



**URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES  
CLP MEETING MINUTES**

**March 20, 2015  
Argyle, Texas**

UAUS President Will Sherwood called the meeting to order on March 20, 2015 at 1:00 pm CDT at Argyle, Texas before the Lone Star Urantia Association conference. In attendance, in addition to Will Sherwood, were Vice President, Mike Wood, and Treasurer, Bruce Brown. Guests in attendance were Margaret Slater-Thompson the Executive Administrator of Urantia Association International, Susan Owen, ISB Secretary and James Woodward.

James Woodward gave a prayer and read from *The Urantia Book* page 1622, Paper 144, Section 5.

The roll call was taken, dues collected, and a quorum was established.

**CLP members present:**

Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Assn., Chris Wood with proxies for President and V.P.  
Lone Star Urantia Assn., Katrina Glavan-Heise, president, and and Sia Ahmadzadeh, V.P.  
Southwest Urantia Readers Family: Meredith VanWoert, President and Ed Owen, V.P.  
Hawaii Urantia Local Association: Marian Hughes, with proxies for President and V.P.  
Spirit of Oklahoma Urantia Assn., David Linthicum, Vice President & proxy for President  
Urantia Assn. of Kansas City: Mike Wood with proxies for President and V.P.  
Urantia Assn. of New England, Meredith Tenney, President with proxy for V.P.  
Urantia Assn. Los Angeles: Will Sherwood, President with proxy for V.P.

**MOTION** was made by David Linthicum to waive the reading of the minutes. This motion was seconded by Chris Wood and was adopted.

**MOTION** Katrina Glavan-Heise moved to adopt the CLP meeting minutes of June 15, 2014. The motion was adopted.

**MOTION:** Katrina Glavan-Heise moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Chris Wood and adopted unanimously.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**President's Report: Will Sherwood**

I'd like to begin this report by thanking each member of UAUS for this opportunity to serve and look forward to a mutually rewarding term of office during my 2nd term as president in service to UAUS and to the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Special thanks go to Ellen Gaynor for her heartfelt service stepping up and helping UAUS to revitalize *The Messenger* (The Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 issues were distributed through the UAI online email, with the Spring 2015 issue due to go out in April 2015.)

Special thanks also go to Scott Brooks for his ongoing service maintaining the UAUS Website and for his service updating the UAI database.

As many of you know, UAUS has limited operating funds given that the majority of our treasury is available ONLY for conferences. This was changed with CLP approval at our last meeting with \$5,000 of the conference fund is being allocated for scholarships. At this point there have been no requests for funds distribution.

Given UAUS's financial situation, the board is still actively concerned with fundraising. We will be implementing a campaign with a letter and reply envelope, and using general funds money. Since so few of our membership (with around 15 people responding from over 1,300 letters sent) actually respond with donations, the board plans to incorporate a "Give Once and We Won't Bother You Again" approach. We intend to include a check box that people can check if they don't want to receive our mailings in the future. In addition, the board plans to increase the number of donation requests to twice each year. Results will be discussed by Bruce Brown, our treasurer, online through the CLP list.

I'd like to close out this year's report with a quotation from Merindi Belarski, outgoing vice president of UAI:

*Sometimes I imagine our Presidents and Vice Presidents around the globe do not realise the importance of the service they are all volunteering for. You may think that it's not much and that your small number of voluntary hours are not very significant. You may, like me, constantly wish you were doing more. However, when I'm feeling this way, I like to imagine the Urantia movement in 50, 100, 200 years time. What are readers going to think when they read about the organisation's history, and the small humble people who served? Are they going to read, with fascination, about the first 100-years of the book's existence, wishing they were around in its inception? Are they going to be thankful to the pioneering readers who stepped up and put up their hands of service? I think so. Our role is to lay the foundation, and lay it well. It's up to us to ensure the revelation is safe and available for our children, our children's children, and so on.*

*Although the work is important, and perhaps the revelation's future rests on our shoulders, it is also important to recognise that we are all just volunteers, going about our day to day lives. doing the best we can. If any of you have lives like me, juggling full time work, children, school activities, family events, friends to see, households to manage, and husbands (or wives) to spend time with; you know that spare hours to serve are difficult to find. I always wish I could do more. Sometimes I think that everybody and everything in my life gets just 80% of me, and how I wish I could give 100% to something. But then I remember that 80% is going to have to be OK - for now.*

*This mortal career, and the valuable experiences we are having day to day, is critical to our eternal future. The road to the corps of the finality is a long one - why not enjoy it!*

This report is respectfully submitted by Will Sherwood

#### **Vice President's Report: Mike Wood**

- Most recently I have been preparing for this CLP meeting.
- I ask everyone to think about where to host the UAUS national conference in 2016.
- A call for bids for the 2016 national conference will be sent out to the CLP.
- My goal is to encourage more local conferences.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Bruce Brown provided the following summary.**

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##### **Restricted Funds**

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• Conferences	25,000
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• Scholarship Fund	5,150
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• Officers Travel	800
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- Total 30,950
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Ending Balance Last Year	\$32,591.03	After Restricted Funds
Balance Available last year	\$ 2941.28	
Beginning Balance This Year	<u>\$34,101.29</u>	
Minus	\$30,950.00	Restricted Funds
	\$3,151.29	General Funds Available

Some Thoughts on Revenue Generation:

- We need to raise more money by increasing membership. By 'we' we mean the local associations.
- Will be sending out one or two fundraising letters in 2015. We generally raise about \$3000 for every \$1200 spent on the cost of a mailing. These letters will be funded through the general fund.
- Increase membership and expand readership with the help of Governing Board and the current membership.
- Encourage every current member to bring in one new member within the next year.
- Promote each member giving one Urantia Book away per study group.
- Encourage every current member to give an additional \$10 a year or more above dues.
- Promote the establishment of monthly donations from \$5 to \$20 per month through Pay Pal.
- Establish a plan for helping members donate through estate planning.
- Petition our unseen friends for spiritual strength and wisdom.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Outreach Committee: No Chair

- No activity on this committee as no chair in place

### Membership Committee Report: No report provided.

- Evette Twyford will be stepping in as Membership committee chair to replace Michael Berry.

### Study Groups Committee Report: David Linthicum presented the following report.

There are currently 68 study groups listed on the UAUS website. Each study group host is contacted regularly to ensure their contact information is current. Since my last report we have removed two study group hosts from the website, one was due to the graduation of our dear sister Shirley Pelland.

When the CLP moved that UAUS form a study groups committee we launched into action and developed a framework for a national effort to identify study group hosts to list on our website. An essential part of our plan was to enlist the support of local associations. Over the past years calls have gone out to local associations to assist the national study groups committee by identifying a volunteer from their local to serve as a state contact to work in conjunction with the national association. So far, those calls have gone largely unanswered. In order to fulfill the mandate of our study groups committee, which was initiated by a CLP motion, we desperately need additional volunteers. It is not difficult work, just a couple of phone calls every month or so in order to touch base with our study group hosts and ensure their information is correct on the website.

The formation of study groups is vitally important to the success of the Revelation; the Publication Mandate calls for thousands of study groups to be formed. This should be a priority for every local association. We can and should do more to foster study groups and assist new readers in finding a study group in their area.

Additionally, I've been in talks with UAI members involved with the Urantia Book Study Group Directory. The Directory is a joint effort between Urantia Foundation, the Association and the Fellowship. Although UAUS had reservations when the effort first launched I have been assured that those concerns have been addressed and that there are now processes in place to ensure the accuracy of the website listings, as well as a process to ensure the study groups listed are based solely on study of *The Urantia Book*. We are being asked to include a link to the Directory on the UAUS website. I am hopeful a motion will be put forward and approved by the CLP to do so.

Respectfully,

David Linthicum  
UAUS Study Groups Committee Chair

- David also advised all National Study Group Chairs will have access to the backend of the Study Group Directory.

## ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- **Southwest Urantia Reader Family (SURF)** report by Meredith VanWoert, President. We are currently a very small organization. We have not held any elections for several years. I am the temporary President and Treasurer, Ed Owen is Vice President and Susan Owen is Secretary. We are holding a study group topical session in April for all in our area. As you all know we used to be a very active group, but we are struggling right now. People just don't seem interested in joining.
- **Lone Star Urantia Association** report by Katrina-Glavan-Heise, President. In March of 2014 we held the TOCAN Regional Conference for Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. Last summer we had three known Jesus' Birthday celebrations in Texas. In October we held a mini-conference in San Antonio on the Local Universe Mother Spirit that 30 people attended. This weekend we are holding our second March conference. Our 2015-2016 goals are to host more Jesus' Birthday celebrations and a regional conference in 2016 along with mini-conferences.
- **Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA)** report by Chris Wood. We have been around for quite awhile, but our membership is shrinking lately. We still do our annual Jesus' Birthday Picnic and host the Christmas Party at Urantia Foundation. We have two meetings a year. We need ideas to grow our association.
- **Urantia Association of New England (UAONE)** report by Meredith Tenney. Our group in New England hosted 3 activities; Jesus' Birthday Celebration in August, a gathering in the fall in Worcester with Larry Mullins, and the upcoming spring retreat. Our numbers were growing and we have been blessed by the participation of some younger Urantians. This may be due to an interesting experiment we have undertaken. In 2011, the Connecticut Society of the Fellowship hadn't met in several years and UAONE had all but disbanded due to lack of participation when we vowed to form one organization that could serve all the readership in New England. We call ourselves Urantia Book Service Corps of New England because we thought it was important to incorporate service and worship into our study. We sought to model spiritual unity on a grassroots level that could promote healing of the wounds caused by the schism between the Fellowship and UAI.
- **Urantia Association of Kansas City** report by Mike Wood. We are fairly inactive at this time. We have 2-3 study group and we get together once a year. We need to get more going in our area.
- **Spirit of Oklahoma Urantia Association** report by David Linthicum. I can relate to SURF. We still have 10 full members but only 3-4 are active. We also are unable to attract members. However, our study group grew from 5-12 people in the last year and we had 32 people at our Jesus' Birthday

Celebration. We try to attend every CLP meeting and events. Cathy Jones always said to stay open and eventually people will come.

- **Hawaii Urantia Local Association** report by Marian Hughes. We have 12 steady members including two new people. Our difficulty is we are all on different islands and it costs \$200 to fly back and forth. We are exploring the idea of a regional conference. This year we will do a library survey to make sure the book is available.
- **Urantia Association of Los Angeles** report by Will Sherwood, President. In 2014 we held an Easter Pizza Party Fundraiser with the Fellowship and raised \$400 for conference scholarships, half of which went to UAI. We also hosted a Jesus' Birthday celebration, a Christmas Party with 40 people attending and will be hosting a Urantia Easter Party in April 2015. We gave away 230 books last year through our Postcard Program.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion:** SURF moved that UAUS officially adopt the "Publication Mandate" statement as a guiding document of UAUS and upon approval of this motion that the "Publication Mandate" be placed on the UAUS website as an official document.

David Linthicum seconded the motion. Discussion and an amendment to the motion followed. The amended motion was adopted.

## **General Discussions**

Chris Wood opined, as Association President, that current social media are fulfilling the social needs of our members. Today, people need to have a good reason to join an organization and they are less likely to stay members. At the international, we have had great success with projects. We used to have to beg for money for our projects, but for the last two years we have had our full budget in the bank at the beginning of the year. Chris also advised he has had discussions with Urantia Foundation about the need to stop stealing leaders from the local and national associations.

The Fellowship has invited the Association to participate with them in US book fairs. Consensus was the high costs do not support the small benefits.

The Parliament of World Religions is being held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 15-19, 2015. All three organizations are hosting the booth. Only the Foundation book will be presented and if anything is handed out it will either not have any organizations noted or have all four organization websites listed. There will be eight people in our delegation, 40 from the Fellowship and an unknown number from the Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Owen for Grace Boyett, UAUS Secretary