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TAMPA
(ITEM # 10 ON AGENDA)

DATE: February 10, 1991
TO: Name Change Sub-Committee/Executive Committee
FROM: Steve Dreier
SUBJECT: Organization, Corporation, and Society Names

1. ORGANIZATION NAME (former URANTIA Brotherhood)

Selection of a new organizational name was one of the more prominent topics of discussion immediately following our separation from the Foundation. Lately our membership has given much less attention to this question. We initially adopted "FIFTH EPOCHAL FELLOWSHIP" as a temporary operating name. Over the past year this name has undergone evolutionary modification and we now call ourselves simply "THE FELLOWSHIP."

In addition, to identify the nature of our organizational interests to the general public, a descriptive phrase - "for readers of The Urantia Book"- has been placed beneath the organization name. Thus we have:

THE FELLOWSHIP
for readers of The Urantia Book

Since a number of other entirely unrelated associations also use "THE FELLOWSHIP" as a name, our use of the descriptive phrase - "for readers of The Urantia Book" - serves to prevent public confusion about which "FELLOWSHIP" we represent.

Informal polling of our membership suggests some level of satisfaction with this name. This assumption should be verified with those members attending the Tampa meeting - Society Delegates, Area Coordinators, General Councilors, and any others present. If the current name pattern seems generally acceptable to this representative group, the Judicial Committee can be instructed prepare an amendment formally changing our name to "THE FELLOWSHIP."

Should the general sense of the Tampa meeting reveal a need for additional consideration of the name question at the membership level, we can set up a formal mechanism to facilitate such discussions. If that is necessary it becomes less likely that the matter can be resolved by the June 1991 General Council; we would then have to wait until the General Council of Summer 1992.

2. CORPORATION NAME (former URANTIA Brotherhood Corporation)

The Tampa attendees should also consider the matter of our new corporate name - formerly "Urantia Brotherhood Corporation." In this case we have already officially registered a formal change of name to "Fifth Epochal Fellowship Corporation" with all appropriate governmental agencies. It would simplify matters if we could leave this as it is. Since use of the corporate name is generally restricted to our business functions, leaving this name as it is should not cause any significant confusion. All of our social activities would occur under the name "THE FELLOWSHIP" (or whatever is finally selected); our business activities would occur under the name "Fifth Epochal Fellowship Corporation."

3. LOCAL SOCIETY NAMES (former URANTIA Societies)

Local Society names are governed by section 5.3 of the Constitution.

Section 5.3 Name of Local Society: The words "URANTIA Society" shall form a part of the name of all URANTIA Societies, but the name may also include such other words as may be approved by the Charter Committee.

The most straightforward approach would be to drop "URANTIA" and retain "Society." For example:

First URANTIA Society

Heart of America URANTIA Society

Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington

Since many other groups use the term "Society," the use of the descriptive phrase - "for readers of The Urantia Book" - would help prevent public confusion. For example:

COUCHICHIING SOCIETY OF ONTARIO
(for readers of The Urantia Book)

GLENVIEW SOCIETY
(for readers of The Urantia Book)

The descriptive phrase is, of course, not part of the name. It is placed near the name, and serves only to assist the general public to identify the specific nature of any "Society."

As indicated above, Society names are governed by Article V, Section 5.3 of the Constitution. The organization name is governed by Article I of the Constitution. The Corporation name is established in Chapter V, Paragraph 5.1 of the By-laws.

Changing the Organization and/or Society names will require amendment of the Constitution; this can only be accomplished at the annual (Summer) meeting of the General Council. Changing the Corporation name involves a By-law amendment, which can be enacted at any meeting of the General Council. Three separate actions will be required to effect these changes.

Any proposed amendments could be considered and approved by the Executive Committee at its April 1991 meeting. They could then be presented to the June 1991 Triennial Delegate Assembly for review and comment, and enacted by the June 1991 General Council.

Again, these three matters should be discussed at each session of the Tampa meeting - Society Delegates, Area Coordinators, and General Council. If we can reasonably assume that the attitudes of these groups are adequately representative of our active membership, and if these groups seem satisfied with the current name policies, we should plan to make them permanent at the June 1991 annual meeting of the General Council.