

Town Hall

FGV: Concept 2 change

Clarifying the Role, Scope, and Authority of
the World Service Conference

September 19, 2026

Why we're here: Proposed Change

The Current Concept 2 Language:

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

Proposed New Concept 2 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

What are the 12 Concepts?

- **Fundamental principles** that guide how the World Service Organization (Board of Trustees, Board Committees, and paid staff) is intended to function and how it relates to the Fellowship via the World Service Conference – that is, how the different pieces of World Services fit together.
- **An extension of Tradition 2** to the level of World Services:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
- *“The Twelve Concepts keep our world services and groups focused on carrying a consistent ACA message while maintaining a service structure responsible to the fellowship. The Concepts help trusted servants discern the will of ACA and carry out the responsibilities granted by the fellowship.”*
BRB p.615

What are the 12 Concepts?

In the same way that

The 12 Steps relate to the Health of the PERSON

And The 12 Traditions relate to the Health of the GROUP

***The 12 Concepts relate to the Health of the structure and functioning of our
WORLD SERVICES***

WHAT is the Proposed Change?

Proposed New Concept 2 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

Reminder: The proposed new language was approved by the World Service Conference at the 2024 and 2025 ABCs, and the Conference at the September 2025 CBM approved it go to a Fellowship Group Vote for final approval

WHY the Proposed Change?

History

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

Note: this started with a **Ballot Proposal in 2022** that proposed updating Concepts 2 and 6, specifically:
“Change Concepts II & VI to clearly identify the Annual Business Conference (ABC) as seat of the actual voice and effective conscience of our fellowship. Suggested changes will clarify that authority for the maintenance of world services is delegated to the ABC by the fellowship, while Trustee members of the ACA World Service Organization (WSO) are empowered by the ABC to act as legal agents for the fellowship regarding the maintenance of world services.”

This led to the **creation of a WSO Committee** at the 2022 ABC to study possible revisions to Concepts 2 and 6.

The Problem: The Core Issue with Current Concept 2

At the 2023 ABC:

- After nearly a year of study and comparison of ACA's Concept 2 to Concept 2 in other 12 step programs, the committee came to the following conclusion, first presented to the 2023 ABC
*ACA's Concept 2 is **fundamentally flawed**, and we intend to recommend that it be revised. As pointed out in the original ballot proposal, it does not state who is the actual voice and effective conscience of ACA's fellowship. The committee will seek to assign these roles to the Conference, in line with Concept 2 in several other 12 step programs.*
- The Conference approved the motion brought by Concepts Committee establish intent to change Concept 2 *“to affirm that Concept 2 will define the conference as the voice and conscience of the ACA fellowship”*

The Problem: The Core Issue with Current Concept 2

The committee did ask ourselves “*could the fact that, relative to other Fellowships, ‘the Conference’ is missing from ACA’s Concept 2 have been an intentional choice?*”

After extensive review of the available ACA Archives

the Committee found no indication that omission of the Conference from ACA’s current Concept 2 was an intentional choice.

Note: there are several other deviations in ACAs Concepts from language standard in other 12-Step Fellowships’ Concepts, but we are unclear how they got to ACA’s current version – no record.

The Problem: The Core Issue with Current Concept 2

In seeking to come up with particular revised language, the committee thought that a well-structured Concept 2 should answer these 3 critical questions:

- *Who speaks for the Fellowship?*
- *Who grants that Authority?*
- *What is the scope of that Authority?*

ACA's current Concept 2 answers none of these.

The (Proposed) Solution

Proposed New Concept 2 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

***Please note: This language was approved by the World Service Conference at the 2024 and 2025 ABCs, and the Conference at the September 2025 CBM approved it go to a Fellowship Group Vote for final approval*

The (Proposed) Solution

The proposed new version of Concept 2 answers all 3 of the critical questions

	Current Concept 2	Proposed New Concept 2
Who speaks for the Fellowship?	SILENT	The World Service Conference
Who grants that Authority?	SILENT	ACA groups
What is the scope of that Authority?	UNCLEAR	Represent the ACA Fellowship in world service matters

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*

WHY is the proposed change going to FGV?

Only the Conference can send items to Fellowship Group Voting.

In this case (of the proposed new Concept 2 language), the Conference felt that

although it had approved of the new Concept 2 language (2025 ABC)

... the Conference also felt the issue deserved to go to the full Fellowship for *final approval*
(Sept 2025 CBM)

Frequently Asked Questions

Note: we have been asked the following question frequently in the past weeks.

“World Service Conference”? What is that?

What is the World Service Conference (WSC)?

A New Formal Label – Not a New Thing

- **Updated Name:** "World Service Conference" (WSC) is an updated, full formal name for what ACA(D) has historically called "The Conference" or "The ABC". This name was recommended by the Concepts Committee and approved by the Conference at the 2024 and 2025 ABCs. It is in-line with similar language in several other 12 Step Programs.
- **Not a New Thing:** The Conference has been meeting for decades. It now meets 3 times a year at the Annual Business Conference (ABC) and Conference Business Meetings (CBMs). (see more at: <https://adultchildren.org/conference>)

What is the World Service Conference (WSC)?

- **The Service Body vs the Event(s):**
 - The WSC is the service body that meets at the Annual Business Conference (ABC) and Conference Business Meetings (CBMs) to make group-conscience decisions on behalf of the fellowship.
 - The Conference is not just a weekend in May...
- **Composition:** It is composed of Conference Delegates representing Groups, Intergroups, and Regions**
- **Spiritual Principle:** The WSC acts as the collective group conscience on behalf of the Fellowship, extending Tradition 2 to the world service level. In the same way representatives from your group to your Intergroup participate in the Intergroup-level group conscience

***Note: The Conference has expressed its wish (January 2026 CBM) that in a future Conference Charter, that Trustees also are part of the Conference*

What is the Relationship Between the WSC and WSO

World Service Conference is a different service body than the World Service Organization

And: WSC and WSO share a close relationship and may have cross-membership

Perhaps the easiest way to think about the relationship between the World Service Conference (WSC) and the World Service Organization (WSO) is that

The World Service Conference is to the Board of the World Service Organization as

- At the local meeting level: the business meeting is to the trusted servants of that meeting.
- At the Intergroup level: those with a vote at Intergroup (representatives from groups, plus Intergroup trusted servants/officers at some Intergroups) are to the trusted servants/officers of that Intergroup.

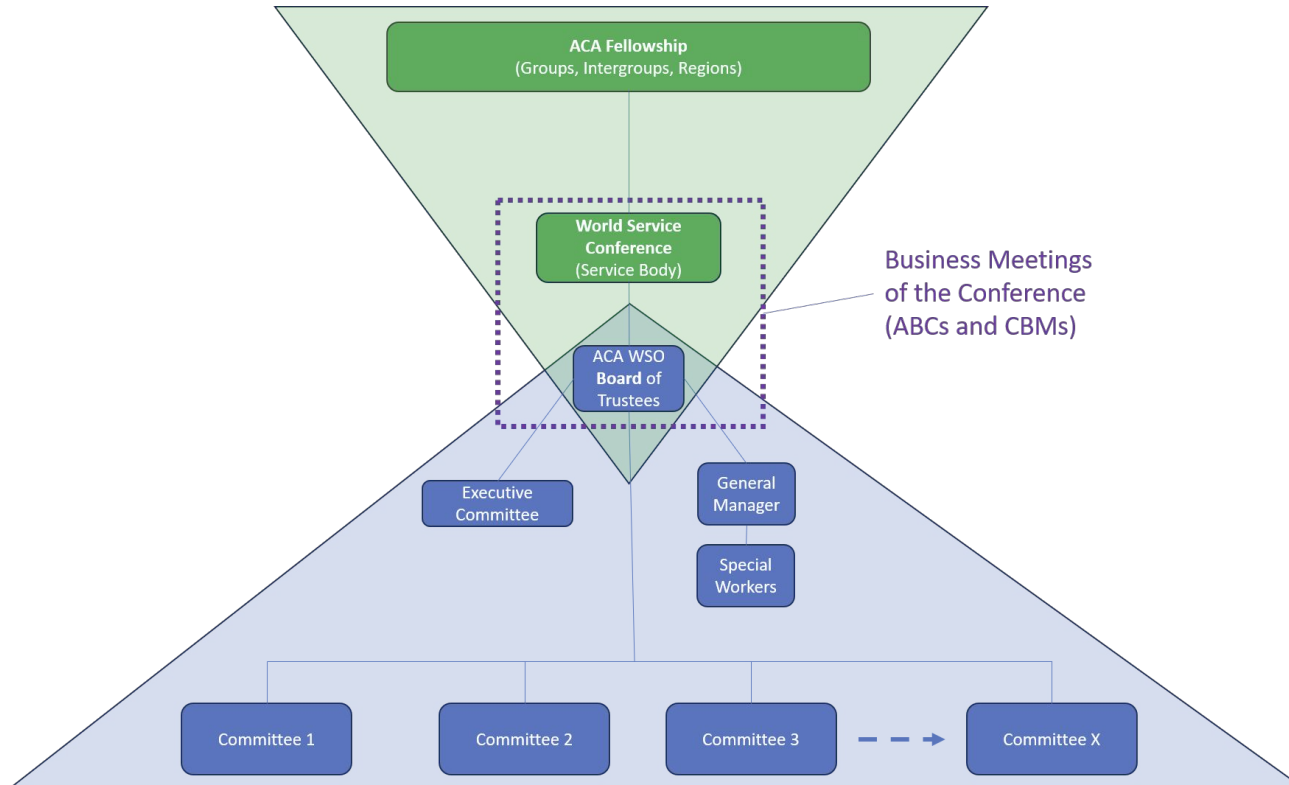
This relates to the principle that the [12 Concepts of World Service](#) are spiritually an extension of Tradition 2.

Relationship Between the WSC and WSO

ACA World Service Structure “The Inverted Pyramid”



Relationship Between the WSC and WSO



Other FAQs

Q: Would the word change to Concept II change anything about the Conference-as-Service-Body, the Meetings of the Conference (ABCs/CBMs), or how they operate?

A: No, there would be no impact to the Conference. Conference policies and procedures remain the same.

Q: Would this change anything about the Delegate role or its authority?

A: No, there would be no impact to the role of Conference Delegate.

Q: Will this impact the future of Fellowship Group Voting (FGV) or Ballot Proposals (BP) processes?

A: No, there would be no impact. The FGV and BP processes will remain the same.

Q: Would this take any right or authority away from groups?

A: No, every group will maintain its current rights and authorities, including continuing to have the Right of Participation to send a Delegate to the Conference meetings, as they do now.

To Review

The Current Concept 2 Language:

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Proposed New Concept 2 Language:

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WRAPPING UP

What is the benefit of the proposed change?

- Explicit mention of the World Service Conference in Concept 2 – in line with Concept 2 in several other 12 step programs.
- Clarify the role of the World Service Conference in the Service Structure