

The Urantia Book Fellowship
Meeting of the General Council
June 30, 2019

A meeting of the General Council of The Urantia Book Fellowship was held on Sunday, June 30, 2019 at Techny Towers Conference Center, Northbrook, Illinois.

President Geoffrey Theiss called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Tom Allen	Steve Dreier	Derek Samaras
Dan Amyx	Cabot Eudaley	Steve Sawyer
Lara Amyx	John Hales	David Schlundt
Paul Anderson	Jack Holloway	Cristina Seaborn
Katharina Becker	David Kulieke	Pablo Segovia
Ted Blaney	Cecelia Lampley	Brent St Denis
Larry Bowman	John Lange	Jill Strunk
Pamela Chaddock	Jena Lassiter	Geoff Taylor
Michael Challis	Barbara Newsom	Geoff Theiss
Emilio Coppola	Mike Painter	Paula Thompson
Avi Dogim	Sean Privitera	
Bobbie Dreier	Andre Radatus	

Absent: Dana Bredemeyer, Dianne Labrecque,
34 councilors present

Paula Thompson offered a prayer.

Adjustments were made to the proposed agenda.

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Additions:

Report on 2020 conference

Society Conclave report

Ratification of committee appointments

Discussions for tomorrow - Saturday - in informal session

1 hour discussion of Paper 87 Section 7 - The Nature of Cultism.

1.5-2 hour discussion on organizational identity

1.5 Hours discussion on organizational vision

The agenda was approved as adjusted.

A motion to accept the reports made at the June 23 Zoom call was approved by show of hands.

President Geoffrey Theiss made his report.

Treasurer Emilio Coppola made his report.

Secretary Steve Dreier discussed the census. Society Members - 828, Members At Large -540. Society membership is relatively static. Members At Large are growing because of the easier online process for becoming a MAL.

Proposed amendment to the Constitution submitted by the Executive Committee.

Whereas Section 11.3 of the Fellowship constitution reads in part as follows;

“....Candidates for Service Team chair positions must have served as an officer of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP or as chair of a Departmental Committee for at least two (2) years.....”

Whereas the General Council should be free to choose whomever it believes is best qualified from among all willing Council members to fill any EC position including Service Team Chair;

Now therefore be it resolved that;

1. The sentence – **“Candidates for Service Team chair positions must have served as an officer of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP or as chair of a Departmental Committee for at least two (2) years”** – be deleted from 11.3
2. The revised Section 11.3 would then read as follows - **Section 11.3 Election and Term of Office: Each Service Team shall be composed of the Service Team chair and the chairs of the constituent Committees. The chair of each Service Team shall be a Councilor elected by the General Council for a term of three (3) years. ~~Candidates for Service Team chair positions must have served as an officer of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP or as chair of a Departmental Committee for at least two (2) years~~ Each Service Team shall have a Secretary appointed by its chair from among its members. When initially elected at the summer 2018 General Council meeting, one Service Team chair will be elected for a term of one (1) year, one Service Team chair for a term of two (2) years, and one Service Team chair for a term of three (3) years. Which Service Team chair will be elected to which initial terms will be decided by the Executive Committee and announced at least 60 days prior to the 2018 Triennial General Council meeting**
3. This change be circulated to the General Council as per the amendment provisions of the constitution (i.e. 30-day notice) for consideration at the Council's June 30-July 2, 2019 meeting in Chicago.

Discussion followed. The question was called. Ballots were distributed.
(a 3/4 majority vote is required to pass an amendment - $(.75 \times 34 = 25.5 = 26 \text{ required})$)

VOTE ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT: 22 yes, 9 no, 2 abstentions.
THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT FAILS.

A proposal to stagger committee chair terms was made and seconded.

Whereas the current committee chair terms as of the Summer 2019 GC meeting are as follows:

Worldwide Service Team Chairs

Interfaith Chair - 5 years

International - 5 years

YaYA - 4 Years

Outreach - 3 Years

Fellowship Service Team Chairs

Membership - 5 years

Finance - 5 years

Judicial - 5 years

Education - 5 years

Media and Communications Service Team Chairs

Publications - 5 years

and

Whereas, the election of the seven committee chairs with 5 year terms all fall on a TDA year and coincide with the election of 12 general councilors, 5 officers, and a service team chair, and

Whereas this election upheaval presents challenges of continuity to the Fellowship and presented a challenge in 2018 when it occurred most recently, and

Whereas staggering these seven elections and moving them off of TDA years should improve continuity of the service teams and fellowship leadership as a whole,

Now Therefore Be It resolved that

1) The committee chair terms be reassigned as follows:

Note: International fellowship chair term will expire as of this meeting and would result in an election. Education and Publication chairs will be given 1 additional year to the service term previously voted on by the GC.

Worldwide Chairs

Interfaith Chair - 1 years

International - 0 years (re-elect for 6-year term)

YaYA - 4 Years

Outreach - 3 Years

Fellowship Chairs

Membership - 4 years

Finance - 1 years

Judicial - 3 years

Education - 6 years

Media & Communications Chairs

Publications - 6 years

2) Committee member service terms will be swapped with the respective committee chairs to ensure one committee member term expires each year in each committee

Discussion followed. The history of term lengths was described.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: PASSED BY SHOW OF HANDS

Proposed Bylaw Amendment:

Whereas, this amendment has already been vetted by the General Council in February, but proper notice was not given. Now it has been properly submitted.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the following addition to the By-laws under the heading of THE GENERAL COUNCIL be added to Chapter IV Paragraph 4.7:

Paragraph 4.7. Distribution of General Council Minutes to Societies: Within four weeks of any meeting of the General Council, the Secretary of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP shall by regular mail, email, or other electronic means, forward the draft minutes and any corrections to all General Council members and Society officers. The formally approved minutes shall likewise be forwarded to Society officers.

Discussion followed.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 34 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

THE BYLAWS ARE AMENDED

Proposed amendment to the bylaws

Whereas in 2015 the EC passed the following motion:

2015-08-17 EC JUDICIAL MOTION

Assign the Secretary General for the Executive Committee and the Fellowship Secretary for the General Council the responsibility of collating all motions and decisions passed and post them on the website once the minutes are approved.

And Whereas, this list of motions resource is valuable to the organization to help with its continuity challenges and is a useful resource for the president in managing decisions of the organization, especially after elections,

And whereas, it is important that the maintenance of this resource be a continued part of the organizations function: Therefore, be it resolved that the EC recommend to the GC the following by-law amendment

Chapter VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

Paragraph 8.3 The Secretary of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP shall be responsible for posting all motions and decisions of the General Council to the website of the Fellowship once the minutes have been approved. The Secretary General shall likewise be responsible for posting all motions and decisions of Executive Committee to the Fellowship website once the minutes have been approved.

Discussion followed. **Vote on the amendment: Unanimous by show of hands. The bylaws are amended.**

Proposed amendment to the Fellowship Constitution: requiring a minimum of six members of the General Council to propose an amendment - (an increase from three)

Whereas, The procedure to amend the Constitution is much harder for the Executive Committee to propose than for three General Councilors to propose, and

Whereas, Because six members of the Executive Committee are required to submit a Constitutional amendment motion, and

Whereas, It is consistent to require the same number of General Councilors to submit an amendment proposal as it takes for the Executive Committee, and

Whereas, Potential abuses by a three person super-minority can occupy much time and effort to sort through massive amendment proposals,

Now therefore be it resolved that;

The following Amendment to Article XV Section 15.1 subsection (b) of the Constitution of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP be adopted:

(b) The General Council shall (also) adopt a resolution to amend the Constitution. A resolution to amend the Constitution shall be proposed by **six** members of the General Council. Proposing Councilors will forward copies of said resolution to each member of the General Council not less than thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting of the General Council.

Discussion followed. Ballots were passed.

Vote: 34 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. The Constitution is amended

Report on Urantia Global Experience 2020 in Vancouver BC

Katharina Becker, co-chair, reporting

Go to the Urantia Global Experience website for information

<https://urantiaglobalexperience.com/>

Planning is going well. Working on finalizing the budget. All plenary speakers are selected. There is constant turnover with college conference coordinators. Attendees are limited to 700. The campus is dry. No alcohol or drugs on the campus. Please respect this. Volunteers are needed. See the website for more information.

Report on the Society Conclave – Dan Amyx, Membership Committee Chair

Dan thinks the conclave was a success. David Kulieke reviewed past conclaves.

Dan Amyx is sending info on a Swedenborg organization he believes might be useful for comparison purposes. There are problems with the Society Officer list. People are not getting on the list. The Fort Wayne society is having a 50th anniversary.

Election of Media and Communications Team Chair:

Nominees: Barbara Newsom, Michael Challis

The candidates made statements about their candidacy. The candidates left the room.

Discussion of the candidates followed. The candidates returned to the table.

Ballots were distributed.

Tellers report: Michael Challis received a majority vote.

Michael Challis was declared Media and Communications Service Team Chair.

Election of the International Fellowship Committee Chair – six year term.

Andre Radatus was the only nominee.

Andre left the room. Discussion followed. Ballots were passed.

Tellers Report: Andre Radatus has a majority of votes.

Andre Radatus is declared election as chair of the IFC for a six year term.

Recess to informal session - minutes not taken

Recess for the evening at 8:00 PM.

Resume 9:15 AM Monday July 1,2019

Tom Allen

Dan Amyx

Lara Amyx

Paul Anderson	John Hales	Steve Sawyer
Katharina Becker	Jack Holloway	David Schlundt
Ted Blaney	David Kulieke	Cristina Seaborn
Larry Bowman	Cecelia Lampley	Pablo Segovia
Pamela Chaddock	John Lange	Brent St Denis
Michael Challis	Jena Lassiter	Jill Strunk
Emilio Coppola	Barbara Newsom	Geoff Taylor
Avi Dogim	Mike Painter	Geoff Theiss
Bobbie Dreier	Sean Privitera	Paula Thompson
Steve Dreier	Andre Radatus	
Cabot Eudaley	Derek Samaras	

34 councilors are present

A motion to move to informal session was accepted unanimously. Minutes not taken,

The General Council discussed section on The Nature of Cultism from The Urantia Book. (Paper 87 Section 7 - The Nature of Cultism) This discussion ended at 10:30 AM

The General Council discussed Organizational Identity. (informal session - no minutes)

Break for lunch – 12 noon - return 1:15 PM

The General Council discussed mission statements (informal session - no minutes)

Break at 3:00 – resume 3:15

Formal session resumed.

Reprinting the Urantia Book

Geoff Taylor introduced the motion.

Whereas, the printing of the Uversa Press Edition of the Urantia Book is a sensitive and important issue, and

Whereas, the decision to print, not print, print jointly with a third party such as the Foundation, warrants careful consideration, therefore be it resolved that:

The General Council give this matter careful consideration, and subsequently vote to:

1) The Fellowship reprint the Uversa Press edition of the Urantia Book.

or,

2) The Fellowship not reprint and/or delay the reprinting of the Uversa Press edition of the Urantia Book while third party alternatives are explored.

Geoff says he will work with a small group to discuss unity and Uversa Press publication matters with UAI.

Question: How long can we delay reprinting based on the number of books in stock? Paula Thompson says that John Hay would have started the process now. If we run out of books there is a risk of being listed as out of print. Paula thinks we must start the printing process in 3 months or less.

3:40 PM – The General Council moved to informal session. (minutes not taken)

Return to formal session – 4:32 PM

The motion is amended to include a 6 week delay before printing to allow opportunity for exploration of possibilities.

Discussion of the motion took place.

Vote on motion, by show of hands. **The motion fails**
Reprinting the Uversa Press edition of the Urantia Book will not be delayed.

recess 5:15 PM - resume 7:03 PM

Geoff Theiss described recent confidentiality issues within the EC. Members should come see him privately if they have other questions.

Ted Blaney - Report on Mentorship

Ted suspended the effort to develop a new website feature while the website migration is taking place. Planning for a new site within the new WA site – FAQ for new readers, and a simple UB search,

Membership Committee Report. -Dan Amyx

There is virtually no interaction between societies and Fellowship administration. We need to update the societies on what is going on. Societies should receive reports on the disposition of the TDA resolutions.

It was observed that Geoff Theiss's initiative pairing older members with younger members was good experience.

Emilio Coppola suggested that society members register on the new Wild Apricot

website.

Recess for the evening at 8:00 PM

Resume Tuesday Morning, July 2 at 9:15 AM

Present:

Tom Allen	Steve Dreier	Derek Samaras
Dan Amyx	Cabot Eudaley	Steve Sawyer
Lara Amyx	John Hales	David Schlundt
Paul Anderson	Jack Holloway	Cristina Seaborn
Katharina Becker	David Kulieke	Pablo Segovia
Ted Blaney	Cecelia Lampley	Brent St Denis
Larry Bowman	John Lange	Jill Strunk
Pamela Chaddock	Jena Lassiter	Geoff Taylor
Michael Challis	Barbara Newsom	Geoff Theiss
Emilio Coppola	Mike Painter	Paula Thompson
Avi Dogim	Sean Privitera	
Bobbie Dreier	Andre Radatus	

Standing Committee Appointments

JUDICIAL Committee

Merritt Horn for 6 years

EDUCATION Committee

Katie Roche for six years (replacing Barbara Dreier)

Other committee appointments to be determined.

The committee appointments were ratified unanimously

A website promo by Gary Tonge was shown.

Location of winter GC meeting

Dates: Feb 28- March 2, 2020

Austin Texas – first choice

Baton Rouge – second choice

Lara Amyx suggests making the winter GC meeting the longer one, not the summer one.

A poll is coming out to select a date for a GC zoom meeting in October 2019.

A discussion took place about how to think about membership. A task group was assembled to look into this (under the service team) – Dan Amyx, Lara Amyx, Albert Lassiter, David Schlundt, John Lange, John Hales, Katharina Becker.

Discussion of Fellowship international activities – Andre Radatus – new chair

Derek Samaras – look at Google analytics to see what is going on.

Geoff Theiss – concentrate on places where the UAI is absent

Katharina Becker - come up with a new strategy – don't compete with the UAI

Lara Amyx – we need a strategic long term plan for each region

Paula Thompson thinks we should solicit membership.

Geoff Theiss thinks the cult topic should be developed for international.

John Lange – Book fairs are good way to work together with UAI, and UF

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM

Submitted by Steve Dreier - Secretary