

# ABC Study Subcommittee Report

September 2025

**Inaugural Meeting:** November 2, 2022

**Service Positions:** We currently rotate the Chair position

**Committee Meetings:** Every Tuesday at 5:00 ET on Zoom (Meeting ID: 993 7036 0615 Passcode:182011)

**Homepage:** <https://acawso.org/abc-awc-study>

**Contact:** [abcstudy@acawso.org](mailto:abcstudy@acawso.org)

## WSO ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURE

This Study Group is currently a subcommittee of the WSO's ABC/QDM Committee (formerly known as the ABC/AWC Committee), which is responsible to the WSO Board. ***Please Note: There will be a motion on the September 2025 Conference Business Meeting Agenda (to be presented by the ABC Committee) to restructure this committee to become an adhoc committee of the Board solely focused on development of a draft Conference Charter***

## MEMBERSHIP

Current active members of the subcommittee:

- Marcus H, California, USA
- Josh W, Washington, D.C., USA
- Pam M, California, USA
- Carole C, California, USA
- Jim M, California, USA
- Kaz S, Washington, USA
- Marion M, United Kingdom
- Mary Jo L, Illinois, USA
- Bill D, California, USA
- Kelle J, Florida, USA
- Laura L, California, USA
- Stephen G, California, USA

## PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the ABC Study committee since mid 2023 has been to draft a Conference Charter for subsequent review and potential adoption.

## PROGRESS UPDATE

*Where is the Committee in the process of completing a Draft Conference Charter? What progress has been made?*

At the May 2023 ABC, the World Service Conference authorized the ABC Study Committee to draft a Conference Charter. The committee began work on the Charter in Q3 2023.

The committee has so far made progress on Section 1 INTRO / Purpose of Charter, Section 2 Purpose of the Conference, Section 3 Composition of the Conference, and Section 5 Conference Relation to the WSO Board of Trustees. (see “STATUS OF PROGRESS ON CONFERENCE CHARTER SECTIONS”, below).

We have concluded that it is likely most effective to focus first on specific foundational sections, even if that is out of sequential order, in order to most effectively resolve cornerstone issues, which should then ease drafting the remaining sections.

This work has led to many vigorous discussions, some yet without resolution. One challenge the committee has run into was that there were certain foundational questions within certain sections that we as a committee have so far not been able to come to internal substantial unanimity and clear resolution on. This left us asking ourselves: ***how should we resolve such items?***

The subcommittee voted that we would bring such items before the Conference itself – to ask for Conference input on how to resolve them – and we would then faithfully carry forward that Conference guidance into our drafting of a Conference Charter. We also concluded that we would present to the Conference the various perspectives members had on the issues where we had lack of agreement, without indicating how much support any option had.

In precisely that spirit, it is our intention to bring Section 3 “Conference Composition” and its attendant considerations before the Conference, specifically regarding **participation (“voice”) and voting rights of the below parties within the ACA World Service Conference**

- 1. the ACA WSO Board of Trustees**

- 2. ACA WSO Senior Paid Special Workers
- 3. ACA WSO Committee Chairs

| WHO                   | Voice? | Vote? |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| Fellowship Delegates  | YES    | YES   |
| WSO Trustees          | ???    | ???   |
| WSO Senior Paid Staff | ???    | ???   |
| WSO Committee Chairs  | YES    | NO    |

For more information on Conference Composition:

- Spreadsheet of comparison of different Fellowships’ Charters: (link to be added)
- Report Summarizing Section 3 status: (link to be added)

STATUS OF PROGRESS ON CONFERENCE CHARTER SECTIONS

| Section # | Section                    | STATUS                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | INTRO / Purpose of Charter | IN PROGRESS<br>TABLED 2024-10-01                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2         | Purpose of Conference      | IN PROGRESS<br>TABLED                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3         | Composition of Conference  | IN PROGRESS<br>Points of agreement/disagreement identified;<br><br>Next step is to seek Conference Input to guide resolving points of disagreement to then proceed with drafting language |

|    |                                                                                 |             |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4  | Delegates' Role in the Conference (/ Conference Relationship to the Fellowship) | NOT STARTED |
| 5  | Conference Relation to the WSO Board of Trustees                                | IN PROGRESS |
| 6a | Conference Delegates                                                            | NOT STARTED |
| 6b | Conference Organization                                                         | NOT STARTED |
| 7  | Conference Meetings                                                             | NOT STARTED |
| 8  | The WSO Board of Trustees: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities          | NOT STARTED |
| 9  | The Conference, Its General Procedures:                                         | NOT STARTED |
| 10 | General Warranties of the Conference                                            | NOT STARTED |
| 11 | Amendment of this Conference Charter                                            | NOT STARTED |
| 12 | Additional Material                                                             | NOT STARTED |

### COMMITTEE GOALS: 2025 ABC through 2026 ABC

Given other demands for time at the May ABC, the subcommittee asked for a substantial block of time at the September Conference Business Meeting to discuss and obtain ***Conference feedback and direction regarding Section 3, Conference Composition***. The ABC Study subcommittee agrees that such Conference input is essential in order to complete work on the charter.

Other goals for 2025-2026:

- Collaborate with the Concepts Study Group to ensure harmony between the draft charter and the ACA Concepts.
- Consult regularly with the Conference concerning progress of, and questions related to, the Charter.
- Continue collaborating with the ABC/CBM Committee, and with the Sustainability Study, on all shared concerns, including working to obtain clarity on committee structure to achieve the goals of all ABC motions related to the Conference.

Attendance and energy within the subcommittee remain strong, despite some turnover. Any interested delegates are invited to attend subcommittee meetings and consider participating.