

## Golden Gate Circle Initiation Ceremony -- 8/21/2004

1. Normally application for membership in this Society is made in writing to the Membership Committee. In this instance a request will be made to the audience asking that those who are ready to become members of the GGC Society and are qualified by: a) having read or in the process of reading *The Urantia Book* in its entirety; b) have participated regularly in a study group whose primary purpose is to study *The Urantia Book*, for at least one year; c) are at least 14 years old; d) are residents in good standing with their community and country. Qualified candidates are called up before the audience and asked to affirm that these qualifications have been met.

2. The society states its approval of the candidate's qualifications. The officiating representative of the Membership Committee declares that his committee is satisfied that the candidates meet the conditions required in the society constitution. It is fitting that the candidates formally answer the following questions: a). Do you desire to continue to learn and understand the teachings of *The Urantia Book*? b) Are you willing to accept the Constitution of Fellowship for Readers of *The Urantia Book* and the Constitution of the Golden Gate circle Society?

3. All present are rededicated to: a) regular attendance at Society meetings and events; b) payment of dues; c) willingness to contribute time, effort and other resources to committees and as elected Officers; d) personal dedication to active lives of spiritual and temporal service.

3. All present repeat the Pledge of Dedication:

I pledge myself to study *The Urantia Book*, to strive for the establishment of its teachings in my heart and life, and to carry these teachings to those with whom I come in contact. I will co-operate as I am able in the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. To this end I dedicate my effort in the work of this Urantia Society.

4. The candidates sign the official membership roll.

5. The society declares the candidate's membership. The officiating committeemen declares that the candidates are now members of the Golden Gate Circle Society, and, by virtue of that fact, are also members of the Fellowship. Reminds members that voting membership is the privilege of those who participate actively in the Society and makes timely payment of Society dues.

It has been recommended that the initiation ritual be not merely the transaction of society business, but that it be made an impressive and memorable ceremony for the inspiration of all the members, new and old. The following examples of additional inspirational items may be chosen by the society and arranged in appropriate order on their program.

6. The Lord's Prayer, p 1620. Perhaps excerpts from other prayers on pp. 1620 to 1624.

7. Statement of the purposes of the Fellowship.

- a. As given in Article II of the Constitution.
- b. As implied in *The Urantia Book*, in references regarding what "such a brotherhood of dynamic believers" can be and do. Selections to be made from Sections 9 and 10 of Paper 195, pp. 2082-2086.

8. Readings from *The Urantia Book*.

- a. Selections from Paper 196, The Faith of Jesus, p. 2087
- b. Selections from pp 2082 to 2086, on the general idea of the world's great need for the true life of Jesus, and the unparalleled challenge to us, who have it to give. ("The time is rip...", "Urantia is on the brink...", etc.)
- c. Introduction to Paper I, the Father's invitation-command to the finite universes of space, "Be ye perfect." pp 21, 22.
- d. The "inevitabilities." p 51.
- e. Glimpses of the alluring, age-long adventure ahead.
  - p. 365, par 4. "There is in the mind of God a plan..."
  - p. 354, par 5. "Evolutionary mortals are born on the planets of space..." omitting the sentence regarding Granfanda.
  - p. 1191, par 1. "You humans have begun..."
  - etc.

9. The communion Service, for groups accustomed by church life.

10 The last paragraph on p. 55, the "Benediction."