

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The Global Endeavor: Partnership for Growth is a framework for idealistic service aimed at promoting higher levels of human civilization. Those who participate in the endeavor seek to serve, assist, and inspire individuals and groups in society who wish to propose or promote initiatives, innovations, or reforms that relate to their own fields of experience, knowledge, or interest. Participants operate modestly and quietly, staying well in the background. They do not advocate or advance specific measures. To the contrary, they are a catalyst and resource for those in society who wish to develop or refine imaginative ideas and approaches.

Participants draw inspiration from the spiritual truths contained in *The Urantia Book*, insights that portray the right of each individual to develop a personal approach to ideas, ideals, values, and every other spiritual dimension of human life, including philosophy and religion. Therefore participants must show the utmost respect for the viewpoints and inclinations of those they serve. Participants may not evangelize, nor seek to impose their own views or values.

Regional associations are the endeavor's main feature, and each association consists of twelve working groups. Two working groups carry out internal functions associated with supervision and guidance. The other ten serve and assist individuals and groups in society.

Two global bodies unify the work of the regional associations, seeking to ensure that it harmonizes with the underlying aims and goals. The endeavor's most senior persons are the three members of the Administrator's team. They foster the service and assistance that the substantive working groups provide, but do not have executive authority over those efforts. Instead they perform a number of important administrative duties and represent the endeavor in public.

THE PLAN'S SEVEN CHAPTERS

CHAPTER 1, "THE SPIRIT OF THE ENDEAVOR," summarizes the principles that pervade it. Everyone who observes our world with objectivity and candor realizes that the scientific and technical progress of the last several centuries has enormously outstripped the limited and glacial advances of the human spirit — thereby far surpassing our growth in humanity, kindness, mutual respect, and brotherly love. As the human mind shakes off inertia and fear, we must discover new techniques and values that enable us to cooperate more effectively. And since uplifting the paths

that humanity pursues will require extraordinary patience, persistence, and determination, we ought to do everything we can to encourage, stimulate, and inspire each other.

No one who seeks to promote the progressive growth and development of human society has a right to dictate beliefs or promulgate doctrines, nor even to insist on intellectual theories. Yearnings, not dogmas — intent, not interpretations — are the paramount paths to social, cultural, and spiritual ascent.

On a personal level, those who seek to serve others by participating in the Global Endeavor draw inspiration from the spiritual truths contained in *The Urantia Book*, a profoundly moving document of over 2,000 pages that portrays the nature of God, his plans for our afterlife, the nature of matter and energy and the universe we live in, the history of our planet from spiritual and social perspectives, and the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. In part, these illuminating insights portray the right of each individual to develop a personal approach to ideas, ideals, values, and every other spiritual dimension of human life, including philosophy and religion. Therefore everyone who participates in the endeavor must show the utmost respect for the viewpoints and inclinations of those they serve — whether or not these brothers and sisters share their spiritual values, and whether or not they believe in God.

The endeavor's essential mission is to promote the progressive growth and development of human society by assisting and encouraging fellow human beings. None of the participants can possibly expect to find the answer to each practical question in the specific words of *The Urantia Book*. Instead they are also obliged to draw on other appropriate sources of information and insight and on personal experience — lessons learned and values acquired throughout their entire lives. Every participant is well aware that no great social or economic change should be attempted suddenly, for time is essential to all types of human adjustments.

CHAPTER 2, "ENERGY AND INSPIRATION," portrays the endeavor's nerve center and backbone, the two global bodies that unify the work of the regional associations. The *Coordinating Commission* supervises the work of the endeavor from broad administrative perspectives. The *Consultative Forum* supervises spiritual, philosophic, moral, ethical, and psychological aspects. When the Commission and Forum operate jointly they function as the *Deliberative Council*, a composite body that exercises authority over a regional association until all twelve working groups are fully operational.

During the endeavor's early years the Deliberative Council elects the *Administrator*, the *Deputy Administrator*, and the *Associate Administrator*, the endeavor's most senior persons. Later, however, the members of all working groups in all regional associations will elect the Administrator and his or her colleagues.

The Administrator and his or her colleagues have broad oversight responsibilities. In a philosophic and spiritual sense they foster and promote the service and assistance that the substantive working groups provide to individuals and groups in society, but they do not have executive or managerial authority over those efforts. Instead they perform a number of important administrative duties and represent the endeavor in public.

CHAPTER 3, “REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS,” describes the endeavor’s main framework for idealistic service. Each regional association consists of twelve working groups. Two of them are administrative and managerial, carrying out internal functions associated with supervision and guidance. The remaining ten working groups are substantive; they serve and assist individuals and groups in society who wish to promote progressive growth and development in their respective fields.

Most of Chapter 3 describes the work of the managerial working groups. Working group 1 coordinates and administers the regional association, in part by exerting financial and managerial oversight. (Thus it resembles the Coordinating Commission.) Working group 12 provides internal advice and counsel, in part by monitoring and evaluating ongoing activities of the entire regional association from spiritual, philosophic, moral, ethical, and psychological perspectives. (Thus it resembles the Consultative Forum.)

Chapter 3 explains the requirements that apply to anyone who wishes to participate in any working group. In addition, it gives a brief overview of the ten substantive working groups (*i.e.*, working groups 2 through 11).

CHAPTER 4, “WORKING GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES,” begins with basic guidelines for service and assistance. Members and associates of the substantive working groups may not evangelize those they serve, nor attempt to impose their own views or values. To the contrary, participants in the ten substantive working groups seek to serve, assist, and inspire individuals and groups in society who wish to propose or promote initiatives, innovations, or reforms that relate to their own fields of experience, knowledge, or interest. The working groups do not advocate or advance specific measures; instead they are a catalyst and resource for those in society who wish to develop or refine their own ideas and approaches. In these and all other regards the substantive working groups operate modestly and quietly, staying well in the background. They have the following names:

- WG2. Working group on personal growth and development
- WG3. Working group on philosophy and religion
- WG4. Working group on civic life, public service, and global cooperation
- WG5. Working group on social harmony
- WG6. Working group on science
- WG7. Working group on education

- WG8. Working group on health
- WG9. Working group on the home and the family
- WG10. Working group on industry, agriculture, and commerce
- WG11. Working group on literature, the arts, and entertainment

Chapter 4 describes them in detail.

CHAPTER 5, “WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES,” notes that the main purpose of the substantive working groups is to foster higher levels of human civilization, but it then goes on to point out that the working groups must achieve this entirely by attraction. After all, no one is obliged to seek their assistance or advice.

The working groups serve fellow human beings from the same spiritual perspective as the master seraphim. In other words, they provide types of assistance and service that are entirely independent of the religious views and personal convictions of those they serve. Each working group organizes its work under the following broad headings:

- *Information activities.* The working groups assemble and disseminate information about methods and approaches that are intended to promote growth and development. The working groups also gather information about key events in the corresponding professions and disciplines, but innovation and new ideas are their main focus.
- *Networking and problem solving.* The working groups provide bulletin boards, computer forums, and similar resources that individuals and groups in society can use to pursue their own goals, perhaps by posting comments, questions, or personal requests.
- *Private dialogue.* Those who are creative and innovative need opportunities to discuss their ideas, especially with persons they respect and may admire. Since the working groups do not have agendas of their own, members and associates provide benevolent, impartial, and evenhanded counsel.
- *Meetings and forums* would enable individuals and groups to exchange ideas on a specific topic.
- *Publications* could include periodicals or books on specific topics that the working group covers.

If anyone asks about *The Urantia Book* or its teachings, members and associates are happy to provide information. This is an indirect benefit, the outcome of personal cooperation and natural curiosity.

CHAPTER 6, “WORKING GROUP MANAGEMENT,” discusses administrative and organizational topics. In part, the chapter explains how the chairman of a working group delegates responsibility to coordinators and their deputies. The chapter

describes special procedures that apply during the trial period, then talks about reporting requirements, budgetary and financial matters, and the inspections and counseling visits that the managerial working groups conduct.

CHAPTER 7, “BRINGING THE ENDEAVOR TO LIFE,” explains the quiet personal efforts that lead to a founding convention during which participants elect five members of the Coordinating Commission, five members of the Consultative Forum, and two alternates for each global body. Thereafter the Commission and Forum meet jointly (*i.e.*, as the Deliberative Council), in order to elect the three members of the Administrator’s team.

From this time forward, the global bodies and the Administrator’s team assume the full responsibilities that Chapter 2 describes. When the Deliberative Council judges it appropriate and wise, it establishes one or more regional associations by appointing the initial members of WG1 and WG12.

[July 1, 2008 / version A]