

ACA Group: WEB0120 Minority Opinion – Name Change
Cross-Referenced to ACA Traditions, Concepts & Big Red Book Literature

A. Group Conscience, Authority & Process Integrity

Tradition Two – Group Conscience “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed in our group conscience.”

Big Red Book references: • ACA Big Red Book, Traditions section, Tradition Two, pp. ~599–600 • ACA Big Red Book, Chapter 12: Working the ACA Program (Group Conscience), pp. ~90–94

Application: ACA literature describes Group Conscience as a process, not merely a vote. That process includes shared information, open discussion, reflective pause, clarity of motion, and a clear understanding of quorum. What is being said: If these elements are missing or unclear, the outcome cannot reliably be called a Group Conscience—even if a vote technically passes.

Tradition One – Unity “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon ACA unity.” Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Tradition One, pp. ~598–599

Application: Unity is strengthened when members trust that decisions are made transparently and consistently. Small participation numbers, unclear voting bodies, or inconsistent procedures risk undermining trust and cohesion. What is being said: Unity is harmed not by minority opinion, but by unclear or inconsistent process.

B. Fellowship Authority, Representation & Minority Voice

Concept One – Fellowship Authority “The final responsibility and authority for ACA World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.”

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Concept One, pp. ~607–608

Application: When individuals may vote multiple times across groups while others do not participate at all, the resulting outcome may not accurately represent the collective conscience of the Fellowship as a whole.

What is being said: Authority must be exercised in ways that reflect the breadth of the Fellowship, not just those most active or present.

Concept Five – Right of Appeal / Minority Opinion “Throughout our structure, a right of appeal ought to prevail...”

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Concept Five, pp. ~610–611

Application: This minority opinion is a direct expression of Concept Five. ACA explicitly protects the right to raise concerns about process, clarity, and consequences without being dismissed as opposition. What is being said: Minority opinion is not obstruction—it is a safeguard built into ACA’s structure.

C. Accuracy in Teaching Group Conscience Instructional Integrity

Big Red Book references: • ACA Big Red Book, Chapter 12: Working the ACA Program, pp. ~90–94

Application: The ACA/WSO instructional video “Forming a Group Conscience – The Pet Policy Meeting” demonstrates a procedural mismatch between the motion and the vote. When instructional examples do not align motions with voting options, they risk teaching groups an inaccurate process.

What is being said: How ACA models Group Conscience matters. Instructional inconsistencies can unintentionally undermine clarity, minority voice, and trust in the process.

D. Financial Responsibility & Stewardship

Tradition Seven – Self-Support “Every ACA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Tradition Seven, pp. ~603–604

Application: Financial responsibility requires transparency. Fellowship members must be given sufficient information—total costs, funds available, and long-term impact—to make informed decisions about major expenditures.

What is being said: It is reasonable and responsible to ask whether ACA can afford a proposed change before voting to implement it.

Concept Nine – Service Leadership “Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable...”

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Concept Nine, pp. ~614–615

Application: Providing clear information and modeling correct process are core responsibilities of service leadership.

What is being said: Strong leadership welcomes questions, clarification, and correction.

E. Tradition Three & Inclusivity

Tradition Three – Membership “The only requirement for membership in ACA is a desire to recover from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family.”

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, Tradition Three, pp. ~600–601

Application: Tradition Three already ensures full inclusion of individuals from non-alcoholic dysfunctional families. Inclusivity is explicitly embedded in ACA’s foundation.

What is being said: Because ACA already includes everyone it intends to serve, a Fellowship name change may be unnecessary and risks confusion, cost, or loss of identity without clearly expanding inclusion.

F. Name, Identity & Redundancy

Big Red Book reference: • ACA Big Red Book, page 58 (family dysfunction imagery)

Application: ACA literature presents alcoholism as one form of family dysfunction. Given this framing, the name Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families would already encompass all members without redundancy.

What is being said: Inclusivity does not require abandoning clarity or established identity.

G. Trauma-Informed & Neurolinguistic Considerations

Big Red Book references: • ACA Big Red Book, Chapter 8: Emotional Sobriety, pp. ~215–223

Application: Trauma-informed and neurolinguistic principles emphasize that language shapes perception, meaning, and felt safety. Words can either support recovery or unintentionally reinforce shame, blame, or “fixing” dynamics. If ACA is considering changes to literature, covers, logos, or naming, this may be an appropriate moment to review language holistically—ensuring consistency with trauma-informed principles and emotional sobriety rather than addressing changes piecemeal.

What is being said: If changes are undertaken, they should be intentional, cohesive, and aligned with ACA’s recovery principles.

This minority opinion asks ACA to slow down, clarify the process, ensure financial transparency, and confirm that decisions truly reflect the collective conscience of the Fellowship—consistent with ACA’s own Traditions, Concepts, and literature, and the use of trauma-informed and thoughtful language that supports clarity, safety, and unity.