

Concepts 2 and 6 Ad Hoc Study Committee

Monthly Report — February 2023

Chair: Position not filled (election expected in February)

Members: Buddy S., Charlie H., Dove H., Erin D., John R., Josh W., Kelle J., Laura L., Sue V.

Purpose: To study Concepts 2 and 6, and submit a report on possible revisions to those Concepts to the 2023 ABC, in keeping with a motion approved by the 2022 ABC.

Meeting times: The committee currently is meeting on the first and third Thursday of the month, at 5 pm eastern. Information is on the Committee calendar.

February Monthly Activity

The committee met on February 2 and 16. After concluding in January that some revisions are warranted for both Concepts 2 and 6, the Committee adopted a preliminary revision of Concept 2, and it is discussing potential new language for Concept 6.

The committee is on course to deliver a report with recommendations to the ABC in May. On Feb. 16, the committee discussed other possible issues with regard to ACA's 12 Concepts, and will present areas for possible further study in its report to delegates at the May ABC.

On February 18, the committee delivered a progress report to the Quarterly Delegates Meeting (see next item).

Text of Report to the February 18, 2023, QDM

Introduction

The Concepts 2 and 6 Ad Hoc Study Committee was authorized by the 2022 Annual Business Conference. The ABC's exact motion was: To create an ad-hoc committee that will study Concepts II and VI and report to the 2023 ABC on possible revisions. Delegates and the fellowship will be notified of the study and invited to join the ad-hoc committee.

ACA's 12 Concepts of Service are twelve statements of principle that explain how the various pieces of world service fit together. This includes the roles of the fellowship, the Conference, the ACA World Service Organization Board of Trustees, WSO committees, and WSO paid staff.

Concept 2 discusses how the voice of the fellowship guides world service.

Concept 6 discusses various roles of the Conference and the Board of Trustees in World Service, and how those two entities interact.

The Ballot Proposal that began this process sought to amend these two Concepts to bring greater clarity.

Status Report

Consistent with the ABC motion, the study was announced on the delegates channel and in the Traveler. The committee has typically met twice a month since October, with about eight regular participants. We are making excellent progress and expect to deliver a report for delegate consideration at the Annual Business Conference in May.

Since our last report in November, the committee has engaged in a study of the 12 Concepts of Service, including their history and practice in AA and Al-Anon. Because ACA has little written documentation about its Concepts, we have largely relied on AA's comprehensive records of their Concepts. ACA's Concepts, which borrow heavily from AA's version, can be found in the Big Red Book, which was published in 2006. Studying the early history of the 12 Concepts has enabled us to put questions about Concepts 2 and 6 in clearer context.

The Committee has reached three preliminary conclusions:

- 1) ACA's Concept 2 is severely flawed, and we strongly urge that it be revised. Most critically, it does not state who is the actual voice and effective conscience of ACA's fellowship. The committee is drafting new language that will specify that these roles are assigned to the Conference. This is consistent with virtually all other fellowships we have examined.
- 2) The committee also will recommend revised language for ACA's Concept 6. We find that ACA's current Concept 6 is too wordy and creates confusion about the relationship between the Conference and WSO. The committee is still looking at specific language.
- 3) Although we only will propose new language for Concepts 2 and 6, the committee will identify questions that arose with regard to other ACA Concepts, for delegate consideration and possible future action.

Our report to the May ABC will include specific recommended wording for Concepts 2 and 6, as well as a detailed written explanation of our recommendations.

All final decisions about this committee's work will be made by the delegates and Conference. Because we expect to conclude our draft by mid-April, we request that a significant amount of time be scheduled in the May agenda so that the Concepts 2 and 6 Ad Hoc Study Committee can present its findings, and Conference delegates can ask questions, engage in debate, and possibly vote on the committee's recommendations.

Additional Background

We have not chosen a committee chair, operating for now by group conscience, but Charlie H. and Kelle J. were appointed to represent the committee at meetings of the Policy & Structure Collaboration Committee.

You can contact the committee by email: concepts2and6@acawso.org. You can also reach us on Slack by contacting Charlie H. and/or Kelle J.