



**SCICR Chair Report**  
**Select Committee to Investigate Constitutional Revision**  
**to the General Council of**  
**THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP**  
**July, 2022**

My Fellow General Councilors,

As Chair of the Select Committee to Investigate Constitutional Revision, (SCICR) I appreciate the opportunity on behalf of the committee to provide this report of our proceedings and recommendations so far and to give projections about where we will be going next.

SCICR will propose constitutional revisions to the General Council and Local Societies that will provide a simpler and concise structural foundation commensurate with the times in which we live today.

For the Fellowship to move forward, SCICR has been appointed as a select committee of the Fellowship to investigate revision for our broken constitution. Our current constitution is an institutional Albatross around the neck of the Fellowship. The times today are crying out for revising our outdated constitution. As a team, SCICR works with the angels and planetary supervisors who have certainly not given up on us.

As Chair of SCICR, I appreciate the opportunity on behalf of the committee to provide this report on our proceedings so far and to give projections about where we will be going next.

### **Origin and History**

On March 7, 1955 Bill Sadler wrote, "That organization is best which is so organized as to prevent all other organizations." There was fear among the early leadership that

organizations other than the Urantia Brotherhood would seek to usurp and corrupt the fifth epochal revelation.

Bill also wrote in 1955:

We must create an organization whose major purpose is to prevent other organizations and, therefore, the most benign. Create an organization which will organize the least and thereby prevent all other organizations with their tyranny and disgrace and their disrupting influences.

This early fear no longer motivates the behavior of the Fellowship. A plethora of benign organizations proliferate now in seeking to bring these epochal truths to Urantia. The fears of the early believers are now laid to rest.

Purportedly, on [August 21, 1952](#) further instructions were given by a Melchizedek named Norson to the contact commission. Among other things, this was allegedly said: "The plan of organization as it exists on this date is hereby provisionally approved for the inauguration of the Brotherhood. The plan provides for its own subsequent emendation." They may have foreseen that there was going to be trouble ahead for the Urantia Brotherhood Constitution.

The Urantia Brotherhood was primarily designed on a congregational Presbyterian model of organization with certain differences. In 1955 The Urantia Brotherhood along with its arcane constitution became legal entities.

Through the years, there were perceived needs in the General Council for significant emendation to revise the aging Brotherhood/Fellowship constitution. Attempts were made, but failed several times. It has been apparent for some time that the relationship of Local Societies under strict control of the central organization of the Fellowship is no longer an efficient means to define membership. Many Local Societies are declining. Members-at-Large now outnumber Local Society membership, but they are solely under the aegis of the Executive Committee. There is a clear need to revise our structure regarding membership.

Recently, it was clear that something serious needed to be done. At the 2021 Triennial Delegate Assembly, there was a unanimous resolution submitted to the General Council to create a committee to investigate revising our outdated constitution.

The General Council created the SCICR committee at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the General Council. I was appointed Chair by the Executive Committee. There are thirteen (13) members of the committee. We have a solid balance of men and women. After

forming, we went through the [storming phase](#) of committee work and restructuring. We are now norming and even performing well.

We began our work in December 2021. Our first struggle during the storming phase was to craft revisions of our Preamble and Purpose. After about four (4) months of difficult but loving teamwork we finally came up with a working Preamble and Purpose which will not necessarily be the final proposal that we will submit to the General Council for adoption. Anything we pass as a committee will be iterative in potential. Our Preamble and Purpose Statements (shared below) were not unanimous in the committee, but we had a majority of seven (7-4-1) for the purpose and 10-2 for the Preamble. Further revision of the Preamble and Purpose can still be on the table for further revision.

On June 6th SCICR decided to incorporate the Fellowship By-laws into our constitutional revision work to prevent the confusion that occurs when juggling both documents for proper interpretation. By-laws will probably stay in our constitution as an option for the General Council to adopt in the future, but if SCICR does its job well of unifying the Constitution and the By-laws into one ruling instrument, then the likelihood of ever needing By-laws is very low.

Angie Thurston presented her ideas about membership at our June 20th open meeting. She spoke on the nature of membership which is the next major deliberation challenge that SCICR will face in the coming months.

On July 18, 2022 SCICR unanimously passed an amendment to revise Section 15.1 in Article XV of the constitution. We propose that the General Council reduce constitutional amendment adoption from 3/4 to 2/3. The entire resolution is submitted in the Addendum below. Please study it and provide feedback. Our Zoom meeting will be available soon if you wish to see how we came to our unanimous conclusions. We also agreed to submit our recommendation to amend Section 15.1 in Article XV at the next meeting of the General Council.

## **Destiny**

In August we will begin debating constitutional revision of Membership and Local Societies. (Articles III and IV in our constitution) From there we will go through each Article one by one. Over the next year we will harmonize all the nuances, objections, and corrections using Robert's Rules to present a main motion and then allowing subsidiary motions. We will differ, debate, contend, pray, and compromise. We will "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." (144:6.11)

SCICR will rise and report—dissolve or be reappointed—no later than the 2024 Winter Special Meeting of the General Council. If our recommendations are ratified it will pave the way for a Fellowship constitution with more simplicity and minimal administrative overcontrol. Our ability to study and share the teachings of *The Urantia Book* will be greatly enhanced.

## Conclusion

We are aware that the General Council may amend or reject our recommendations. Education and the collaboration of ideas from Society Officers and General Councilors will more likely ensure successful adoption of the revisions as recommended by SCICR. Our committee has been transparent and we welcome all the input each of you has to share.

I wish to thank each member of our committee for their artistic brushstrokes of thought. Their dedicated work to solve this puzzle is collaborative. We are a team. We will work hard to develop a constitution that will last through the ages as we work diligently and spiritually to share our vitally important epochal revelation to the world.

We hope to create a simpler, revised constitution that is attractive and foundational for a long destiny of spiritual, social, and administrative success for the purposes of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

On behalf of the committee, we would like to thank you for this service opportunity and pray that we all stay informed about the critical work SCICR has been given.

Below see our current workable Preamble and Purpose statements which we have given tentative, not necessarily final, approval.

Your thoughts are welcome, so feel free to contact any member of SCICR for questions and comments about our important deliberations. To ensure our collective success, we need your valuable input. I am willing to share any documents we have for you to see. Just email me and I will gladly comply.

One of the main principles of our work going forward is to simplify our constitution and yet make it complex enough to keep the structure of the constitution stable and effective far into the future.

We have had and will continue to have open meetings occasionally to inform both our committee and the Fellowship of issues we need to address. This openness of our

process gives us valuable insight about how to proceed with our deliberations and to inform our membership of any recommendations we will propose to the General Council and Society Officers.

SCICR is a transparent committee and all of our meetings are open to view by those who have a urantiabook.org website You may login here:

<https://urantiabook.org/Sys/Login>.

Once you are logged in, here is where to go if you wish to see our deliberations:

<https://urantiabook.org/SCICR/>

We have a very long way to go. SCICR is performing well now and will continue to work hard to develop a constitution that will last through the ages as we work diligently and spiritually to share our vitally important epochal revelation to the world. Our goal is to propose a revised constitution for General Council deliberation at the winter meeting of the Fellowship in 2024. It will take that long to complete our important work.

Your thoughts are welcome, so feel free to contact any member of SCICR for questions about our important deliberations. To ensure our success, we need your valuable input.

In the hope of progress, the hope of angels, and trust in our titular Planetary Prince,

Tom Allen, Chair  
SCICR (Select Committee to Investigate Constitutional Revision)  
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## **Addendum**

Here are the iterative revision proposals that SCICR has recommended for General Council approval for the Preamble and Purpose. Compare it with the P & P as it is currently written:

## **Our Current Constitutional Preamble and Purpose Statements:**

### **PREAMBLE**

Inasmuch as it is our most solemn conviction that the comfort, happiness, and well-being of all people will be enhanced by the creation of an organization devoted to the purposes hereinafter expressed, and inasmuch as it is our considered judgment that the purposes hereinafter expressed may best be accomplished through the mutual assistance and association of a body of people working together for a common cause, we do hereby unite together as a voluntary association and fellowship under the name of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP, and we do hereby adopt and establish this CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purposes of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP are the study and dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book; the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the Universe, of the genesis and destiny of humankind and our relation to God, and of the life and teachings of Jesus; and the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of All -- in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of all people, as individuals and as members of society, by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with humankind's intellectual and cultural development, through the medium of fraternal association, ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country and of all countries wherein THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP may extend.

**Here are the Tentative Suggested SCICR  
Revision Recommendations for the Preamble and Purpose:**

## **PREAMBLE**

With affectionate dedication to God, it is our conviction that the well-being of individuals, families, and society will be uplifted by the formation of an organization devoted to the purposes herein stated; we therefore unite under the name of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP, and adopt and establish this revised CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **PURPOSE**

The purposes of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP are to foster and support an evolving spiritual community of truth seekers dedicated to learning, sharing, and living the advanced truths revealed in *The Urantia Book* to enhance our spiritual perception and capacity for loving service.



Here is the resolution unanimously passed by SCICR recommending revision of Section 15.1 in Article XV. Review this carefully and make further suggestions to the SCICR.

### **SCICR Resolution to Amend Section 15.1 in Article XV in the CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP**

**Whereas**, RONR 12th Edition suggests a two-thirds (2/3) vote for bylaw amendment ratification four (4) times in Chapters I and XVIII, and

**Whereas**, By-law amendment approval requirements in Paragraph 9.2. are too easy:

- Provide fifteen (15) day's notice
- One author minimum requirement for By-law submission

- Majority vote without a secret ballot by the General Council to ratify, and

**Whereas**, constitution amendment approval requirements in Section 15.1. are too hard:

- Three-fourths (3/4) Executive Committee approval for submission
- A minimum of six (6) General Councilors may submit an amendment
- Provide thirty (30) day's notice before a General Council meeting
- Three-fourths (3/4) vote by secret ballot of the General Council to ratify, and

**Whereas**, a two-thirds (2/3) required vote for constitutional amendment passage is reasonable, safe, and protects the minority, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that SCICR recommends that the General Council approve this revised constitutional amendment to replace Article XV, and be it further

**Resolved**, that this amended revision of the Article XV be submitted to the General Council for adoption at the next meeting of the General Council.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 15.1. Procedure for Amendment: Amendments to the CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP may originate by:

a) Six (6) members of the General Council may submit resolutions to the Secretary-General of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP

or

b) Two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee

or

c) Ten (10) members in good standing may submit resolutions to the Secretary-General of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.

General Councilors must be notified of amendment proposals sixty (60) days before any meeting of the General Council. The proposed amendment must be posted on a discussion forum for comment and input from the membership of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP for at least forty-five (45) days during the sixty (60) days.



Once received, amendment resolutions will be placed on the agenda of the next General Council meeting with proper General Council notice. Amendment adoption requires two-thirds (2/3) favorable vote by secret ballot of the General Council membership present and at least a majority favorable vote of the entire General Council membership. If there is unanimous consent for adoption, a secret ballot is not required. With a vote cast in favor thereof, the amendment shall immediately become effective and a part of the CONSTITUTION OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP.



Here is Section 15.1 in Article XV in our current constitution. Compare it with our revision recommendation.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 15.1. Procedure for Amendment: Amendments to this Constitution may originate by the process outlined in (a) or (b) which follow:

(a) The Executive Committee shall adopt a resolution setting forth the amendment proposed by a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote of the entire Executive Committee membership, declaring its advisability, and recommend its adoption by the General Council. The Secretary-General 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.

(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.

(c) At the next meeting of the General Council, said resolution to amend the Constitution originating by procedure as outlined in section (a) or (b) shall be presented for adoption. It will require a three-fourths (3/4) favorable vote by secret ballot of the General Council membership present and a majority

favorable vote of the entire General Council membership, for adoption. However, if there is unanimous consent for adoption, a secret ballot is not required. With a vote cast in favor thereof, the amendment shall become effective and a part of this Constitution. Each amendment to the Constitution must be submitted as a separate resolution for a vote by the General Council.

### **SCICR Members**

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Of all the communities available to us, there is not one I would want to devote myself to except for the society of the true seekers, which has very few living members at any one time.

--Albert Einstein