

March 20, 1958

Rev. Henry G. Kroehler
833 Halstead Blvd.
Jackson, Michigan

Dear Henry:

Thank you for your letter. I see little point in discussing the Urantia Book. It is clear that the professors who evaluated the book read very little of it and frankly admitted they did not understand what they read.

If there should come a time when you or others have read enough to pick out specific heresies, I would be glad to discuss them. I don't think you will find them.

Naturally I shall recommend the book to other ministers but shall never try to tell them how to evaluate it.

Cordially yours,

Meredith J. Sprunger

MICHIGAN-INDIANA SYNOD

OF THE

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March 17, 1958

Rev. Meredith J. Sprunger
215 North Slate Street
Culver, Indiana

Dear Meredith:

First of all just to say that I have taken note of your request in your letter of March 14 in regard to the use of the Ph.D. after your name. I shall try to remember to honor your request, though personally I think it is a good thing to use. I never felt that that made any particular class distinction between you and any others. It does, however, give recognition to the academic achievement.

Now I wonder whether we might have just some personal correspondence. For sometime I debated whether I ought to send copies of this correspondence to Dr. Wagner. But now I would first of all have some exchange of ideas just between you and myself without drawing anyone else into our thinking. If we can reach some kind of conclusion on this matter, then perhaps later we can share the conclusion with others.

I deeply regret that I could not have an opportunity to spend some time with you alone when you were here for a meeting last Tuesday. Following the adjournment of the committee meeting, however, I felt that I needed to talk to the two men from Detroit in regard to the Dearborn Township situation.

My concern at this particular point might be stated as follows: in a measure you are still recommending reading the Urantia Book to other pastors. In view of the fact that at the present time the book is labeled as being outside of the doctrinal standards of our Church, it can hardly be recommended as a source for insight in relationship to the Christian faith. I am stating this not in terms of voicing a conclusion but rather as sharing ideas on which I would like to have your reaction.

Now it may readily be that further study of the book on the part of other theologians may reverse the present position. Offhand I do not think that that will happen, yet I present it as a possibility. In the meantime, however, it is labeled semi-officially as being contrary

Rev. Meredith J. Sprunger

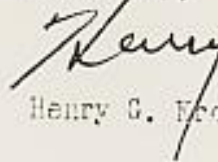
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to the doctrinal standards of our denomination. This does not mean that a person should not read it or even study it, but in my present judgement it would mean that a person should not recommend it to anyone else as a book that contributes to our understanding of the Christian faith.

Because I am searching for the best and most helpful manner of expressing my thinking, I am suggesting that this particular correspondence be just between us. Similarly, your response to me I would also like to keep just between the two of us. I hope that you may find time in this particularly busy season to give some thought to answering my letter.

Sincerely,



Henry G. Knoehler

HGB:hs