

## **Foundation Unity of Purpose Initiative**

Readers of the teachings need not see alike and should not waste time or energy on a futile quest for uniformity. In answering a provocative question from James Zebedee, Jesus said he had *"come into the world to proclaim spiritual liberty to the end that mortals may be empowered to live individual lives of originality and freedom before God"* (as the Midwayer Commission states on page 1591 of *The Urantia Book*). Jesus later assured James, *"you may enjoy all of this profound spiritual unity in the very face of the utmost diversity of your individual attitudes of intellectual thinking, temperamental feeling, and social conduct"* (page 1592).

*"Love and respect for others are essential to the success of the Urantia Revelation, which illuminates the uniqueness of the individual personality and the creative spiritual values that result from the Father's indwelling presence. Our decisions and actions should, will, and must reflect this spirit of loving friendship and cooperation."*

On page 315 of *The Urantia Papers*, a Mighty Messenger tells us:

*Time is the one universal endowment of all will creatures; it is the "one talent" intrusted to all intelligent beings. You all have time in which to ensure your survival; and time is fatally squandered only when it is buried in neglect, when you fail so to utilize it as to make certain the survival of your soul. Failure to improve one's time to the fullest extent possible does not impose fatal penalties; it merely retards the pilgrim of time in his journey of ascent. If survival is gained, all other losses can be retrieved.*

### **From the undersigned members of the 1989 General Council of the Urantia Brotherhood:**

Dear Urantia Book Friends:

Sometimes the future is changed by actions which ripple unexpectedly through time. The actions in the late 1980's that led to the separation of Urantia Brotherhood and Urantia Foundation, the two organizations which were the original vehicles for supporting the fifth epochal revelation on our planet, have clearly caused that kind of ripple. The facts of the separation can be debated, yet with the benefit of time and experience, the meaning of the separation has become clear. It has been as if a knife were thrust into our small community of readers leading to discord, dissent, and mistrust.

The destiny of our planet is to move ever upward toward harmony and unification. The energy circuits, the Spirit of Truth, our Thought Adjusters, and many other spirit influences are all beckoning us toward unity. Our souls crave unity. Yet, we can no longer hold hands together with some of our fellow *Urantia Book* readers because those who were once friends are now foes. We have followed the paths of those in earlier epochal revelations to fragmentation and sectarianism.

And when we try to tell the story of the separation to those who know nothing about it, the story is hollow. It is not filled with the goodness and spiritual fragrance of God-knowing individuals. One of the saddest facts of the separation is that mistrust has been spread throughout our world community. Like a virus, the two organizations create dissent where people hunger instead for the truths and hope of the better world that we understand from *The Urantia Book*.

Many individuals have played a role in creating the separation. Most did not act out of maliciousness nor intent to harm, but out of a sense of responsibility to the Urantia Revelation. Well intentioned people did what they believed best. But their best was just not good enough. We know that now.

We have laid blame on the organizations responsible for the separation for altogether too long. Blame will not allow our community to heal. The acceptance of responsibility by the individuals who had a part in creating and perpetuating this separation can begin the reconciliation process. This process would not be easy and would take the efforts of many to form a common ground. And this would be only the beginning of our journey towards community.

The following members of the Executive Committee and General Council of 1989 have committed to a process of rebuilding unity in our community. Even though we believe we made in good faith the best decisions we could in 1989, they were never intended to cause the dissolution of the formal relationship between the Brotherhood and Foundation. Thus, we accept responsibility for the role those decisions might have played in that separation. With the benefit of nearly 14 years of hindsight and experience, we regret the impact these events have had on the development of a necessary, vital, and living unity of purpose in our community reflective of the best of the revelation. We hereby invite all who have had a role in the creation or perpetuation of this separation to join us with prayers and a renewed faith that unity can and will emerge. We also urge the current leaders of both organizations to meet and dialogue about recreating unity throughout our community.

*But someday the true believers in Jesus will not be thus spiritually divided in their attitude before unbelievers. Always we may have diversity of intellectual comprehension and interpretation, even varying degrees of socialization, but lack of spiritual brotherhood is both inexcusable and reprehensible. ~ (p.1866:3)*

Respectfully,

The undersigned 19 elected members of the 1989 General Council of Urantia Brotherhood have chosen to be signatories to this statement. With one vacancy, two graduations, and two who could not be contacted, 31 members of the 1989 General Council considered this statement (seven chose not to sign and there was no response from five).

Stephen Dreier\*, David N. Elders\*, Anthony R. Finstad, Scott M. Forsythe, Polly Friedman, John W. Hales, Gard Jameson\*, James G. Johnston\*, Marilyn Kulieke\*, Eileen Laurence, Peter Laurence\*, R. Steve Law, James McNelly, Larry Mullins, David Robertson, Mo Siegel, Brent St. Denis, Paul Snider, Melissa Wells.