



## The Universal Citizen

### Blog Submission Guidelines

Through thoughtful and insightful blog posts, *The Universal Citizen* seeks to advance faithful living and the idea-values that religion is experiential, our relationship with God is personal, evolution is progressive, and revelation is dynamic. Here we discuss truth, beauty, and goodness in human experience and spirit reality and encourage curiosity of the mind. *The Universal Citizen* furthers UUI's mission to foster personal spiritual growth and build a universal family of God as we explore, discern, and actualize the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

**Comment Engagement:** You must [Join the UUI](#) community to comment on any blog posts. Insight arises through respectful and fair discussion inspired by open mindedness and striving to understand the perspective of others. The ideas and analyses expressed by our authors will demonstrate that religious interpretation is informed by personal experience in partnership with the indwelling spirit. In these interactions, we do not seek agreement, rather, we encourage civility and respectful communication fostering trust, love, and spiritual growth. The Editorial Team will refuse publication of content which violates these values.

**About the Authors:** UUI's blog contributors are board members, instructors, and students. We are interested in hearing your perspective on the topics addressed in *The Urantia Book*, how you have enacted these lessons in your everyday life, and how religious experience and spirit insight have shaped your relationships with others. If you would like to submit a blog article as a guest contributor, please follow the guidelines below.

### Guest Contributors Submission Guidelines

**Why submit a blog article for UUI?** Authorship is an opportunity to share your "thought gems" and challenges each one of us to identify and describe the fruits of spiritual living to others. Conversation stimulated with such goals in mind will expand God-consciousness, nurture personal religious growth, and inspire loving service to our fellows.

**What kind of posts do you publish?** We are interested in posts that treat any aspect of *The Urantia Book*, including reflections on researching, writing, interpreting, and teaching it. Posts that make connections to present-day events are always of editorial interest. Prior to submission, contributors should review the blog's overall content, style, and tone.

We do not accept paid content or any content that might be construed as advertising. Posts must not endorse or oppose current candidates for public office in the U.S., less it endanger the non-profit status of UUI.

**Standard:** UUI holds its contributors to high academic standards. Blog posts must have a clear and central argument or perspective supported by evidence. Evidence may be quoted from *The Urantia Book*, or other religious, philosophical, or academic texts. While quotations may be necessary, we encourage authors to keep direct quotations short. We challenge each author to put as much of the spirit of the quote into his/her own words.

**Length:** Submissions may range from 450-1,200 words, yet we do encourage brevity wherever possible. Keep your paragraphs short and break the article into easily digestible sections.

**Title and Biographical Statement:** Please submit a post title, along with a 2-line biographical statement and available social media contact, so that we can introduce you and your scholarship to the UUI community.

**Voice:** Above all, *The Universal Citizen* gives voice to each person's unique interpretation of the teachings found in *The Urantia Book*—there is no one right answer or interpretation. We hope to create a community of the inspired. In order to sustain such a curious and energized community, the language employed by each one of us will be inclusive. Rather than dividing ourselves into discreet camps of “teacher-experts” and “student-novices,” UUI propounds the philosophy that we are all “learners” engaging in the search and the discovery of God-consciousness together. Likewise, guest authors of *The Universal Citizen* speak with insight developed from their personal experience—sharing advice as would a caring friend, motivation as would a trusted mentor, direction as would a knowledgeable instructor, and encouragement as would a loving parent.

**Editorial Discretion:** Our Editorial Team reserves the right to edit submissions, including grammar, spelling, and formatting. The edited blog will be sent to the author for approval. Once approval is secured, we will post the blog to the website and circulate it to our contact list via email and social media. If the author and the editorial team are unable to agree on the edits, the article will not be posted. If the topic is not in-line with the mission of UUI, the Editorial Team reserves the right to decline publication of a submission.

## Style and Formatting

### Spelling and Grammar:

- Single space 12pt sans-serif font
- Use a single space after a period
- For numbers, spell out numbers one through nine; use numerals for 10 and up
- Always use serial commas (Oxford commas) in lists. “I went to the store and bought apples, oranges, and pears.” NOT “I went to the store and bought apples, oranges and pears.”
- Contractions are preferable (“It’s important to practice often” vs. “It is important to practice...”)

### **In-text Citations:**

- If it is clear that you are citing from *The Urantia Book*, use the following format (Paper:Section.Paragraph(s)). For example, if you are citing Paper 140 (The Ordination of the Twelve) Section 5 (Fatherly and Brotherly Love) Paragraphs 15-20, the citation will look like this: (140:5.15-20).
- When referencing sourcing beyond the UB, use the following in-text citation format: (Last Name, *Title*, page number). Supply the full citation in the Bibliography (see below).
- You are encouraged to include hyperlinks, and 1-2 fair-use images in .JPEG or .PNG format.

### **Bibliography**

- If sources beyond the UB are mentioned, follow the Chicago Manual of Style Citation Quick Guide [https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)

### **Abbreviations:**

- UrantiaUniversity Institute: UUI
- *The Urantia Book*: *UB*