



URANTIA FOUNDATION  
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

October 4, 1989

Mr. David N. Elders  
President  
URANTIA Brotherhood  
533 Diversey Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60614

Dear David:

We would like to follow up on your recent conversation with Richard Keeler regarding Harry McMullan's proposal to disseminate the correspondence which the Executive Committee, the General Council, and you, have had with URANTIA Foundation Trustees concerning certain controversies, including various accusations made against Martin Myers. We understand that you are currently opposed to the dissemination of these materials. We strongly believe that your position is correct, and that maintaining this stance is of great importance at a critical moment in the relationship between URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation.

No one can question the significance of the unity of spirit and action which have linked our separate organizations for almost thirty-five years. Nor can anyone doubt that accusations recently made, including a number against Martin Myers, threaten this unity. Presumably because of this discord, URANTIA Brotherhood has recently taken steps to separate itself in certain ways from URANTIA Foundation. We are distressed by this because we believe it undermines our mutual goals and our attempts to resolve our controversies through improved communication.

Last spring the Trustees, despite their time-consuming involvement in the C.U.B.S. litigation, took internal steps to improve these communications. But before the plan could be implemented, three Trustees resigned. During URANTIA Foundation's ensuing readjustment, URANTIA Brotherhood's Executive Committee intensified the situation by making a number of questionable accusations without offering supporting facts.

Despite the attack on the Foundation and its Trustees at a time when cooperation rather than provocation was called for, we have attempted to keep communications open and to move forward with URANTIA Brotherhood.

In doing so, we have operated on the understanding that our correspondence will be treated with the confidentiality necessary for candid exploration of diverging views. We believe that confidentiality is crucial to this process and hope that URANTIA Brotherhood agrees.



Mr. David N. Elders  
President  
October 4, 1989  
Page 2

Surely URANTIA Brotherhood would not have communicated unsubstantiated accusations outside the confines of the qualified privilege afforded by the forum of private correspondence.

In evaluating the wisdom of sending out this material, as well as future communications and documents which URANTIA Brotherhood may wish to distribute to the readership, the Trustees have considered the relationship between the two organizations. An important part of that relationship is defined by the Confirmatory Licensing Agreement. In that document, the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation gave URANTIA Brotherhood a limited privilege to use the registered marks of URANTIA Foundation, the Concentric Circles Symbol and the word "Urantia," as part of names or marks, in conjunction with URANTIA Brotherhood activities conforming to the standards outlined in the licensing agreement. This permits URANTIA Brotherhood to assist URANTIA Foundation in a manner consistent with Article III, Section 3.4 of the Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation, dated January 11, 1950:

#### 3.4 DISSEMINATION OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE URANTIA BOOK:

It shall be the duty of the Trustees to disseminate the teachings and doctrines of THE URANTIA BOOK and to devise, to develop, and to effectuate means and methods for such dissemination, and to apply and use the Trust Estate for the accomplishment of that end.

The purpose of any licensing agreement is to develop the good will associated with the marks. By its relationship with URANTIA Brotherhood, URANTIA Foundation seeks to enhance its ability to disseminate the teachings and doctrines of The URANTIA Book, in furtherance of the policies, plans, and programs the Trustees have adopted to meet the responsibilities stated in the Declaration of Trust. To the extent the policies, plans, and programs of a trademark or service mark owner are not carried out, or are frustrated or even demeaned and weakened by a licensee, that seriously threatens the relationship.

The communications since February between URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation have largely been kept between the respective organizations' governing bodies. Now one or more members of the Executive Committee are seeking to expand distribution to include not only the governing bodies of URANTIA Brotherhood, but also the general readership or a politically significant segment of it.



Mr. David N. Elders  
President  
October 4, 1989  
Page 3

The Trustees vigorously defend the right of readers to know the issues affecting the conduct of the affairs of URANTIA Brotherhood. The Trustees just as vigorously oppose the dissemination of false, misleading or unjust assertions which tend to oppose, demean, frustrate, or weaken the plans, policies, and programs of the Trustees. In this instance, the material proposed for distribution contains derogatory, unsubstantiated, and untrue assertions and comments. The Trustees believe that distributing this material will not enhance their ability to achieve the ends of URANTIA Foundation, and therefore would regard that as being in contravention of the spirit and substance of the Confirmatory Licensing Agreement.

The Trustees likewise oppose any further oral or written public statements by the General Council which tend to harm the reputation or good will of URANTIA Foundation. This is true whether that involves the present controversy or other matters. The Trustees have previously made known their concern in this regard, notably in their letter of January 6, 1988 (copy enclosed).

The Trustees agree that URANTIA Brotherhood's leadership should inform members of its actions, but this does not require disclosure of confidential communications. This deserves serious, time-consuming study. Without proper background, even truthful but isolated facts can be unintentionally damaging. We believe that the proposed dissemination would only further polarize and confuse, making future dialogue more difficult if not impossible.

The Trustees suggest that you prepare a one- or two-page document summarizing the topics discussed between URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood, followed by a factual statement of the actions taken by the General Council. The Trustees additionally request the opportunity to prepare a response which would be sent in the same mailing.

The licensor-licensee relationship between URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation requires a certain common view of shared ideals and policies. The act of publicly criticizing not only the plans, policies, and programs, but also the conduct or alleged misconduct of the licensor, is incompatible with the required relationship of confidence and trust. Licensors and licensees should not wash their dirty linen in public. If this is the case for other organizations, is it not all the more true for organizations dedicated to the dissemination of the teachings of the The URANTIA Book?

URANTIA Foundation and URANTIA Brotherhood must have a common and unified stance. It is inconceivable for a licensee to use the marks granted by the licensor to validate vituperative criticism, and the Trustees cannot accept that.



Mr. David N. Elders  
President  
October 4, 1989  
Page 4

This is a pivotal point in the relations between our organizations. We should all ensure that fairness and patience dictate our efforts, rather than seek short range objectives which could have long-lasting and regrettable results. Therefore, we urge that URANTIA Brotherhood refrain from taking any rash action and continue its private dialogue aimed at resolving differences with URANTIA Foundation. During the next regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation (i.e., in mid-October), the Trustees plan to discuss appropriate ways and means for strengthening that dialogue.

Is not the epochal nature of our task sufficiently sobering to bring about, upon due reflection, a renewed dedication to our responsibilities for planetary service? The Trustees still agree with the sentiments you expressed, David, in your January 8, 1988 memorandum to Executive Committee Members:

As we have discussed many times, it seems (to me at least) incomprehensible that two organizations dedicated to the lofty principles in The URANTIA Book cannot find an honest, open basis upon which to work together in a caring, respectful manner. It is my deepest hope that we can use this meeting as the inauguration of an era of inspiring cooperation and goodwill so that our creativity, energy, and resources can be fully applied to our responsibilities as the human workers in this fifth epochal revelation of truth to our birth planet. I look forward to seeing each of you later this month.

This memorandum of yours was written because of our letter of January 6, 1988, and the ensuing meeting produced good results. We believe that, working together, we can again find a constructive way to address our differences.

We ask that all concerned give serious consideration to the views we have stated. In the years ahead, we wish to continue to cooperate with you and the General Council.

Cordially,

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation

cc: General Councilors  
Past Presidents of URANTIA Brotherhood  
Recently Resigned Trustees  
Trustee Emeritus