



SCICR Chair Report

March 7, 2022

(144:6.11) Many other minor matters were considered and their solutions unanimously agreed upon. These twenty-four men had a truly remarkable experience these two weeks when they were compelled to face problems and compose difficulties without Jesus. They learned to differ, to debate, to contend, to pray, and to compromise, and throughout it all to remain sympathetic with the other person's viewpoint and to maintain at least some degree of tolerance for his honest opinions.

We began our work on the Purpose and in this our 9th meeting, we are still working to find the best way to articulate and utilize our purpose, vision, and mission statements. We will work until we all agree, even if we are somewhat disappointed that our personal ideas do not make the final version.

Preamble and Purpose work is a vital start for us to begin to visualize the extent and wholistic ideal for what the Fellowship is and what it can be. We are charged to investigate revision, and we will eventually present to the General Council a newly revised Constitution that will be effective today and adaptable long into the future.

Tonight, SCICR will vote to welcome three women as voting members. We will also decide whether to work further on the Purpose statement or to move on to new big-picture considerations for how we envision our revised Constitution. It is my contention that the By-laws and the Constitution be combined into a [single constitution](#) for reasons I believe that are good and sufficient. We will debate this issue soon.

It has become clear to me that we need to begin to carve out the big picture of what our newly revised Constitution should eventually be. In the meantime, our work on Preamble and Purpose, single Constitution, and membership can begin this process of coming together to form a wholistic picture. There is so much more work to do along with successful persuasion of membership to accept our new ideas. Here are some of the ideas we will need to consider:

- Should the Fellowship have a single constitution?
- Should the Constitution have provision for a tripartite government? (71:8.1)
- Should we have Departmental Committees or devise special, select, or “ad hoc” committees for specific tasks?
- How can we improve wording on how to affiliate with other Urantia related organizations?
- Should we have direct elections of General Councilors?
- Should we consider loosening requirements for Local Societies, eliminate the TDA, and have Societies be eligible for suffrage in the General Council with the right to petition?
- Should we work to create a constitution that would potentially be structurally compatible with the UAI for a new effort to construct a United organization?
- Should the number of General Councilors be reduced from 36 to 24?

With these questions pending it is clear that the SCICR has a Herculean task in investigating Constitutional revision. Do we merely put band aides on the current Constitution, or do we present a whole new Constitution as a wholistic system that can outlive us and continue to serve the next generations of believers? I believe we can. However, we will need to be unanimous in anything we propose, otherwise our work is for naught.

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I want to thank you all for your dedication to improving our Fellowship. We have a lot of work to do the next two years.