



## Supporting the Fellowship Voice on the Proposed Name Change



Prepared by: Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) Team

Date: May 1, 2026



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**Note:** Sections 5 and 7 include areas where delegate input is requested.



## 1. Purpose of the Report

### **Purpose**

This report provides a summary of the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process, including participation, results, and proposed next steps, for review at the 2026 Annual Business Conference (ABC).

### **Background**

The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process was developed at the direction of ABC delegates to better reflect the voice of the fellowship in matters of broad importance. The proposed name change represents the first global application of this process, with participation from fellowship groups worldwide.

### **FGV Team**

Following approval by delegates at the 2024 Annual Business Conference (ABC) and subsequent Conference Business Meetings (CBM) to implement the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process, the Board established an Advisory group to develop the implementation plan. Early consultation included the Name Study Ad Hoc Committee, ABC Committee, Charter Committee, and Sustainability Committee. Once the FGV procedure was established, an implementation team was put in place for the first FGV.

The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) implementation team includes members of the fellowship serving on the Board, together with representatives from the IT and Data Analysis Committees. In support of this work, two project teams were formed with additional volunteers: one to support Town Hall coordination and participation, and a second to develop a group conscience animated video to enhance accessibility across the global fellowship, including multiple languages. The Name Study Ad Hoc Committee provided motions specific information.

Throughout the development and implementation of the FGV process, delegates were consulted at Conference Business Meetings (CBMs) and Annual Business Conference (ABCs), providing guidance at each stage. The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) group acted in service to this guidance, and, where appropriate, consulted with other Twelve Step World Service Organizations to help inform the development of the process.

### **Additional Information**

This summary is supported by detailed reports, data, and analysis available in this report and at <https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>

Additional information on Board Advisory groups and Project/Implementation Teams is available in the Operating and Policies Procedures Manual (OPPM), under II Board of Trustees, Section R Advisory Groups, Project and Implementation Teams.



The Operating and Policies Procedures Manual ([OPPM](#)) is the main policy guide for how WSO operates. The Board maintains and updates it; however, any changes related to Conference matters or voting processes require approval by the Conference.

## 2. Conference Authorization and Direction

This work is grounded in prior conference direction and actions taken by delegates at the Annual Business Conference (ABC) and Conference Business Meetings (CBM).

### **ABC\_2022\_01: Create ad hoc Committee RE: Organizational Identity**

**Proposal 5 Motion:** Create an ad-hoc committee to explore changing the fellowships name, logo, acronym, and any other identifying marks to include dysfunctional families. This group would meet for a year and then report results during the 2023 ABC committee reports. If the work results in a recommendation, it will appear on the 2023 ABC agenda. (If not ready by the 2023 ABC, then the report and potential recommendation will appear on the 2024 ABC agenda).

**Decision:** Passed with 77 in favor (90.6%); 8 opposed; 2 abstentions

### **ABC\_2024\_06: Next Step for Approval to Change Functional Name**

**Motion:** To submit to all ACA registered groups (meetings, intergroups, and regions) for approval, “to change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.”

**Decision:** Passed with 58 in favor (79.4%); 15 opposed; 7 abstentions.

### **QDM\_2024\_12\_07: Fellowship Group Voting Procedure**

**Motion:** To approve the new proposed process for Fellowship Group Voting (see below) starting with the approved ABC Motion 2024-06 (Name Study).

The Proposed Fellowship Group Vote Process

- The Conference (ABC) will direct the board when to conduct a Fellowship Group vote via approved motion.
- A dedicated webpage with information and instructions about a vote will be created and sent to all groups.
- Each Registered Groups has one vote - with a unique link for voting.
- Groups will be given a minimum of four months to vote.
- Each vote will include a section for groups to state their reasons for why they voted one way or another.
- Substantial unanimity (>67%) is needed for a vote to pass.
- The results of the vote will be posted within two weeks after the voting closes and also emailed out to all groups.
- The voting results and next steps will be added to the next ABC agenda.
- Revisions to this process can only be made with Conference approval.

**Decision:** Passed with 42 in favor (79%); 9 opposed; no abstentions.

### **ABC\_2025\_02: Fellowship Group Vote Process RE: Proposed Name Change**

**Motion:** To approve a four-month Fellowship Group Vote process, starting in September 2025, for the proposed ACA name change.

**Decision:** Motion passed with 70 (88.6%) votes in favor; 9 opposed; 3 abstentions.

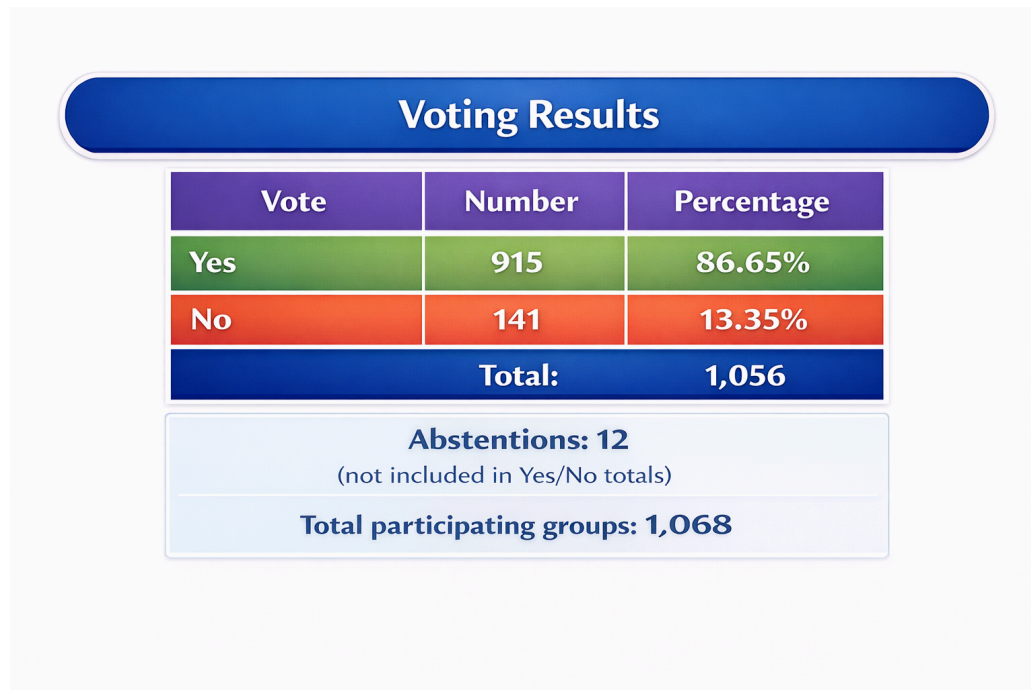


**These actions reflect a progression from:**

1. Members input via ballot proposal (Name Study)
2. Delegate action (ABC Motions)
3. World Services implementation (FGV Process)
4. Fellowship-wide participation (FGV Voting)

### 3. Voting Results and Participation

The Question Groups Voted On: **To change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.**





## Countries Represented



Meeting Groups:

**1,031** across **45** countries



Intergroups:

**35** across **12** countries



Regions:

**2** (North America)



**Total: 1,068**

## Global Participation Overview

| Region                | Groups       | Intergroups (IG) | Regions   | Total Votes (Participation) | Countries |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Africa                | 16           | +1               | -         | 17                          | 3         |
| Asia                  | 26           | +2               | -         | 28                          | 7         |
| Canada                | 42           | +5               | -         | 47                          | 1         |
| Europe and Russia     | 106          | +5               | -         | 111                         | 27        |
| Mexico and S. America | 6            | +1               | -         | 7                           | 4         |
| Oceania               | 28           | +0               | -         | 28                          | 2         |
| UK                    | 34           | +1               | -         | 35                          | 1         |
| USA                   | 773          | +20              | +2        | 795                         | 1         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>1,031</b> | <b>+35</b>       | <b>+2</b> | <b>1,068</b>                | <b>45</b> |

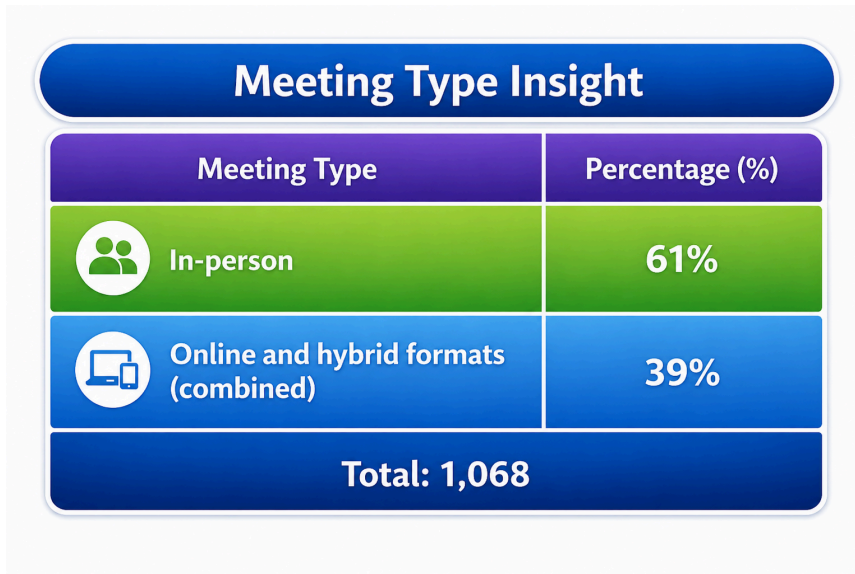
Note: Participation figures reflect input from meeting groups, intergroups, and regions. Countries with more than 30 votes are presented separately.

### Fellowship Voice

These results represent a broad expression of the fellowship's voice across groups worldwide, with participation from 1,068 groups, intergroups, and regions spanning 45 countries and all major regions.



## Meeting Type Insight



### Key Highlight

A participation rate of 41% of all meeting groups, intergroups and regions represents the highest level of participation in more than 40 years when compared with past ABC motions and ballot voting involving groups, intergroups, and regions.

### Fellowship Feedback Summary

Groups that voted Yes, No, and Abstain shared common values, including care for adult children who still suffer, responsibility to the fellowship, commitment to recovery, and respect for group conscience and unity.

**Additional Information:** The report “Fellowship feedback on Voting Results” is available in English and French - see: <https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>

## 4. Historical Participation Context

This section provides context by comparing participation in the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process with prior fellowship decision-making processes.

Historically, fellowship-wide decisions have involved multiple stages, including Board motions, fellowship consultation through meetings and intergroups, and final consideration at the Annual Business Conference (ABC).

At the 2024 ABC, delegates approved moving the proposed name change forward to a Fellowship Group Vote (FGV), initiating the process for direct group participation (see Appendix A, B).



## FGV Compared to Prior Processes

Participation, Voting, Voting Outcome and Countries

| Process                    | Participation Level                     | Voting Method                   | Voting Outcome     | Countries |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>FGV (2026)</b>          | <b>1,068 of 2,596 groups (41%)</b>      | <b>Direct group voting</b>      | <b>Yes: 86.65%</b> | <b>45</b> |
| Name Change - 2024 ABC     | 141 of 2,349 groups (6%)                | Delegate voting                 | Yes: 79.45%        | Unknown   |
| Tradition 11 - 2014 Survey | 108 of 1,397 groups (7.7%)              | Fellowship consultation         | Yes: 92.2%         | 12        |
| Tradition 11 - 2015 ABC    | 26 delegates out of 1,397 groups (1.9%) | Delegate voting                 | Yes: 96%           | Unknown   |
| Ballot - 2024              | 232 of 2,349 groups (9.9%)              | Direct group voting (3 ballots) | Varies by ballot   | 17        |

Participation in the FGV process reached 41% of total registered groups, compared to approximately 5.9% to 9.9% in prior ballot processes and approximately 6% in ABC participation. Voting outcomes across all processes reflect strong majority support, with participation spanning multiple countries. For more information, see Appendix D- Historical Fellowship Participation and Voting Data.

### 5. Fellowship Group Voting and Conference Responsibility

Across Twelve Step fellowships, governance practices vary in how group participation is incorporated into decision-making. While approaches differ, most fellowships apply **supermajority thresholds** and rely on the Conference to receive results and determine next steps.

Different models are used in practice:

- Some fellowships calculate results based on **votes cast by responding groups**
- A few calculate based on **all registered groups**, where non-response is included in the outcome
- Others rely primarily on **delegate-based voting at the Conference level**

Recent experience also shows that fellowships continue to evolve their approaches. For example:

- **Marijuana Anonymous (MA)** utilizes a model based on votes cast by responding groups
- **Debtors Anonymous (DA)** has a motion at its 2026 ABC to consider moving toward a responding-groups model

These variations reflect an important balance:

If the threshold for participation is set too high, it may become difficult for a fellowship to make needed changes over time.



Within ACA, as in other Twelve Step fellowships, the Conference makes the majority of decisions on behalf of the fellowship. Fellowship-wide voting is used more selectively, typically for **significant matters affecting foundational literature or principles**, such as the Steps, Traditions, or other core elements of the program. See Appendix C for more information/details.

This approach is reflected in prior Conference action. At the 2024 Annual Business Conference, delegates approved the following motion:

#### **ABC\_2024\_06: Next Step for Approval to Change Functional Name**

**Motion:** To submit to all ACA registered groups (meetings, intergroups, and regions) for approval, “to change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.”

**Decision:** Passed with 58 in favor (79.4%); 15 opposed; 7 abstentions.

This decision reflects the Conference’s role in initiating fellowship-wide input on matters of significant importance.

***Concept I** – The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for ACA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.*

#### **2026 ABC Motion (FGV process):**

That the Fellowship Group Vote be recognized as reflecting the voice of participating meeting groups, intergroups, and regions across the global fellowship;

**That results be calculated based solely on votes cast by responding registered groups** with 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  % needed for a vote to pass; and

That the Annual Business Conference (ABC) receive these results and determine appropriate next steps for implementation.

## **6. Fellowship Feedback on Vote to Change the Fellowship Name**

### **6.1 Why Groups Voted the Way They Did**

Feedback from groups that voted *Yes, No, or Abstain* shows that decisions were grounded in shared values, even when outcomes differed. Across all responses, groups emphasized care for those who still suffer, responsibility to the fellowship, commitment to recovery, and respect for group conscience and unity.



Differences in voting were not based on disagreement about these values, but on how groups understood potential harm and responsibility.

**Groups voting Yes** emphasized inclusion and access to recovery, noting that some individuals may “self-exclude before ever attending” or feel they “did not qualify.”

These groups viewed the change as a way to help people find recovery sooner and remove barriers to the ACA program.

**Groups voting No** focused on protecting the fellowship’s stability and identity, along with practical considerations such as cost—described as “too expensive” or “not prudent.”

Additional concerns included protecting ACA’s identity and stability, and avoiding potential confusion, complexity, or unintended future changes.

**Groups that abstained** often reflected divided group views or insufficient clarity, describing abstention as “the most honest response” or “the safest option.”

Abstention functioned as a way to preserve unity when consensus could not be reached.

Across all vote types, groups were not divided by values, but by how they balanced inclusion, protection, urgency, and unity. As summarized in the report:

*Yes, No, and Abstain votes all represent sincere efforts to reduce harm,  
based on different experiences and concerns.”*



## The Heart of the Vote: Emotional Patterns Across the Group Conscience Vote

Differences in voting align more closely with how risk and responsibility are emotionally framed than with the disagreement about fellowship values.

**YES VOTE:**  
Urgency of Hope  
and Inclusion

*urgency, responsibility,  
care, compassion*

Taking action to remove barriers, help people reach recovery sooner

**NO VOTE:**  
Stewardship  
and/or Protection

*respect traditions,  
responsibility, stability,  
protectiveness*

Unease about unintended consequences, resources, responsibility to protect fellowship's identity

**ABSTAIN VOTE:**  
Respect All Voices  
and Protect Unity

*unity, fairness, respect, views*

Uncertainty, preserve unity, avoid harm when consensus was not present

**MINORITY VOTES:**  
Impact of Decision  
Commitment to Fellow-  
ship Unity & Principles

*honest, courage to speak,  
loyalty, respect*

Higher emotional intensity and a desire not to block group conscience

Heart of the Vote may be downloaded [here](#)

## 6.2 Process Feedback: What Worked Well and Opportunities for Improvement

Survey responses from 182 participants representing 1,068 groups indicate that the Fellowship Group Voting process was broadly effective and well-received.

### What Worked Well

- The process was clear and accessible, with strong agreement that voting was simple and instructions were easy to follow.
- Communication was effective, with 79% reporting the amount of communication was “about right.”
- The process supported meaningful group conscience, including group discussion and member participation.
- Voting was technically accessible, with many describing it as “easy” and “clear.”

### Opportunities for Improvement



- **Process Length:** A majority (57%) felt the 4-month voting period was appropriate, while 41% indicated it was somewhat long or too long, and only 2% felt it was too short. This suggests that while the timeframe supported participation, efficiency may be an area for refinement—particularly as this was ACA's first fellowship-wide vote conducted with delegate approval of the process.
- **Clarity and Understanding:** Respondents noted the need for clearer explanations of the proposal, voting terms, and overall process.
- **Voting Structure:** Feedback included requests for clarification of voting rules for groups or members associated with multiple meetings.
- **Feedback Opportunities:** Some respondents expressed interest in opportunities to provide input alongside voting, such as comment or feedback options within the voting process.

### **Supporting Tools and Global Accessibility**

As part of the Fellowship Group Voting process, ACA WSO developed its first animated group conscience video featuring ACA members. The video was made available on the ACA website and YouTube to support broad accessibility and understanding of the group conscience process, including use across multiple countries and languages.

Survey feedback indicated that the video was well received among respondents, with 79% agreeing or strongly agreeing that it was useful or instructive.

The video also supported international participation. At the time of reporting, it had 673 views, including 568 in English and 105 in French, demonstrating engagement across language groups.

In addition, the Quebec Intergroup created an original French-language version featuring local ACA members, further expanding accessibility and regional participation.

This approach represents an important step in developing multilingual, accessible resources to support fellowship-wide participation.

### **Process Integrity and Governance**

The Fellowship Group Voting process was supported by ACA WSO service committees to ensure neutrality and consistency. The IT Committee managed the voting systems and provided technical support to groups throughout the process. The Data Analysis Committee, which conducts ACA WSO surveys, compiled and summarized all survey and voting data using established survey standards and provided an analysis of the results. Detailed process information, resources, and full reports are available on the Fellowship Group Voting webpage and in Appendix D, providing consistent access to materials and updates for groups worldwide.



## 7. Next Steps and Implementation Plan for the Name Change

### What is changing?

- The Fellowship Name to *Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families*
- *ACA acronym (abbreviated name) to ACAD*

### What is not changing?

- The Legal name on business contracts, of Adult Children of Alcoholics®
- ACA WSO copyright, logo etc.
- Medallions with logo

### Next Steps for the 2026 ABC

The results of the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) will be presented to the 2026 Annual Business Conference (ABC), supported by this report and a simplified one-page summary designed to support clear understanding across an international fellowship.

Delegates are invited to:

- Review the voting results of the meeting groups, intergroups, and regions
- Consider the level of participation and fellowship-wide response
- Review participation in the context of other Twelve Step fellowship governance practices
- Review the implementation approach and cost considerations
- Vote on two follow-up motions:
  - [2026 ABC Motion \(FGV approval threshold\):](#)
  - [2026 ABC Motion \(Name Change Acceptance & Implementation\)](#)

### Implementation Approach

If the results are acceptable to the ABC, implementation is expected to follow a **gradual, phased approach over approximately 5 to 10 years**, guided by the principle of “*One step at a time.*” and good financial management. The cost estimates below are estimates and may vary due to price increases in the years to come.

#### This approach:

- Aligns with the fellowship’s capacity and resources
- Supports coordination across countries and languages
- Integrates with existing service structures and workflows
- Allows updates to be completed **as part of ongoing work, rather than as a single large project**

#### Implementation may include updates to:

- Websites and digital platforms
- Literature, publishing, and translations



- Ongoing literature development and revision cycles

## **Financial Stewardship**

Estimated costs are expected to be manageable within a structured, multi-year approach:

- Approximately **\$12,000–\$24,000 per year over five to ten years**
- Approximately **\$120,000 total**, subject to refinement

Costs are being actively managed and refined over time, while remaining subject to external pricing conditions.

## **Why costs occur**

Costs are primarily associated with:

- Trademark registration
- Publishing updates, including covers, copyright pages, and formatting
- Republishing selected literature over time
- Audio and translated materials, as resources allow

Many updates, particularly for literature already in development or review, can be completed within existing workflows and budgets, reducing additional costs. Website changes will be done by staff and prioritized with ongoing workflow.

## **How costs will be managed**

Costs are expected to be reduced and controlled through:

- Phased implementation (5–10 years) to avoid large one-time expenses
- Integration with current literature, publishing and translation workflows
- Use of existing systems, including the Translation Management System (TMS)
- Significant support from volunteers and staff
- Prioritizing updates as part of planned publishing and revision cycles

Costs will be incorporated into annual budget planning, with flexibility to adjust timing based on available resources.

## **Scope and Integration**

ACA Literature Impacted by the Name Change:

- 7 English books published
- 5 English books in development
- 35 translated books published in multiple languages
- 90 translated books in development



Updates related to the proposed name change will be incorporated into existing publishing and translation cycles wherever possible, allowing work to be completed gradually over time rather than as a separate large-scale project.

This approach supports both cost management and coordination across languages, consistent with the phased implementation plan.

## **Financial Approach and Oversight**

Implementation will follow a financially responsible approach:

- Gradual implementation over time
- Alignment with approved budgets each year
- Ongoing tracking and review of costs
- Adjustments based on available resources and fellowship priorities

The General Manager, in coordination with the Board, staff, and committees, will be responsible for managing the implementation plan, including budgeting, prioritization, and ongoing oversight.

This approach supports careful stewardship of fellowship resources while providing clear accountability. See Appendix E for details.

## **Implementation and Ongoing Communication**

Following the 2026 ABC:

- The Board will coordinate with staff and committees to guide implementation
- The General Manager will manage execution across literature, publishing, translation, and IT
- A 5–10 year implementation plan will guide sequencing, timing, and resource planning

Progress will be shared with the fellowship through:

- Annual Business Conference (ABC)
- Conference Business Meetings (CBM)
- Board Meetings with the Fellowship (BMF)
- WSO website updates
- Fellowship-wide emails
- The *Traveler* newsletter

## **Additional Recommendation**

The Board is recommending that future Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) motions provide flexibility in implementation timing to reflect operational readiness, translation requirements, and available resources. Accordingly, motions should avoid specifying a fixed start date and instead use language such as “as soon as reasonably possible” to support effective global coordination.



## Conclusion

ACA WSO, through its Advisory Group and Project Teams service structure, is responsible for implementing the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process following Conference approval. This includes coordination, communications, and the provision of technical and process support to groups worldwide.

The committee responsible for a motion is responsible for developing the content and subject matter.

This structure supports clarity, consistency, and accessibility, while maintaining the integrity of the group conscience process and enabling informed participation across the global fellowship.

### **2026 ABC Motion (Name Change Acceptance & Implementation)**

To accept the Fellowship Group Vote (FGV) results regarding the proposed change to the functional name of the Fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), and;

To approve the associated phased implementation plan over a 5–10 year period, taking into account financial and other resource considerations.

## 8. Fellowship Group Vote Process for Concept II

The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process completed in 2026 represents ACA's first experience with a structured, fellowship-wide voting process designed to support participation across countries and languages. Based on this experience, ACA WSO is establishing a consistent and repeatable framework for future FGV implementations.

ACA WSO, through its Advisory Group and Project Teams Service Structure, will be responsible for implementing the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process once the Conference approves, including coordination, communications, and the provision of technical and process support to groups worldwide. The committee responsible for a motion will lead the development of content and subject matter.

This approach supports clarity, consistency, and accessibility, while maintaining the integrity of the group conscience process and enabling informed participation throughout the global fellowship.

The next Fellowship Group Vote will implement the approved motions:

- ABC\_2024\_03: Proposed New Wording of Concept II
- CBM\_2025\_02: New Version of Concept 2 to Fellowship Group Vote

Following consultation between the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) Group and the Concepts Ad Hoc Committee on April 28, 2026, the voting period is planned to begin on August 3, 2026, and conclude



on December 3, 2026, representing a four-month voting period that supports preparation, communication, and participation across the global fellowship. See Appendix F for an example of overview of a project plan.

## 9. Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process represents a meaningful and inspiring milestone for ACA. Across countries, languages, and service structures, the fellowship came together in unity to ensure that all voices could be heard and that our collective group conscience could be expressed—regardless of the outcome.

This process reflects the strength of our fellowship and our shared commitment to participation, inclusion, and service.

We extend our sincere appreciation to:

- **Delegates**, for their guidance and stewardship
- **Fellowship participation**, including meeting groups, intergroups, and regions worldwide
- **Volunteers**, including those who supported Town Halls and contributed to the development of the group conscience video
- **The IT and Data Analysis Committees**, for ensuring a reliable, accessible, and transparent process
- **Global collaboration**, which made this effort possible across languages and regions



Together, this effort demonstrates the power of ACA's fellowship and the ongoing commitment to informed, inclusive, and unified decision-making.

Respectfully submitted in service to the Fellowship.

The FGV Advisory Team and  
ACA WSO Board of Trustees



## **Appendix: Source References and Supporting Materials**

### **A. Tradition 11 Change (2014–2015)**

#### **Board Motion (October 11, 2014)**

Motion 10111401 approved the proposal to amend Tradition 11 and to seek the collective conscience of the worldwide fellowship through meetings and intergroups, with results to be presented to the 2015 ABC.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

“Our Public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, T.V., films and other public media of communication.”

#### **Annual Business Conference (April 22–23, 2015)**

Motion 04231501 approved the amendment to Tradition 11.

#### **ABC Vote:**

- Yes: 25
- No: 0
- Abstain: 1

#### **Fellowship Consultation:**

- 108 groups participated (7.7% of 1,397 eligible groups)
- Yes: 95 (92.2%)
- No: 8 (7.45%)
- Abstain: 5
- Participation across 12 countries

### **B. Historical Fellowship Participation and Voting Data**

#### **FGV (2026)**

- Participation: **1,068 of 2,596 groups (41%)**
- Countries: **45**
- Votes counted: **1,056** (excluding abstentions)
- Voting Results:
  - Yes: **915 (86.65%)**
  - No: **141 (13.35%)**
  - Abstain: **12**

#### **Tradition 11 (2014–2015)**

##### **Survey:**



- Participation: **108 of 1,397 groups (7.7%)**
- Countries: **12**
- Voting Results:
  - Yes: **95 (92.2%)**
  - No: **8 (7.45%)**
  - Abstain: **5**

#### **ABC Motion Voting:**

- Participation: 26 out of 1397 groups
- Countries: Unknown
- Voting Results:
  - Yes: **25 (96%)**
  - No: **0 (0 %)**
  - Abstain: **1**

#### **Name Study (Pre-FGV)**

- Participation: **11,000+ individual responses**
- Countries: **67**
- Languages: **10**
- Results: Survey-based (see Appendix A)

#### **ABC Participation Detail**

- **ABC Name Change Motion**
  - 66 delegates (quorum: 33)
  - Voting Results:
    - Yes: **58 (79.45%)**
    - No: **15 (20.55%)**
    - Abstain: **7**
- **ABC Participation Rates**
  - 2024: **141 of 2,349 groups (6.0%)**
  - 2025: **151 of 2,477 groups (6.1%)**

#### **Ballot Participation Detail**

- **2024**
  - 232 of 2,349 groups (**9.9%**)
  - 3 ballots on ABC agenda
- **2025**
  - 183 of 2,460 groups (**7.4%**)
  - 3 ballots on ABC agenda
- **2026**



- 153 of 2,596 groups (5.9%)
- 1 ballot on ABC agenda

### Notes

- Participation reflects who took part in the process
- Voting percentages exclude abstentions where applicable
- Group counts include all registered groups (meetings, intergroups, and regions)

## C. 12 Step Fellowship-Wide Voting Practices

### Fellowship Resources (Publicly Available)

The following publicly available resources were reviewed to understand fellowship-wide voting practices related to changes in foundational elements (e.g., Steps, Traditions, or service structures).

#### Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

<https://www.aa.org/the-twelve-concepts>

<https://silkworth.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/AAs-Co-founder-Asks-Fellowship-to-Take-Over.pdf>

#### Al-Anon

<https://al-anon.org/for-members/members-resources/manuals-and-guidelines/service-manual/>

#### Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

<https://na.org/service-material/handbooks/>

#### Debtors Anonymous (DA)

<https://debtorsanonymous.org/download/da-manual-for-service/>

<https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-votes-2024/>

#### Marijuana Anonymous (MA)

<https://marijuana-anonymous.org/service/manual/>

<https://marijuana-anonymous.org/vote/>

#### Overeaters Anonymous (OA)

<https://oa.org/documents/business-conference-policy-manual/>

#### Adult Children of Alcoholics / Dysfunctional Families (ACA)

<https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>



**Note:** These references are provided for context and do not imply uniform practices across fellowships.

## **D. Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) Supporting Materials**

### **a. Source Documents**

[Fellowship Group Voting Website](#) includes:

- Group Fellowship Vote Process Survey Report
- Fellowship Feedback Summary on

### **b. Survey Overview**

Total survey participants: 182

Total groups represented: 1,068

- Meeting Groups: 1,031
- Intergroups: 35
- Regional Groups: 2

### **Key Process Metrics**

- Voting process clear: 76% Agree / Strongly Agree
- Process useful to group: 74% Agree / Strongly Agree
- Communication “about right”: 79%
- Voting period appropriate: 57%

### **c. Methodology Note**

Survey responses and written feedback were grouped into themes for analysis. Original comments were paraphrased for anonymity and aggregated to identify common patterns across groups.

### **d. Sample Verbatim Feedback (Representative Examples)**

#### **Inclusion and Access (Yes Votes)**

- “Self-excluded before ever attending”
- “Thought they did not qualify”

#### **Stewardship and Stability (No Votes)**

- “Too expensive”
- “Not prudent”

#### **Unity and Group Conscience (Abstain Votes)**

- “The most honest response”
- “The safest option”

### **e. Process Integrity and Governance**



The Fellowship Group Voting process was supported by ACA WSO service committees to ensure neutrality and consistency.

- The IT Committee managed the voting systems and provided technical support to groups throughout the process.
- The Data Analysis Committee, which conducts ACA WSO surveys, compiled and summarized all survey and voting data using established survey standards.
- The ACA WSO Board was not involved in the compilation or analysis of results, supporting an independent and objective process.

This structure ensured that data collection, reporting, and analysis were conducted using consistent methodologies aligned with ACA WSO practices.

## **f. Access to Materials and Global Participation**

Detailed process information, resources, and full reports are available on the Fellowship Group Voting webpage: <https://adultchildren.org/fellowship-group-voting/>

This centralized resource provided consistent access to information, materials, and updates for groups worldwide, supporting participation across multiple countries and languages.

Translation support was provided to increase accessibility:

- Voting materials were available in French, Russian, and Portuguese
- Key reports were translated into French

## **g. Group Conscience Video and Accessibility**

ACA World Service YouTube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/@ACAWORLDSERVICE>

Group Conscience Video (Website)  
<https://adultchildren.org/group-conscience/>

The group conscience video was developed to support understanding of the voting process and to increase accessibility across the global fellowship, including use across multiple countries and languages.

Survey feedback indicated that 79% of respondents found the video useful or instructive.

### **Engagement data:**

- 673 total views
- 568 English views
- 105 French views

In addition, the Quebec Intergroup created an original French-language video featuring local ACA members, supporting regional participation and translation efforts.

A downloadable version of the “Heart of the Vote” visual summary is also available to support sharing, group discussion, and service use at the group and intergroup level. [Link](#)



## E. Financial Overview for Proposed Name Change Implementation

Following the completion of the Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) process in 2026, this appendix provides a high-level summary of estimated costs and implementation considerations to support informed review by delegates.

### Estimated Cost Range

Costs will be actively managed and refined over time, while remaining subject to external pricing conditions.

Implementation can be managed within a structured, multi-year plan with estimated costs as:

- Annual: \$12,000 (over 10 years) or \$24,000 (over 5 years)
- Total: \$120,000

### Implementation Approach

Costs are expected to be managed through a gradual implementation over 5–10 years, guided by the principle of *“One step at a time.”*

This approach:

- Aligns with the fellowship’s capacity and resources
- Supports coordination across countries and languages
- Integrates with existing service structures and workflows

### Key Cost Areas

Estimated costs are primarily associated with:

- Trademark registration
- Website updates
- Publishing and literature updates
- Audiobooks as resources allow

Many updates—particularly for literature already in development or review—can be completed within existing workflows and budgets, reducing additional costs.

### Scope and Integration

ACA currently has:

- 7 English books published
- 5 English books in development
- 35 translated books published in multiple languages



- 90 translated books in development

## Cost Reduction Factors

Costs are expected to be reduced through:

- Using our existing attorney
- Support from volunteers and staff
- Integrate with current literature, publishing, translation workflows, and budget using volunteers and staff
- Use existing systems, including the Translation Management System (TMS)

Updates related to the proposed name change will be incorporated into existing publishing and translation cycles wherever possible, allowing work to be completed gradually over time rather than as a separate large-scale project.

This approach supports both cost management and coordination across languages, consistent with the phased implementation plan.

## Financial Stewardship

Implementation is expected to follow a financially responsible approach:

- Gradual implementation over time
- Use of volunteer and staff resources whenever reasonably possible
- Integration with planned work and budgets
- Ongoing tracking and review of costs

This approach supports financial responsibility and careful stewardship of fellowship resources, consistent with the implementation approach outlined in Section 7.

## F. FGV Project Plan Overview

The Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) project plan provides a structured and supportive approach to implementing fellowship-wide voting within ACA. The phases below summarize the process to support clarity and ease of reference.

| <b>Phase</b>                  | <b>Purpose</b>   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Initiation & Governance Setup | Establish roles and prepare to begin the process.          |
| Planning & Requirements       | Define scope, timelines, and gather materials.             |
| Content & Website             | Develop materials and central resources.                   |
| Communication & Engagement    | Prepare outreach, including Town Halls and communications. |



Voting Process

Conduct the voting process and support participation.

Quantitative Results

Compile and publish voting results.

Qualitative Analysis & Reporting

Analyze feedback and prepare the final report.

Presenting Results and Next Steps to the ABC

Share outcomes and support next steps within ACA's service structure.