

REPORT OF THE ACA WSO CONCEPTS STUDY AD-HOC COMMITTEE GROUP FOR THE MAY 2025 ANNUAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Date: 04/05/25

Name of Committee: Concepts Study Ad Hoc Committee

Inaugural Meeting: October 20, 2022

Service Positions: The Committee has chosen not to have a standing committee chair. Rather, we rotate the Chair position and operate by group conscience

Committee Meetings: The committee meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM ET. (Meeting ID: 834 2924 8013 Passcode: 90755) Occasionally, additional meetings are scheduled when needed.

Homepage: <https://acawso.org/concepts-study/>

Contact: You can contact the committee by email: conceptstudy@acawso.org. You can also reach us on ACA WSO Slack in the [#concepts_questions_feedback](#) channel

Committee Members: Charlie H, Kelle J, Josh W, Sue V, Dove H , Kaz S

WSO accountability structure: This Ad Hoc Committee reports at every business conference meeting including the QDMs & the ABC. All recommendations for revisions to any of the 12 Concepts of Service will need final approval from The Conference.

ACA's 12 Concepts of Service are twelve statements of principle (available on the adultchildren.org website and in the Big Red Book) 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 and general responsibilities of each.

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 Original Ballot Proposal (Proposal 2022 – 4) that began this process sought to amend these two Concepts to bring greater clarity. Subsequently, in 2024, the Conference expanded the scope of the work covered to include all Concepts.

BACKGROUND: How This Committee Came To Be And Its History Since

1. 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 2 and 6 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.

2. The following motion passed at the 2023 ABC:
We move to request a six-month extension, with a detailed update at the next Quarterly Business Meeting, to complete proposed revisions to Concepts 2 and 6, but to affirm that Concept 2 will define the Conference as the voice and conscience of the ACA fellowship.
3. The following motion was passed at the February 2024 QDM : *To extend the end date of the Concepts 2 & 6 Study group until May 31, 2024 so that it can finalize recommendations to be presented at the ABC 2024.*
4. The following 2 motions passed at the 2024 ABC:
 - a. *To support an informed Group Conscience process, the following language be approved by the Conference today for subsequent consideration and a final vote at the 2025 ABC as a replacement for the current Concept 2 “ACA groups delegate to the World Service Conference the authority to act as their effective voice and conscience , and to represent the fellowship in world service matters”.*

AND

- b. *We propose a 2-3 year extension of the time, and an expansion of its scope of The Concepts Study Group.*

PRIMARY ACTIONS SINCE THE 2024 ABC

- **June 2024:** *The committee requested that the Board change the name of the Ad-Hoc committee to the “Concepts Study Ad-Hoc Committee.” The new name better reflects the committee’s expanded focus and purpose, as approved by the 2024 ABC.*
- **September 2024 and April 2025:** In keeping with a 2024 ABC motion, the Committee conducted two online town halls to present updated Concept 2 language, including the underlying reasoning for the changes, and invited questions and comments from attendees. The September 2024 town hall also included speaker presentations about the Concepts.
- Explored new writing models so that revised Concepts could be thorough, but concise and easily understood. This is especially challenging for more complex Concepts, such as Concept 6. Based on this discussion, the Committee is leaning toward a format in which a shorter statement communicates the Concept at a high level overview, while an accompanying statement supplies additional information about the meaning of each Concept.

- Continued review Concept 6 and set drafting of a revised Concept 6 as the Committee's next objective. This would complete the original assignment from the ABC, before branching out to address the extended scope of this committee (set at the May 2024 ABC).
- As required by a 2024 ABC motion, finalized a motion for vote at the 2025 ABC—to ask the Conference to approve replacing the **current Concept 2**:

“Authority for the active maintenance of our world services is hereby delegated to the actual voice, the effective conscience for our whole Fellowship.”

with the following **new language**:

“ACA groups delegate to the World Service Conference the authority to act as their effective voice and conscience , and to represent the fellowship in world Service matters.”

- Considered the implications of a new process for Fellowship Group Voting (which did not exist when the 2024 Concept 2 motion was passed) and agreed to initiate a discussion by the Conference at the 2025 ABC as to whether the Conference shall apply Fellowship Group Voting to enactment of a new Concept 2.

PRIMARY GOALS FOR COMPLETION BY THE 2026 ABC

- Complete drafting of a revised Concept 6 and present to delegates and possibly at town halls.
- If requested by the Conference, be ready to assist in any work related to Fellowship Group Voting on Concept 2.
- Arrive at a decision on whether and how to integrate commentaries into the revised Concepts.
- Review the remaining Concepts and begin drafting of any possible revisions.
- Make recommendations to better integrate the concepts into the World Service Organization and the World Service Conference.
- Be available as a resource to other committees whose work needs to align with the Concepts. This includes but is not limited to the Charter study.

- If requested by the Conference, study and make recommendations about whether Fellowship Group Voting should be considered for other Concepts as they are revised.

For the full power point presentation which goes into depth as to the work that has taken place in this committee over the past 2.5 years please visit our committee link at <https://acawso.org/concepts-study/> .