

PROVISIONAL CHARTER
INTERNATIONAL URANTIA ASSOCIATION

AMENDED 1 MARCH 2003

ARTICLE 1
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*In winning souls for the Master, it is not the first mile of compulsion, duty, or convention that will transform man and his world, but rather the **second** mile of free service and liberty-loving devotion that betokens the Jesusonian reaching forth to grasp his brother in love and sweep him on under spiritual guidance toward the higher and divine goal of mortal existence. [The Urantia Book, 2084:5]*

Mission: To foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

- 1.1 The International Urantia Association (IUA) is a nonprofit, service organisation formed to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in order to promote, improve, and expand comprehension and appreciation among the peoples of the world of cosmology, of the relationship of the planet on which we live to the universe, of the genesis and destiny of man and his relation to God, and of the true teachings of Jesus. In so doing, IUA shall endeavour to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of man, as an individual and as a member of society, through the fostering of a personal religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development.
- 1.2 IUA shall foster in-depth study of the complete text of *The Urantia Book* through the development of activities such as study groups, seminars, conferences, periodicals, derivative works, study aids, and other dissemination activities. IUA shall create opportunities for the development of teachers and leaders through the natural evolution of learning through doing, and shall encourage forums for the exchange of ideas and experiences pertaining to *The Urantia Book*.
- 1.3 The watchwords of IUA are "teamwork" and "service":

*One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is **teamwork**. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. [312:1]*

"Whosoever would become great in my Father's kingdom shall become a minister to all; and whosoever would be first among you, let him become the server of his brethren." [1569:3]

- 1.4 All activities of IUA and its constituent Associations shall be guided by the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. The efforts of IUA to disseminate these teachings shall be based on principles of service and attraction, including the efforts of the members of IUA, as individuals, to incorporate the teachings of *The Urantia Book* into their own lives on progressively higher levels.

The secret of his [Jesus'] unparalleled religious life was this consciousness of the presence of God; and he attained it by intelligent prayer and sincere worship—unbroken communion with God—and not by leadings, voices, visions, or extraordinary religious practices. [2089:0]

- 1.5 Although a separate entity, IUA supports the Principal and Concordant Objects of the *Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation* and considers itself to be interdependent with Urantia Foundation.

Limitations

To ensure IUA remains focused on its mission IUA has adopted the following limitations on its activities:

- 1.6 IUA shall not express opinions, form policies, or otherwise take positions on political, social, or economic issues and shall not identify itself with any nation, race, or religion. However, nothing in this Charter, the IUA Bylaws, or the Bylaws of any constituent Association of IUA is intended to prevent or discourage members of IUA, as individuals, from expressing their personal opinions on these matters or from personally participating in such activities. In addition IUA shall not be nor shall it form a church or an organised religion.
- 1.7 Understanding and interpretation of *The Urantia Book* is an individual matter. Therefore, IUA shall not present any official interpretations of *The Urantia Book*.
- 1.8 IUA welcomes people of all faiths, races, and nationalities and shall foster spiritual fellowship among all the peoples of the world. However, IUA should not be confused with the spiritual Brotherhood of Mankind under the Fatherhood of God.

ARTICLE 2 STRUCTURE

IUA is composed of five interdependent organisational service components: an International Service Board, a Representative Council, a Judicial Commission, National Associations, and Local Associations.

The International Service Board, the Representative Council, and the Judicial Commission shall constitute the Central Administration of IUA and shall be responsible for the international affairs of IUA by integrating

and coordinating the functions of the Associations of IUA worldwide. The internal affairs of the National and Local Associations shall be administered by their respective Governing Boards.

2.1 The IUA International Service Board (Board)

2.1.1 The Board, which is the executive branch of IUA, executes resolutions made by, and is accountable to, the Representative Council. The Board may initiate budgets, strategic plans, policies, and resolutions which, if passed by the Board, shall be referred to the Representative Council for their consideration. The Board shall not execute any decision that has not been previously approved through budgets, policies, or resolutions passed by the Representative Council, except as specifically authorised in the IUA Charter and Bylaws.¹ It shall be responsible for managing the international activities of IUA and the international administrative, financial, and legal affairs of IUA, and shall exercise the legal powers and authority of IUA, subject to the limitations set forth in this Charter and the IUA Bylaws.

2.1.2 All members of the Board shall be elected by a sixty percent majority vote of the Representative Council.²

2.1.3 The Board shall have a minimum of seven and a maximum of seventeen members. The officers of IUA shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Membership Chair, Education Chair, and Communications Chair, all of whom shall be members of the Board. Other positions on the Board may include, but shall not be limited to, the Chairs of the following committees: Dissemination, Conference, Translation, and Charter and Bylaws. The duties of the officers and committee chairs shall be set forth in the IUA Bylaws.

2.1.4 The IUA officers shall constitute the “Executive Committee” of the Board and shall also be the officers of the Representative Council. The President of the Board shall preside over the meetings of the Representative Council and the Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation of the minutes. Members of the Executive Committee may be present as observers at the meetings of the Representative Council but they may not participate unless invited to do so and they may not vote.

2.1.5 The terms of office for all Board members shall be four years; no member may serve for more than two consecutive terms, after which the member must be off the Board for at least two years. In order to allow continuity on the Board, terms shall be staggered and elections shall be held every two years.

1

Until new IUA Bylaws have been ratified, this includes the Provisional Operating Procedures. (See footnote 5 in 5.2 for further explanation.)

2

- 2.1.6 Any full member in good standing in IUA who meets the necessary qualifications for the position shall be eligible for election to the Board. A Board member may not simultaneously hold any other office in the Central Administration or on any Governing Board of any National Association.
- 2.1.7 The Representative Council may, by a two-thirds majority vote, add additional Board members up to the maximum of seventeen.
- 2.1.8 All Board committees shall be chaired by a Board member. Committee members shall be appointed by each Committee Chair subject to confirmation by the Board.
- 2.1.9 *Voting:* Unless otherwise specified in the IUA Charter and Bylaws, all Board decisions shall be made by a sixty percent majority vote of all Board members.
- 2.1.10 The Board shall have responsibility for all personnel decisions, subject to policy and budget decisions by the Representative Council.

2.2 The Representative Council

- 2.2.1 The Representative Council is the legislative branch of IUA. The purpose of the Representative Council shall be to represent the members of IUA in the Central Administration. The Representative Council shall legislate, by resolution, regarding policies, international level projects and programs, and any other matters not inconsistent with this Charter or the IUA Bylaws.
- 2.2.2 The sitting President and Vice President of each National Association shall, by virtue of the office, be a voting member of the Representative Council. The term of each member shall be contemporaneous with his term of office as President or Vice President of his National Association.
- 2.2.3 The President of the Board shall call the Representative Council into a formal session at least once a year. Sessions may be held by any means that reasonably allows all members equitable participation, but the Representative Council must provide for continuous sessions by email or other available technology. It would be preferable that a face-to-face meeting of the Central Administration is held at the time of an IUA conference. This meeting would count as the annual meeting for that year. Advance notice of all sessions is required in the manner prescribed in the IUA Bylaws.
- 2.2.4 *Votes.* The sitting Presidents and Vice Presidents of the National Associations shall be entitled to cast one vote each. Unless otherwise specified in the IUA Charter or Bylaws, all elections and resolutions shall be passed by a sixty percent majority of the Representative

Council.

- 2.2.5 *Resolutions.* All matters submitted to the Representative Council for a decision shall be in the form of a resolution.
- 2.2.6 If any resolution fails to pass it may be submitted at a later date, with the exception of the budget, which, if not passed within a reasonable period of time, shall be sent to an ad hoc budget committee. The Board shall appoint three of its members, one of whom shall be the Chief Financial Officer who shall chair the committee, and the Representative Council shall elect four of its members to serve on the budget committee. Each member shall have equal votes and the budget committee shall have authority to resolve all issues relating to the budget.
- 2.2.7 All duly passed resolutions shall be binding on all constituent Local and National Associations unless the resolution violates the laws of the Association's country, in which case the Executive Committee may authorise a partial or total exemption. If a resolution appears to conflict with the laws of a country of a particular National or Local Association, that Association may apply to the Executive Committee for review of the conflict and, if necessary, an exemption.

2.3 The IUA Judicial Commission

- 2.3.1 The IUA Judicial Commission shall be the judicial branch of IUA, consisting of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven Commissioners. The Representative Council may, by a two-thirds majority vote, add additional Commissioners up to the maximum of seven Commissioners. Each Commissioner shall serve for six years; the terms shall be staggered. Commissioners may serve a total of three terms, whether or not the terms are consecutive.³

2.3.2 The members of the Judicial Commission shall be nominated by the Board and shall be elected by a sixty percent majority vote of the Representative Council. Any full member in good standing of IUA who meets the necessary qualifications for the position shall be eligible for election on the Judicial Commission. A Judicial Commissioner may not simultaneously hold any other office in the Central Administration or on any Governing Board of any National Association.

- 2.3.3 *Dispute Resolution.* The Judicial Commission shall provide a rule book and may, upon request, provide assistance and training for the National and Local Associations to use for the establishment of Conciliatory Commissions, or to assist with any methods utilised to resolve internal disputes. All efforts shall be made to resolve disputes within a reasonable period of time.

- 2.3.4 Appeals from a National Association (or a Local Association in an area where no National Association exists) may be made to the Judicial Commission if that Association's Conciliatory Commission or other dispute resolution mechanism fails to resolve the dispute. If the member, members, or Local Association involved in the dispute are not satisfied with the final decision of the dispute resolution process, they may request a review of the decision by the IUA Judicial Commission. However, it is solely at the discretion of the Judicial Commission whether to accept a matter for review.
- 2.3.5 Any Governing Board of a National Association, any group of at least five members of the Representative Council, or any group of at least five members of the Board (providing at least two are from the Executive Committee) may appeal to the Judicial Commission for a judgment on any governing documents or actions of an Association, Representative Council, or Board to determine whether the document or actions violate the IUA Charter or Bylaws. Judicial review of petitions under this section shall be heard at the discretion of the Judicial Commission.
- 2.3.6 The Governing Board of National Association may submit a request to the Judicial Commission to resolve a dispute arising between its association and one or more other National Associations. Judicial review of petitions under this section shall be heard at the discretion of the Judicial Commission.
- 2.3.7 An Association that has been expelled by the Representative Council may request a review of the decision by the IUA Judicial Commission.
- 2.3.8 The decisions of the Judicial Commission shall be binding on the Board, the Representative Council, and all constituent associations.

2.4 National and Local Urantia Associations

- 2.4.1 The self-governing constituent "Urantia Associations" shall be either National or Local in scope encompassing specific geographical regions. Each constituent Association shall be formed in accordance with the IUA Charter and Bylaws and the legal requirements of its country. An Association shall be considered an official constituent of IUA after entering into a Charter Agreement.
- 2.4.2 The Associations of IUA shall adopt or adhere to the IUA Charter and Bylaws but may also adopt Bylaws for their Association. Any Bylaws adopted by a constituent association shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the International Service Board. The Executive Committee of the Board may from time to time adopt or approve Model Bylaws, as

guidelines, which may be modified for use by National and Local Associations. Each time an Association amends its Bylaws a copy of the amendment shall be provided to the Board within thirty days.

- 2.4.3 Associations that are established at the time of this Amended IUA Charter shall adopt or adhere to the Amended Charter but may retain their Association Bylaws provided those Bylaws do not conflict with this Amended Charter.
- 2.4.4 A constituent Association shall be autonomous in all aspects of its internal affairs except to the extent its affairs effect another Association, the Central Administration, or IUA as a whole, and provided that it does not violate the laws of the country or countries in which it operates, the provisions of this Charter or the IUA Bylaws, and it faithfully supports the goals of IUA.
- 2.4.5 A constituent Association *may* establish a Conciliatory Commission to assist in the resolution of internal disputes.
- 2.4.6 A Charter Agreement may be entered into with a new National Association or a Local Association in an area where no National Association exists after approval has been given by a sixty percent majority vote of the Representative Council.
- 2.4.7 *Expulsion of an Association.* If an Association is found to have engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the purposes and goals of IUA, has otherwise violated the Charter or Bylaws of IUA, or has exhibited a chronic inability or lack of willingness to support the purposes and goals of IUA or to work within the established organisational structure of IUA, the Association may be expelled from IUA in the manner prescribed in the IUA Charter and Bylaws.
- 2.4.8 Any Governing Board of a National Association, any group of at least five members of the Representative Council, or any group of at least five members of the Board (providing at least two are from the Executive Committee) may petition the Board for the expulsion from IUA of a National Association (or a Local Association in an area where no National Association exists). The Board shall examine the allegations and present its findings to the Representative Council. The Representative Council may expel an Association from IUA by a sixty-six percent majority vote of the Representative Council, excluding the President and Vice President of the Association whose expulsion is being considered. The Board shall execute such documents as may be necessary to effect the expulsion and revoke the Charter Agreement between the Association and IUA. The Association may appeal to the Judicial Commission to review the decision.
- 2.4.9 All documents required to form an Association or adopted to govern the activities of an

Association, together, shall constitute the governing documents of the Association. Each constituent association shall enter into a license agreement with Urantia Foundation that authorises the Association to use any trade, service, and membership marks of the Urantia Foundation that IUA is licensed to use. All Associations shall report on the use of these marks as required by the terms of the license agreement.

2.4.a) National Associations

- 2.4.a.i A National Association shall have at least thirty full members. One National Association may be formed in any country recognised by the United Nations or a group of such countries. Each National Association shall be managed by a Governing Board consisting of at least a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.
- 2.4.a.ii When a National Association is formed, members within the national boundaries of that Association shall automatically become members of that National Association.
- 2.4.a.iii There shall be two types of National Associations: one that has no subsidiary Local Associations and one that has one or more subsidiary Local Associations.
- 2.4.a.iv The National Associations with two or more Local Associations shall have a Council consisting of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the constituent Local Associations. This Council of Local Presidents and Vice Presidents shall manage the national IUA affairs in its country, and shall integrate and coordinate the functions of the Local Associations nationwide; it shall not govern the internal affairs of the autonomous Local Associations.
- 2.4.a.v Each National Association shall contribute at least ten percent of its annual gross income (as defined in the IUA Bylaws) each year to the Central Administration of IUA.

2.4.b) Local Associations

- 2.4.b.i A Local Association shall have at least ten full members and may be formed to serve any designated locality or localities within the boundaries of its National Association. Such designations for the Local Associations may be altered from time to time to accommodate changing needs and reader population growth of the region.
- 2.4.b.ii A National Association may allow the formation of a Local Association based on language preference within the geographical borders of an existing National Association. Furthermore, if approved by the National Association, Local Associations may form wherever there are ten or more readers who want to affiliate in order to carry out a specific type of service activity.
- 2.4.b.iii Each Local Association shall be managed by a Governing Board consisting of at least a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

- 2.4.b.iv A Local Association may be formed in a country before a National Association has been formed in that country, provided that when there are at least thirty full members in that country, a National Association shall be formed.

ARTICLE 3

MEMBERSHIP

IUA welcomes members from all races, cultures, nations, and religions. There are three categories of membership in IUA: a Full Member, a Member-at-Large, and an Associate Member.

3.1 Full Member

- 3.1.1 To be eligible for full membership in IUA, a person shall have read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety, shall support the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, shall support the goals and purposes of IUA and Urantia Foundation, and shall agree to abide by the IUA Charter and Bylaws and the Bylaws of his National and/or Local Association.
- 3.1.2 A full member is entitled to vote in his Association of record.
- 3.1.3 All full members of Local or National Associations who reside within the geographical boundaries of a National Association are members of that National Association, unless a member has been accepted as a full member of an Association in another country of which the member is a citizen.

3.2 Member-at-Large

There are two categories of Members-at-Large: one where no Association of IUA exists and an optional category in which a National Association of IUA with subsidiary Local Associations exists.

- 3.2.1 *No Association of IUA exists.* An individual living in a country where no Association of IUA exists may join IUA as a Member-at-Large. Such a Member-at-Large shall be attached to the Membership Committee of the Central Administration. When the first Association is formed in a country, all Members-at-Large residing in that country shall become members of that Association.

3.2.2 *A National Association with subsidiary Local Associations exists.* This category is optional and may be adopted in the Bylaws of a National Association. A geographically isolated individual living in a country where a National Association with subsidiary Local Associations exists may join IUA as a Member-at-Large. Such a Member-at-Large shall be attached to the Membership Committee of the National Association.

3.2.3 To be eligible to join IUA as a Member-at-Large a person shall have read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety, shall support the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, shall support the goals and purposes of IUA and Urantia Foundation, and shall agree to abide by the IUA Charter and Bylaws (and the Bylaws of his National Association if applicable.)

3.2.4 A Member-at-Large may not hold office and is not entitled to vote.

3.3 Associate Member

3.3.1 An Associate Member category is optional and may be adopted in the Bylaws of a National or Local Association.

3.3.2 An individual who has not read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety may join IUA as an Associate Member. To be eligible to join IUA as an Associate Member a person shall be reading *The Urantia Book*, shall support the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, shall support the goals and purposes of IUA and Urantia Foundation, and shall agree to abide by the IUA Charter and Bylaws and the Bylaws of his National and/or Local Association.

3.3.3 An Associate Member shall not be entitled to vote or to hold office, and must be affiliated with a Local or National association.

ARTICLE 4

FINANCIAL

4.1 IUA and its constituent Associations shall be nonprofit organisations.

4.2 The financial books and records of IUA and its constituent Associations shall be complete and accurate and shall comply with all required financial reporting requirements of the country or countries of the Association.

4.3 Constituent Associations shall provide timely financial statements as may be necessary for IUA to comply with its financial reporting requirements.

4.4 **Funding.** The principle of organisational self-support shall guide every Urantia Association and the Central Administration. To that end, Urantia Associations may collect membership fees from their members, charge for goods or services such as conferences, newsletters, and products, or engage in fundraising activities as determined by the Associations. The Central Administration,

in addition to collecting its annual contributions from the National Associations, may be funded by the voluntary contributions of IUA members and Urantia Associations and may charge fees for goods or services such as conferences, publications, and products, as well as engage in fundraising activities as determined by the Central Administration.

ARTICLE 5

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION; BYLAWS

5.1 Urantia Brotherhood Association is a nonprofit corporation duly organized in the State of Illinois, United States of America, operating pursuant to Articles of Incorporation and Urantia Brotherhood Association Bylaws.⁴

5.2 IUA is the reader membership arm of Urantia Brotherhood Association. IUA enjoys a tax-exempt status and other benefits by this legal relationship. The internal affairs of IUA are governed by the IUA Charter and Bylaws. In the event of any conflict between this Charter and the provisions of the Bylaws, the provisions of this Charter shall control.⁵

5.3 IUA shall adopt a set of Bylaws contemporaneously with the adoption of this Charter, which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

ARTICLE 6

AMENDMENTS

This Charter may be amended by a seventy-five percent majority vote of the Representative Council and a seventy-five percent majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE 7

DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of IUA all assets shall be turned over to: Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey

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"Articles of Incorporation" is the legal document required to register Urantia Brotherhood Association as a non-profit corporation. It is available upon request. The governing documents of Urantia Brotherhood Association must be legally amended to integrate with the final IUA Charter and Bylaws upon completion of the ratification process.

5

The current Board of Urantia Brotherhood Association enacted the following resolution on January 18, 2003:
RESOLVED, That the Provisional Charter and Provisional Operating Procedures shall take effect March 1, 2003, and shall remain in effect either until new Bylaws are ratified by IUA and the new Charter and Bylaws are adopted by the Board of Directors of Urantia Brotherhood Association or until December 31, 2004, whichever shall first occur. Ratification of IUA Bylaws occurs by the two-thirds majority vote of the members within a National Association and the two-thirds majority vote of all National Associations. Thereafter, the Charter and Bylaws must be adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors of Urantia Brotherhood Association.
RESOLVED, That until new IUA Bylaws are ratified, the IUA membership organization shall govern itself using the Provisional Charter, Provisional Operating Procedures, and the 1993 IUA Bylaws, provided that in the event of any conflict between the Provisional Charter, Provisional Operating Procedures, and the 1993 IUA Bylaws, the Provisional Charter and Provisional Operating Procedures shall

Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614 U.S.A. If a National or Local Association dissolves, elects to rescind its Charter Agreement, or is expelled from the IUA, its assets should go to a successor organisation recognised by the IUA in that country, or if no successor organisation exists in that country, to the Central Administration of IUA. If there is no Central Administration of IUA the assets should go to Urantia Foundation.

APPENDIX

TASKS OF IUA

Some of the key tasks that may assist members of IUA in achieving IUA's goals and objectives are described below.

Fostering Study Groups

One of the most important tasks of IUA members is to encourage and foster the formation of *Urantia Book* study groups. The local study group is the place where teamwork and service are cultivated, where spiritual growth is fostered, and where teachers and leaders evolve.

IUA members can facilitate the formation of study groups by volunteering to be study group hosts, by attending study groups in their local areas, by assisting in producing materials that may assist study group hosts and participants, and by any other appropriate activities.

New Readers

IUA members can assist the Reader Service Department of Urantia Foundation by being listed as a contact point for new readers in their area, and by welcoming and mentoring new readers.

Developing Teachers and Leaders

The Urantia Book emphasises the importance of leaders and teachers:

Religion does need new leaders, spiritual men and women who will dare to depend solely on Jesus and his incomparable teachings. [2082:9]

The cultural civilizations of the past and the present have been based upon the intelligent co-operation of the citizenry with wise and progressive leaders; and until man evolves to higher levels, civilization will continue to be dependent on wise and vigorous leadership. [911:2]

The IUA will foster the development of teachers and leaders—men and women who are well versed in the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and who are moved to impart, and to assist others to impart, the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to their fellow man. Good leaders are essential to the formation of stable and dynamic study groups and membership Associations. Such leaders will naturally emerge from the readership. The IUA may not presume to designate who is and who is not a leader, but it will assist in the development of teachers and leaders by ensuring that readers have an opportunity to participate in leadership and teaching roles at conferences, at study seminars, and in study groups. Urantia Associations and local study groups naturally choose the people whom they view as well-informed, insightful, service-minded, and successful communicators to teach, speak, and lead activities.

Conferences, Seminars, and Lectures

The IUA may organise conferences, meetings, lectures, and seminars to bring readers of *The Urantia Book*

together in an effort to assist them in their study of the book, to give students an opportunity to develop their leadership and teaching skills, to meet and fraternise, and to introduce the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

By sponsoring gatherings from time to time, IUA may stimulate deeper understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, strengthen readers' commitment to its teachings and their dissemination, and eventually stimulate creative activities in the arena of human society beyond such meetings.

Forums for the Exchange of Ideas and Experiences

Publications and communication vehicles such as newsletters, periodicals, journals, websites, study aids, derivative works, and interactive Internet services will be important tools for communication among the worldwide membership of IUA. These tools may serve as forums for the exchange of ideas and experiences pertaining to *The Urantia Book* and for keeping readers abreast of news and reader activities.