

D

Operation of the USB

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D.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

D01 Some Requirements of the USB

1 Truth has always suffered at the hands of some of its “disciples.”

2 It suffers from those who twist and distort it for selfish ends—placing
their own aggrandizement above the welfare of humanity, building nests
of personal pride, and using spiritual movements for their own material
gain and to enslave others.

3 That is why The Brother&Sisterhood has a few requirements, all of a
spiritual nature, that people are expected to observe whenever they *offi-*
cially represent the USB in any capacity [see D27:13], [and that all are
asked to observe at USB events]. What people do at other times is not for
us to say.

4 These requirements are in harmony with noble teachings throughout
the ages, and have had the blessing of USB spirit leaders and inspirers.

5 [The following topics in this section present and discuss the USB’s
more general requirements. Topic 107:1–2 regarding worship should
also be considered a general requirement. Other requirements, relating to
the conduct of USB meetings, are presented in Section D.2.]

D02 No USB Affiliations

1 The USB is *universal*; so while it therefore has room for all and everyone
within its ranks, as an organization it is *not*, and *cannot* be, associated or
linked with any other particular group or organization of *any* sort—reli-
gious, racial, national, political, or other. We *cannot* emphasize this too
strongly.

2 (USB supporters are free to affiliate with whomever they wish [108],
but they may not link activities of the USB or its representatives to activi-
ties of other organizations.)

D03 Simplicity and Humility

1 Simplicity and humility should mark the work of our movement in all its
aspects—enlightenment, mediumship, and the “laying on of hands” [for
healing, D12].

We do not glorify any individual. In our regular meeting places, if possible there should be no plaques or pictures of any individual, and no monuments of any sort to any individual.

No “day” may be set aside for any individual. Each day is a day for God only.

There may be no titles that separate our workers from the great flow of humanity. (This is one reason why we do not ordain ministers.) Titles of USB officers may be used only in their private meetings, and when legally required and expected; if really necessary, we may refer to them with others as “officers.”

In our public meetings, group meetings, and publications, the only titles used in referring to our workers should be Sister, Brother, Mr., Mrs., Miss, and Ms. [or their equivalents in other languages].

While performing work for the USB, people should not wear unusual or outlandish clothing, or attire that represents or suggests any particular belief, following, or anything else that separates people spiritually.

Whenever possible, public meetings are to be held at places where there are no things that represent or suggest any particular person, group, belief, following, or anything else that separates people spiritually.

We do *not* condemn such things, which have value and meaning to many people. However, as an organization of spiritual truth for *all* people throughout the world, we cannot endorse, or appear to endorse, anything that tends to separate people spiritually.

What we also need to remember is that anything that separates people *spiritually* makes it even more difficult for highly evolved souls to draw near, because highly evolved souls all think in universal terms. It is a matter of attunement.

USB groups using premises that others place at their disposal should be grateful and appreciative, should not demand or expect changes to be made on their account, and should not comment on customs, views, and practices on those premises that differ from their own.

D04 No Politics

The USB is nonpolitical. It will never be political in any manner, shape, or form, and politics may not be discussed at any of its meetings. It will not in any way endorse or oppose the political ideas of any person or group of people. [This is also a legal requirement for the USB’s nonprofit status.]

Individuals in the USB may engage in politics to their heart’s content, but they must not attribute *their* political views or actions to the USB.

D05 Controversial Subjects

- 1 The Brother&Sisterhood takes no position on certain subjects which some consider controversial, such as vivisection, abortion, and vegetarianism, and such matters may not be discussed at its public meetings. (There are many other avenues for discussion of such subjects.)
- 2 Of course, there is *no* limitation to what USB supporters may discuss among themselves, or with others, provided they do not claim to voice *USB* views on subjects on which it takes no stand. So long as the discussions are friendly and harmonious, with each participant not only happy to share their own knowledge with others, but anxious to learn from one another, provided there is no wish to compel others to one's own way of thinking, and as long as we remember the great difference between discussion and debate, *any* exchange of opinion between people of good will is bound to be helpful.
- 3 (In *discussion*, we seek the facts; in *debate*, the triumph of a personal view or position.)

D06 Financial Support

- 1 All gifts to support the USB must be freely and voluntarily given. The USB does not solicit funds, contributions [D20], or donations.
- 2 On the other hand, it is quite proper to stress the aims of the USB and the need for funds to carry on its work.
- 3 As an Illumined Soul put it:
- 4 We realize in the material world that money must have its place, and to do this work—[the work of the USB]—there must be financial support. But it shall come . . . It shall come freely [voluntarily], and will come from people's hearts... That in itself will mean that the work can be done in the way we would wish it to be done. It will be done *with love*.
- 5 We know that those who support the USB's aims will of their own accord contribute what they can.¹

¹ After study of our nonprofit organization (D31), the U. S. Treasury Department recognized The Brother&Sisterhood as a tax-exempt organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This means that contributions by U.S. taxpayers to the USB may generally be deducted when computing their taxable income.

6 [Except for those functions that are predominantly social events, the cost of attending all USB activities, as well as the cost of USB publications and recordings, shall be kept to a minimum, and shall be subsidized as far as possible by voluntarily-given financial support and by the services of volunteers. However, there shall be *no* admission charge for USB group meetings or services of worship. For all USB activities, including more formal ones like courses, workshops, lectures, and demonstrations of mediumship, financial arrangements and admission costs (if applicable) shall be agreed by a group or committee; except, for group meetings this is optional.]

7 [Organizers may explain to participants the expenses of USB group meetings (D28:2) and similar activities, and the financial circumstances under which they could be held or would have to be discontinued. But all financial support, including that for group meetings, must always be freely given (see also D20). And participation in USB activities must always be optional.]

D07 No Soliciting for Followers

1 We do *not* try to persuade others to follow or join the USB. We may suggest they consider it. But we prefer that others ask to join with us, rather than we persuading them.

D08 On Linking Up with the USB

1 [In accordance with Topic 111: anyone who feels the work of love of the great spirit beings who lead the USB is important to them; anyone who feels supportive of, committed to, and/or aligned with the illumined USB leaders, their philosophy, and their mission; anyone who wishes to be closely connected with those leaders or to “belong” to the USB—he or she can become a USB member. Membership is not “closed” or “special,” it is free and open to everyone. The USB considers all humankind to be brothers and sisters; it recognizes no separation of people, rather it aims to unite them.]

2 Those who decide to become USB members need not give up other affiliations and/or beliefs they hold, in fact they need not give up anything; and they need not accept every one of the USB’s purposes and principles.

D09 No Membership Fees

- 1 The USB will never have membership fees or dues of any kind.

D10 No Selling of Blessings

- 1 There may be nothing resembling the “selling of blessings.” So there may be no statement or implication, from the platform or anywhere else, that any contribution to the USB will be returned many times over, or that contributors will in any way be rewarded for what they give.

D11 No “Fortune-Telling”

- 1 The USB does not permit anything resembling “fortune-telling.”
2 Our guides come to inform and inspire us. They come to encourage and strengthen us spiritually. They come to remind us of the laws of God, a God that is all-love, all-wisdom, all-justice.
3 They do *not* come to do our work for us, or to deprive us of the trials and tests which, well met, develop our character and enable us to progress spiritually.
4 From time to time they may, from higher vantage points, see what appears on the horizon; but let us not forget that changes in our attitude and endeavors may, and often do, affect the picture. All is changeable except God and Truth, which includes God’s laws [415:1].

D12 “Laying On of Hands”

- 1 We know that the power of spirit is unlimited, and that the more spiritual we are, the greater the channel we can be for healing if that is our avenue of service.
2 One form of healing is through the “laying on of hands” [1106:2].
3 Healers may lay on hands, with the hope that spirit power may flow through them, but they are *not* permitted to massage or manipulate the body when they represent the USB [and see 1110:20].

D13 There Is Work For All

- 1 “In this great truth, in this movement, one must remember that each and everyone plays a part. Everyone has work to do. No one shall be greater than another” [A01:1].

2 Indeed no worker shall be more important than another [and D03:4],
 even though some may have greater gifts or greater opportunities to serve.
 In the same way, no USB group is more important than another, regardless
 of its size, and no USB group has jurisdiction over any other.

3 We who work for the USB are one; and whatever any contribute, they
 contribute for all.

4 So we rejoice when others serve as well, or better. We rejoice when
 others hold the torch as high, or higher. We rejoice when others, in as
 great a measure or greater, help to fulfil the purposes of the USB.

D14 No Excessive Praise

1 The USB disapproves of excessive praise of any individual.

2 Kind reference to someone's work, if merited, is one thing; excessive
 or insincere praise is another.

3 Too often a speaker's talk is described as "words of wisdom" when it
 is little more than mediocre.

D.2 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS² FOR MEETINGS

D15 Announcement of Meetings

1 Whenever possible, advertisements or other announcements of USB meet-
 ings should include not only the name of the speaker, if any, but also the
topic to be discussed.

2 This is only fair, to aid people in deciding whether to attend.

3 We should not fall into the error of smugness—of assuming that *any-*
thing we offer will be of interest and value to everyone.

D16 Conduct of Meetings

1 For meetings of The Brother&Sisterhood there are no rituals, rites, or pre-
 scribed ceremonies.

2 Apart from an opening and closing prayer—which could well begin
 and end any aspect of our work—there are no rules for the content and
 order of such meetings.

² Recommendations (D18–D19) are clearly identified by the inclusion of that word;
 all others are requirements.

- 3 Whenever possible, a public USB meeting should provide enlightenment, mediumship, and healing, not necessarily in that order.

D17 Standing at Meetings Not Required

- 1 Those attending USB meetings need not be required to stand at any time.
2 We should avoid frequent standing up at USB meetings, as this does not add to a service, and only inconveniences many people, the elderly in particular.

D18 Reciting the USB Principles

- 1 Whether or not the USB principles should be read or recited at its public meetings (preferably in unison by those who care to recite them) is up to those who preside.
2 We recommend one or the other at USB meetings that are open to the public, particularly when newcomers are present, because of the power of the spoken word when sincerely expressed; because the principles of this Brother&Sisterhood should be commonly known; and because they may touch the heart and mind of those who hear them. The manner of execution should be varied, to prevent it from developing into a ritual.

D19 Prayer in the USB

- 1 It is the right and privilege of members of any USB group to choose the prayers [if any] *they* would say aloud, the prayers *they* feel would make for greater harmony and greater attunement *within* the group—always provided that they reveal no worship of anyone but God [see 521:12–13].
2 Before reciting any particular prayer in unison, we recommend that the chair of a USB meeting should announce that the USB has *no* set prayers, and that those present should feel free to join or not join in the prayer to be offered.
3 We recommend a minute of silent prayer, with each person praying to the God of his or her own understanding.

D20 Collections at Meetings

- 1 Collection boxes may be left near the doors and at other suitable places at meetings, so that people may, if they wish, deposit contributions to help in the work of the USB. But the passing of collection boxes or plates is *not* permitted [D06].

D21 Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs

- 1 The use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, which are depressants and make it difficult if not impossible for advanced souls to come through, is of course not allowed at USB gatherings if evidence of Survival [of physical death] and communication with spirit people is desired or expected.

D22 Music

- 1 Any music at USB meetings should be joyous in nature and universal in appeal. We have much to be grateful for, much to rejoice in, and the music should reflect it.
- 2 Joyous and beautiful music also uplifts the atmosphere.
- 3 As this movement is universal, we should avoid any song or music that suggests any particular belief system.
- 4 We discourage any song or hymn that glorifies anyone but God.

D23 Platform Workers

- 1 Truth suffers severely from those who twist and distort it for selfish ends. It also suffers from those who, however well-meaning, are unprepared or ill-prepared to serve. These are some of the reasons why the USB has important requirements, that platform workers who identify themselves as USB mediums and/or USB speakers are expected to observe at all times, and that other visiting mediums and speakers are asked to observe at USB events.
- 2 The *wish* to serve is not enough. *Preparation and discipline are essential.*
- 3 Athletes train for weeks, or months, for one race. Pianists, however famous, practice to preserve or improve the dexterity of their fingers. [In the same way, mediums usually need years of development to become competent, and speakers (and writers) who are not controlled by highly advanced spirit co-workers need to have studied their subjects.]
- 4 But too many “disciples” of truth think that all that is necessary is to step upon a platform—and leave the rest to spirit helpers [1414].
- 5 To serve on the platform we need to prepare. We must realize that only when we ourselves do all we can, have we the right to seek the aid of spirit people.
- 6 We must realize that we owe it not only to our audience on earth, but to spirit co-workers as well, to *prepare* for any work we do.
- 7 The USB’s policy on mediums and speakers is this:

8 Better no medium at all, than one whose work is so feeble and unconvincing as to create doubt in the newcomer of the truth of Survival and the reality of communion with spirit people [see also D25].

9 Better no speaker at all, than one who is poorly prepared, or who speaks fluently but says little [see also D24].

D24 Speakers and Writers

1 Unfortunately it is true that **speakers** often speak fluently but say very little.

2 To serve as speakers, we should never forget that no flood of words can atone for poverty of ideas.

3 We need to prepare notes, mental or written.

4 We need to stick to the subject, and avoid tiring our audiences with the same rambling generalities, as so often occurs.

5 If we do present an ounce [a few grams] of truth, we must be sure it is not so enveloped with a ton of fiction as to be unrecognizable.

6 We should be very cautious about speaking by “inspiration” only, as this usually leaves listeners confused instead of enlightened.

7 If we speak in trance, or semi-trance, we need to realize and remember that unless one is a trance speaker controlled by highly advanced spirit co-workers, there is *no* substitute for preparation.

8 Being controlled means nothing in itself—for not all spirit controls are enlightened or worth listening to. To be on the other side of life does not automatically give one wisdom, understanding, or the gift of instruction.

9 There are at least as many levels among spirit people as there are among “mortals.” And The Law of Attraction is such that we do not attract more advanced spirit guides and controls than we merit. Their caliber depends at least in part on the degree in which we prepare.

10 When serving as USB speakers it is our duty to *prepare* what we are to say at our meetings, so that we can say it clearly, simply, and coherently.

11 We are not asked to say anything but the words that come from our hearts.

12 We are not asked to polish our phrases or to be flowery.

13 We are not asked to be out of character with ourselves.

14 But we *are* asked to prepare. We *are* asked to be sincere. We *are* asked to realize that a message is of little use if it isn’t clear. We *are* asked to remember that truth, like all things beautiful, is simple. We *are* asked to remember that *the more we prepare, the better we can serve*. [See also D23.]

15 Sadly, we must add, too many *writers* also are wordy and say little.

16 Both groups forget—or perhaps assume that audiences haven’t the intelligence to realize—that as we said, no flood of words can atone for poverty of ideas.

D25 *Mediums*

1 No one has a greater regard than The Brother&Sisterhood for truly *spiritual* mediums, and for the part they *can* play, and *are* playing, in helping to bring about a new heaven on earth [1207:6–7].

2 If we have strict requirements, as we *do* have, for mediums who represent the USB at *any* time, it is only because we know how a few mediums have used their mediumship for ignoble purposes, twisting and distorting truth when it suited them, or enslaving those they could enslave [1220].

3 Good mediumship, on and off the platform, is essential to provide convincing proof that life continues, that there is no death to the spirit, that love knows no barriers, and that there *is* communion with those who have passed on to the other side of life.

4 Unfortunately, however, mediumship is often so poor as to drive away the searcher, who sometimes never returns.

5 That is why it is USB policy to have no medium on the platform rather than a poor one.

6 There can be only one exception: a fully satisfactory medium *may* be preceded by a “beginner,” provided that someone makes it clear that the beginner is *attempting* to serve, and that they ask the audience to be patient and understanding.

7 A medium, too, can prepare for service—by aspiring to be a completely open channel for the spirit world, and by being truly spiritual (and therefore humble and self-effacing). [See also D23.]

8 To serve on a high level, mediums need to be humble. They need to be completely open-minded. They need to place spiritual progress above personal desires. They need to put aside all personal opinions and prejudices. They need to not think of personal glory and power. They need to shun jealousy and envy and bitterness. They need to not cling to orthodox views, or imitate the orthodox churches, or desire form and ceremony at a meeting.

9 Only then may the vibrations be such as to permit a free and unfettered flow from a high spirit level.

- 10 Mediums need to always remember their responsibility to truth.
- 11 They need to always remember that they are the "telephone" over which the message comes, and not the message itself.
- 12 They must never attempt to give messages when they are not "moved by the spirit." In such cases, they should acknowledge the fact, frankly.
- 13 They must shun the worst sin of all—ascribing to the spirit world, or implying as coming from the spirit world, what does *not* come from the spirit world.
- 14 Any mediums who *consciously* permit their lips to give advice, from themselves or spirit people, that they know is unsound, unwise, misleading, or likely to cause acute distress, incur a great debt.

D.3 OTHER GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

D26 Qualities Needed

- 1 Those who work for the USB should develop or foster many qualities within themselves.
- 2 Love, integrity, charity, understanding, compassion, gentleness, tolerance, patience, universality—all these are needed.
- 3 It may be hard to be patient with those who are consumed with envy and jealousy, or who lie and vilify and slander.
- 4 But if we are patient with the blind and the lame, and others who are physically afflicted, surely we should be patient with those who are *spiritually* afflicted—for spiritual ills are far longer lasting than any physical ills, and have far greater consequences.
- 5 What we need especially is to think *universally*—not in terms of one person or one people, but in terms of *all people*, in terms of *all humankind*.
- 6 We must remember that nothing is ours until we apply it. Love, charity, tolerance, the brother-and-sisterhood of humankind—these are idle words or phrases from our lips until we apply them in our daily lives. Only then do they become part of our universe.
- 7 Those who work for the USB owe it not only to themselves but to the USB to *live* by its principles. [See also Topic 309.]

D27 What One Can Do

1 [There are countless ways that we can help others, serve our society, and serve all humankind. Here we will discuss ways we can assist the work of the USB, which should always be another way of serving others.]

2 Much will depend on us who, as supporters and members of The Brother-
&Sisterhood, are the nucleus of the work on this side of life. There are many ways we can contribute to the USB mission [see also 112]. [As much as possible of the USB's work will be done by volunteers.]

3 We need, each and all of us, to rid ourselves of our weaknesses, so that we can work one with another, with no thought of self, and with the common good of humanity uppermost in our thoughts.

4 Some of you have mentioned that your own individual efforts are insignificant. Don't underrate your work. Nothing is wasted. There is worth in even the humblest effort.

5 *Much of our work will be accomplished by small groups* in all parts of the world—groups that meet in love and harmony and aspiration to serve [D28], thus adding to the reservoir of spiritual power that will divert humanity from the road to destruction.

6 With all our supporters knowing exactly what the USB represents, and its position on every issue, each Sister and Brother becomes a guardian of truth; each assumes a responsibility *to* truth; and each can be vigilant in seeing that the USB light remains pure and undimmed. This includes guarding against anyone misrepresenting the USB in any way, wittingly or unwittingly, or anyone “adding” to the official USB teachings in this book [116:5,7]. [To help themselves be well informed for this, and for so many other purposes, supporters are encouraged to reread the teachings from time to time.]

7 [To help identify and prevent misteachings in the name of the USB, we require all subsequent authentic USB publications containing teachings and/or philosophy to display the following boxed statement in a prominent position:

If any teaching and/or philosophy in this USB document is in conflict with or is not supported by *Spiritual Light* (ISBN 978-0-9912422-1-4 deluxe flex-cover, 978-0-9912422-2-1 paperback), which contains the only complete *official* teachings and philosophy of the USB, then *Spiritual Light* governs. The inclusion of this statement, in a box in a prominent position, and worded as in *Spiritual Light*, is required on every authentic USB publication containing its teachings and/or philosophy.

This requirement also applies to all translations of this original English language version of the book into other languages. USB supporters can help assure that this requirement is followed, and can draw attention to any concerns about it.]

8 The USB is, by the way, registered—to guard against unauthorized use of the same or similar name by any individual or organization, and to prevent people from exploiting the USB for their own ends.

9 Each one of us, as a member or follower of the USB, has the right to give a word of light to others. However, we should never continue unless there is some response, some desire to hear more. We must *never* force our views on anyone.

10 In other words, we can say something about the USB—its accent on *spiritual* living; its emphasis on freedom and brother-and-sisterhood; its desire to reawaken humanity to the spark of God within each of us—and if others thirst for more particulars, *then* give them.

11 USB supporters can publicize the USB in the local press, in psychic papers, and in other places [see also par. 13]. This book is a storehouse of information not only for ready reference and guidance, but for *use*.

12 It has been good to see USB philosophy expressed in printed columns in various papers, often in the very words of the USB. Where possible, let us *mention* The Brother&Sisterhood; let us let others know *something* of our aims, principles, and policies.

13 [In the same spirit, group leaders, with the welcome assistance of others (per D28:4), can help the USB in the following ways. They can make the USB more widely known through various types of social networking and other communication methods, including broadcasting. Those with the necessary abilities are encouraged to make presentations and to foster and prepare publications that promote the principles and values of the USB (see 1418), and that if possible mention the USB and this book. They can organize and lead other types of USB meetings besides USB groups (D28). Plans for all “larger” activities need to be discussed with headquarters.]

14 [*Anyone* is welcome to discuss with headquarters their proposed plans for ways of helping. And anyone, if they wish, can contribute financially (D06) and/or serve as a volunteer. *Everyone’s* help is greatly appreciated; helpers are asked to follow the requirements of Appendix D and those with little experience of the USB are asked to seek the advice of a USB group leader. In all ways that they can take part, helpers will be aligning themselves with Illumined Souls and joining them as co-workers in their mission.]

- 15 This work [A05], in which each one of us associated with the USB is blessed and privileged to play a part, will flourish in the degree that we sink ourselves in service, and to the extent that we are prepared to sacrifice so that truth and enlightenment may go forth to the uttermost ends of the earth.

D28 Group Work Important—A Few Reminders

- 1 As we have said [D27:5], “much of our work will be accomplished by small groups in all parts of the world.” We remind USB groups of the tremendous *importance* of harmony within the group [1311:40–41].

- 2 [Participation in a USB group will allow people to meet regularly with others having similar spiritual interests, for such purposes as discussion or study of USB teachings, communion (under the right conditions) with USB spirit friends, and/or personal development. It will provide searchers with better access to information. And it will help those who wish to participate in USB service (112, D27) to do so in cooperation with others. Each dedicated individual and group will be adding to the spiritual reservoir that Illumined Souls have said they need to enable them to bring about great changes for good (102:10–16).]

- 3 [People who feel a strong attraction to our philosophy and way of life, and who cannot find a suitable USB group in their area to join, should consider forming their own USB groups. If possible, group leaders should be very familiar with our teachings. We offer further guidance on forming and running groups.]

- 4 Anyone desiring to start and lead a USB group should write directly to headquarters [via the USB website, www.theusb.org]. (No individual outside headquarters has authority to give anyone permission to organize a group of the USB.) [To protect the integrity of the USB mission, all USB activities will be led either by headquarters or by USB-approved group leaders. Others are most welcome to offer their help.]

- 5 [Some groups may be formed to develop or use mediumship for purely spiritual purposes, in the hope that they may commune with Illumined Souls, or with other USB leaders and helpers from high levels in the spirit realms. For such communion, group members should remember that the most important requirement is their *spiritual* development (1407:2). Such groups should be either led or supervised by spiritual and experienced mediums (1242:7,23–27), who are also familiar with our teachings.]

- 6 We encourage USB groups to do all they can to spread truth and enlightenment [D27:9–14]. They are free to put out booklets, leaflets and such—

always of course guided by the requirements and policies of the USB, and with their names and addresses on what they issue. (Material for nation-wide and world-wide distribution is the responsibility of national and international offices of the USB, with copies sent to its worldwide headquarters.)

7 Groups wishing to advertise are welcome to send proposed material to headquarters for comments and suggestions. In any case, they are expected to submit copies of printed advertisements [and references to or prints of digital advertisements] for headquarters' records.

8 Groups are also expected to send to headquarters a copy of any and all material reproduced for distribution, if that material is on the letterhead of a USB group or is represented as coming, directly or indirectly, from the USB. [Likewise, they are expected to inform headquarters of all USB-related websites or Web material they create.]

9 We do not ask those who direct USB groups to send a detailed account of each and every meeting. A brief quarterly summary is enough, unless they wish to write more often or in greater detail.

10 The important thing is that the USB is not misrepresented to others, and that nothing is misrepresented to headquarters.

D29 What's in a Name? Sometimes, Much

1 Any name for a Brother&Sisterhood group that meets from time to time could well include some such term as *group* or *center* or *branch* or *unit* or *meeting place*.

2 If we do not recommend terms like *church* or *mosque* or *synagogue*, it is only because to millions of people such words denote particular religions or denominations or sects. And the USB is a way of life, a way of life open to *all*, a way of life untrammelled by creeds and rituals and dogmas of any sort, a way of life that will in time embrace many other groups and organizations that exist today.

3 It is well, as we build, to avoid anything that limits or that would tend to limit the great and vital mission of this movement.

D30 The USB Leaflet, Booklet, and Website

1 Every USB member and supporter should have a copy of the USB leaflet or booklet and a copy of this book. Group leaders should keep on hand some extra copies of the leaflet and/or booklet.

2 The leaflet (Appendix E) has many purposes. Among other things, it will be a handy reference for helpers, who can do so much to further the

USB's work. Describing the USB, the leaflet mentions its aims and purposes, things it supports and things it opposes, and its guiding principle that "in all things we do, there is no cause greater than Truth" [304:1]. The leaflet will also answer many questions asked by people interested in learning more about the USB.

3 [The leaflet will be especially important to people who do not have access to the Internet. Printed on two sides of a single sheet (see Appendix E), it is easy to reproduce and distribute to people who are first learning of the USB.]

4 [While we hope that USB supporters will introduce the USB and its philosophy to people who appear to be seeking such information, please note that the USB does not actively seek members or promote membership (D07), so it does not push itself on anyone (D27:9). Instead, it prefers supporters and members to come from people who are searching for an organization and/or teachings like ours.]

5 [A more comprehensive introductory USB booklet may be prepared by headquarters if it is found to be needed by people who do not have access to our website.]

6 [The USB website, at www.TheUSB.org, provides much information about the USB.]

D31 USB Nonprofit Status

1 The Universal Spiritual Brother&Sisterhood on earth is a nonprofit organization, and "The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure [accrue] to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person..." (Articles of Incorporation, 1956, restated 2009.) [See also D06:n1.]

D32 A Little about Symbols—and Organizations

1 We have more than once been asked why the USB does not have a special symbol, one preferably that can be worn, so that members and supporters can recognize one another at a glance. There are several reasons.

2 To have a symbol of a material nature that could be displayed would be to follow the custom of organizations first founded on earth—which of course we are not.

3 Then, too, the average symbol sets aside one person from another—and that is not our purpose, not our mission.

4 Our purpose, our mission—or rather, one *part* of our mission—is to bring people closer, to unite them, to form one great spiritual brother-and-sisterhood throughout the world.

5 The average symbol suggests that while *one* person is a sister or brother and walks the same path, another is *not*.

6 We do *not* separate one person from another. We recognize no separation, except separations that spring from people’s ignorance and fear—and one of our purposes is to *remove* such barriers that separate peoples and nations and individuals.

7 We know that *all* people are brothers and sisters, whether or not they realize it, and whether or not they belong to the USB; and we hope that all links with the USB *live* by that knowledge and *spread* that knowledge.

8 Many organizations created by people are houses divided against themselves, despite their symbols. For while they follow certain paths and invite all to join, they separate their members according to the color of their skin or the faith they were born in.

9 There is no separation in the handclasp. The hands clasped in love and friendship cannot be misinterpreted by anyone who thinks about them. They symbolize the union of all people.

10 But we still do not claim the handclasp as our own special symbol.³ For we have *no* secret signs, *no* secret symbols. What we have is open to all.

11 There is yet another reason why we do not have a symbol that can be worn. What is precious to us, what is holy to us, we do not outwardly display, but hold close to our heart.

D33 The Inevitable Opposition

1 Opposition to the USB grows as the USB grows. This is inevitable, especially from those who find their prestige and their power wane as more and more follow the USB and embrace its teachings and philosophy.

2 It is not only the betrayers of truth who oppose us. Some good and thoroughly well-meaning people have resented what they consider the intrusion of a “new” movement—unaware that it is the counterpart of the

³ I interpret this topic to say that we may use the handclasp as a symbol of our welcome to all and of human togetherness and unity, as used on our 1958 booklet, but *not* as a symbol of the USB or its productions. —Ed.

original that has long existed in the higher spirit realms, unaware that Illumined Souls are its inspirers, and unaware that it is *the* movement planned in the spirit world for centuries *for* the earth for this very time and age.

We have been well prepared to expect opposition. We quote from two warnings received from inspirers at sittings in London as long ago as 1956 and 1957, the first given before the USB on earth was even officially launched.

You're living in a material world; and although often people claim to be spiritually minded, often fundamentally they're very materialistic. And you're *bound* to have opposition—from sources which may even surprise you...

There will be disappointments still, coming from individuals who perhaps you now hope will give you assistance. Remember that they have their *own* theories, their *own* ideas, cherished over long years.

You might say to me: "How could they be in opposition to anything that we are trying to do?" I agree with you—there should be *no* opposition. But people often are strange creatures, with weaknesses within themselves which are not discernible within the face of things...

Opposition will come from those who see their strongholds weakening—threatened from without by Truth, threatened from within by the spirit of freedom.

They will learn, as others have learned before them, that all is built on quicksands that is not built on the rock of Truth, and that all ramparts must tumble unless bulwarked by freedom.

But whether it is the destructive or the well-meaning that oppose us, we do not condemn them [325:3–5].

D34 Future USB Policies

The Brother&Sisterhood on earth will remain under the inspiration, direction, and guidance of Illumined Souls. *No* changes in USB policies will ever be made unless *they* so direct, under conditions and circumstances similar to those at which *they* outlined the mission of the USB [in 1956], gave its full name, and confirmed its principles and policies [see e.g., Pref:5–7, Pref:26–36, A01:2–3, A02:2–3].