



URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

CLP MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2012

CHESTERTON, IN

UAUS President David Linthicum called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Chris Wood, UAUS VP, conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was reached.

Multiple MOTIONS were made and passed to accept voting proxies on behalf of local association officers not in attendance.

MOTION was made by Pio Park to wave the reading of the 2011 CLP meeting minutes, seconded by Susan Owen. The motion passed.

MOTION was made by Susan Owen to accept the 2011 CLP meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Lee Armstrong. Motion passed and the minutes were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report:

I want to welcome everyone to this year's CLP meeting and also express my appreciation to the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA) for agreeing to host this year's CLP meeting in conjunction with their Fall Study Session.

I am happy to announce that the Kansas local association has been reinvigorated and a new governing board installed due to the efforts of Mike, Chris, Joel Wood (the new President) and Chris' other brothers. I look forward to working with Joel and the new board.

On October 13, 2012 we will see the chartering of a new local association in California, Urantia Association of Los Angeles. This is the first new local association chartered in a number of years and we welcome them to the UAUS family.

We have two new ISB committee chairs to announce, Arnie Ondis of Florida was elected to be the next UAI Conference Chairman and Bill Beasley, also of Florida, has been elected UAI Study Groups Committee Chairman. These are two very important positions and we look forward to hearing more about their plans for the future.

I also want to remind our members that the governing board formed the Council of Past Presidents which consists of all past presidents of UAUS who serve in an advisory capacity to the current president. Our past presidents include Betty Zehr, Lee Armstrong and Benet Rutenberg.

Along with our successes this year with Kansas and California it is recognized that there are some local associations that struggle with issues of membership and participation. Throughout the year I have talked to local presidents to offer words of encouragement. The governing board will continue to work with these local associations to find ways to encourage participation and identify potential new members. In the mean time, even a few active members can still be about UAI's mission as we look forward to future growth and vitality. Keep the home fires burning and keep up the good work!

Vice President's Report:

The first six months in office can be characterized as a learning experience. Upon election I was introduced to the workings of the UAI's Representative Council (RC) and brought up to date on their resolutions and work for the last 10 years or so. I also began familiarizing myself with the status of the UAUS, our financial status and the health of our local associations.

I also began traveling to meet UAUS locals, including attendance at this GLMUA conference, a local conference for NY/Penn, as well as to Kansas City, where the local members have reorganized themselves into a once again thriving local.

In depth discussion on the status of the UAI redesign has led to an Ad Hoc committee dedicated to addressing the progress and financial commitment to the project. I have joined the committee and our work will be finished shortly with a report to the RC which will re-open the discussion.

I have a passion for conferences and would like to spend my term helping local association host local, regional, and national conferences. I can be your go-to person if you have questions or need assistance. I have gained experience the last few years with hosting conferences and would like to put my knowledge to work before it all slips away.

I would like to thank the UAUS for allowing me the honor of representing you. I hope many of our members will share in this experience of serving our organization.

Secretary's Report: Linda was unable to attend – no report. A special thank you goes to Betty Lou Wallace and Susan Owen for sending in their notes which were used extensively in the drafting of these minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Istvan was out of the country and unable to attend, David provided a brief summary.

- Checking balance as of 9-10-12 shows \$32,839.69. After accounting for restricted funds there is \$1,914.69 in available funds.
- Restricted funds include:
 - Conference Fund = \$30,000
 - Officer International Travel Fund = \$800
 - Scholarship Fund = \$125 (The fund goal is \$2,000)

General discussion followed regarding the restricted funds, how funds were established (CLP Motions) and the challenges faced by the governing board with raising additional funds. It was noted that all restricted funds must be replenished from available funds and that the scholarship fund is underfunded at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Report: Michael Berry was unable to attend in person but attempted to join the meeting via WebEx. However there were technical difficulties with the audio. David provided a recap of the committee's report. It was pointed out that Michael has been serving as a committee of one year after year and that volunteers are needed to join this very important committee.

- There are 2,119 names in the UAI database
- Full Members = 457
- Associate Members = 42
- Governing Board members = 85
- Members-at-Large = 8
- Non-Members = 1,527

It was noted that Michael needs each local association to be sure to keep the UAI database accurate (add new members, remove graduates!). New referral information is sent to all local association governing boards; Michael needs to hear back from you after you contact a new referral. Reader referrals offer an excellent opportunity for follow up and inclusion in local association activities. Michael also requested that the contact form for membership applications be returned to him promptly.

MOTION: Ellen Gaynor moved that the meeting recess 30 minutes for lunch, Ralph Zehr seconded. Motion was approved. Meeting recessed to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

Study Groups Committee Report: Kathy Wanenmacher was unable to attend but submitted the following report which was summarized by David during the meeting:

The UAUS Study Groups Committee now has a new Mountain Regional Contact, Kathy D. Hughes, of Colorado; we welcome Kathy to the committee.

The Study Groups Committee and study groups from throughout the U.S. can be found on the UAUS website. At the top of the Study Groups page the Regional Contacts with their respective states are listed. Information is corrected when it is given to us; every March and September it is all verified for accuracy. We give study group contacts the option of emailing or calling us the first week in update months if they choose. That makes it quicker for them and for us also. We thoroughly enjoy talking with study group hosts however, we realize schedules are not always the same so if we have not heard from a study group host the first week we contact them.

(David provided an explanation of the model being used by the committee which segregates the United States into various regions with multiple states which committee members, the Regional Contacts, administer. It was recognized that two Regional Contacts were in attendance, Kathy D. Hughes and Ellen Gaynor. Lee Armstrong volunteered to join the committee as a Regional Contact.)

The Study Group Committee strives to make every study group a safe place for readers to read and study *The Urantia Book*. In that regard our cornerstone is three fold:

1. Focus on study of *The Urantia Book*
2. Free from politization. Meetings are to be devoid of selling, or asking others to participate in anything outside the study group; recruiting for any organization is not permitted.
3. No channeling.

(A brief discussion ensued and it was noted that UAUS is continuing to maintain our own list of study groups on our website. All UAUS listed study groups have been vetted by the committee based on the three criteria which UAUS adopted from UAI. The Study Group Directory (formerly Study Group Portal) was discussed as well. David provided a brief synopsis of the efforts of Urantia Foundation, Fellowship and UAI in the creation of the Study Group Portal/Directory.)

Study Groups which cannot or will not follow the above limitations can, will and have been removed from the list until such time that they are able to assure us of their compliance to the three criteria. Again, the individual reader is our primary concern, that reader should feel safe and comfortable at a study group meeting.

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The Regional Contacts have requested a list of helpful information for study groups and people who want to start study groups. It would be most helpful to have examples on hand to answer questions, although we understand it is the responsibility of the Publications Committee to keep and send whatever is requested. This extends the active interaction with one another and strengthens the Urantia movement. It is less intimidating for a new reader to attend a conference, for example, when the reader has interacted with several members.

The other request I have is for people east of the Mississippi who would like to be Regional Contacts. This is a job for someone who would:

1. Enjoy calling a couple of people a week to maintain friendly interaction and
2. Be on a conference call once a month
3. Update study group information within a Region in March and September

Our committee members work well together and we contact each other occasionally. We continue to get together on a conference call once a month and Ellen Gaynor, Pacific Regional Contact, has conference calls monthly. As much as I like calling the study group hosts, doing this for four Regions is unwise. Together we will keep study groups safe and happy. The more people who participate with study groups, the stronger our organization will be.

Publications Committee Report: Al Turnbo was unable to attend. Chris Wood, UAUS GB liaison to the committee provided a summary.

- UAUS has not published the *Messenger* since Marion Hughes resigned as the editor.
- The committee will discuss using the content of Rick Warren's online newsletter on the website.
- UAUS spent \$750 to develop a new website which is now up and running. A "Graduates" page has been added to the website upon recommendations from prior CLP meetings.
- UAUS may soon be on Facebook and Twitter.

NEW BUSINESS

UAUS Website: Many of the items related to the new website were previously discussed in relation to the Publications Committee report. It was noted that new members have been recently added to the committee and that much progress has been achieved in getting the new website published and polished. There were some adjustments to the Study Group page and there is an ongoing discussion regarding Skype study groups. The committee has been very proactive at getting current local association events posted and we ask the local officers to submit their future events to the governing board to be passed on to the committee.

Every local association officer was asked to review the website for accuracy and tasked with taking responsibility for ensuring the local association governing board information is accurate. It was noted that there are names of members who have since graduated still on the website which is not acceptable.

It was noted that Patti Snyder volunteered to administer the Graduates page and is attached to the committee. Volunteers were identified to submit a picture and brief statement to be included on the website to honor those who have served UAI. Please ensure to follow through and get those items in to Patti Snyder so we can update the page.

UAI Website: David discussed the various aspects of the ISB resolution to fund the new website. It was noted that UAUS led the questioning of the particulars behind the request for an additional \$10,000 to develop the site and certain issues around the ongoing maintenance costs (around \$12,000 a year). Also discussed was the proposed revenue potentials (fees) recommended by the developer. It is the

consensus of the CLP that the revenue projections are unrealistic. The resolution has since been tabled by the RC and the International Service Board (ISB) has formed an Ad Hoc Committee to make recommendations to the board. Chris Wood is representing UAUS on that Ad Hoc Committee and expects a report soon.

Conference Scheduling: Chris Wood led a discussion regarding the current conference schedule which is a three-year rotation of local/regional, national and international conferences. Typically local and regional conferences/mini-conferences are held in autumn and international conferences are in the spring. David discussed the restricted conference fund and noted that local associations have at their disposal up to \$30,000 for conference expenses with a stipulation that UAUS is fully reimbursed plus 10% of net revenue generated by the conference which goes toward building the conference fund. The restricted conference fund was established during Lee Armstrong's tenure on the governing board and has grown through donations and profit sharing to our current \$30,000.

MOTION: Lee Armstrong moved, ***"That UAUS sponsor a national conference every year that there is NOT an international conference, contingent upon a viable proposal submitted to and approved by the UAUS Governing Board."*** The motion was seconded and passed by majority vote of the CLP.

Chris Wood indicated that he felt that UAUS could host a National Conference in 2013 and will be sending out a notice to the CLP after the meeting seeking bids from the local associations. David reiterated that this is a great fundraising opportunity for a local association citing the success of the Washington State conference.

2013 CLP Meeting Venue: It was noted that the CLP usually hosts their annual meeting in conjunction with a local association conference such as GLMUA's Fall Study Session and that it serves to boost attendance at such an event.

2013 UAUS Officer Elections: Both President David Linthicum and Treasurer Istvan Hargitai have served two consecutive terms on the USUS Governing Board. Nominations for both offices will be solicited per the bylaws, to wit:

Article 6.D. The election of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be by plurality vote of the voting members after input from and consultation with their respective Local Association Members. Nomination shall be made in writing from the Local Associations to the UAUS Secretary via the Presidents of the Local Associations.

The Deadline for submitting nominations is January 1. The Secretary of UAUS shall distribute the biographies and statements of goals to all voting member by February 1. The election shall be held in March. Each Local Association, after a canvas of its members, shall have two votes for Governing Board members, Local Association votes shall be sent to the Secretary, who shall publish the results by April 1. If the sitting Secretary is a candidate in an election with multiple nominees, the votes shall be sent to another officer of the Governing Board not directly involved in the election. Newly elected officers and appointed committee chairmen will assume their duties April 1.

Members-at-Large (Bylaws): David directed a discussion regarding of the member-at-large category and the bylaws restrictions that don't allow for full participation of those members who are not attached to a local association. Please see the UAI Bylaws, Section 3.3.4, to wit:

Members-at-large shall enjoy all the benefits of full members except that they shall not be eligible to vote or to run for, be appointed to, or hold any office or other appointive position, including chair or co-chair of any committee, in a Local or National Association, or in the Central Administration.

Recommended changes include:

- Allow members-at-large to affiliate with the nearest local association and be allowed to serve in UAI.
- Any member of an association that has been confirmed by the National as inactive or non-functioning, my petition of their National Association or the ISB to be reassigned to another Local Association.

The ISB has indicated that they will be looking at potential bylaw changes at their next scheduled meeting at the end of October. UAUS will petition the ISB to consider the members-at-large issue as well.

UB Youth: Chris let the discussion on this topic and noted that UAUS and UAI do not have a youth committee. It was decided that UAUS would encourage youth participation at our conferences and make them feel at home by providing scholarships, inexpensive lodging and meal plans. It is imperative that UAUS and UAI focus on today's youth as they are the leaders of tomorrow.

UAUS/UAI Roles & Responsibilities: There was a general discussion regarding our roles as leaders of UAUS at the local and national level. UAI is a grassroots organization and its success is predicated on active involvement of Local Association officers. Local Associations are encouraged to define their mission, get their members involved and find a specific project they would like to focus on. UAUS needs Local Associations to provide volunteers to serve on UAUS committees such as the Study Groups Committee, Publications, Conference, UB Youth, etc. as an extension of the work they are doing on the local level. One of our primary focuses should be on supporting and organizing study groups. This is an excellent opportunity for more involvement on the local level and is vital to our overall UAI mission. Everyone is encouraged to read the Publication Mandate.

Susan Owen noted that she was "inspired by the clarity this group of association representatives had of UAI's mission to foster in-depth study and dissemination of the teachings – effective dissemination comes from making the teaching our own so we share them as our own experiential truths and not just our ideas of the truth. This level of truth assimilation only comes from in-depth study and the supreme desire to do the will of our Father. We also learned that the Fellowship does not actually 'study' the book at conferences thus making it even more imperative that UAI keep the light firmly focused on our mission."

MOTION: There was a motion to thank David Linthicum for his service to UAUS as President for the last four years. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: Lee Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

