

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



CONSTITUTION OF FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

ARTICLE I

NAME

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

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ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purposes of 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.

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ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 3-1 Qualifications for Membership: 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 or her 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.

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

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Sec. 3-2 Application for and Admission to Membership: Formal application for membership in this URANTIA Society shall be in writing by the candidate to the Chairman of the Membership Committee in such form as may from time to time be required by the Membership Committee. Admission to membership shall be in accordance with Article VIII, Sec. 8-6 (a) of this Constitution.

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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 the URANTIA Society. The initiation shall be as determined by the Membership Committee and approved by the

Governing Committee. Upon completion of the initiation, the Senior Officer present shall declare the candidate to be a member of this URANTIA Society and also a member of URANTIA Brotherhood.

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

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Sec. 3-5 Transfer of Membership: A member shall have the right to transfer his or her 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.

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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 or she shall cease to be a member of URANTIA Brotherhood, except as provided by appeal to URANTIA Brotherhood.

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Sec. 3-7 Dues: Members shall pay dues in such amounts and frequencies as may be proposed from time to time by the Governing Committee and approved by a majority vote of the Assembly of the Society. Dues may be waived in whole or in part by the Governing Committee upon receipt and favorable consideration of a member's written request for waiver of dues based on financial hardship.

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#### ARTICLE IV

##### GOVERNMENT

The Government of this URANTIA Society shall be of 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.

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## 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 the Governing Committee or of a quorum at any Formal Meeting. At such Informal Meetings so established, this URANTIA Society may extend welcome to non-member students of The URANTIA Book and to other interested visitors.

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Sec 5-2 Formal Meetings: Voting and participation at Formal Meetings of this URANTIA Society shall be restricted to active members, and such meetings shall constitute the Assembly of the Society. Inactive members and non-members may be seated in an observers' section. The Assembly may at any time vote to go into executive session and require the observers to leave temporarily until an issue at hand is resolved. "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall be the parliamentary authority for Formal Meetings of this URANTIA Society in all matters not specifically covered by the provisions of this Constitution. 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 mailed to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to such meeting.

(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 for which such Special Meeting is called.

(c) Triennial Meetings: At any time after the receipt of a notice from the Secretary of the 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 days (60) 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.

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Sec. 5-3 Quorum: A quorum at any Formal Meeting of the Assembly of this URANTIA Society convened upon proper notice shall consist of the members present. The presiding officer at any such meeting may vote only in case of a tied vote. Any question presented at any meeting of the Assembly of the Society shall be decided by a majority vote except as provided otherwise in this Constitution.

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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 First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles 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.

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## 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 or she 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 (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the preceding ballot, or, in case of a tie by three (3) or more candidates, then to the candidates so tied.

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

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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 or her place and stead, and shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as may from time to time be imposed by the Governing Committee and the President.

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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, shall keep and preserve the official record of the members of this URANTIA Society, shall have the power to certify to the correctness of any copies of records in his or her custody and possession, and shall perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as may from time to time be imposed by the By-Laws. In the event of the inability of both the President and Vice-President to act, the Secretary 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.

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Sec. 6-5 Treasurer: The treasurer shall be the principal officer and shall have general supervision and control over the moneys and properties of this URANTIA society, shall collect and receive all moneys and properties due

this URANTIA Society, shall render reports to the President and Governing Committee at such times as either shall require, shall have the custody and control of, and shall preserve financial and property records of this URANTIA Society, and shall render a full and complete final report on the financial affairs of this URANTIA Society and the conduct of his or her 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.

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Sec. 6-6 Bonds: The Officers shall give bond in such sums and with such surities 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.

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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. Until such vacancies are filled by election, the Governing Committee may appoint a member to fill the vacancy on a temporary basis.

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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.

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## 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.

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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.

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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.

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Sec. 7-4 Meetings: The Governing Committee shall meet regularly at least once each quarter at a date, time and place determined by a majority of a quorum of the Governing Committee. 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 shall be given by the Secretary to each member of the Governing Committee not less than ten (10) days prior to such meeting, which 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.

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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.

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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.

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## ARTICLE VIII

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Sec. 8-1 Selection and Term of Office: This Society shall have Standing Committees as provided in this Article which shall meet not less than once each year. Chairmen of Standing Committees shall select at least two (2) other members for these committees with the approval of the Governing Committee and these members shall serve until the following Regular Annual Meeting of the Assembly of the Society.

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Sec. 8-2 Committee Chairmen: The Chairman of each Standing Committee shall 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 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 or her Standing Committee.

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

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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.

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Sec. 8-5 Quorum: A quorum of any meeting of any Standing Committee shall consist of the members of such Committee present, after due notice. All questions may be decided by a majority of the members of such Committee present at any meeting thereof.

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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) Education Committee: This Committee shall be concerned with the educational and informal activities under the guidance of the Governing Committee.

(c) Hospitality Committee: This Committee shall be concerned with the social and fraternal activities of the Society.

(d) Finance Committee: This Committee shall assist the Treasurer in the handling of the financial affairs of the Society. The Treasurer shall, by virtue of holding that office, be the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

(e) Book Committee: This Committee shall be concerned with the donation and distribution of URANTIA Books to appropriate public and private institutions and individuals and shall perform such other functions as the Governing

Committee may from time to time determine provided those functions are consistent with the primary responsibility of the Committee.

(f) Newsletter Committee: This Committee shall be responsible for the publication of a newsletter, subject to review and supervision by the Governing Committee or its designees.

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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.

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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 Governing Committee shall elect the Chairman and members of such a committee or committees. 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.

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## ARTICLE IX

### 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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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 the URANTIA Brotherhood as defined in the By-Laws of the URANTIA Brotherhood.

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## 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 mail a copy of said resolution to each member 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 membership present 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.

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## ARTICLE XI

### BY-LAWS

Sec. 11-1 Procedure for adopting By-Laws: By-Laws may be adopted and changed in the same manner as amendments to this Constitution.

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BY-LAWS OF FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1-1 Membership in this URANTIA Society is limited to those who have:

- (a) attained the age of fourteen (14) years and who are residents in good standing in this community and in this country;
- (b) affirmed their belief in the teachings of the URANTIA Book, and;
- (c) affirmed their support of the URANTIA Foundation in its mandate to maintain legal protection of the concentric-circles symbol, the word URANTIA as a trademark and service mark, and the copyright of the URANTIA Book.

In addition, in order that the Society may adjudge a candidate's eligibility for membership, the Membership Committee shall consider the following:

- (a) the maturity of the candidate
- (b) participation of the candidate in group study of The URANTIA Book and/or attendance at Informal Meetings of the Society for a period of not less than one (1) year
- (c) completion by the candidate of an orientation program conducted by the Membership Committee
- (d) the candidate's familiarity with the content of The URANTIA Book, and;
- (e) sponsorship of the candidate by one (1) or more members of the Society who have known the candidate for at least one (1) year.

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Sec. 1-2 Membership shall be defined as existing in the following two (2) classes:

- (a) Active Members of the Society are those who have been initiated into membership and who are current in their dues or have received from the Governing Committee a waiver of dues based on Hardship. They will receive all mailings and shall be eligible to attend all meetings and vote.
- (b) Inactive Members are those members who are not current in their dues and who have not had the payment of dues waived by the Governing Committee. A member who is inactive is a member of the URANTIA Brotherhood and retains all Brotherhood rights, including the right to transfer to another URANTIA Society.

Sec. 1-3 Procedures for Expulsion: A member may not be expelled except upon (a) filing by the Membership Committee of a petition with the Governing Committee for the expulsion of such member stating the specific grounds for expulsion as authorized in Sec. 3-6 of this Constitution, (b) the summoning of such member by the Governing Committee to show cause why his or her membership should not be revoked, (c) the affirmation by the Governing Committee that such membership should be revoked, (d) the calling of the members of this URANTIA Society for a special meeting. At such special meeting of the members of this URANTIA Society, the case for the expulsion of the member shall be presented by a member of the Governing Committee and the member may present his or her own case in person or may be represented by any member of the Society. After all the evidence has been presented and all arguments have been heard, the member shall withdraw, and the remaining members of this URANTIA Society shall by secret ballot affirm or reverse the decision of the Governing Committee. The decision of a majority of a quorum of the members of this URANTIA Society shall be final and such decision shall be communicated to the member concerned within thirty (30) days thereafter in writing by the Secretary of this URANTIA Society. A disaffirmation by the Governing Committee shall constitute a final determination dismissing the case. A member expelled from this URANTIA Society may appeal to the Judicial Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of URANTIA Brotherhood.

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## ARTICLE II

### EMERITUS MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE

Sec. 2-1 Any member who has served this URANTIA Society with distinction for not less than twenty (20) years can be elected as an emeritus of the highest office held and as such emeritus shall serve as an advisory, non-voting member of the Governing Committee. Emeritus status shall be a lifetime honor. A member who is elected to emeritus status may not at the same time hold office as an officer or Standing Committee Chairman of this Society. A member may be nominated for election to emeritus status by the nominating committee set forth in this Constitution in Sec. 6-1, the Governing Committee, or from the floor. Election to emeritus status will take place at the Regular Annual Meeting of the Society.

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