



**The Urantia Book Fellowship** If this document does not have boxes that can be filled in then use a browser other than Firefox or use Adobe Reader. [Click here](#) to download it for free. If you use Firefox, there is an Adobe Acrobat plugin available free by clicking [here](#).



## Committee or Officer's Report

### Person Submitting Report

Name  
Michael Challis

Today's Date  
06/30/2013

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Which Committee?  
Judicial

This report covers what time period? (example: 'Year-end 2013')  
January to July 2013

What are your committee's accomplishments this year?

Drafted language for 3 proposed amendments to constitution.

1. Drafted language for striking standing committee Special Projects from constitution,
2. Drafted language for authorizing and defining Electronic (telephonic) meetings for the Executive Committee,
3. Drafted language for amendment to implement proposal from TDA to change title from quarterly to annual. These three amendments were ratified by the General Council at the meeting February 8th in Los Angeles.

What the Judicial Committee does:

From the constitution with my emphasis added: "Section 11.9. The Judicial Committee: The Judicial Committee shall be the supreme arbitrating body of THE FELLOWSHIP, but, except as otherwise provided, their determinations and decisions shall be subject to the veto of, or modification by,

the Executive Committee within the time allowed by the By-laws of THE FELLOWSHIP."

I take this to mean the Judicial Chair is the parliamentarian for the meetings, interpreting the Constitution, By-Laws and Robert's Rules. In addition, as it says below, the committee will render opinions on any disagreement between The Fellowship, Societies and members. Subject to veto by the EC. "The jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee shall extend to all matters pertaining to the affairs of THE FELLOWSHIP and to all differences between Local Societies or between any Local Society and any member thereof or between any members or groups of members. "

Finally, as Judicial Chair, I answer any question about the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules of the Executive Committee and Robert's Rules. "The Judicial Committee shall, upon the request of any officer of THE FELLOWSHIP, any Councilor, or the Chairman of any Departmental Committee, render opinions on any matters involving a construction of this Constitution, of the By-laws of THE FELLOWSHIP, and of the Rules of the Executive Committee. A permanent record of such opinions shall be preserved."

Although the constitution says Judicial Committee in all of the above, in reality it ends up being the Judicial Chair who does most of that. I use the committee to help draft language for proposals and amendments and that is about it. There are other duties described in the constitution concerning removing a member and such. I have never had to perform those duties.

This is not one of the labor intensive committees. I would like to reduce the committee to 3 persons, or perhaps make the chair an officer. Ideally, Judicial committee members should be or have been on the GC. Past service on the EC (especially, past presidents) would be even better.

The primary job is helping keep the deliberative process functioning in our meetings. The second most common task is drafting language for amendments or motions. The third most common task is answering councilors' questions on how to do something.

A candidate for Judicial chair should be 1) a process facilitator, 2) willing to read and understand the Constitution, By-laws, and Robert's Rules, 3) able to reason things out, 4) a communicator, and 5) politically neutral, or at least to be able to rise above their personal opinions. It is an important job.

Concerning standing committees and the committee processes: We are defining standing committees in rules and policies as deliberative bodies, like our General Council. It might be useful for some of the standing committees to function in deliberative fashion, but many of our standing committees are more like departments in a organization.

In these committees, the committee members are the workers. The committee chair is the department head. For such committees, it is unnecessary and unproductive for the committee to be forced to engage in deliberative process to decide the work. In these committees the chair chooses their work based on the committee definition in the constitution, and delegates this work to the committee members to accomplish the purposes. Formal deliberative process is not necessary for these committees.

Our organization in a nutshell: The Fellowship functioning is governed by the constitution, the by-laws and the latest version of Robert's Rules Newly Revised. It is a deliberative body as outlined in Robert's Rules.

At the expense of total accuracy, here is an Abbreviated Summary:

Societies are chartered by the Fellowship. People who join a Society are also members of the Fellowship. Members at Large (people who apply to the Fellowship membership committee) are

members of the Fellowship. Each Society sends one delegate and one alternate (optional) to the TDA (Triennial Delegate Assembly) meeting once every three years. There is currently no constitutional mechanism for members at large to participate in the TDA.

The TDA elects General Councilors from Fellowship members (at large and society) who certify they have read the book in its entirety.

There are 36 General Councilors who serve terms of nine years, one third being elected every three years. The General Council elects officers and standing committee chairs from the General Council members. These elections are held every three years at the same summer General Council meeting after the TDA meeting.

Each standing committee has six members, including the chair, who serve six year terms. Committee members are required to be Fellowship members. The committees may also have as many adjunct committee members (non voting) as needed. The General Council meets at least once a year. Currently it usually meets twice a year.

The Officers and Standing Committee Chairs make up the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day decisions and operations of the Fellowship. The Executive Committee meets at least once a quarter (four times a year). Currently the Executive Committee also meets more often by conference call.

The Purposes, from our constitution:"The purposes of THE 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 Man and his 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 Man -- in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of Man, as an individual and as a member of society, by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with Man'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 FELLOWSHIP may extend."

God bless us and our Fellowship,

Michael Challis, Judicial Chair

What are your committee's goals for next year?

Dear General Councillors, I am resigning as chair of the judicial committee, so I'll leave the goals to the new committee chair.

To answer some of the questions as to why I am resigning: I am on the EC till the 12th. I will stay on the GC for the foreseeable future. It's been fun for me, but I need a break. I am over extended in my service and work obligations. I find myself getting cranky and irritable (more than normal). So, I have decided to cut back.

There are multiple candidates qualified to take my place. I think Lenny Cowles especially would be a good Judicial Chair, both organizationally and as parliamentarian, Arlene Weimer would bring a wealth of insight to the position from a conflict resolution stand point and Bob Bruyn has a great temperament for the position.

I am sure there are others. So, I am leaving it in good hands. After a respite if some of my work clears up, I might seek the opportunity to serve on the EC again. I am fond of you all and appreciate the experience we have of working together.

In friendship, Michael

Please list the people on your committee

Michael Challis, Avi Dogim, Robert Bruyn, Phillip Geiger, John Lange, Byron Belitsos

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Secretary@UrantiaBook.org