

Actions on Resolutions
from the August 2012 Triennial Delegate Assembly

Resolution # 1 - **Members-at-Large**

Whereas, in the Urantia Book Fellowship there are, as of May 2012, 302 Members-at-Large (“MAL”) which represents approximately 28% of the total membership of 1064, and

Whereas, the following 18 societies are active on the roles of the Fellowship with the following members each as of May 2012:

RMSF – 144, OKC – 101, Golden Gate – 84, UBLA – 78, Grand Canyon – 61, North Tex – 52, Heart of Amer. – 47, 1st Soc – 40, UBSGNY – 33, Pilot Light – 31, Orvonton – 29, Ft. Wayne – 23, Wisconsin – 23, Northern Light – 20, Vancouver – 15, SSUN – 13, Glenview – 10, Urantia Book Service Corps of New England – 17,

Be it resolved that the TDA requests the General Council to study the changing patterns of how and why people join the Fellowship, and determine what changes need to be made in the Society model, membership types, representation, and elections to support a vision for a healthy Fellowship.

A motion was made and seconded to assign TDA resolution #1 to the Membership Committee for research and reporting back at next GC meeting.

Vote: Yes-31, No-1, Abstentions-0.

The motion passed.

The Membership Committee has done its work on this matter. Lara Amyx, Membership chair, will be submitting the committee’s report under a separate cover.

Resolution # 2 - Financial Reporting and Tithing

We, the Urantia Book Los Angeles (UBLA) Governing Committee, on behalf of our members, hereby propose that the Urantia Book Fellowship change its individual society financial reporting and tithing process from quarterly to annually. We further propose that all financial reports and accompanying tithes from the societies be submitted to The Fellowship before January 31 of each year and reflect the finances of the full, just completed calendar year.

A motion was made and seconded to assign TDA resolution #2 to the Judicial Committee to draft language necessary to amend the bylaws and implement this resolution at the next General Council meeting.

Vote Yes- 31, No-0, Abstentions -1

The motion passed.

Constitutional amendment “To remit to THE FELLOWSHIP a tithe (ten (10) percent) of its gross receipts on or before the thirty first (31st) days of January “ passed at the February 2013 meeting of the General Council.

Resolution # 3 - Financial Reports

Whereas, in the Urantia Book Fellowship there are, as of July 2012, no visible financial reporting to the donors of the Urantia Book Fellowship,

Be it resolved that The Heart of America Society requests that the Fellowship issue financial reports annually to all donors. The Fellowship is a non-profit organization with an IRS tax exemption. Non-profits traditionally distribute a full accounting of their finances to all donors. We request that:

- a.) The UBF inform the donors about our practical priorities as reflected in financial transactions;
- b.) The UBF foster trust between the organization and the donors by eliminating the murkiness of vague accountability and create a solid, simple and transparent financial communication at least once a year.

A motion was made and seconded to accept TDA resolution #3 and instruct the Treasurer and the Finance Committee to study the resolution and report back to the General Council with suggestions for implementation.

Vote Vote: Yes - 31, No -1, Abstentions - 0

The motion passed.

The Treasurer, the Office Director and our Accountant/CPA are working on the implementation of this resolution.

Resolution # 4 - Resolution to Modernize the Fellowship's Constitution

Whereas many changes have occurred within the Fellowship since its Constitution was drafted, and

Whereas global communication greatly enhances the Fellowship's social and fraternal potentials – redefining social networks; making access to information available at the click of a mouse, and

Whereas the Fellowship's governance model outlined in the Constitution does not reflect these new realities, and

Whereas there is concern that once useful provisions, if considered "outdated" may be neglected and erode the validity our Constitution,

Be it resolved that the General Council support a member-inclusive Constitutional Convention to redraft the Fellowship's Constitution and Bylaws, towards the goal of creating a governing model designed to aid us in achieving our social and fraternal mission, growth and organizational health.

Be it further resolved that the General Council delegate this process to a special joint ad-hoc committee, whose members are drawn from TDA and General Counsel members.

A motion was made and seconded to send TDA resolution #4 to the Executive Committee for further consideration and clarification, to address the spirit of the resolution.

Vote: Yes - 23, No - 3, Abstentions - 3

The motion passed.

The ad-hoc committee consisting of Bob Arkens, Chair, Casey Snider, Cabot Eudaley, Michelle Klimesh, Lara Amyx and Avi Dogim was formed.

The following report was received from the committee:

I am recommending to the President that further discussion and specific wording be done by the Fellowship's standing Judiciary committee. I am further suggesting that any person, on this committee or otherwise, who is still interested in this matter apply to Michael for a seat on that committee.

Respectfully,

Robert Arkens, Chair, ad hoc committee on constitutional changes

Resolution # 5 - Resolution Regarding Candidates for Executive Officer Positions

Be it resolved that the General Council will receive from each candidate for Executive Officer – prior to elections – a brief proposal outlining the candidate's basic strategic plan for the position sought.

Be it resolved that all proposals received or recorded by the General Council will be made available to Societies via TDA Delegates and/or Presidents.

A motion was made and seconded to reject TDA resolution #5 as unworkable.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that the language of the motion was unclear, and that it would be unworkable due to time constraints.

Vote: Yes - 16, No - 9, Abstentions - 6

The motion passed. TDA resolution #5 is rejected.

Resolution # 6 - Study Groups

Because of the important role of study groups in the comprehension and dissemination of the revelation, the Membership Committee (or another committee designated by the Executive Committee) shall be charged with the responsibility of nurturing existing study groups, fostering new ones and facilitating communication between them.

Examples of “nurturing:”

Creation of a study group blog

Study Group Newsletter

Study Group Workshops at Summer Study Sessions and International Conferences

A motion was made and seconded to accept TDA resolution #6 and send it to the Executive Committee for further action.

Vote: Yes - 27, no - 0, Abstentions - 2

The motion passed.

The education Committee dealt with this resolution. Their actions are stated below.

The first response to this resolution was to create a "Study Group Conclave," which is scheduled for this year's Summer Study Session in July.

A second initiative has been to update, rewrite, and improve a small booklet on study groups, entitled "Community: Beginning and Organizing Effective Study Groups." This document will replace two older documents, from which it drew much of its material, on the Fellowship website. A hard copy will be distributed to study group representatives, society representatives, and Councilors during the SSS13 weekend and possibly sent to study groups and societies as well.

A "Geographical Definition" initiative, which has been in the works for years, will be applied directly to areas with little organized activity and by working through organized groups in their regions. This is a joint effort of the Education, Membership, and Outreach committees.

Resolution # 7 - Budget Process

In order to foster increased collaboration between Fellowship societies and the Executive Committee of the Fellowship, the societies shall be included in the Fellowship's annual budget process by being invited to submit proposals for funding of society projects at least six months in advance of the Executive Committee budget meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and amended to accept TDA resolution #7 and refer it to the ad-hoc Policy and Procedures Committee for implementation.

Concern was expressed that the six month provision in the resolution is unnecessarily restricting. The President will speak with the Judicial chair to find ways to provide advice to the TDA about how to write resolutions in clear language.

Vote: Yes - 31, No - 0, Abstentions - 0
The motion passed.

In response to this resolution, the General Council passed the "Society Grant Policy".

The current policies can be found at: <https://urantiabook.worldsecuresystems.com/secure-zone-documents/admin-archive/index-admin-archive.html>