

BYLAWS
for
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND URANTIA ASSOCIATION
(ANZURA)

Revised June 2024

ARTICLE I
INTRODUCTION

ANZURA became a Chartered National Association of Urantia Association International (“Urantia Association”) on March 6, 1994. ANZURA’s objective is to encourage the study of *The Urantia Book* and to assist in the dissemination of its teachings by non-invasive, moderate, evolutionary growth. It supports Urantia Association International’s aims and objectives for the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. ANZURA is not a religious association, is not associated with any religion, and is not a competitor of any religion welcoming people of all faiths, races, and cultural backgrounds where individual members are free to express their own views as their own views. ANZURA as a group, has no opinions to express on religious, political, economic, or social issues. It is made up of individual members who have come to recognise the significance of *The Urantia Book* and the integrated beauty of its teachings; individuals who have a natural desire to help ANZURA in achieving its objectives. ANZURA holds the view and recognises that, collectively there are certain things we can support and achieve together and recognises that *The Urantia Book* encourages all readers to develop their own philosophy through study, experience, decisions, and actions.

1.1. Name

The name of the association is “Australia and New Zealand Urantia Association” (ANZURA).

1.2. Status of Bylaws

These Amended Bylaws were adopted by the ANZURA Board and membership on 18 June 2024 in accordance with an appropriate vote under the immediately preceding Bylaws, which were last amended in 2008. These amended Bylaws are designed to be in accordance with the amended Bylaws of Urantia Association International which were adopted 12 October 2023.

ARTICLE II
MISSION AND PURPOSE

2.1. Mission

The mission of ANZURA is to:

- a) Foster the study of *The Urantia Book* and disseminate its teachings.
- b) Promote, improve, and expand comprehension and appreciation among the peoples of the world of cosmology, of the relationship of our planet to the universe, of the origin and destiny of humanity, of each person’s relation to God, and of the enhanced teachings of Jesus.

- c) Foster a global spiritual community that "produces an enlarged consciousness of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."(*The Urantia Book* 100:6.8) In so doing, ANZURA endeavours to increase and enhance humanity's comfort, happiness, and well-being through the fostering of a true religion based on the life of Jesus, a philosophy of living, and a cosmology commensurate with evolving intellectual and cultural development.

2.2. Purpose

ANZURA is a task-oriented, social, and service organisation to foster in-depth study of *The Urantia Book* and the dissemination of its teachings. Its focus is to remain on *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. This purpose is to be sought by efforts to:

- a) Encourage and provide advice on the formation of Urantia Book study groups and their interaction.
- b) Organise an Annual Symposium for members of ANZURA and other readers of *The Urantia Book*.
- c) Maintain a readership list for the purpose of putting readers in touch with one another as required.
- d) Respond to enquiries about *The Urantia Book* and ANZURA.
- e) Maintain a directory of Urantia Book study groups.
- f) Publish a newsletter in accordance with the mission of ANZURA.

2.3 Limitations

ANZURA has adopted the following restrictions on its activities:

- a) ANZURA will not express opinions, form policies, or otherwise take positions on political, social, or economic issues and will not identify itself with any nation, race, or religion. However, nothing in these Bylaws is intended to prevent or discourage members of ANZURA from expressing their personal opinions on these matters or from participating in such activities.
- b) ANZURA is not, nor will it form a religious body or an organised religion.
- c) Understanding of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* is a personal matter. Therefore, ANZURA will not present any official interpretations of *The Urantia Book*.
- d) While ANZURA welcomes people of all faiths, races, cultures and nationalities, and fosters spiritual fellowship among the peoples of the world, ANZURA does not claim to represent the spiritual "brotherhood of man".

ARTICLE III ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

ANZURA is a membership organization composed a Board and Members. It is a Constituent Association of Urantia Association International in the category of being a "National Association".

3.1. Officers. The officers of ANZURA are called the "Board" which consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and New Zealand Representative. Each Board Officer must be a financial member of ANZURA and possess such other qualifications as may be specified from time to time by the Board.

3.2. Terms of Office. Board Officers are elected for two-year terms and may be re-elected only once; after two successive terms, the officer must vacate the Board and remain without office for at least a

year. Half the officers will be up for election in one year and the other half up for election in the following year, so that the entire Board will not be replaced at one time.

3.3. Board Positions. ANZURA has the following officers:

- a) **President.** The duties of the President are to:
 - a. Preside over meetings of the Board and Annual General Meetings.
 - b. Provide a President's Report for ANZURA's periodic newsletters.
 - c. Be ANZURA's representative as a voting member on the International Representative Council (IRC) of Urantia Association International and attend the continuous online meetings.
 - d. Communicate international announcements and news to ANZURA's membership.
 - e. Act as spokesperson of ANZURA and make an annual written report of ANZURA's activities to the International Service Board (ISB) of Urantia Association International.
 - f. Serve as international liaison between ANZURA and other Urantia organisations.

- b) **Vice President.** The duties of Vice President are to:
 - a. Take up the duties of the President or any officer of the Board as required.
 - b. Be ANZURA's representative as a voting member on the International Representative Council (IRC) of Urantia Association International and attend the continuous online meetings.

- c) **Secretary.** The Secretaries duties are to:
 - a. Be responsible for correspondence.
 - b. Produce meeting agendas and record minutes.
 - c. Respond to reader enquiries and refer readers to study groups.
 - d. Maintain the membership and study group registers.
 - e. Maintain the general database of Urantia Book readers in the wider community.
 - f. Oversee the management of ANZURA's website.
 - g. Distribute news and periodicals from ANZURA, Urantia Foundation, and Urantia Association and its Constituents for the purpose of keeping members in touch with regional and global events.

- d) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer is the principal accounting and financial officer of ANZURA. Duties are to:
 - a. Be responsible for the management, receipt, and disbursement of ANZURA's funds.
 - b. Maintain adequate books of account, cash assets, and bank accounts.
 - c. Prepare annual financial reports for the Board and Membership as well as to the President of Urantia Association International.
 - d. Receive annual membership fees, donations, and income.

- e) **New Zealand Representative.** A New Zealand Representative is elected by ANZURA Members residing in New Zealand. In the event where there may not be enough New Zealand members at the Annual General Meeting to vote in a new Representative, the outgoing Representative will organise a meeting in New Zealand to elect the new Representative. Representative duties are to:

- a. Act in a liaison capacity between New Zealand members and the Board.
- b. Provide an annual report of activities to the Board.
- c. Keep a register of New Zealand members and study groups, and a database of *Urantia Book* readers in New Zealand.
- d. Respond to reader enquiries and refer readers to study groups.
- e. Collect membership levies.
- f. Maintain adequate books of account, cash assets, and bank accounts.

3.4. Board Vacancy Nominations. 30 days prior to expiration of the terms of Board members, the Secretary will issue a notice for nominations for any vacancies to be submitted within 15 days of notice. This notice will include the position titles, terms of office, and required or recommended qualifications for the office. Nominations must state the position for which the candidate is nominated and certify that the candidate is willing and able to serve and meets the qualifications and time commitments for the position. Nominations must also include background information regarding the candidate's relevant experience, prior ANZURA service, and any information pertinent to the candidate's qualifications to serve as a Board Officer. After 15 days and within 20 days the Secretary will compile all nominations and their background and present a list of candidates to the Board who will determine that the nominee meets the relevant criteria for the position. The Board has the right to decline any nomination without giving its reasons.

3.5. Elections. Elections for Board vacancies are to be held at the Annual General Meeting. The President announces the nominations to the members present at the meeting. If more than one nomination is submitted, the President will call for a vote for each candidate. If only one candidate is nominated, then that candidate is automatically approved to take on the position.

3.6. Committees. ANZURA will have at least three committees and may create ad-hoc committees as required. Each committee will have a Chair and two or three members. The three mandatory Committee Chairs are elected at the Annual General Meeting. They are:

- a) *The Annual Symposium Committee.* This committee oversees the practical arrangements for the Annual Symposium for students of *The Urantia Book*.
- b) *Membership Committee.* This committee responds to applicants for membership, interviews applicants, and makes recommendations to the Board to admit or reject these applicants. Admission decisions are made by the Board at its discretion.
- c) *Publications Committee.* This committee may publish newsletters, brochures, and other publications as required.

3.7. Administrative Directives and Procedures. ANZURA's administration will operate out of a designated office which will be managed by an Executive Administrator who is appointed by the Board. The Board will enact such administrative directives and procedures as necessary. The Executive Administrator will execute the day-to-day operations of the administration of ANZURA. The Executive Officer and any Assistants shall be volunteers. The duties of the administrative staff include:

- a) Management of the day-to-day administrative and financial affairs by assisting the President, Secretary and Treasurer in the execution of their duties.
- b) The coordination and liaison with host organisers in the preparation and organisation of the Annual Symposium.

- c) Preparing an agenda and communicating with the membership regarding the Annual General Meeting.
- d) The creation and publication of a regular newsletter.
- e) Management of content and maintenance of ANZURA's website.
- f) Maintain a collection of secondary works of *The Urantia Book* such as study aids and derivative works.
- g) Liaison with ANZURA members who undertake promotional activities for *The Urantia Book* and related secondary works.
- h) The management of all legal business of ANZURA, including, but not by way of limitation,
 - a. Maintaining the tax-exempt status of ANZURA.
 - b. Preparing and filing Australian tax returns.
 - c. Managing the Public Liability insurance policy.
 - d. Managing the License Agreement with Urantia Foundation.

3.8. ANZURA's Obligations to Urantia Association International. To be a Constituent Association of Urantia Association there are certain obligations required which are stated in its Bylaws under Section 7.4. Duties of Constituent Associations. Some of these include:

- a) Abiding by the policies of Urantia Association in particular the Privacy Policy, Code of Ethics, and Logo Usage Policy.
- b) Contributing at least ten percent of ANZURA's annual gross income each year to Urantia Association. Annual gross income includes membership dues, fees, subscription fees, sales proceeds, gifts and donations, and the net income from Annual Symposiums.
- c) Providing up-to-date membership lists to the Central Office of Urantia Association by the end of January of each year.
- d) Maintaining an efficient system for promptly processing and approving membership applications, change of residence requests, and reporting membership data to Urantia Association's Central Office.
- e) Providing a copy of any amended governing documents to the International Service Board (ISB) within thirty calendar days after approval.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

As ANZURA is a Constituent/National Association of Urantia Association International, Membership in ANZURA automatically results in membership in Urantia Association.

There are two types of membership – Full and Associate.

4.1. Full Membership. Any student of *The Urantia Book* is eligible for full membership of ANZURA provided that such a person:

- a) Is resident in either Australia or New Zealand and upholds the laws of that country.
- b) Has read *The Urantia Book* in its entirety and supports its teachings.
- c) Supports the mission, purposes, policies, aims and objectives of ANZURA and Urantia Association International.

- d) Agrees to comply with ANZURA's bylaws, policies, and procedures.
- e) Is recommended by the Membership Committee.
- f) Has been accepted by the Board.
- g) Remains current in paying annual membership levies or other financial debt owed to ANZURA.
- h) Supports the work of Urantia Foundation as specified in its Principal and Concordant Objects of the Declaration of Trust; supports any of the Foundation's ownership of copyright of *The Urantia Book* and the Foundation's registered marks; supports ANZURA's authorised use of the registered marks.
- i) Apprise the Secretary of ANZURA of any change in contact information or change of residency.

4.2. Associate Membership

Any student of *The Urantia Book* who wishes to identify with the principles of ANZURA but has not yet met the Full Membership requirements specified in 4.1, may join as an Associate Member. Associate Membership entitles the person to participate in all ANZURA activities except holding elective office and voting at official meetings.

A student of *The Urantia Book* is eligible for Associate Membership provided that such a person:

- a) Is resident in either Australia or New Zealand and upholds the laws of that country.
- b) Is reading *The Urantia Book* and intends to finish reading it in its entirety and supports its teachings.
- c) Supports the aims and objectives of ANZURA and Urantia Association International.
- d) Is recommended by the Membership Committee.
- e) Has been accepted by the Governing Board.
- f) Remains current in paying annual membership levies or other financial debt owed to ANZURA.
- g) Supports the work of Urantia Foundation as specified in its Principal and Concordant Objects of the Declaration of Trust; supports any of the Foundation's ownership of copyright of *The Urantia Book* and the Foundation's registered marks; supports ANZURA's authorised use of the registered marks.
- h) Apprise the Secretary of ANZURA of any change in contact information or change of residency.

4.3. Application for Membership. A person may apply for membership on the prescribed Application Form, or on the online membership form on ANZURA's website, and submit it to the Executive Assistant for consideration by the Membership Committee.

4.4. Membership Levies

ANZURA will levy an annual membership fee on all members. The amount of the membership fee will be set at the Annual General Meeting by majority vote of members present.

4.5. Removal Procedure

- a) No member may be expelled from membership unless, as adjudged by ANZURA members, the attitude, conduct or influence of such a member is prejudicial to the interests and work of ANZURA generally. In the case of expulsion, appeal may be made to the Board of ANZURA for reinstatement as a member.
- b) To expel a member, at least three members of ANZURA may submit to the Board a written petition for involuntary termination of a person's status as a member. The petition shall state the grounds for termination and be substantiated with evidence.

- c) After considering the petition ANZURA can remove a member by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, provided that the members present constitute a quorum.

4.6. Causes of Termination

Where a member has:

- a) Failed to be current with any required membership fees or other financial debt owed to ANZURA.
- b) Breached ANZURA's policies or any other circumstance that would make the person ineligible to be a member.
- c) Engaged in conduct or substantial conflict with the mission of ANZURA.
- d) Violated the Bylaws of ANZURA.
- e) Exhibited a chronic lack of willingness to support the purposes of ANZURA or to follow established organizational procedures of ANZURA.
- f) Knowingly borne false witness against another member, or knowingly made a material, false statement during the person's duties for ANZURA.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

5.1. Meetings of the Members

- a) There will be an Annual General Meeting at which members of the Board are elected to serve for two years.
- b) The Board will set the date, time, and venue of the meeting, and send an agenda and any other pertinent materials.
- c) The Secretary will notify members of the meeting no less than 30 days before the meeting date.
- d) There will be a quorum of five at the Annual General Meetings.

5.2. Meetings of the Board and Committees

- a) Meetings of the Board and committees are held when called by any two officers of the group in question.
- b) Date, time, and venue shall be set by the officers calling the meeting. Notice, date, time, and venue must be reasonable given all the circumstances.
- c) The meetings may be held electronically providing the attendees have appropriate access whereby they can effectively participate.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL

ANZURA is a not-for-profit organization.

6.1. Funding

ANZURA may fund its activities through membership levies, fees, proceeds from newsletter subscriptions and other sales, solicited or unsolicited gifts and donations, Annual Symposium, and any other avenues approved by the Board.

6.2. Financial Records

The financial books and records of ANZURA will comply with all required Australian financial reporting requirements.

6.3. Funds. All funds of ANZURA are to be deposited in the designated ANZURA bank account.

6.4. Gifts. The Board may accept on behalf of ANZURA any dues, fees, assessments, contributions, gifts, bequests, or other money, property, or things of value for the general purposes or for any special purpose or projects of ANZURA. The Board must receive, in writing, the terms of any restricted gift otherwise the gift will be accepted only as an unrestricted gift.

6.5. Conflicts of Interest. ANZURA will not enter into any contract with any member or with any other corporation, firm, association, or other entity in which any member has a material or financial interest, directly or indirectly or in which any member is an officer of the Board unless:

- a) The material facts regarding the interest of such a member in such contract or transaction are fully disclosed in good faith and are noted in the minutes or are known to all the Board members before consideration by the Board of such contract or transaction.
- b) Before authorizing or approving the transaction, the Board in good faith decides after reasonable investigation that ANZURA could not obtain a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable effort under the circumstances; and such contract or transaction is authorized by the Board for that purpose.
- c) ANZURA enters into the transaction for its own benefit and the transaction is fair and reasonable to ANZURA and in furtherance of its purposes.

6.6. Records.

All books and records of ANZURA may be inspected by any member of the Board at reasonable times and frequencies.

6.7. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of ANZURA is Australia's financial year (1 July to 30 June).

ARTICLE VII AMMENDMENTS TO ANZURA'S BYLAWS

7.1. General. These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and will be adopted by a two-thirds majority postal or electronic vote of the entire membership. We will use the "negative consent" method which means that if a member fails to respond it will be counted as an affirmative vote.

7.2. Prohibited Amendments. ANZURA Bylaws may not be amended to include any provision that conflicts with Australian Law.

7.3. Records of Bylaws and Amendments. A copy of the current ANZURA Bylaws will be maintained at the designated office of ANZURA. A copy of the current Bylaws will also be made available to any ANZURA financial member as well as to the International Service Board of Urantia Association International upon a reasonable request for such a copy.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION

If ANZURA dissolves, or is expelled from Urantia Association International, its assets will be transferred automatically, without further consideration, to Urantia Association International, 4000 W. Montrose Ave #606, Chicago USA, if it exists, and if not, then to Urantia Foundation, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614 USA. In the event Urantia Foundation does not exist at the time of the dissolution of ANZURA, all such ANZURA assets will be so transferred to one or more tax-exempt organizations, or will be distributed to the Australian government, or to a state or local government within Australia, for a purpose closely aligned with the purpose stated in ANZURA's Bylaws. Any such assets not disposed of will be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in Australia exclusively to such organisation or organisations for such purposes, as said court determines.