

## Education Committee Report

January, 2013

The Education Committee of *The Urantia Book* Fellowship once again sponsored a Summer Study Session in 2012, as it has for three decades two of every three years. The theme was “Progressive Planetary Civilization,” and again the sessions were held at Techny Towers in Northbrook, Illinois during a weekend in early August. The entire Education Committee contributed to the planning for the meetings, but the chief organizers were Lila Dogim, then committee chair, Lara Amyx, conference coordinator, and Peter Laurence, program chairman. SSS12. The event enjoyed the highest attendance of any in the series for several years, in part buoyed by the presence of a large representation of young readers, many of whom had participated at a Youth and Young Adults Committee conference in Chicago the previous week.

The Education Committee met in Chicago in October of 2012 for its annual three-day meeting. A large part of the meeting was dedicated to planning the Summer Study Session 2013, again slated to be at Techny Towers, from July 10 to July 14, 2013. The theme is “Our Gift to God the Father: Service to the Supreme.” Program chair is Nick Stefero, and conference coordinator is new committee chair, David Kulieke.

The committee has also rededicated itself to supporting quality education and in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*. The committee will pursue this objective with a somewhat intensified schedule during SSS13. It also plans to continue upstepping the quality of study in 2015, when the summer study sessions begin again after a year’s hiatus for the international conference of 2014. The SSS2015 will begin a sequential study of *The Urantia Book*, beginning with the first papers of Part 1. Planners will include other strands at the summer sessions, including a hoped-for collaboration with the Interfaith Committee and a suggestion for a day-long panel approach to answering questions and difficult issues while dealing with the public or the media.

Some other developments on the committee have included:

A new Mission Statement: After quite a bit of discussion about a Vision Statement, the committee dispensed with having one and decided to limit itself to a new Mission Statement, which is as follows:

***The Urantia Book* Fellowship Education Committee creates and fosters opportunity to cultivate high quality of thinking and to nurture the pursuit of wisdom through in-depth study of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.**

References to teaching, learning, and education in *The Urantia Book*: Using handwritten, typed, or photocopied references gathered as a result of an Education Committee initiative led by Lynne Kulieke during the 1980’s, David Kulieke downloaded all of these references, which

amounted to well over 100 pages. These were then winnowed down to less than 20 pages of categorized "Key References on Education in *The Urantia Book*. They will soon be accessible on the website.

Archival list of Brotherhood/Fellowship themes of international conferences and summer study sessions: Ken Keyser began a list of pertinent information about international conferences and summer study sessions from an historical perspective. He is currently in the process of gathering additional information.

The committee continues to use small sub-committees to pursue projects which are then reviewed and refined by the entire committee. The Education Committee sub-committees include:

The Wrightwood Series: This series included intensive study seminars which were held over several days at which attendees will prepare before and conclude with papers on in-depth study topics. They were previously held at the Fellowship headquarters at 529 Wrightwood in Chicago. Katharina Becker is leading an effort to reestablish this series.

Educational Resources: Daniel Glazer heads an initiative to gather resources significant to the committee's goals. These efforts would be available as hard copy and on the Education Committee website. Part of the process includes the decision of what is germane, particularly with so many resources available on several websites related to *The Urantia Book*.

Study Group, Society, and Field Support Subcommittee: This is a new subcommittee for the purpose of helping to improve the quality of study where people are, if, when, and how they would like us to. This includes but is not limited to study groups and societies that sponsor or support study groups. The initiative might involve online initiatives, training of individuals, and field visits. It would utilize materials, both electronic and otherwise, and rely on information gathered by the Resources Subcommittee. It would necessitate collaboration with the Fellowship Outreach Committee and Membership Committee. In fact, the Outreach Committee has already sent a draft outline requesting feedback from the Education Committee regarding Outreach's work with study groups. David Kulieke is spearheading this effort.

Website Updating and Refurbishing: Nick Stefero is the committee's webmaster and is in charge of improving the website, making it more useful, and adapting it to the updated Fellowship website.

Education Committee Strand at the 2014 International Conference: Marilyn Kulieke is the liaison for the committee with conference planners in putting together a program track for studying the book.

Standard Text Reference System and Citations: Ken Keyser pointed out that, in the wake of the multi-organization work on the standard text, there is not yet consistency on citations of quotations from *The Urantia Book*. The committee intends to address this issue under Ken's leadership.

Ideas breed ideas, and other initiatives have been proposed or are being considered.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kulieke,  
chair

Katharina Becker  
Bobbie Dreier  
Daniel Glazier  
Charles Olivea  
Nick Stefero,  
members

Ken Keyser  
Marilynn Kulieke  
Barbara Newsom,  
adjuncts