

7. Bringing the endeavor to life

The provisional staff appointed by the Committee for the Global Endeavor shall stimulate additional interest. Many existing contacts will be willing to provide referrals; some may even be willing to promote the endeavor in private contacts of their own. Although this dialogue with individuals will be the staff's most important activity in these early stages, the staff should also circulate periodic information in printed form and by electronic mail. From time to time, it may be appropriate for the staff to conduct meetings in various places to explain the plan and answer questions.

As the first step in preparing for the founding convention, the staff shall develop and maintain a register of readers of *The Urantia Book* who wish to participate in bringing the endeavor to life. In order to be inscribed on the register, these readers shall express an interest in the plan for progressive growth and development that *The Urantia Book* portrays, as well as a commitment to its spiritual principles. In addition, they shall state that they support the endeavor's fundamental mission: serving fellow human beings who wish to promote progressive growth and development in their respective fields, on the understanding that participants will assist them without regard to their religious views or philosophic convictions. Readers whose names appear on the register shall be entitled to attend the founding convention and vote to elect Commissioners, Counselors, and alternates. Therefore they shall be considered qualified electors.

At an appropriate time, the staff shall seek to stimulate interest among the qualified electors in becoming a candidate for election as a Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner, or as a Counselor or Alternate Counselor.

- A potential candidate for election to the Coordinating Commission or Consultative Forum shall be a dedicated reader of *The Urantia Book* who pledges to pursue the plan for progressive growth and development that it portrays, while expressing an enduring commitment to its spiritual principles. All potential candidates shall be mature individuals who are tactful, wise, and skilled in interpersonal relations.
- Potential candidates for election to the Commission shall desire to help manage and facilitate the work of the endeavor as a whole. They would benefit from experience in general management, project management and efficiency analysis, accounting and finance, fund raising, economics, information technology, editing and publishing, public relations, law, and human resources. (These possible backgrounds are advisory suggestions, not definite requirements.)

- Potential candidates for election to the Forum shall desire to help stimulate and encourage the work of the endeavor as a whole, while seeking to ensure that all aspects and activities respect the principles of the revelation and harmonize with the ideals it contains. They would benefit from experience in philosophy, theology, political science and public service, history, sociology, medicine, psychology, counseling, and human resources. (These possible backgrounds are advisory suggestions, not definite requirements.)

VALIDATION. A qualified elector who wishes to make himself or herself available for election to the Commission or Forum should state this in a private letter or message to the provisional staff, while listing at least three people who are willing to serve as personal references. After reviewing the request and information that the references provide, the staff may wish to conduct a personal interview. When the staff is satisfied that the individual's character and qualifications meet or exceed all requirements, it shall record his or her name on the list of potential candidates and shall notify the person accordingly.

NOMINATIONS. When the provisional staff believes that there are a sufficient number of potential candidates, it shall circulate two lists to qualified electors (one for the Commission and one for the Forum). In doing this, it shall offer them the opportunity to nominate up to seven potential candidates from each list.

PREPARING THE BALLOTS. After the end of the period allowed for nominations, the provisional staff shall prepare a tentative ballot for each global body. This tentative ballot shall record the names of those potential candidates who received the highest number of nominations. In principle, each draft ballot should contain no more than 14 names (twice the number of positions), but the staff shall have discretionary authority to include a higher number if the cut-off point is associated with several people who received about the same number of nominations. The staff shall then get in touch privately with each individual who received a sufficient number of nominations, in order to make sure that this person remains actively interested in being a candidate and really does want his or her name to be listed on the ballot. If one or more individuals drop out, the staff shall adjust the draft ballot by adding the corresponding number of names, and so on.

a. Convening the convention

The next step will be to announce the founding convention. In part, the convention will be a learning experience that will allow participants to exchange views and insights on the best ways to go forward. The convention will also enable them to form or reinforce personal relationships that may prove useful and productive for many years thereafter. Therefore the staff shall plan the convention with all these goals in mind.

In announcing the convention, the staff shall provide appropriate practical information as well as two absentee ballots that a qualified elector could use if he or she is unable to attend (*i.e.*, one for each global body). The instructions should ask absentee voters to list candidates in priority order. (The first seven names on each absentee ballot will then be votes that will be counted in the first round of voting during the convention. In the second and subsequent rounds, the names of candidates who have been elected or eliminated would be deleted from the ballot. If the voter listed more than seven names, the same ballot could be interpreted in succeeding rounds so as to yield votes for candidates who were not among the voter's first seven preferences.)

b. Electing members of the Commission and Forum

Electing five members and two alternates to the Commission or Forum will probably take more than one round of voting. If there are only seven candidates for the seven seats, the staff shall immediately adopt the special balloting procedures that are explained below. In all other circumstances the regular methods shall apply, at least during the first round.

The key principle in regular voting is that a candidate will be elected if he or she receives the votes of a majority of those who are participating. (The number of those present and voting shall be added to the number of absentee ballots that are being counted during any given round. A candidate who receives a majority of the overall total will thereby be elected.)

In the first round of regular voting, each person shall cast seven votes. Any candidate who receives a majority in the first round shall be elected, and the number of vacancies shall be reduced accordingly. For example, if three candidates were elected in the first round, there would be only four vacancies in the second round. Therefore each voter would cast four votes in that round.

The names of candidates who have been elected shall of course be removed from the ballot for the succeeding round. In addition, the ballot for the succeeding round shall be shortened by deleting candidates who received relatively few votes. In principle the number of candidates to be deleted should be the same as the number of candidates who were just elected or exactly two, whichever is greater.

Exceptions. Under certain circumstances, however, this general formula for making deletions shall not apply. If deleting the standard number of candidates would cause the names remaining on the list to be fewer than the number of positions that are still open, the staff shall delete only as many names as will cause the number of candidates to equal the number of vacancies.

- (a) If only two vacancies remain after the staff has made such an adjustment, the staff shall declare that the two candidates have been elected as alternates and that the election has concluded.
- (b) If more than two vacancies remain after the staff has made such an adjustment, it will be necessary to determine which of the candidates shall be elected as a Commissioner or Counselor and which of them shall be elected as an alternate. In order to resolve this question, the staff shall conduct one or more rounds of special balloting as described below.

SPECIAL BALLOTING. Special balloting shall apply whenever the number of candidates equals the total number of positions that are available. During special balloting, however, each voter shall cast only the number of votes as the number of Commissioners or Counselors who need to be elected. For example, if there were four vacancies and only four candidates remaining, two of these vacancies would correspond to alternates. Therefore each voter would cast only two votes.

1. As in regular voting, any candidate who receives a majority of votes cast shall thereby be elected. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate who received the fewest votes shall be deleted from the ballot for the next round of special balloting.
2. If any such deletion causes the number of candidates remaining on the list to equal the number of Commissioners or Counselors that still need to be elected, the staff shall declare:
 - (a) He, she, or they have been elected as member(s) of the corresponding global body; and
 - (b) The candidates whose names appeared in the first round of special balloting and who were not elected as members have instead been elected as alternates.

PERIODS OF SERVICE. Five years is the standard term of service for Commissioners, Counselors, and alternates, but their terms shall overlap. To establish this overlapping pattern, the initial terms shall vary.

1. The five members of each global body shall have terms of service that differ by one-year intervals, and the longer terms of service shall be assigned to those who were elected at earlier stages of the electoral process. For example, if only one candidate was elected in the first round of regular voting, he or she would serve for five years. On the other hand, if three candidates were elected in the first round of regular voting, their five-year, four-year, and three-year terms of service would be determined by lot.
2. The alternates elected to each global body shall serve for four and two years respectively, as determined by lot.

c. Electing officers

The director of the provisional staff shall convene each global body as its temporary chairman. He or she, however, shall preside solely until the Commission or Forum has elected its own chairman. Thereafter the newly elected chairman shall assume his or her duties and shall conduct the election of a vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary.

d. Electing the Administrator ad interim and his or her deputies

After both the Commission and Forum have elected their officers, the director of the provisional staff shall convene the Deliberative Council as its temporary chairman. He or she, however, shall preside solely until the Council has elected the Administrator ad interim. Thereafter the Administrator a.i. shall assume his or her duties and shall conduct the election of the Deputy Administrator a.i. and the Associate Administrator a.i.

In principle, the Administrator a.i., Deputy a.i., and Associate a.i. shall serve for six years. To provide for an overlap, however, their initial terms shall be six years, four years, and two years respectively.

e. Active pursuit of purposes and goals

From this time forward, the Coordinating Commission, the Consultative Forum, and the Administrator's team shall assume the full responsibilities that Chapter 2 describes. At the appropriate time, the Deliberative Council shall establish one or more regional associations by appointing the initial members of the managerial working groups.