

**REPORT OF THE ABC STUDY GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE  
FOR THE FEBRUARY 2025 QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE WORLD  
SERVICE CONFERENCE**

**Report Date:** 1/21/25

**Name of (Sub)committee:** ABC Study Subcommittee

**Committee Members:** Carole C. (CA, USA), Charlie H. (VA, USA), Jim M. (CA, USA), Josh W. (DC, USA), Kaz (WA, USA), Marion M. (UK), Mary Jo L. (IL, USA), Pam M. (CA, USA), Sue V. (Toronto, CAN), Kelle J (FL, USA), Marcus H (CA, USA) , William GB (FL, USA), Bill D (CA, USA), Laura (CA, USA)

**WSO accountability structure:** The ABC Study Group is a subcommittee of the ABC committee

**Inaugural Meeting:** 11/2/2022

**Service Positions:** empty Chair

**Committee Meetings:** presently every Tuesday at 5:00 ET on Zoom (Meeting ID: 993 7036 0615 Passcode:182011)

**Homepage:** <https://acawso.org/abc-awc-study>

**Contact:** [abcstudy@acawso.org](mailto:abcstudy@acawso.org)

**Background:**

Opportunities for beneficial changes to strengthen the structure and functioning of the Annual Business Conference have been identified since at least 2017 (see the *Service Structure Committee report* delivered to the 2017 ABC within the [2017 Delegate Binder](#)).

In the 2022 Ballot Proposal cycle, 2 separate Ballot Proposals (2022 – 10 and 2022-12) came to the ABC Agenda for discussion around restructuring of the ABC (see [2022 ABC Minutes](#), p46). Delegates opted to combine these 2 items with a third Ballot Proposal (2022–11, regarding the AWC) into a single motion

*Passed motion from the 2022 ABC: to direct the ABC AWC Committee to coordinate an in-depth and inclusive study regarding possible changes to the ABC and AWC structures. The study will consider all fellowship viewpoints, and all delegates and members of the fellowship will be invited to participate. Findings will be presented to the 2023 ABC, and regular updates will be provided to 2022 ABC delegates and the fellowship.*

The ABC/AWC Committee subsequently created this sub-committee to handle that task.

Then, at the 2023 ABC, this study group subcommittee gave a presentation

(see [here](#)), and presented a motion to the Delegates, which Delegates approved (see [2023 ABC Minutes](#), p 9-11)

Passed motion from the 2023 ABC: to approve extending the ABC/AWC Study to provide recommendations without limitation, including:

- *Drafting a charter for the conference, and*
- *recommendations for changes in other areas, depending on availability of adequate resources, and*
- *separating the AWC study from the ABC study, creating an additional study as resources permit, and*
- *that the delegates will receive regular updates until the study is completed.*

### **Status Update (since May 2024 ABC):**

We are working on 3 sections (Purpose of the Charter/Background, Purpose of the Conference, Composition) and are drafting language for each.

### **Substantial agreement on Section I: Introduction / Purpose of Charter Working**

Draft Language, subject to change *The ACA Conference Charter is a body of principles and relationships through which ACA as a whole functions. The Charter is an informal agreement between the ACA Fellowship, as represented by the Conference, and the ACA World Service Organization regarding their relationship. The provisions of this agreement are traditional and are intended to reflect the spirit of the ACA Traditions and Concepts. The Charter provides a framework for Conference decision-making.*

### **Substantial agreement on Section II: Purpose of Conference**

Working Draft Language, subject to change:

*After much discussion, a motion was made and passed to approve the following as a working copy with notes in red font as reminders to reconsider specific parts of the wording during the next draft:*

*The Conference is a service body of the ACA Fellowship, serving as the Fellowship's collective group conscience and not as a government. By tradition [?], it is the guardian of the spiritual principles embodied [?] in ACA World Services and ACA foundational documents. The Conference provides guidance [to?] on matters affecting the Fellowship as a whole while promoting unity and consistency. [it may establish guidelines for service and communication links within ACA. (From WSO Bylaws)]*

### **Status of Section III Composition of Conference**

Various points of view led to extended discussion. We have been sorting through underlying issues. Various views on Section III Composition of Conference – we will be reporting points of (dis)agreement and seeking Conference input/referring to Conference. We will need substantial time at 2025 ABC to get delegate input on the above etc

### Points of Alignment

- One person, one vote
- One person, one role.

### Outstanding Questions: Which categories should get a vote:

- Delegates?
- Trustees?
- Senior Paid staff?
- Committee Chairs?

Chair resigned

Ask for Volunteers