

# DRAFT MINUTES FOR ABC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 6, 2025, 5:00 PM Eastern US Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99370360615?pwd=cTNYZVNEd0ZFaWFEeCtPZEZCS2F5UT09>

Zoom 1 Meeting ID: 993 7036 0615

Passcode: 182011

- 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; ACTION: based on 5-6-25 discussions, participants marked in salmon highlight are currently on non-voting status, as a result of recent absences)

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		Laura L		Sue V		

- d. Introduction of Guests
- II. REVIEW AGENDA AND DO READINGS (5:05 to 5:13) Approval moved by William, Seconded by Carole; approved without objection.
- a. Motions to Amend Agenda
  - b. Motion to Approve Agenda
  - c. Section Timer: William
  - d. Share Timer 2:00: Mary Jo
  - 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 by Pam / second by William ; approved without objection
- a. (5:13 to 5:15) ;

**April 29 minutes: Approval of minutes moved by Bill, seconded by Pam; approved without objection**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VLEdS0DYJd2ArlfptGaJx0rpMnU00Kw/edit>

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

- a. **Clarity on Quorum:** Three suggestions from chair that need group conscience affirmation. This is placed first to ensure consistent procedure for business going forward. (5:15-5:30)
- i. Affirm that three members are not currently in attendance and do not have voting status. ACTION: BASED ON REVIEW OF MINUTES, WE DETERMINED THAT FIVE MEMBERS LACK VOTING STATUS (NEED TO ATTEND 3 OF THE PREVIOUS 6 MEETINGS), AND THAT 11 HAVE VOTING STATUS. THIS IS AFFIRMED THROUGH COLOR-CODING OF THE ROLL-CALL SECTION.
  - ii. Affirm that quorum is based on members who have voting status. ACTION: ACCEPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION
  - iii. Adopt the OPPM Board standard as this committee's standard, with the understanding that a simple majority of "eligible participants" means "voting members" in our context. ACTION: ADOPTED BY AN 8-1 VOTE, WITH CAROLE VOTING IN OPPOSITION. THIS IS OUR COMMITTEE NORM GOING FORWARD.

- b. **Motion by Bill D. to "take off the table" the topic of a resource document for the ABC.** This is a procedural requirement before reopening the discussion, which requires a simple majority. Charlie will discuss the procedure and then give Bill the floor to introduce a motion to untable. (Start at 5:30; time tbd) ACTION: AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION, A MOTION TO TAKE THE RESOURCE DOCUMENT "OFF THE TABLE" WAS DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF 3-5, WITH 3 ABSTAINING. THIS ENDED DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION.

MINORITY OPINION FROM BILL: BY NOT SHARING INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER FELLOWSHIP'S CONFERENCE COMPOSITION, THE CHARTER STUDY IS NOT BEING TRANSPARENT WITH THE DELEGATES.

- c. **Allocate remaining time based on prior item. (5 minutes)**
- d. High-level overview of where we stand, and what comes next (this moves items a, b, and c from "New Business" to "Current Business." While these items aren't composition activities per se, many are essential foundations for our next round of composing charter language. (total suggested time 40 minutes, but ending at 6:20)
- i. Review commitments to the Conference in our 2025-26 ABC report, as a guide to setting priorities and determining our drafting objectives for the next 2-4 months.

Relevant text in ABC report (full report is at <https://acawso.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ABC-Study-Subcommittee-Report-to-2025-ABC.pdf>):

### **Progress since the 2024 ABC**

1. Began to work on an initial draft of charter language.
2. Began to identify major areas of lack of agreement among committee

members that were holding up progress.

Those areas include:

- a. Participation and voting rights of the Board of Trustees
  - b. Participation and voting rights of Senior Paid Special Workers
  - c. Participation and voting rights of WSO Committee Chairs
3. Created a Sustainability Subcommittee to work on those parts of our mandate unrelated to the Charter.
  4. Heard regular reports from the Sustainability Study.

### **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.
- ii. 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?
  - iii. Review and discuss other questions in Item VI c., below
  - iv. Any other planning questions with regard to where we go next? **ACTION: WE REVIEWED THE AGENDA AND CONCURRED THAT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PRESENT ON SECTION 3 (COMPOSITION) AT THE NEXT UPCOMING BUSINESS MEETING. FURTHER DISCUSSION IS NEEDED.**

- e. **Sustainability Study report (6:20-6:25) ACTION: BRIEF REPORT FROM MARION ON PLANNED PRESENTATION AND MOTIONS AT THE ABC.**

VI. **NEW BUSINESS (NO ACTION TAKEN ON 4/29/25. Recommend tabling until time is available in May)**

- a. First thoughts on next steps/new business? (Almost certainly tabled until next meeting) **ACTION: Moved this onto May 6 “Current Business” agenda**
- b. Review our commitments for the year between 2025 and 2026 ABC’s, as stated in the 2025 ABC report. **ACTION: Moved this onto May 6 “Current Business” agenda**
- c. Survey where we stand on overall drafting process and determine next steps for research/writing **ACTION: Moved this onto May 6 “Current Business” agenda**
  - 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?
  - vii. Draft a general new business calendar for the next 2-4 months
- d. Closing and closing prayer (6:25-6:30)

VII. **ADJOURNMENT ( 6 : \_30 ) Motion: Seconded:**

ACA Serenity Prayer

**Tabled until after ABC**

- a. Discuss Charlie’s [Report from 2017 \[is linked\]](#) **Note: The chair suggests tabling as the time urgency of this is not clear.**
- b. 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.**

- c. 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?
  
- d. 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.