

# DRAFT MINUTES FOR ABC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 27, 2025, 5:00 PM Eastern US Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99370360615?pwd=cTNYZVNEd0ZFaWFEEcTPEZCS2F5UT09>

Zoom 1 Meeting ID: 993 7036 0615

Passcode: 1: 82011

- I. OPEN MEETING (5:00 to 5:05)
  - a. Chair of the Month (Charlie) opens meeting
  - b. Serenity Prayer
  - c. Roll Call of Subcommittee Members X=Present; =Absent)

x	Bill D		Josh W	x	Marcus H	x	William G-B
x	Carole C	x	Kaz S	x	Marion M		
x	Charlie H	x	Kelle J	x	Mary Jo L		
	Dove H		Ken R	x	Pam M		
x	Jim M	x	Laura L		Sue V		

- d. Introduction of Guests
- II. REVIEW AGENDA AND DO READINGS (5:05 to 5:13)
  - a. Motions to Amend Agenda
  - b. Motion to Approve Agenda Carole/Bill; approved without objection.
  - c. Section Timer: Bill D.
  - d. Share Timer 2:00: William G-B
  - e. Note Taker? Charlie
- III. READINGS: Excerpts from the [ACA 12 Traditions and Meditations](#) (Traditions 1, 2, & 12), followed by one minute of quiet group reflection
- IV. MINUTES: **Motion to approve May 6 minutes by Pam, seconded by William; motion approved without objection**
  - a. (5:13 to 5:15)

**Review draft May 6 minutes:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VR7mn1pUm063zykL6lq4xEKLW1MNZ5Ob/edit>

- b. **UPDATED HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY OF RECENT MAJOR ACTIONS: MAY 6, APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 (Resource for reading & reference; no action on this is needed; note—I thinned out the list to focus on items we acted on)**
  - i. 5/6/25: Ended discussion, without action, on proposal to submit resources document to the ABC.

- ii. 5/6/25: Identified non-voting members and established quorum rules (simple majority of voting members)
- iii. 5/6/25: Reviewed obligations communicated in ABC report 2025-26
- iv. 4/29: Approved chairs for May, June, and July
- v. 4/29: Reviewed and discussed summary of group positions taken on Composition
- vi. 4/15: Examined questions relating to conflict of interest and Conference composition
- vii. 4/8 Meeting: Continued work on assessment of Section 3 issues (Conference Composition). Explored questions about whether a maximum percentage of Conference votes should be assigned to trustees, paid staff, etc., if these categories are granted voting rights.  
4/1 Meeting: Unanimously voted to suspend rule (for one meeting) that dedicates 75 percent of time to Charter composition
- viii. 4/1 Meeting: Reviewed and revised ABC report line by line and voted unanimously to approve.

## V. OLD, CURRENT, OR TIME-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS

- a. Initial thoughts from 2025 ABC, as they might relate to our work? (5:15-5:25)  
**General discussion, no action taken.**
- b. Preparing for the next Conference Business Meeting: develop plan and timetable to be ready. (5:25-6:00)

**After an extended discussion, there was general agreement that any Conference presentation on Composition, as well as preparation prior to a Conference Business Meeting, should have the following elements:**

DELEGATE PARTICIPATION, extensive time for comments and questions

DETAILED REASONING for our proposed positions.

NEUTRAL LABELING of key positions that don't put one side or another at a disadvantage

TOWN HALL(S) PRIOR TO CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING, preferably more 2 weeks in advance

ADVANCE EMAIL/OTHER COMMS BEFORE THE TOWN HALL, INCLUDING TO IG'S AND REGIONS.

**Additional discussion identified several ideas where there was no clear substantial unanimity**

Should the presentation include a panel discussion, or just speakers?

Should advocates make their own case, or should there be one neutral presenter?

Should we work with regions, IGs, to get them to include links to our report?  
Is there anything more that must be done to educate the fellowship about the charter?

c. **Meeting schedule and structure questions (6-6:10)**

- i. Do we want to continue weekly meetings until the next Conference Business Meeting, with the option of occasional cancellation by group conscience?

BY GROUP CONSCIENCE, WE WILL RETAIN WEEKLY MEETINGS FOR NOW. WE WILL RETURN TO THE PRACTICE OF 75 % OF EVERY OTHER MEETING FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO DRAFTING.

- ii. BY GROUP CONSCIENCE, CHARLIE WILL DO ONE MORE MEETING AS ROTATING CHAIR, AND MARY JO WILL DO THE SECOND TUESDAY OF JUNE THROUGH THE FIRST TUESDAY OF JULY.

- d. Looking through “Tabled until after ABC” below, what other priorities must we give attention to in the coming months? Which have less urgency? (6:10-6:22) **NOTE:** TABLED WITHOUT ACTION OR DISCUSSION

e. **Sustainability Study report (6:22-6:27)**

Marion: Got our motions passed, pleasantly surprised by the support, and it's clear that the conference is getting. I liked the tone set by co-chairs to consult with the conference on prioritizing items. The Sustainability Study will continue to rely on consultation with the Conference. That's how everything needs to be done. It works clarity and we get clarity. The Sustainability has just taken the first few steps.

Only other thing is sorting out the committee status. We need to resolve the reporting structure. It doesn't make sense we're reporting in here. This is functionally the charter committee.

Marcus: question about organization of committees was raised. How do we implement what has been given to implement. Looking at the structure is a goal of ABC Committee to have. All need to talk.

- f. **Reminder: Mary Jo is taking the rotating chair role in second Tuesday of June.**
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
- a. SEE TABLED UNTIL AFTER ABC AND BEGINNING WEIGHING FOR PRIORITIES
- b. We have duplicate ABC Study channels, and I noticed some confusion today. We don't want people's notes to get lost.
- VII. **ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: ( 6 : 30 ) Motion: Seconded:**

### **Tabled until after ABC**

a. **Goals for 2025 ABC through 2026**

**Given other demands for time at the May ABC, the subcommittee is asking for a substantial block of time at the next delegate business meeting to discuss and obtain feedback and direction regarding Conference Composition. The ABC Study subcommittee agrees that this 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/QDM 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.
- i. Begin discussing our process for presenting to the Conference on Composition. What materials will we need to prepare (including but not limited to a possible fellowship comparison sheet)? How should that document preparation take place?
- ii. Review and discuss other questions in Item VI c., below
- b. Any other planning questions with regard to where we go next?  
Survey where we stand on overall drafting process and determine next steps for

research/writing

- i. Do we have a Charter outline, and do we need to review it?
  - ii. Do we want to enact a practice of reviewing completed work each time we achieve a major milestone, just to see how things hold together?
  - iii. Specifically, based on our very in-depth parsing of Composition, do our findings affect our perceptions of “Purpose of the Conference”?
  - iv. Preferred next 1-2 sections?
  - v. Review items listed “Tabled until after ABC”
  - vi. Other?
- c. Draft a general new business calendar for the next 2-4 months
- d. Discuss Charlie’s [Report from 2017](#) [is linked] **Note: The chair suggests tabling as the time urgency of this is not clear.**
- e. Consideration of the ABC Study and/or Sustainability Study group as separate committee(s), possibly to involve direct discussion w/ Sustainability Study, and with ABC/QDM Committee. **Note: The chair suggests tabling until after the May 2025 ABC. Reviewing the committee structure in relation to the various ABC studies is now part of our goals for 2025-26.**

- f. What does the ABC (Charter) Study group mean by use of the terms "Conference decision" or "Conference final vote"? Do either or both of those terms mean the Fellowship **as a whole** has no role whatsoever in the intended process?
  
- g. POSSIBLE motion: to include a description in the Adult Children of Alcoholics charter to spell out the meaning of the inverted pyramid, a (possibly revised) graphic of the ACA inverted pyramid, and how, going forward, the internal service structure works in ACA in accordance with Tradition 9. PAM: motion made and seconded on Slack that you folks insist is an acceptable place to conduct committee business. NOT a "possible" motion; an actual motion made and seconded.