



URANTIA ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL



Urantia Association International
Annual Report 2008–09



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Who We Are?

UAI is a membership organization that serves all readers of *The Urantia Book* around the world. Our mission is to foster in-depth study of the text of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings to all mankind.



Urantia Association International (UAI) is a membership organization that serves all readers of *The Urantia Book*. UAI is a not-for-profit corporation for religious and charitable purposes. Our mission is to:

1. Foster in-depth study of *The Urantia Book*.
2. Disseminate its teachings through reader study groups, publications, social activities, and conferences.
3. Develop teachers and leaders for the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

UAI does not express opinions or take positions on political, social, or economic issues and does not identify itself with any nationality, race, or religion. We do encourage our members, as individuals, to become active and influential members of social, moral, economic, and political groups.

UAI is not a church or an organized religion. We do not compete with any faith or religion. UAI welcomes people of all faiths, races, and nationalities. We seek spiritual fellowship among all people of this world. True religion is the personal spiritual experience of each individual.

UAI is a group endeavour by religionists who study *The Urantia Book* and are inspired by its revelatory teachings; people who wish to cooperate with all other religionists to achieve the spiritual, social, and moral regeneration of this world. UAI members come from many different religions and cultures and have a personal relationship with God that is inspired by *The Urantia Book*. The teachings of *The Urantia Book* call upon all people to share spiritual unity, not uniformity, meaning that while our beliefs may differ, our faith and destiny are the same.

Our Mission

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



UAI's Purpose and Goals

The Urantia Association International (UAI) was inaugurated to work in a complementary capacity with Urantia Foundation, the publisher of *The Urantia Book*, for the purpose of fostering the in-depth study of *The Urantia Book* and the orderly dissemination of its teachings. It is a Urantia Book reader membership, task-oriented, social, and service organization and, by focusing on its goals, is designed to assist Urantia Foundation in achieving its objectives as stated in *The Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation*. Its task is to provide interactive learning environments in which participants deepen and broaden their knowledge of *The Urantia Book*, increase their teaching and leadership skills, and enjoy fellowship while doing so.

Through the UAI, readers of *The Urantia Book* may join in the collective tasks of providing a service ministry and social interaction for readers and non-

readers alike. It is hoped that the teachings of *The Urantia Book* will be spread unselfishly, without fanfare or personal recognition.

The UAI Today

Developing Teachers and Leaders

The fifth epochal revelation was given to the world well before its worldwide mission and it was given to those who are ready for it. Members of the UAI are challenged to develop new teachers and leaders for the spiritual renaissance of the world. By fostering the in-depth study of *The Urantia Book* and the orderly dissemination of its teachings, the UAI endeavors to foster the development of teachers and leaders—men and women who become 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.

The UAI provides opportunities for many people to participate in meetings, seminars, and

conferences in various capacities. Good leaders are essential to the formation of stable and dynamic study groups and associations. However, it is important that such leaders naturally emerge from among the readership. The UAI does not presume to designate who is and who is not a leader. Associations and local study groups naturally choose the people whom they view as well-informed, insightful, and successful communicators to teach, speak, and lead activities.

Study Groups

Often, when individuals seek to gain a deep appreciation and understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, they find it helpful to study the book with others. The local, informal study group is the place where teamwork is forged and spiritual growth is fostered; it is the primary social and educational arena for disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Much is gained from sharing insights, interpretations, experiences, and understandings

with others, therefore many people enjoy attending study groups in their local areas. The UAI seeks to foster the development of study groups by encouraging its members either to form and host a study group in their area or, if there are no other known readers in the vicinity, to list themselves as being willing to host a study group if other readers in the area become available and willing to attend.

Study groups do not constitute any part of the formal UAI structure yet they are related to its work. UAI will foster study groups which focus exclusively on the study and implementation of The Urantia Book teachings: the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

The UAI works in liaison with the Reader Service departments in Urantia Foundation offices around the world to foster local contact among readers. The Foundation offices maintain a database of readers who have contacted the Foundation and expressed a desire to be referred to other readers in their area. These readers are referred to other readers listed on the database for that location, as well as to an UAI office bearer if there is an association of the UAI in that vicinity. The UAI member contacts the reader with a courtesy call and lets him or her know of any study groups, conferences, or local reader activities in the area.

Study aids, educational services, and assistance in running successful study groups are provided by the UAI. Members are encouraged to develop and share secondary works that will assist readers in understanding some of the more difficult concepts in The Urantia Book.

Conferences and Seminars

Conferences, meetings, and seminars are frequently organized by the UAI to bring readers of The Urantia Book together. These kinds of meetings assist readers in their study as well as giving readers an opportunity to meet and interact with fellow readers. Programs are developed that encourage the in-depth study of The Urantia Book and the development of the leaders and teachers needed to stimulate and facilitate the spread of the teachings.

The events, topics, teachers, venues, and time frames of meetings need to be planned well in advance. UAI members may volunteer or be asked to accept responsibility in any of these areas. By sponsoring gatherings from time to time, the UAI hopes to stimulate deeper understanding of the teachings of the book, strengthen commitment to its teachings and their dissemination, and eventually stimulate creative activities in the arena of human society beyond such meetings.

In addition to meetings and

conferences arranged by Local and National Associations, the UAI organizes a major international conference every two years. So that all members worldwide have an opportunity to attend and to participate in the organization of international conferences, the venue for this event is alternated between those countries that have a National Association of the UAI.

Publications

Publications and communication vehicles such as newsletters, periodicals, journals, Web sites, and interactive Internet services are important tools for communication among the worldwide membership of the UAI. These assist in keeping readers abreast of news and reader activities as well as serving as educational and study pieces. The UAI produces a quarterly international journal (the UAI Journal) in multiple languages. Tidings, a monthly newsletter was started in June 2005. In addition, various Local and National Associations produce their own local newsletters.

The UAI Web site displays information, news, and, copies of its journals, with links to other Web sites such as Urantia Foundation's site as well as those created by Local and National Associations. An UAI discussion list is also provided for members to discuss organizational issues and to keep members in touch with one another.



Gaétan Charland,
President of UAI

President’s Report

“Understanding the mission of UAI is crucial to the successful development of strategies for the attainment of our short and long term goals.”

Dear Members and Friends of UAI,

On behalf of the International Service Board (ISB), it is with great pleasure that I offer our 2008 Annual Report. This initiative is an ongoing effort on the part of all my colleagues on the board of UAI. One of our goals is to improve our means of communication with all those who are interested in UAI’s mission to disseminate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings to the world. By providing this report, we hope that your response to our dedication and engagement will motivate you to participate more actively in the many different projects that UAI is fostering and engaged in.

Understanding the mission of UAI is crucial to the successful development of strategies for the attainment of our short and long term goals. In light of this statement, for the last two years, the board and a few other dedicated members of UAI have met many times in Chicago to work on the elaboration of an ISB Strategic Plan. This unprecedented effort will guide UAI in responding to the ongoing challenges of a growing worldwide organization – it

provides a roadmap to success in our mission to foster the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

This report is a budding reflection of certain strategies to promote cooperation and provide assistance to all the local and national associations of UAI. Many areas where those strategies are taking root are explored in this report and should help any serious believer in our mission to understand the urgent need for their support, whether financial or by service participation, or both. Our watchwords are teamwork and service and by living these ideals we ensure personal growth and a vibrant organization.

This report also explores the many areas of the world where UAI has started new dissemination projects, new associations, and new cooperative efforts destined to promote unity throughout our global network of local and national associations. We also assisted financially and as coordinator in projects that were initiated by individuals; some of these focused on placement of

Urantia Books in public or school libraries in South America or Africa.

Urantia Association International is actively building the foundation on which future generations of readers and believers will stand to foster and create thousands of study groups and train leaders and teachers in wise ways of implementing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in all levels of society – in the family, educational system, political establishment, science community and the religions of the world.

I hope this Annual Report will provide a better understanding of who we are and what we do, so you can join us in this incredible adventure of “...teaching **friendship with God.**” – *The Urantia Book*, p. 1766:5

In spirit of brotherhood,

Gaétan Charland
President of UAI

International Representative Council

The International Representative Council (RC) comprised of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of all the national associations, acts as the legislative branch of UAI.

The RC is the representative deliberative assembly with the power to create and change laws. All matters submitted to the RC for decision are put forward in the form of a resolution. The sitting Presidents and Vice Presidents of the National Associations are allowed only one vote and all elections and resolutions are passed by a sixty-percent majority of the votes cast by this representative body. All passed resolutions are announced to the UAI membership and are binding on all constituent Local and National Associations.



William Wentworth
Australia/New Zealand
President



Raimo Ala-Hynnala
Finland
President



Robert Coenraads
Australia/New Zealand
Vice-President



Matti Tossavainen
Finland
Vice-President



Nemias Mol
Brazil
President



Olga Lopez Molina
Spain
President



Susana Hutner
Brazil
Vice-President



Eduardo Altuazarra Gonzalez
Spain
Vice-President



Alain Cyr
Canada
President



Gary Rawlings
United Kingdom
President



Line St. Pierre
Canada
Vice-President



Costas Diamantopoulos
United Kingdom
Vice-President



Tamila Ragimova
Columbia
President



Moussa Ndiaye
Senegal
President



Andres Rodriguez
Columbia
Vice-President



Mamadou Diagne
Senegal
Vice-President



Dominique Ronfet
France
President



Jorge Fuentes Mosco
Chile
Vice-President



Brian Mtambo
Malawi
Vice-President



Ivan Stol
France
Vice-President



Julio César de la Cruz
Dominican Republic
President



Michael Maclsaac
Sweden
President



David Linthicum
United States
President



Jafet Diaz
Dominican Republic
Vice-President



Jacob Dix
Sweden
Vice-President



Marian Hughes
United States
Vice-President



Peep Sõber
Estonia
President



Alfredo Esquivel
Mexico
President



Alfonso Luque
Andes
President



Ruth Kask
Estonia
Vice-President



Ernesto Barocio
Mexico
Vice-President



Carlos Rubinsky
Argentina
President



Kim Jinwoog
Korea
President



Joel Chongo Mvula
Zambia
President



Horacio Rico
Argentina
Vice-President



Park Gahyang
Korea
Vice-President



Chita Nonde
Zambia
Vice-President



Jean Annet
Belgium
President



Park Pansoo
Korea
Vice-President



Rene Roman
Chile
President



Grevet Moyo
Malawi
President

International Service Board



Gaétan G.
Charland



Merindi Belarski



Susan Owen



Mark Kurtz



Gary Rawlings



Verner Verass

The International Service Board (ISB) functions as the executive branch and conducts the dialy business of UAI. The ISB is comprised of a governing board and committees for Dissemination, Study Groups, Education, Communications, Translations, Membership, Conferences, and Charter and Bylaws. All UAI leaders are elected by the membership and serve a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms.

Gaétan G. Charland, Canada President

Gaétan executes for the UAI any contracts, deeds, mortgages, bonds, or other instruments that the ISB or the RC has authorised to be executed, according to the requirements of the form of the instrument.

Gaétan votes on all securities that the UAI is entitled to vote, by proxy or otherwise, and, in general, performs all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the ISB or the RC. Gaétan heads the Executive Committee.

Merindi Belarski, Australia Vice-President

Merindi, the Vice-President assists the President in the discharge of his duties as the President may direct, and performs such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to her by the President, the ISB, or the RC. If the President is absent from a meeting, incapacitated, or should the President so request, the Vice-President performs the duties of the President and, when so acting, has all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

Merindi is a member of the Executive Committee.

Susan Owen, United States Secretary

Susan's duties are:

- assisting the President with preparation and distribution of agendas for face-to-face and telephonic meetings of the ISB and the Executive Committee; and, assisting in assembling quarterly reports to the RC of ISB activities.
- recording minutes of the meetings of the ISB, Executive Committee, and RC, and preparing minutes at the end

of each calendar quarter for regular online meetings.

- recording any approved changes to the governing documents of the UAI and provide copies of the amended governing documents to each ISB, RC, and Judicial Commission member.
- maintaining all UAI records and documents.
- conducting roll call at regular and online meetings.

Susan is member of the Executive Committee

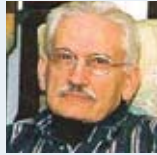
Mark Kurtz, United States Chief Financial Officer

Mark is responsible for:

- the maintenance of adequate books of account for the UAI and for preparation of quarterly financial reports to the ISB and the RC.
- the solicitation of contributions, through any finance committee or a separate fundraising sub-committee; prepare and send solicitation letters; prepares and sends acknowledgement letters when donations are received; initiates and organises events to facilitate fund raising; maintains good relations and communication with donors.



Sheila Keene-Lund



Travis Binion



James Woodward



Phil Taylor



Christopher Moseley



Michael Maclsaac



Rick Lyon

Mark is a member of the Executive Committee.

Gary Rawlings, United Kingdom

Membership Committee Chair

Gary performs the duties incident to chairing the Membership Committee and also is a member of the Executive Committee.

Verner Verass, Australia **Communications Committee Chair**

Verner performs the duties incident to chairing the Communications Committee and also is a member of the Executive Committee.

Sheila Keene-Lund*, United States

Education Committee Chair

Sheila performs the duties incident to chairing the Education Committee and also is a member of the Executive Committee.

Travis Binion, United States **Charter and Bylaws Committee Chair**

Travis reviews and, when appropriate, proposes amendment of UAI's Charter and Bylaws in order to ensure that governing documents are in place to serve the needs of the organisation, and shall serve as an information resource for associations regarding their own governing documents.

James Woodward, United States **Study Groups Committee Chair**

James performs the duties incident to chairing the Study Groups Committee.

Phil Taylor, United States **Conference Committee Chair**

Phil performs the duties incident to chairing the Conference Committee.

Christopher Moseley, United Kingdom **Translations Committee Chair**

Christopher performs the duties incident to chairing the Translation Committee.

Michael Maclsaac, Sweden **Dissemination Committee Chair**

Michael performs the duties incident to chairing the Dissemination Committee.

Rick Lyon, United States **Executive Administrator**

Rick maintains the UAI Central Office.

Retired board members who also served on the ISB during 2008 were:

Edwin King, United States
Conference Committee

Carolyn Prentice United States
Education Committee

Rick Lyon, United States
Study Groups Committee, resigned for Executive Administrator position

Jimmy Mitchell, United States
Resigned for personal reasons

Peep Söber, Estonia
Translation Committee

Judy Van Cleave

UAI is Growing Worldwide

Urantia Association of South Korea was chartered 30 November 2008.



David Kim, President of Korean, UAI.



Scenic views of the beautiful Korean countryside.



David Kim giving his acceptance speech



Inauguration ceremony for the Urantia Association of Korea.

South Korea is a country unique geographically and culturally with a growing and established readership of *The Urantia Book*. On the 30th November 2008, UAI President, Gaétan Charland and the Membership Chair, Gary Rawlings, inaugurated the Korean Urantia Association in Seoul and transferred the responsibility of leadership to David Kim, elected President of the association.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the afternoon and this was truly a momentous day for the UAI. Gaétan gave an overview

of what the UAI stands for and spoke of the aspirations of the newly formed Urantia Association of Korea, which was followed by a period of questions and answers, after that was the handing over of the concentric circle banner of Michael to David by Gaétan. This was one of those precious moments in life that one will always treasure.

UAI is proud to welcome South Korea in our growing family of local associations.

Future Initiatives

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2008 Financial Report

Statement of Activities For The Year Ended December 31, 2008
(UAI Fiscal Operations Year is Calendar Year)

Revenues, Gains and Other Support

	\$
Contributions	30,325
Investment Return	1,047
Journal	735
Study Group Starter Kits	52
Total Revenue and Gains	32,159

Expenses

	\$
Program Services	12,815
Administrative	15,833
Fund Raising	2,640
Gifts Forwarded to Urantia Foundation	650
Investment Expense	51 ¹
Total Program and Administration	31,989

Change in Assets (profit and loss) **170**

1 Management fee at Nevada Community Foundation for the UAI Fund

UAI ended 2008 “in the black”. Nearly 95% of income came from donor support. Great strength could be realized with increased donor support. The ISB attempts to keep expenses at minimum while attempting to grow programs for mission.

Statement Of Financial Position As Of December 31, 2008 (The Balance Sheet)

This report show all UAI assets, which consist of deposited cash in checking, savings, money market accounts, and gifts held at Nevada Community Foundation in the Urantia Association International Fund, which the Representative Council approved in 2007. This fund is not restricted and its interest or dividends may be used as needed.

Assets

	\$
Cash	45,080
Cash Nevada Community Foundation	
UAI Fund	5,186
Total Assets	50,265

Liabilities

	\$
Restricted Funds ¹	
Conference Fund	21,325
Conference Sponsorship Fund	2,718
Global Seeding Fund	295
Total Liabilities	24,338

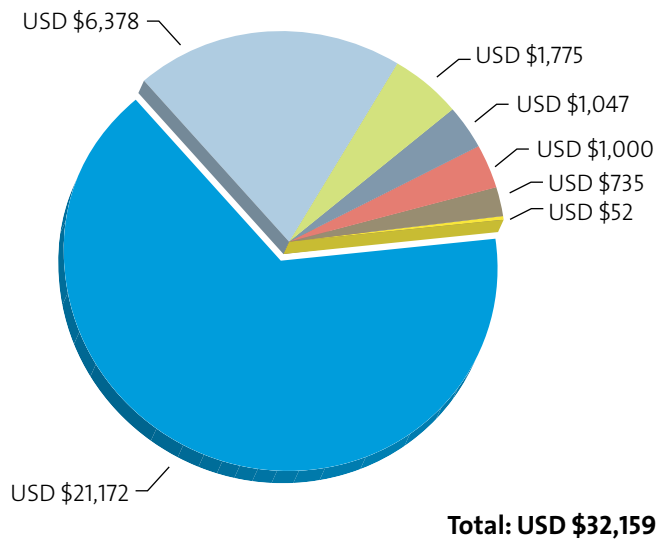
Equity

	\$
Retained Earnings (from previous years)	50,095
Net Income (from year 2008)	170
Total Equity²	50,265

¹ The Representative Council passed RC Resolution Item 42 on 2006 December 26 that restricted these funds to specific uses. These funds are included in Assets on deposit.

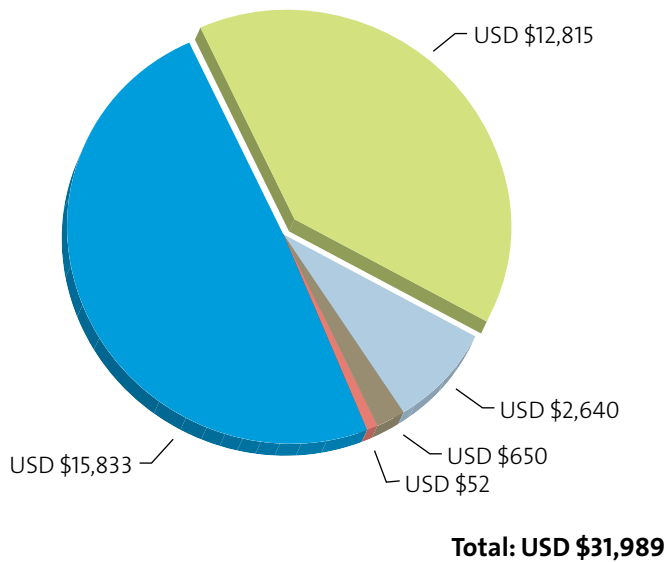
² Total Equity is the amount of UAI owned funds. UAI has never borrowed funds.

2008 Financial Report



Sources of UAI Funding

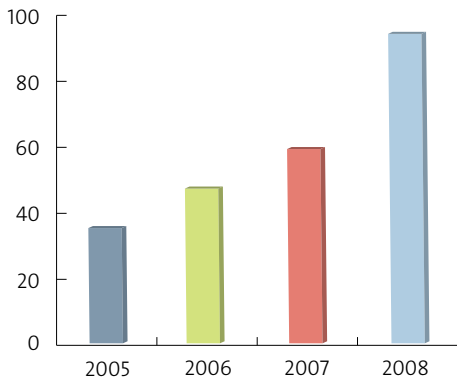
- Individuals and Families
- National and Local Associations
- Corporations
- Dividends and Investments
- Foundation Gifts
- Journal
- Study Group Starter Kits



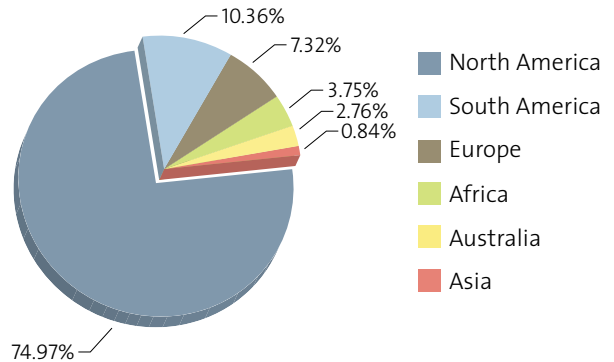
UAI Expenses

- Administrative
- ISB Program and Projects
- Fund Raising
- Gifts Forwarded to Urantia Foundation
- Investment Expenses

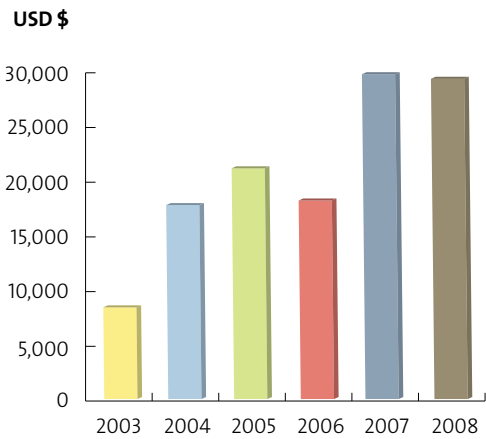
Membership Applications



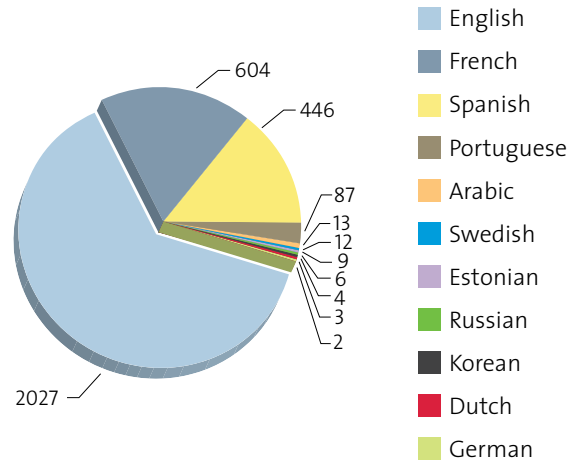
Database by Members



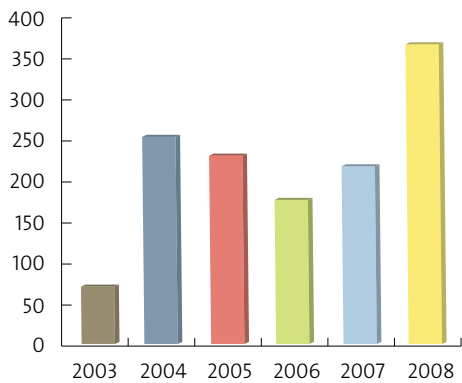
Contributions to Annual Fund



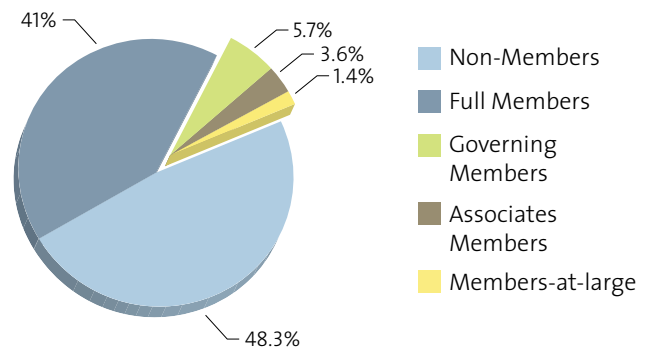
Database by Language



Number of Contributors by Year



Database by Category



UAI Publications

Keeping members informed with articles and news of activities from countries around the world.

UAI Journal



Tidings



Communicating to our growing family of world readers is an important way to keep us connected. UAI produces two excellent publications for that purpose. The *UAI Journal* was established to provide in-depth thought provoking reports on questions arising from the study of *The Urantia Book*. The second publication, *Tidings*, is really good tidings about activities – experiences – between the members of the various associations worldwide. They represent an important barometer on the present state of growth of the Urantia teachings.

Role of Donor Gifts in Support of Our Mission

Dear Reader Friend,

It's been a very good year for Urantia Association International. Great strides have been taken, even milestones achieved. At mid-year we completed our legal journey to autonomy. UAI is now an independent non-profit service organization, though we maintain our original and cherished interdependent relationship with Urantia Foundation.

A strategic plan has been developed that will progressively guide us toward increased member participation, the key to achieving all our service goals.

We created a Global Seeding Fund to disseminate Urantia Books to emerging reader groups and have shipped cases of books to Africa and South America.

Our highly successful program to serve those behind bars, the Prison Inmate Response Team, continues to correspond with prisoners. They answer questions, place books, foster and even facilitate study groups. Who can predict the long term value of spiritual rehabilitation?

New friendships developed at our summer conference in Seattle resulted in a Braille copy of The Urantia Book being created. An enthusiastic blind student in the Northwest is now "reading" his very own book.

These and other worthy projects are possible because generous UAI members support good works. Without your volunteer spirit and financial gifts, there would

be no worldwide readership organization and fewer opportunities to serve and grow as leaders and teachers. Truly, we are just beginning to fulfill a noble destiny.

It has been said that the connection between tithing and prosperity is, after all, an expression of spiritual law; that what we are to the universe, the universe will be to us; that what we give out is what we shall receive back; that like attracts like; that whatsoever a man sows is what he shall reap.

A simple and practical way to financially support UAI is by regular credit card debit. This tithing technique is easy to set up and provides a predictable income stream that helps us better serve. It's a blessing that we currently have 12 members giving around \$330 per month. A visit to the online report of another reader group revealed an astonishing disparity... 130 credit card donors giving about \$7,500 per month.

Can we increase our giving so we can expand our service? Yes we can. Consider the stakes and the importance of the UAI worldwide mission. Please use the coupon below for your annual gift or simply call the office to arrange a debit plan.

In the spirit of brotherhood,
Gaétan Charland
President UAI

Clip and send with your support donation:

Yes, count me in!

I authorize regular monthly charges of US \$ to my credit/debit card (Visa / MC / AmEx)

A/C # Exp. date

Name appearing on card

Signature Date

I choose to send a check \$

Please help us maintain up-to-date records:

Address

City State/Prov. Postal Code

Phone Email

Mail this form with payment to:
Urantia Association International
559 West Diversey Parkway #351
Chicago, IL 60614 USA

