to the By-Laws. It shall have the power to veto or modify any act of any officer of this Urantia Society or of any Standing Committee of this Urantia Society; it shall exercise the powers conferred upon it by this Constitution; and it shall exercise such other powers and perform such functions as may be conferred upon, or delegated to, it by the Assembly of the Society. The Governing Committee shall have absolute control over all property of this Urantia Society, and complete legal

title to all property of this Urantia Society shall be vested in the Governing Committee unless the Governing Committee shall direct that the legal title to any or all such property shall vest in one (1) or more persons, corporations, or groups of persons as fiscal agents of the Governing Committee. The acts of the Governing Committee with respect to any property or property rights of this Urantia Society shall in all ways be final and conclusive and binding upon this Urantia Society, but the Governing Committee from time to time may delegate such powers or a part or portion thereof, or upon conditions and limitations, to one (1) or more persons, corporations or committees.

Sec. 7-4 Meetings The Governing Committee shall meet regularly once each quarter on the second Monday in January, April, July and October at the hour of eight (8) o'clock in the evening if not a legal holiday but, if a legal holiday, then on the next succeeding business day, at the usual meeting place of this Urantia Society, or at such other place as shall be designated by the President and Secretary. Special or adjourned meetings of the Governing Committee may be held at any place or time upon the call thereof by the President and Secretary. Notice of such special meetings, and of regular meetings where the place of such meeting shall be otherwise than the regular meeting place of this Urantia Society, shall be given by the Secretary to each member of the Governing Committee not less than ten (10) days prior to such meeting, which said notice shall contain the time and place of such meeting and the purposes of any special meeting. Notice of any meeting may be waived by waiver in writing of all the members of the Governing Committee.

Sec. 7-5 quorum A quorum at any meeting of the Governing Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of such committee, but a lesser number may meet and adjourn. No notice of an adjourned meeting shall be required. All questions presented to the Governing Committee may be decided by a majority vote of the members of the Governing Committee present at any duly constituted meeting. The Chairman of the Governing Committee shall vote only in event of a tied vote.

Sec. 7-6 Compensation Members of the Governing Committee shall serve without compensation, provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall prohibit the payment of just compensation for services otherwise rendered by any member. The Governing Committee shall have power to employ such persons as shall be necessary for the conduct of the affairs and business of this Urantia Society and to cause just compensation for services rendered to be paid to them out of the treasury of this Urantia Society.

## ARTICLE VIII

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 8-1 Election and Term of Office Each Standing Committee shall have five (5) members. They shall be elected at the Regular Annual Meeting of the Assembly of the Society from nominations made by a nominating committee appointed by the Governing Committee or from the floor. At the first election of the members of any Standing Committee the Assembly of the Society shall elect such Standing Committee members for the terms as follows: one (1) for

a term of one (1) year, one (1) for a term of two (2) years, one (1) for a term of three (3) years, one (1) for a term of four (4) years, one (1) for a term of five (5) years and until their respective successors are duly elected and qualified. Thereafter the Assembly of the Society at each Regular Annual Meeting shall elect one (1) member of each Standing Committee to fill the vacancy or vacancies of the member or members whose office or offices have expired, such member or members to hold office for a term of five (5) years and until their respective successor or successors are duly elected and qualified. The election of members of the Standing Committee or committees shall be in the same manner as provided in Sec. 6-1 of this Constitution for the election of Officers.

Sec. 8-2 Committee Chairmen The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall hold office for one (1) year and until his successor is duly elected and qualified. Such Chairman shall be elected by the Assembly of the Society at the Regular Annual Meeting immediately after the election of Standing Committee members. Any member of a Standing Committee shall be eligible for nomination as Chairman of such Committee by the nominating committee appointed by the Governing Committee or from the floor. The Chairman of a Standing Committee shall otherwise be elected in the same manner as is provided in Sec. 6-1 of this Constitution for the election of officers. The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall preside at all its meetings and shall be, ex-officio, a member of the Governing Committee. Whenever required by any officer of this Urantia Society, the Chairman of each Committee shall give a full and complete report of the activities of his Standing Committee.

Sec. 8-3 Committee Secretaries The Secretary of each Standing Committee shall be appointed by its Chairman. Vacancies in the office of Secretary may be filled by action of the Chairman at any regular or special meeting. The Secretary of each Standing Committee shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings and activities of his Committee and shall deliver certified copies thereof to the President at his request. In the absence of the Chairman, the Secretary will preside.

Sec. 8-4 Vacancies in Committees Whenever a vacancy shall exist in the membership or in the Chairmanship of any Standing Committee, such vacancy may be temporarily filled by the President, by and with the consent of a majority of the Governing Committee.

Sec. 8-5 Quorum A quorum at any meeting of any Standing Committee shall consist of a majority of the members of such Committee, but a lesser number may meet and adjourn. All questions presented to any Standing Committee may be decided by a majority of the members of such Committee present at any meeting thereof at which a quorum is present.

Sec. 8-6 Standing Committees There shall be Standing Committees of this Urantia Society as follows:

(a) Membership Committee This Committee shall pass upon the qualifications and eligibility of all candidates for membership in this Urantia Society. It shall have the final determination of the acceptance or of the rejection of all such candidates for membership

in this Urantia Society, subject to the authority of the Governing Committee. It shall participate in the initiation of all members in accordance with Sec. 3-3 of this Constitution.

(b) Educational Committee This Committee shall be concerned with the establishment of Study Clubs and the development of a School Program for the dissemination of the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK and such other educational and publicity matters as the Governing Committee may from time to time assign to it.

(c) Hospitality Committee This Committee shall be concerned with the Social Life and Activities, and shall provide plans and programs for such entertainment or social affairs as the Governing Committee may from time to time determine upon.

(d) Finance Committee This Committee shall be concerned with ways and means of raising funds for the support of the activities of this Urantia Society and shall assist the Treasurer in the handling of the financial affairs of the Society. The Treasurer shall, by virtue of his office, be the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Sec. 8-7 Additional Standing Committees The Assembly of the Society may create other and additional Standing Committees from time to time by By-Laws adopted by three fourths (3/4ths) of all members voting in favor thereof.

Sec. 8-8 Temporary Committees The Governing Committee shall have the power by a majority vote to establish one (1) or more Temporary Committees for the accomplishment of any particular purpose or purposes. The Chairman of such Temporary Committee shall be elected by the Governing Committee and the members of such committee shall be appointed by its Chairman by and with the consent and approval of the Governing Committee. Upon the accomplishment of the purpose or purposes for which it was created, such Temporary Committee may be dissolved after making final report of its activities to the Governing Committee.

## ARTICLE III

### FINANCES

Sec. 9-1 Treasury All funds, including money and other property, received by this Urantia Society shall, upon receipt thereof, become a part of the treasury of this Urantia Society.

Sec. 9-2 Disbursement of Funds All moneys in the treasury of this Urantia Society shall be deposited in such banks or other financial institutions as the Governing Committee shall from time to time designate. No moneys shall be paid out of the treasury of this Urantia Society unless and until the same have been appropriated by the Governing Committee and all such disbursements shall be by check or other written order. Any funds in the treasury of this Urantia Society, when deposited in any bank or other institution, shall be so deposited that such funds may be withdrawn at any time by check or other written order signed by any two (2) officers of this Urantia Society.



Sec. 9-3 Fiscal Year The Fiscal Year of this Urantia Society shall be the calendar year.

Sec. 9-4 Investment of Funds The Governing Committee shall have the power to invest and reinvest the funds and property of this Urantia Society. The Governing Committee may delegate the investment of the funds of this Urantia Society to one (1) or more persons or corporations, with such limitations and restrictions as it shall desire or deem appropriate and proper.

Sec. 9-5 Tithes This Urantia Society shall remit to the Treasurer of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD a tithe ten percent (10) of its gross receipts pursuant to the Constitution of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD and as defined in the By-Laws of URANTIA BROTHERHOOD.

## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENTS

Sec. 10-1 Procedure for Amendment Amendments to this Constitution may be made in the manner following: The Governing Committee shall adopt a resolution, by the affirmative vote in favor thereof of two thirds (2/3rds) of the entire membership of the Governing Committee; setting forth the amendment proposed declaring its advisability, recommending its adoption, and instructing the Secretary to post a copy of said resolution in the meeting place of this Urantia Society. At the next meeting of the Assembly of the Society, if the same shall be not less than thirty (30) days from the date of the adoption of the resolution, the resolution adopted by the Governing Committee setting forth the amendment proposed, declaring its advisability and recommending its adoption, shall be presented to the Assembly of the Society. Upon the presentation thereof, the Assembly of the Society shall vote thereon by secret ballot for or against the adoption of the amendment proposed, and in the event that two thirds (2/3rds) of the votes of the entire membership are cast in favor thereof, the amendment shall then become effective and a part of this Constitution. Each amendment to the Constitution shall be proposed, declared advisable, and its adoption recommended by separate resolution, and each proposed amendment shall be submitted separately to the vote of the Assembly of the Society.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have hereunto set their hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1957.

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The Committee on By-Laws met at 78 W. Grand Ave., Pasadena, on October 7, 1961, and wrote the following By-Laws, which were placed before and approved by the Governing Committee and the General Assembly according to the Constitution of The First Urantia Society of Los Angeles California.

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By-Laws of the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles

Article I

Membership

Section 1.

Active members of the Society are those who have been approved by the Governing Committee and who have pledged to support the Constitution, and who pay the dues of one dollar per month. They will receive all mailings and are eligible to attend all meetings and to vote.

Article II

Associates

Section 1.

Urantia Associates are those who pay five dollars per year for the mailing privileges and for attendance at study group meetings and all general invitational meetings.

Article III

Standing Committees

Section 1.

The Chairmen of the standing committees of this society shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Assembly as provided for in the Constitution, with this difference only -- a chairman of each committee shall be elected to hold office for one year.

Section 2.

Section 8 under Article VIII of the Constitution, viz, on the election and term of office of the standing committees shall be waived until such time as membership of this society becomes considerably larger.

Section 3.

A Program Committee shall be added to the list of committees as provided for in Article VIII, Section 7, of the Constitution of this Society.

Article IV

Informal Meetings

Section 1.

Four informal meetings as described in Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution shall be held each year, including Jesus' Birthday Meeting on August 21. These meetings, with the exception of the birthday meeting, are to be held on Sunday whenever possible with a special guest program for each.