

**Minutes**  
Outreach Committee 3/3/12

Present: Tom Choquette, Andrea Barnes, Bobbie Dreier, Bill Rocap, Thomas Orjala. Tony Finstad

Absent: Jo Ann Wiedman, Lara Amyx

The conference call began at 1:10 PM EST with a prayer by Bobbie.

**Bobbie:**

**Study Group issues**

1. The position of Study Group Directory Coordinator passed from Paula to Bobbie informally and will pass from Bobbie to Jackie Koury informally. It is basically an ongoing data input position with periodic update projects and has no formal relationship to the growth and/or nurturing of study groups. I think Jackie is the right person to take over the role and I have copied her on all my correspondence this year to mentor her so she can replace me when she retires. But it is an important position and there should be some *process* by which it is assigned.
2. The growth and nurturing of study groups is a necessary function of The Fellowship and should be assigned to a standing committee. Outreach, Education or Membership could fulfill the role. Andrea is interested in this area and she and I will brainstorm ideas and report back to the committee.

**Process**

1. Fellowship administration should be reflective of the cosmic administration and teamwork revealed in the book. The Universal Father has delegated all functions but the bestowal of personality and Thought Adjusters to his "team." Current "top down" decision-making leaves the societies and general membership feeling disenfranchised. For example, the societies should be engaged during the budget preparation period to elicit their input on projects and/or their need for financial help with local projects such as EXPOs. Currently there is no such process.
2. The creation of a Policies and Procedures manual is a good way to make decision-making less personal and more functional, and RUN's workshops are helping to engage readers in the field.

**Andrea:**

**1. RUN**

A three day workshop will be held in Portland the weekend of March 30<sup>th</sup>. Facebook, meet-ups, lists, etc. will be used to invite new and current readers on Friday night. On Saturday, Thomas will do an EXPO while Andrea and Aurora run classes on outreach for interested readers, and on Sunday there will be a social. Andrea would like to do one workshop/month beginning on the West coast.

**2. Volunteer Coordinator**

John Hay has asked Andrea to find volunteers to contact independent bookstores to place the new book.

### **3. Study Groups**

Andrea is passionate about engaging study groups to grow the readership with a “bottom-up” approach and believes we can nurture and support study groups with love on a decent budget.

#### **Tom:**

- 1. Study Groups** - Determination about who will coordinate needed.
- 2. Process** – Fellowship is moving in direction of process. P&P manual will help. Described “pyramid” structure to explain P&P process.
- 3. Finances** – Expressed concern about the conflict between spending more than we bring in (in a time of decreasing revenue) and the need to spend money to build and support the membership.
- 4. Minister in Training program** – Tom’s project. Details to follow.
- 5. Taos Retreat (July 16-22)** TruthSeekers and YAYas will meet. Each may bring a friend. Led by Meredith Holland, Tuevo Orjala and Ashley Pierce the retreat will use a model core curriculum. Room for 65 participants – 25 have registered so far.

#### **Thomas:**

1. Small groups work better to effect change. We need to try new things and evaluate them. Need to see the membership as a resource to create programs.
2. Pamela Chaddock has enthusiastic involvement with the Emergent Christian movement and would like to be a member of the Outreach Committee. She feels she needs status or a title to better engage the group. Tom suggested she be a member of Thomas’s Direct Book Outreach committee and be given an appropriate title until there is an Outreach Committee vacancy.
3. Wild Goose Festival (June 21-24): Paula, Pam and Thomas will have a booth. Would like a young person to join them. Tony will talk to Angela Thurston about Nash Garcia and Richard Daunt from the New York Society.
4. SpiritWestCoast DelMar Festival (May 25-27) The Outreach Committee and Spiritual Vitamins will sponsor a booth. Will sell Spiritual Vitamins, tee shirts, stickers, and a variety of spiritual books including The Urantia Book. Send ideas for slogans to Thomas.

#### **Tony:**

1. Shared P&P letter with committee
2. Described the 2<sup>nd</sup> inter-organizational initiative between The Fellowship, UAI and Foundation. An integrated calendar of events will be produced.
3. Agreed that modeling our organizational functioning on revealed cosmic administration is desirable and that more involvement at the “grassroots” will help to build the membership.

#### **Final comments:**

Bobbie is not available for April 7<sup>th</sup> conference call. Andrea and Thomas are not available for March 31<sup>st</sup>.

In the interest of establishing a 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday/month pattern, I suggest you go ahead with April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Tom would like to have a face to face meeting of the committee. He asks that we think about how to manage that.

Meeting ended at 2:30 PM with a prayer by Tom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbie Dreier  
Secretary