

Spiritual and Business Principles in ACA World Services & Fellowship

Drafted April 2025

Introduction

ACA functions as both a spiritual fellowship and a nonprofit corporation. The challenge—and opportunity—is to align spiritual intent with legal responsibility so that legal structures protect, rather than undermine, the spiritual foundation.

Core Spiritual Principles

Rooted in the Twelve Steps and Traditions, these guide leadership, decision-making, and service in ACA:

- Group Conscience (Tradition Two): Leadership is based on collective spiritual discernment, not authority.
- Anonymity & Humility: Ensures no individual holds undue influence; fosters equality.
- Unity (Tradition One): Our common welfare comes first.
- Service: Leadership is expressed through voluntary, humble service.
- Integrity & Responsibility: Trusted servants serve by following group conscience and spiritual principles.
- Traditions Two & Nine: The ACA structure exists only to serve, not govern, the fellowship.

Core Business Principles

To legally function as a nonprofit, ACA WSO upholds these organizational practices:

- Fiduciary Duty: Trustees must act with care, loyalty, and in alignment with ACA's mission.
- Governance: Clear bylaws, policies, accountability, and transparency guide legal compliance.
- Delegation: Legal duties rest with the Board; spiritual leadership resides with the Fellowship.

- Risk Management: Legal protections (contracts, intellectual property, insurance) enable service continuity.
- Conflict Resolution: Mediated solutions that respect both legal standards and spiritual intent.

Balancing Spiritual and Legal Responsibilities

- Our legal frameworks, guided by spiritual values and recovery principles, enable our ACA purpose while ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, demonstrating our commitment to our World Services fellowship.
- Transparent communication (e.g., ABCs, Town Halls) ensures alignment between Fellowship and Trustees.
- Checks and balances ensure mutual accountability.
- We use our knowledge and experience to bring spiritual awareness to legal decisions and legal understanding to spiritual matters.

 **Governance Chart: Spiritual and Legal Responsibilities in ACA WSO**

Section	Spiritual Responsibilities	Legal Responsibilities
I. Source of Authority	Twelve Traditions & Group Conscience	State and Federal Law, IRS, Bylaws
II. Leadership Role	Servants, not Governors (Tradition Two, Concept IX)	Fiduciary Duty to the Corporation
III. Decision-Making	Bottom-Up via Fellowship and Group Representatives	Top-Down Legal Accountability via Trustees
IV. Representation	Conference Voice (e.g., ABC, Ballots)	Board of Directors bears legal responsibility