

Imagining and inventing the 12 working groups

In February 2004, the original ad hoc committee established by the Trustees of Urantia Foundation began the conceptual and analytical efforts that eventually led to the draft plan for the Global Endeavor. Although we were intent on using the work of the 12 corps of master seraphim as our spiritual model, we realized that we would have to adapt the names and adjust the descriptions.

1. This was partly because the knowledge and capabilities of the master seraphim are considerably greater than those of human beings, a practical reality that compelled us to invent distinctly different duties for WG1 and WG12.
2. Quite a few other adaptations arose because we believed that the logic of our task obliged us to create a structure that would include everyone living on Urantia. In other words, we needed to design a plan that would encompass all of the positive and constructive occupations, professions, and careers that human beings pursue in our era, either directly or by implication. Therefore we developed names and horizons for several working groups that are broader, more conceptual, and more comprehensive than would automatically be associated with the corresponding corps of master seraphim.

The 12 corps of master seraphim	The 12 working groups of a future regional association of the Global Endeavor	Comments
1. The epochal angels	<i>Working group 1 (no other name)</i>	Since these responsibilities, like those of seraphic corps 12, exceed the knowledge and capabilities of human beings, we decided that WG1 and WG12 should carry out managerial and administrative duties inside the future regional association.
2. The progress angels	WG2. Working group on personal growth and development	Although personal growth and development does not encompass all the factors that enable society and civilization to progress, it makes a crucial contribution.
3. The religious guardians	WG3. Working group on philosophy and religion	Including philosophy broadens the working group's focus, while also making it more reflective and less oriented to institutions that may dictate to individual believers.

4. The angels of nation life	WG4. Working group on civic life, public service, and global cooperation	The more inclusive name allows the working group to focus on public activity at all levels of government, not just national and international matters.
5. The angels of the races	WG5. Working group on social harmony	In terms of human behavior on our planet, racial differences are certainly not the only factor that often creates friction or antagonism. Other groupings and affiliations also deserve attention as causes of potential resentment or personal conflict (e.g., national and ethnic identity, religious differences, and gender). The broad goal of social harmony enables the working group to address all these issues whenever they arise.

6. The angels of the future

WG6. Working group on science

People who like to call themselves “futurologists” are mainly predicting advances in technology and patterns of life and work, a set of concerns that tends to associate them with WG10. Since their preoccupations and predictions do not actually amount to an occupation, a profession, or a career, we had to find a notable focus that none of the other working groups addresses. After considerable discussion, the members of the original ad hoc committee agreed to focus on science, partly because the scientific advances that have occurred during the past 300 years have propelled humanity into futures that could not have been imagined in the year 1700. Further, it is reasonable to believe that future advances of science will change human life in ways that are at least as notable.

7. The angels of enlightenment	WG7. Working group on education	(A close paraphrase.)
8. The angels of health	WG8. Working group on health	(No change.)
9. The home seraphim	WG9. Working group on the home and the family	(Also a close paraphrase.)
10. The angels of industry	WG10. Working group on industry, agriculture, and commerce	Adding agriculture and commerce makes it possible for WG10 to address the concerns of great numbers of human beings whose activities could not be described as "industry."
11. The angels of diversion	WG11. Working group on literature, the arts, and entertainment	The phrase "literature, the arts, and entertainment" is broad, clear, and appealing, whereas the revelators' highly specialized use of the term "diversion" would not be understood by persons who have not read <i>The Urantia Book</i> .

12. The angels of superhuman ministry	<i>Working group 12 (no other name)</i>	Since these responsibilities, like those of seraphic corps 1, exceed the knowledge and capabilities of human beings, we decided that WG1 and WG12 should carry out managerial and administrative duties inside the future regional association.
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The managerial working groups

Here are brief descriptions of the two managerial working groups, as provided on page 1 of the first set of diagrams:

Working Group 1

- Coordinates and administers the regional association.
- Exerts financial and managerial oversight. Responsible for fiscal accountability and auditing; supervises all forms of fund raising.

Working Group 12

- Provides internal advice and counsel.
- Monitors and evaluates ongoing activities of the entire regional association from spiritual, philosophic, moral, ethical, and psychological perspectives.

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