

Urantia Association of the United States

Council of Local Presidents Meeting

1:00 pm through 5:00 pm, June 9, 2016, Trinity University, Austin, TX

Call to order was given by Will Sherwood, President.

Invocation was given by James Wood.

Review of the voting proxies was ascertained.

Payments from all dues were ascertained.

Roll Call was executed and a quorum was achieved.

Approval of the minutes from the last meeting was moved and adopted.

Approval of the agenda was moved and adopted.

Report from Chris Wood and he stated that we have a much younger audience all over the world. We need more people to step forward to serve for the conferences being planned in Budapest, Netherlands and hopefully Africa. There is a need for a new national president and a new international president.

Report from Paula Thompson and she stated that they were busy getting the book out as far and wide as possible. She said that they are now being called the 'Urantian Tradition' lending to signs that they are making inroads into the relevancy of what people are searching for spiritually. The UFO groups, Unity groups and emergent Christians are some targeted areas for reaching out to people who may be interested in the revelation. The internet brings us some amazing opportunities to reach folks one on one.

Ralph Zehr of the UBIS spoke of translations in progress and efforts to present consecutive courses to assist group facilitators. The courses are focused around the question/response model.

Marilyn Kulieke spoke of activities in mission work to seed the book around the world. There is now a new research library in the basement of 533 where Dr. Sadler worked with the revelators. Also, there is a new Zoom room for conferences on the 2nd floor of 533. Work is being done for printing for the EU books and trying to lower the prices. Work is pursued toward historical projects to put forth more information regarding Dr. Sadler and Christie to complete a history of the UB movement. Work is

being done for a Chinese translation. The Urantia Foundation created an imprint label that will allow a new board to create publications that can be published. This will allow for the book called 'Parables of Jesus' (working title) to be associated with the UB and uplift it into the marketplace.

There was discussion regarding the non-profit umbrella for the local associations to fall under. The suggestion was made for a committee to be formed to look into this with Joyce Anderson, an attorney, to be involved.

Reports from the local associations:

Virginia Carolina Readers report by Shirley Layton: We have 4-5 members in a study group that meets every other month. The donations are low and she will ask her president to please ask for more giving.

SURF report by Ed Owen. We participated in the book fair at the Parliament of World Religions. All the books were taken. We plan to reach out to the UFO conferences and would like for people to work those book fairs. They use Zoom and are enjoying conference calls as groups.

Northern California Urantia Readers Association report by James Woodward. I run 3 groups and am trying to foster leadership through these groups. I made a brochure that is available for anyone. (He passed these lovely brochures out) He expressed how great the Fellowship and UAUS people worked together at the Parliament of World Religions.

Spirit of Oklahoma Association report by David Linthicum. We have 4 people that share the leadership positions. Some of their folks have moved. The activities are centered on the study groups. They do not recruit and he thinks that this hinders things to some degree. He says that we need to encourage people to join but finds it difficult to find new people.

(?) report by Tom and Marie Vasile. We are not very active as an organization but are doing online study groups. The online groups have become very close and are more like a spiritual support group. On Sundays he leads a Skype sequential reading and says that this has become very significant and almost like a church experience. On the Thursday night meetings they begin with the Remembrance Supper. His contact info is Tom.vasile1.com

The Greater Lakes Michigan Urantia Association report by Daniel Casco. I would like to know information about the responsibilities for President. I am interested in incorporating more zoom conference calls and I believe that this can really help things grow. I believe communication is the key.

LSUA report by Betty Zehr. I want to say that Katrina is an excellent president. We do everything together as a group and everyone works very hard. We try to encourage contributions and are doing some book swaps in our groups. We are working on book distributions. Our study group experiences are done as UBIS courses and very in depth. The hosting experiences are passed around with regards to leadership.

(?) report by John Finsoba. We had a spring retreat titled 'Cultivating the Garden' that was very successful. Our group is growing. Angie Thurston and Peter Carrier have study groups in the area that are going very well. We have been having Jesus Celebrations. Meredith is looking for a piece of property to do a garden project. My brother and I are working on a project called 'The Garden School'. We donated monies for the Turkish translation.

Hawaii Urantia Local Association report by Mary Hughes. 2 people are interested in becoming president. She is president again. They meet once a month and study the book.

Reports from officers:

President/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 final term of office during this, my last year as president in service to UAUS and to the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. My 3 years in this office have been illuminating, exciting, and very fulfilling and I would encourage each of you sitting here and attending online to aspire to national and international office.

Though this is not the first time we've offered the ability for CLP attendance online, this is the first time we've been able to record the meeting for possible archival purposes, and in such an excellent video conferencing center here in the Coates Library of Trinity University. We will be discussing and voting on whether videos such as this should be made a part of our permanent online record via the UAUS email list in the next several months. We will have to vote on this online because our bylaws require 90 days for each of you to discuss motions and resolutions coming from within UAUS with your individual boards and memberships before voting.

At this point I would like to introduce your recently elected officers on the board, Rick Lyon, who will be serving as vice president, and Lucy Norwood, serving as UAUS secretary. I am very grateful to have these two enthusiastic and heart-centered soldiers of the circles stepping into these critical leadership positions.

I would also like to thank Marie Vasile for her heartfelt service stepping up and editing the UAUS newsletter, *The Messenger*. The Winter and Spring 2016 issues were distributed through the UAUS CLP email list and online, with the Summer 2016 issue due to go out in July 2016.

Thanks also go to Scott Brooks for his ongoing service maintaining the UAUS Website and for his service updating the UAI database, to Michael Berry for his long service as membership chair, and to Grace Boyett for her service as UAUS Secretary these past 2

years. Without their invaluable help, the business of UAUS would not have gone so smoothly as it has this past year

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 2014 meeting with \$5,000 of the conference fund is being allocated for scholarships.

Thought there have been no requests for funds distribution, Mike Wood, our former vice president suggested that, since the registration software for this conference didn't allow for people to make incremental payments for their registrations, that UAUS offer such a program. The board agreed.

Here's how it worked: Each person was required to give a \$100 non-refundable deposit, in turn UAUS would pay their entire conference fee and the person(s) could then make payments on the balance. This allowed people who were short of funds to take advantage of early-bird registration, for example. If for whatever reason they could not attend the conference, as a couple of them were not, UAUS would retrieve 75% of the registration fee and the \$100 deposit would offset the 25% loss.

We launched this program and 13 individuals and couples took advantage of the program. Here's the final breakdown:

* Scholarship Fund:	Out	In
Bob Solone	\$376.00	\$0.00
Lawrence Bowman	\$620.00	\$620.00
John Hales	\$724.00	\$724.00
Angie Thurston	\$570.00	\$570.00
Elain McLellan	\$326.00	\$326.00
Rick Warren	\$376.00	\$376.00
Sherry Layton	\$376.00	\$376.00
Linda Abell	\$380.00	\$380.00
Ken Keyser	\$408.00	\$408.00
John Causland	\$408.00	\$100.00

(Reservation cancelled. LSUA to reimburse 75% of \$408.00=\$306.00. Net loss of \$2.00)

Avi & Lila Dogim	\$1,340.00	\$752.00
(Reservation changed. LSUA to reimburse \$588.00)		
Joanne Strobel	\$326.00	\$100.00
(Reservation changed. LSUA to reimburse \$326.00)		
Steve & Bobbie Dreier	\$1,308.00	\$1,308.00
Mike Wood	\$326.00	\$326.00
Evette Twyford	\$326.00	\$326.00
John Amad	\$540.00	\$100.00
(Reservation cancelled. LSUA to reimburse 75% of \$540.00=\$405.00. Net loss of \$35.00)		
Program Books	\$818.09	\$0.00
Copies	\$13.25	\$0.00
Music	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total outgoing	\$9,761.34	\$6,792.00
LSUA to reimburse		\$1,625.00
Balance		-\$1,344.34

In addition, UAUS:

1. Gave several scholarships to people who were either young or couldn't afford to attend.
2. Paid for the sound system required for entertainment here at the conference, as well as,
3. Printing the program books for this conference, and in other ways we
4. Supported Lone Star Urantia Association, and in particular to Katrina Glavan-Heise, president of LSUA, for her energetic devotion to organizing this conference.

Given UAUS's ongoing financial situation, your board is still actively concerned with fundraising. We will be sending out a letter and reply envelope, using general funds money again this year. Last year, only around 15 people responded with donations from over 1,300 letters sent. While those results were somewhat disappointing, we are grateful to those who responded and are looking at ways to increase the response. In the meantime, we would encourage you all to commit yourselves to the support of UAUS. Even a small monthly

donation of \$5, \$10, or \$25 a month is a big help and will allow us to do more of our important work. You can either make your contribution through the UAUS website: <http://www.urantiausa.com> or by responding to the fundraiser letter.

In conclusion, I'd like to close out this year's report with a quotation from our beloved Urantia Book. It comes from paper 130, On The Way To Rome, where Jesus talks to the young man who was afraid in section 6, 130:6.3 (1437.3):

Said Jesus: "My friend, arise! Stand up like a man! You may be surrounded with small enemies and be retarded by many obstacles, but the big things and the real things of this world and the universe are on your side. The sun rises every morning to salute you just as it does the most powerful and prosperous man on earth. Look — you have a strong body and powerful muscles — your physical equipment is better than the average. Of course, it is just about useless while you sit out here on the mountainside and grieve over your misfortunes, real and fancied. But you could do great things with your body if you would hasten off to where great things are waiting to be done. You are trying to run away from your unhappy self, but it cannot be done. You and your problems of living are real; you cannot escape them as long as you live. But look again, your mind is clear and capable. Your strong body has an intelligent mind to direct it. Set your mind at work to solve its problems; teach your intellect to work for you; refuse longer to be dominated by fear like an unthinking animal. Your mind should be your courageous ally in the solution of your life problems rather than your being, as you have been, its abject fear-slave and the bond servant of depression and defeat. But most valuable of all, your potential of real achievement is the spirit which lives within you, and which will stimulate and inspire your mind to control itself and activate the body if you will release it from the fetters of fear and thus enable your spiritual nature to begin your deliverance from the evils of inaction by the power-presence of living faith. And then, forthwith, will this faith vanquish fear of men by the compelling presence of that new and all-dominating love of your fellows which will so soon fill your soul to overflowing because of the consciousness which has been born in your heart that you are a child of God."

"This day, my son, you are to be reborn, re-established as a man of faith, courage, and devoted service to man, for God's sake. And when you become so readjusted to life within yourself, you become likewise readjusted to the universe; you have been born again — born of the spirit — and henceforth will your whole life become one of victorious accomplishment. Trouble will invigorate you; disappointment will spur you on; difficulties will challenge you; and obstacles will stimulate you. Arise, young man! Say farewell to the life of cringing fear and fleeing cowardice. Hasten back to duty and live your life in the flesh as a son of God, a mortal dedicated to the ennobling service of man on earth and destined to the superb and eternal service of God in eternity."

Vice President/Rick Lyons: UAUS VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rick Lyon:

First, let me thank all of you for this opportunity to serve as vice president of Urantia Association of the United States. I thank Mike Wood for encouraging me to consider this position and for all the work and effort he put into UAUS and continues to put into this revelation.

All of you read my biography before voting for me so I won't get into that. I am blessed to have served in a few different areas and even more blessed to call all of you my friends.

As vice president, my first responsibility is to support our President and this board in their activities and I pledge to do that. My top priority personally is to assist our local associations in their activities and finding the resources they may need – to help inactive associations become active and help active associations to do even more.

A few weeks ago I sent out an email to all associations inviting them to call me with information about their activities just so I can get up to speed with what is going on. I heard from 6 associations – some active and some not so active – but all with similar challenges and opportunities.

There is a great need for training of our association leaders. Many governing board members are people who step up when called upon but are not really sure what to do or how to do it. I know because I was one of those when Mark Kurtz invited me to run for secretary of GLMUA. I want to try to improve our preparation of future association leaders, improve our transfer of responsibility to new board members, and find training materials for those who have the courage but perhaps not the experience to lead.

Our local associations should be working to train and prepare their members to serve on their governing board – not waiting to see who will raise their hand on election day. Part of this organizational experience is to learn how to be an organizer and leader. Every local association should strive to put forward one of their members for nomination to the UAUS governing board when those positions become available.

I have served at all three levels of UAI and let me tell you that the real work

of UAI, the truly important stuff, is done at the local level by the local members and everything else is geared to support and facilitate that. However, we need good leaders with experience at the national and international levels too. Who among you are preparing to step up to serve at the national or international level? After your term expires at the local level I suggest that you put that experience to good use at other levels of the organization. To use our President as an example, it isn't just up to Will to find his replacement. All of us should be looking around to see who we want to be the next president and then begin today preparing them (or ourselves) for this important position when it becomes available.

You will hear me talk about the importance of communication probably until you are tired of hearing it but COMMUNICATION IS INSPIRATION AND MOTIVATION. It was amazing how many times when I was UAI director that someone would call and complain that nobody is doing anything – while all of us on the ISB were up to our eyeballs in alligators. If people don't hear about what you are doing they will assume that you are doing nothing and then they tend to do nothing themselves as a result. So, let us hear from you – communicate your activities, needs, and plans every chance you get. And most important of all – make sure your members know what you are doing, want to do, or plan to do. Sharing news about your good works and service is not bragging or prideful. It is inspirational to others and may give someone else the courage to do something.

Success breeds success. Action creates reactions. Make sure your activities are shared on the UAUS website and in our Messenger newsletter. Post them on the UAI website events page and submit them to the Tidings newsletter. Every local association can have a free webpage on the UAI website and your own local newsletter. With this many associations and members our websites and newsletters should never lack for material to post. Let me stop here and introduce Scott Brooks who is the administrator for our website and Marie Vasile who is the editor for the Messenger.

I want to stress the importance of meeting regularly and frequently among yourselves as a local association board and with your members. I believe you will find that associations that have regular board meetings and membership meetings are the most active associations. With Skype and

Zoom there is no reason for your board not to have regular and frequent meetings.

Meeting in person is always best but with today's technology we can meet anytime anywhere. Governing boards and our committees can collaborate on projects without meeting in person. Study groups are no longer limited to anyone within an hours drive of the host. I can help you and study group hosts in your area to learn how to use these tools to enhance your communications and participation.

UAI uses Mailchimp for mass emailing. You can use it to set up regular emails to your members and friends of your association. You and should have your own free Mailchimp account to communicate with them regularly and easily. I can show you how to do that too.

Our parent organization, UAI, is acquiring a new membership database that will be vastly more useful to us and much more user friendly than our current database. It will be a powerful tool for all your association activities when they get it done – probably later this year.

I am always available for any governing board member that needs help or has questions. I can help you find answers or find someone with the answers. I will do my best to attend any local association board meetings that I may be invited to. I have a powerpoint presentation about our organization that I have used with UAI and I will be happy to show that to you or give it at any association meeting or event - in person or online.

Our organization is not just a social club. We also have work to do. But, for today and this weekend let us enjoy our time together – be inspired by the presenters, learn from the workshops, be motivated by the service of those hosting this event, and enjoy the love and companionship of our brothers and sisters that share this wonderful revelation. Let's have a fun weekend and return home renewed in our efforts to bring the teachings of this revelation to those around us.

Thank you!

Treasurer/Bruce Brown: **Treasurers Report 2016**

Restricted Funds

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 \$34,101

After Restricted Funds Balance Available last year \$3,151

Beginning Balance This Year \$34,228

Minus \$30,950.00 Restricted Funds

\$3,278 General Funds Available Now

Revenue Generation:

Find a local organization to continue the Free Book Program to help increase membership.

Increase membership and expand readership with the help of Governing Board and the current membership

Every current member bring in 1 new member within the next year.

Get this years fundraising letter out, people want to give we just need to ask them. Inspire them to give.

Promote that each member should give 1 Urantia Book away per study group.

Every current member 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 to Urantia Association International.

Petition our unseen friends for spiritual strength and wisdom.

BUDGET FOR 2016-2017

Monthly Donations, Assets \$150

Monthly Overhead, Liabilities \$30 Domain and Internet Website

\$15 Zoom Conference Calls (may discontinue)

Monthly Net \$105

Continue Yearly Donation Drive, Usually Raises \$2,500 to \$3,000 with a cost of approx. \$1,200

Secretary/Lucy Norwood: Greetings all! It is an honor to serve you these next 2 years. Thank you to Susan Owen who trained me...and continues to offer her loving help with the heart of a true Jesus-server. Thank you to Will Sherwood for giving me opportunity to assist and serve in this manner. I look forward to serving with Rick Lyon as he has the most loving, kind and generous heart for this ministry/organization. Thanks to all of you as we strive together to further this Fifth Epochal Revelation and especially the 'true religion' teachings of Jesus. Towards Light and Life! Blessings - Lucy Norwood

Reports from standing Committees:

Membership Committee/Michael Berry: None available

Outreach Committee: none available

Study Group Committee/David Linthicum. We are formulating a list of study groups and worked with Rick Lyon to go through the entire database. We used that to contact everyone to see what their interest was. This resulted in a list of people. When people are asked 'what's going on' they really like it. And we do this once a year. Communication is the key. We have 3 criteria: 1) We focus on the study of the book 2) We don't discuss organization business 3) We don't talk about anything but the book and there is no channeling. There was an effort to introduce the international listing of all study groups and the directory. Currently there is no standing position that is open. Daniel Casco volunteered to the Study Group Chair. There was a suggestion for doing joint ventures for sending our letters to ask if people will join both organizations.

Conference Committee/Report given by Antonion Shafer. Antonio and his team have developed and hosted several webinars in Spanish and worked with all three of the 2016 Conference Committees to agree on individual themes for their conferences based on "Jesus as a Teacher". Antonio has been actively using and promoting events on the Association's Facebook page and updating the Events page on the website. He has reviewed, edited and uploaded all of the videos from the 2015 International Conference in Quebec to the Association's YouTube channel. He has also created a private Facebook group for young adults and is in the process of forming a sub-committee for young adults. He attended conferences in Italy, United Kingdom and the Netherlands and worked on reviewing the draft of the Association's Conference Guide.

source: <http://urantia-association.org/2016/01/24/international-service-board-at-work-3rd-quarter-2015/>

[International Service Board at Work – 3rd Quarter 2015](#)

[President Chris Wood worked with the Fellowship's Education Chair, David Kulieke, to finalize the 2016 co-sponsored UAUS-Fellowship Conference date and establish the planning team. He also worked with Presidents of the Fellowship and Urantia Foundation ...](#)
urantia-association.org

This committee continued to liaise with the 2018 International Conference planning committee and the 2016 European and Latin American conference committees. It continued to develop and host webinars for Spanish speakers. Antonio represented the Association at the winter conference of the Finnish Urantia Association. A sub-committee has been formed for "Urantia Young Adult International" (UYAI). Samantha Nior from The Netherlands has volunteered to Chair the committee and the first meeting has been held. The UYAI is now hosting an online study group every Saturday.

source: <http://urantia-association.org/2016/05/26/international-service-board-at-work-1st-quarter-2016/>

[International Service Board at Work – 1st Quarter 2016](#)

[Study Group Committee – Gaetan Charland, Chair The Study Group Committee’s strategic plan is almost complete. The focus will be on the ability of study groups to help students become better sowers of truth. A ...
urantia-association.org](#)

The meeting adjourned at 5pm CST.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lucy Norwood, UAUS Secretary