

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Long Form

- I. The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Long Form

- II. When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Long Form

- III. As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Long Form

- V. Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

Long Form

- VII. The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purpose for its final effectiveness.

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

The Twelve Concepts

Short Form

- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

Long Form

- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

- What does it say?

- What does it mean?

- How does it apply to me?

- What is my experience?

