

FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF HOUSTON

3224 Leonidas St.  
Houston, Texas 77019

August 3, 1978

Mr. Meredith J. Sprunger, Pres.  
Urantia Brotherhood  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Ill. 60614

Dear Meredith:

This is in reply to your letter of July 8 wherein you request that, by mutual consent, the charter issued to the First Urantia Society of Houston be returned. Acting in what we deem to be the best interests of the Brotherhood and its individual members, both present and future, we choose not to resign. We believe that we can be of greater benefit to the Urantia cause by remaining a viable part of the Brotherhood.

Making it a requirement for all present and future chartered societies to sign the licensing agreement with the Urantia Foundation, not only denies the self-governing rights granted in the constitutions of both the Brotherhood and its societies, it clearly indicates that each chartered society is considered to be a part of the "Subservient Estate" specified on page 7 of the man-conceived "Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation".

Thus, the Brotherhood and its societies, both in doctrine and in practice, are not recognized as being self-governing; instead, they are subject to the exclusive, self-perpetuating control by the five persons who also control the Foundation. The enclosed copy of the letter of July 14, 1978, from the president of the Foundation illustrates this point. You may find interesting also the enclosed copy of a statement issued by the U.S. Patent office regarding trade names.

The licensing agreement appears to be an out-growth of the Foundation's Declaration of Trust, an instrument providing mostly for the acquisition and private control of real estate, securities, business enterprises, and other material wealth, as specified on pages 9 thru 23. Possibly the differences between the Foundation and the Brotherhood lie in the legal aspect of the Foundation versus the spiritual aspect of the Brotherhood. One is oriented to the Declaration of Trust, the other to the Urantia Book.


Mr. Meredith J. Sprunger, Pres.  
Urantia Brotherhood

August 3, 1978  
Page 2

If all of us were oriented to the same reference guide, then differences of views would foster constructive development, bringing Brotherhood members closer together, rather than pushing them apart. When James Zebedee asked,

"Master, how shall we learn to see alike and thereby enjoy more harmony among ourselves?", Jesus was stirred within his spirit, so much so that he replied, "James, James, when did I teach you that you should all see alike? I have come into the world to proclaim spiritual liberty to the end that mortals may be empowered to live individual lives of originality and freedom before God. I do not desire that social harmony and fraternal peace shall be purchased by the sacrifice of free personality and spiritual originality." (The remainder of the quotation is found on page 1591, under the section, Spiritual Unity in the Urantia Book.)

Fraternally yours,



James P. Jarnagin, Pres.  
First Urantia Society of Houston

cc: Fellow Urantians