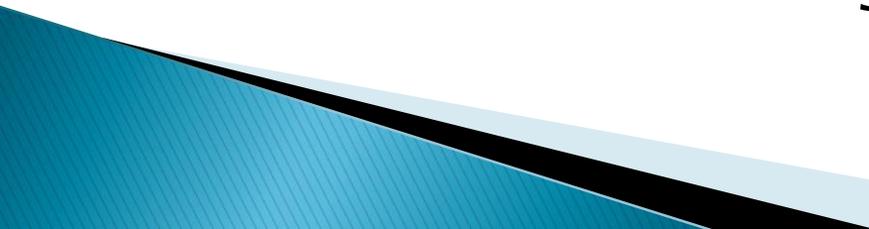


Resolving Issues by Group Conscience



Opening Statement for Business Meetings

- ▶ As we begin this group business meeting today, let us remember:
 - ▶ **Tradition Two** states in part: “For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed in our group conscience.”
 - ▶ **Tradition Five** states: “Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry the message to the adult child who still suffers.”
 - ▶ How best to carry that message is the focus of our business meeting here today.
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Opening Statement, cont'd

- ▶ It is important that all members are heard so we can reach an informed group conscience, and thus maintain the unity and strength so vital to our fellowship. Please be patient and allow whoever is speaking to finish. We also ask that you be recognized by the Secretary before speaking.

Let us, therefore, have

- ▶ the patience and tolerance to listen while others share
- ▶ the courage to speak up when we have something to share, and
- ▶ the wisdom to do what is right for our group and ACA as a whole.
- ▶

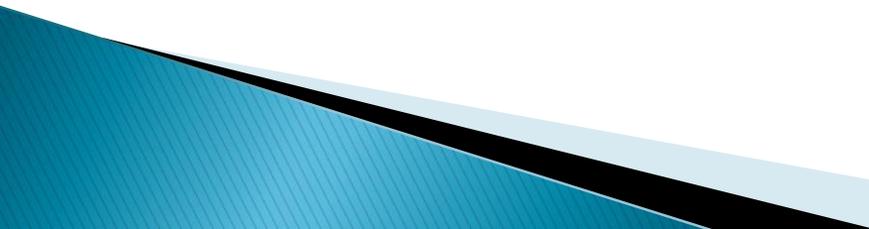
What is a Group Conscience?

- ▶ The collective conscience of the group membership
 - ▶ It Strives for substantial unanimity as a clear sense of a collective view emerges
 - ▶ Spirituality and placing principles before personalities
 - ▶ Adherence to Steps, Traditions, and Concepts
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What is Substantial Unanimity?

- ▶ Agreement by all, or for those who do not agree:
 - ▶ “I understand the issue. I have been heard. I don’t fully agree, but can accept the group opinion.”
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What is the Process for a Group Conscience?

- ▶ Slow Down.
 - ▶ Recognize that there is No Emergency.
 - ▶ Avoid Addiction to Excitement,
 - Fixing and Rescuing Mentality,
 - Fear of Authority Figures (the group chair and/or the loudest voice in the room.)
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How to Identify Issues for a Group Conscience

- ▶ A member at any time can raise a serious issue for a group conscience.
 - ▶ Once an issue is identified, the Secretary will announce that [at a set date] a group conscience will be held on that issue.
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Issue: Bringing dogs to meetings



How does the group resolve this issue?

- ▶ Secretary announces there will be a meeting in two weeks in regard to bringing dogs.
 - ▶ At a regular meeting, Secretary will raise the issue of bringing dogs to meetings before any formal motion is made, allowing group members to identify and study pertinent information.
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Wait for Outside Information

- ▶ We ask that anyone who is interested, do research and bring information to the Group Conscience.
 - ▶
 - ▶ Meeting Room Policy (church, etc.)
 - ▶ People with Allergic Reactions
 - ▶ Laws on Comfort Animals
 - ▶ Other?
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Sharing Opinions

- ▶ Secretary announces issue, Reads the Opening Statement, and opens for sharing.
 - ▶ At group conscience meeting,
 - ▶ Each person who wishes to share has 2–3 minutes to share.
 - ▶ No member should share twice until everyone in the room has a chance to be heard.
 - ▶ The Secretary does not share until all others have shared.
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Motion

- ▶ The Secretary entertains motions.
- ▶ Someone in the Majority makes a clear motion. “I move that no dogs be allowed in our ACA meeting.”
- ▶ After a motion is made and seconded,
- ▶ A vote is taken.
- ▶ A motion passes with substantial unanimity.
- ▶ If no substantial unanimity, the minority is asked to speak.
- ▶ Secretary asks if anyone wishes to change their vote.
- ▶ If yes, revote.
- ▶ If no substantial unanimity, the issue would be tabled for further dialogue.

Reaffirm:

- ▶ The group conscience is a more infallible guide for group affairs than any individual member, however good or wise they may be. We avoid depending on any leader. Because our active leadership is truly rotating, we enjoy a democracy unavailable anywhere else. We in ACA are certain of an ultimate authority—a Loving God as expressed in our group conscience.

