**Special Projects Committee Report**

January 2010

At the Executive Committee meeting in November 2009, the newly-elected SPC Chair (Barry Clark) in collaboration with the newly-elected Outreach Chair (Tim Hobbs), made a recommendation to repurpose the Special Projects Committee, essentially reformulating this group to take on IT management responsibility. The EC unanimously approved this proposal.

During this same meeting, and after so many years of extraordinary dedication to the Fellowship’s IT needs, David Kantor – the instigator and prime mover of IT within the organization - announced his intention to significantly scale back his IT participation, effective December 31st, 2009. Succession planning activities have been initiated. And, I have asked Bill Rocap to assist me in this transition.

Furthermore, I want to highlight in this context, the current operational risk that David’s declining involvement could have, due to the present shortage of involved, technical expertise across the many critical areas of IT operation, which we depend on for our daily and long term existence.

Presently, Bill Rocap and I, with David Kantor’s assistance, are developing/documenting a list of all known IT activities needing attention, the so-called IT Work Slate.

This list of activities is intended to cover all areas of needed focus, from critical operational support and documentation, to in-flight projects, to planned activities, architectural strategy, and more. An early draft of the IT Work Slate is attached (feedback welcome/encouraged) and will be regularly updated and made available to interested parties.

Moreover, a series of conference calls with key stakeholders is scheduled to begin on January 14th, 2010 - to begin a more detailed assessment and the prioritization of the Work Slate. The GC and EC will be advised, and solicited for input, at each significant stage (this being the first!) and, of course, at our regularly scheduled meetings.

Anyone with an interest in getting involved in any of these efforts should contact either Bill Rocap, or me. **Importantly, anyone knowing another UB reader with technology skills should let us know, and we will reach out to see if they would be interested in a Fellowship IT service opportunity.**

Finally, with respect to the repurposing of the SPC, in 2010 an effort to review and likely amend the constitution will be undertaken. In this context, I would expect the current name of our committee to be changed, to become more reflective of our new responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Clark