



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS – THREE LEGACIES

	STEP	TRADITION	CONCEPT
1	We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.	Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.	Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2	Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.	For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.	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.
3	Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.	The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.	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.”
4	Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.	Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.	At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5	Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.	Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.	Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard, and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6	Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.	An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.	The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
7	Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.	Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.	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. purse for final effectiveness.



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8	Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.	Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.	The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9	Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.	AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.	Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
10	Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.	Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.	Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11	Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His Will for us and the power to carry that out.	Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.	The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12	Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.	Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.	The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.