

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

URANTIA SOCIETY

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 1988 TRIENNIAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD President David Elders called the meeting formally to order at 9:00 AM Saturday morning, June 25. All Delegates from the eighteen Societies were present. One Alternate Delegate was unable to attend, but seventeen others were in the meeting. Paul Snider of Illinois, a former President of the Brotherhood, gave a thoughtful and moving keynote address, summing up his ideas of what we are all about in the URANTIA Movement, these days and on into the future. Marian Rowley, the outgoing Secretary of the Brotherhood was present for all the formal meetings.

After Paul's speech, Dave Elders announced that he had chosen Tom Kendall, former President of URANTIA FOUNDATION, to lead the nomination section of our deliberations. He was the Delegate from First Urantia Society. Harry McMullan III was selected to be the chairperson for the resolutions section, to follow the nominations. He was representing First Urantia Society of Oklahoma. Both men were chosen because of their experience in handling group process and because they had attended a TDA in the past.

The formal proceedings were closed and everyone except the TDA Delegates and Alternates left the room. We were in the second floor room where First Urantia Society holds its meetings, at 533 Diversey Parkway. We convened informally with the eighteen delegates seated at a long rectangular table running the length of the room and the Alternates in seats directly behind their Delegates so that they could easily confer.

Thirty-six names were placed in nomination for the 1997 class of General Councillors out of which ^{we} were charged to pick twelve for nine year terms, one for a six year term, and two for three-year terms. We placed the nominees in alphabetical order and began to discuss each one. Having agreed that we would not comment in any way concerning any nominee unless we were willing to say exactly that same thing to his or her face, our deliberations were constrained and honest. Although this report cannot discuss what went on in our discussions of the nominees, since we agreed that confidentiality would be invoked, it can be said that we were able to break for lunch and return to wrap that whole slate up and still have time to narrow the resolutions (some twenty-seven in all) down to a manageable number.

We closed this day's deliberations at 8:00 PM.

On Sunday morning, we again took up the resolutions and worked on wording and amendments, refining where it was felt necessary. Debate was handled with the use of an effective system devised by Harry McMullan which limited debate pro or con to certain definite time periods. This limitation allowed us to cover a remarkable amount of debate in an efficient and thorough manner. And, it sped us through our task without the rancorous and contentious atmosphere created at other TDA's in recent memory.

By just before noon, we had reconvened formally to submit the resolutions to Dave Elders so that he could then carry them on to the General Council meeting scheduled for the following week-end.

High ideals and good behavior, plus a remarkable amount of good humor and earnest seriousness aided all of us in what might otherwise have been an arduous task. It was an honor to serve with such a group of women and men from all over the United States. And, since it was the last such gathering before the new international Societies begin to send their delegations, and also because it was the largest gathering of its kind ever held, it had a special sense of a pause in the mighty transition pattern which the Brotherhood has begun to assume as it grows and becomes more truly world-wide

- Submitted by:

Stephen Zendt, Delegate

