**TRIENNIAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

**The Urantia Book Fellowship**

**July 17, 2021**

**MINUTES**

The Zoom conference video meeting of the TDA went into closed session at 8:33 a.m. PDT, with Tom Allen acting as Chair and Larry Bowman as Secretary.

Motion to accept Don Guimond into our meeting as a silent observer from the inactive Pilot Light Society.

MOVED BY: Tom Allen

 Debate ensued about the status of Pilot Light Society. Secretary General Larry Bowman said it was never officially declared as inactive.

 The suggestion was that Don Guimond could be an observer and not a participant.

 Pilot Light has not submitted credentials of any delegate.

 Don was permitted to attend as an observer and not a participant.

Chair asks for unanimous consent that all Delegates and Alternates agree to be alone during the TDA so that no one can overhear the candidate discussions, and that all discussions of candidates be confidential.

 Approved

Chair asks for unanimous consent to allow Alternates to participate fully in discussions and promise not to vote.

 Approved

Chair asks for unanimous consent to accept the proposed time schedule submitted by Ken Keyser.

 Proposed schedule: 8-11 PDT (10-1 CDT), 12-3 PDT (2-5 CDT), 4-7 PDT (6-9 CDT); resume at 8 a.m. PDT (10 CDT) on Sunday the 18th, if necessary.

 Approved

Motion to disallow Nominations or Resolutions from the floor.

 Approved

Chair asks for unanimous consent to allow secret ballot voting as set up by Michael Challis.

 Approved

Motion to limit debate to 3 minutes for Delegates and 3 minutes Alternates for each candidate and for each Resolution. If another delegate or alternate requests a point of information from that delegate who has just spoken, then that person may have an extra minute to answer.

 Approved

Jack Miller of Agondonter Boot Camp Society agreed to be timekeeper.

Motion to vote for the 9-year terms for 12 positions first, then the 6-year terms and then the 3-year terms.

 Jena Lassiter raised a comment about the necessity of filling all 9-year slots.

 Approved

Committee proceeded to discuss each of the candidates.

recessed at 10:55 a.m.

resumed at 12:01 p.m.

David Gonzalez was in attendance as Golden Gate Circle delegate, relegating Larry Geis to alternate.

**Election of 9-year candidates, term expiring 2030:**

1. Trudi Cooper
2. John Hales
3. David Kulieke
4. Albert Einstein Lassiter
5. Jena Lassiter
6. Michael Perrie
7. Brent St. Denis
8. Sue Seccombe
9. Pablo Segovia

**Second round of 9-year candidates:**

No one was elected to fill three remaining vacancies.

**Election of 6-year candidates, term expiring 2027:**

1. Lila Dogim
2. Pamela Keller
3. Alvin Lockett

recessed at 2:52 p.m.

resumed at 4:00 p.m.

**Election of 3-year candidates, term expiring 2024:**

1. Oluwatooni (Toni) Oyeyemi
2. Maksim Zintsov

**Motion:** To not vote further

MOVED BY: Ken Keyser

 2 yes, 10 no, 1 abstention

 Motion failed

**Second election of 3-year candidates:**

1. David Meyer
2. David Robertson

Total: Filled 16 of 19 vacancies

Moved into resolutions at 4:38 p.m.

**Constitutional Convention resolution from UGSNY:**

Resolution #1

**Whereas,** the Constitution and By-laws of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP are outdated and not serving the modern needs to maximize *The Urantia Book* and the spread of its teachings, and

**Whereas,** a well constituted group of Fellowship members could make serious recommendations for the modernization and improvement of our outreach, and

**Whereas,** such a committee could begin the hard thinking about how best to create a contemporary and forward-looking constitutional document, and

**Whereas,** geography originally determined society membership and the advent of technology makes global engagement possible, and

**Whereas,** there is a need to engage and enfranchise members-at-large, whose numbers exceed society members (501 to 304), and

**Whereas,** the use of technology potentially enables international participation in the Executive Committee and General Council, and

**Whereas,** *The Urantia Book* itself describes patterns of administration that could inspire the formation of a new Fellowship Constitution, therefore let it be

**Resolved,** that the General Council appoint members of the Fellowship as an ad hoc committee with a definite date to report back to the General Council all recommendations for a new Constitutional Document, and be it further

**Resolved,** that a debate about convening a Constitutional Convention be considered by the General Council with a full Triennial Delegate Assembly of the deliberations and proposals in 2024.

 Resolution approved unanimously

**New York Society resolution regarding translations:**

Resolution #2

**Whereas,** the Constitution of Urantia Book Fellowship’s PURPOSE statement includes: “the promotion, improvement, and expansion of the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of Cosmology,” and

**Whereas,** Section 12:13 later states: “The International Fellowship Committee shall promote knowledge of The Urantia Book and its teachings among the inhabitants of countries other than the United States of America; it shall assist and encourage suitable persons to interest themselves in securing funds for the translation of the English text into the various other translations; it shall encourage and assist in the dissemination of The Urantia Bookamong the inhabitants of countries other than the United States of America; it shall assist and foster the organization of Local Societies in all such countries; and it shall assist and cooperate with such Local Societies in furthering the purposes of such societies and the purposes of THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP;” and

**Whereas,** the work of the Fellowship’s component societies is an integral part of the Fellowship’s mission, and USGNY is sponsoring the Spanish translation work of Angel Francisco Sanchez Escobar; and

**Whereas,** by virtue of its agreement with Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship is currently prohibited from hosting the USGNY-sponsored Spanish translation on its website through 2025; and

**Whereas,** by virtue of its agreement with Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship (including the Pipeline of Light) is currently prohibited from distributing the USGNY-sponsored Spanish translation through 2025; therefore, be it

**Resolved,** that:

1. The Fellowship, in support of the USGNY-sponsored Spanish translation, will issue a grant in the amount of $1,000 to its Translation Fund; and
2. The Fellowship will remain open to the consideration of future funding requests for this purpose; and
3. The Fellowship, through its International Fellowship Committee, will reinforce its constitutional obligations by working collaboratively—in every way not expressly prohibited by its agreement with Urantia Foundation—to foster and support the efforts of Local Societies that undertake the work of translations.

During the discussion on this resolution, it was mentioned that USGNY could apply for a Second Miler Grant.

 VOTE ON RESOLUTION:

 4 yes, 9 no

 resolution failed

**Societies contact MALs resolution from UBLA:**

Resolution #3

**WHEREAS,** the Urantia Book Los Angeles Society has sustained a lack of membership over the past 10 years, as has every other Society in the Urantia Book Fellowship, and

**WHEREAS,** the future role of Societies is shifting due to a mass move to online interactions, and

**WHEREAS,** there has been a large shift to “Members at Large” for those joining the Fellowship, and

**WHEREAS,** new reader engagement, like those looking for study groups, has dropped precipitously, leaving Societies languishing for new members and Board participation, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Urantia Book Fellowship will ask for permission of all new members, including “Members at Large,” to allow their contact information to be forwarded to local Societies so that follow-up contact can be made with these individuals; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that new readers packets with be developed by the Fellowship for those people who have signified their interest by becoming members, and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the success of these efforts shall be periodically evaluated at least annually.

During the discussion, it was agreed to add “by the Fellowship” as indicated in the second Resolved paragraph above.

 **Motion**: Add phrase, “Give societies a list of Members at Large in their geographic area to allow that society to contact them” in first Resolved paragraph, making that statement to read as follows:

 RESOLVED, that the Urantia Book Fellowship will give Societies a list of “Members at Large” in their geographic area to allow that Society to contact them ~~ask for permission of all new members, including “Members at Large,” to allow their contact information to be forwarded to local Societies so that follow-up contact can be made with these individuals~~; and be it further

 VOTE ON MOTION:

 11 in favor, 2 opposed

 Paragraph amended as indicated

 VOTE ON RESOLUTION:

 12 yes, 1 no

 Resolution passed as amended

**Resolution from Wisconsin Society for virtual societies to include Members at Large:**

Resolution #4

**Whereas,** Fellowship societies were designed 60 years ago to be the place that individual members get a voice in the direction of the Fellowship, and

**Whereas,** Members at Large are not members of a society and therefore have no voice, and

**Whereas,** Zoom now allows individuals from Shanghai to Timbuktu to attend and contribute to meetings and partake in decision, therefore, be it

**Resolved,** that the Fellowship:

1. Create a list of societies that are capable and willing to hold meetings virtually, and
2. Give that list to Members at Large and encourage them to pick and join a society in their general geographic area.
3. ~~Eliminate the membership category of Member at Large.~~

 **Motion:** Eliminate #3

 approved

 VOTE ON RESOLUTION:

 10 yes, 3 no

 Resolution approved

**Resolution from Wisconsin Society against buying a building:**

Resolution #5

**Whereas,** obtaining competent paid staff is important to the functioning of any organization, and

**Whereas,** the best candidates may not be willing to uproot their families to move to a specific location for the smallish salary the Fellowship can pay, and

**Whereas,** the readership already has a historic, centralized building to travel to (533), and

**Whereas,** the Fellowship has functioned effectively since selling the Wrightwood building, and

**Whereas,** mailing services can forward mail to wherever the Fellowship office may travel to, and

**Whereas,** with cell phones, phone numbers can just be transferred to new staff, therefore, let it be

**Resolved,** that the Fellowship not buy a building.

 **Motion:** Change last sentence to: ”Resolved, that the Fellowship not buy an administrative office building.”

 approved

 VOTE ON RESOLUTION:

 3 yes, 10 no

 Resolution failed

Summary of votes on resolutions: Numbers 1, 3, and 4 were approved and will be forwarded to General Council. The approved resolutions will be renumbered as 1, 2, and 3.

Bobbie Dreier expressed her appreciation to those who helped pushed through this TDA process.

Tom closed with a prayer.

Closed session adjourned at 7:00 p.m. PDT (Right on time, according to the Ken Keyser schedule.)

Submitted by: Larry Bowman, Secretary