



# **ACA Fellowship Group Voting Results**

## **2026 Name Change**



### **What Groups Said About Their Votes**

**A summary of feedback and minority opinions from groups that voted Yes, No, or Abstain**

#### **The Question Groups Voted On:**

**To change the functional name of the fellowship to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD), the top choice by the fellowship from the name study surveys.**

# The Heart of the Vote: Emotional Patterns Across the Group Conscience Vote

Differences in voting align more closely with how risk and responsibility are emotionally framed than with the disagreement about fellowship values.

**YES VOTE:**  
**Urgency of Hope and Inclusion**

*urgency, responsibility, care, compassion*

Taking action to remove barriers, help people reach recovery sooner

**NO VOTE:**  
**Stewardship and/or Protection**

*respect traditions, responsibility, stability, protectiveness*

Unease about unintended consequences, resources, responsibility to protect fellowship's identity

**ABSTAIN VOTE:**  
**Respect All Voices and Protect Unity**

*unity, fairness, respect, views*

Uncertainty, preserve unity, avoid harm when consensus was not present

**MINORITY VOTES:**  
**Impact of Decision Commitment to Fellowship Unity & Principles**

*honest, courage to speak, loyalty, respect*

Higher emotional intensity and a desire not to block group conscience

## Fellowship Group Voting: What Groups Shared

This report shares what we learned from the written responses of groups that voted **Yes, No, or Abstain** on the proposed name change to Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families (ACAD). It reflects how groups explained their decisions in their own words.

Across all votes, groups shared common values:

- Caring for adult children who still suffer
- Responsibility to the fellowship as a whole
- Commitment to recovery
- Respect for group conscience and unity

Differences in votes were not about these values. They reflected different views on where harm happens and how best to prevent it.

## Groups That Voted Yes

### Focus: Clarity, inclusion, and helping people reach recovery sooner

Groups voting Yes often focused on people who may never reach ACA. Many shared that the current name can make it hard for some people to recognize that ACA applies to them.

Groups described people who:

- “Thought they did not qualify”
- “Self-excluded before ever attending”
- “Missed joining for years because of the name”

Groups also emphasized that dysfunction could exist without alcohol and that the proposed name:

- “Reflects who we are”
- “Reflects the truth of our membership”

Many expressed urgency to:

- “Help people find recovery sooner”
- “Reach people earlier”
- “Carry the message to the adult child who still suffers”

### Summary:

For these groups, changing the name is seen as an act of care—removing barriers so more people can find recovery.

## Groups That Voted No

### Focus: Protecting the fellowship, identity, and resources

Groups voting No focused on protecting what already supports recovery. Many shared that the program works as it is and that recovery comes from the steps and the fellowship, not the name.

Common concerns included:

- Cost, described as “too expensive,” “not prudent,” or “financially unfeasible”
- Protecting ACA’s history, identity, and stability
- Concern that the change may not bring clear benefits

Some groups also expressed concern that change could:

- Create confusion
- Introducing complexity
- Lead to further changes, asking “where does it end”

### **Summary:**

For these groups, voting No was a form of care—protecting the fellowship’s stability, identity, and responsible use of resources.

## **Groups That Abstained**

### **Focus: Holding uncertainty and protecting unity**

Groups that abstained often felt torn. Many shared that:

- Their groups were evenly split
- Both sides had strong reasons
- There was not enough clear information

Abstaining was described as:

- “The most honest response”
- “The safest option”
- “The least harmful choice”

### **Summary:**

Abstention was not disengagement. It was a way to respect all voices and protect unity when agreement was not reached.

## **Minority Opinions**

Minority opinions added important perspective across all vote types. These responses often showed stronger emotion and highlighted how different experiences shape how harm is understood.

### **Minority Views within YES Votes**

Some minority voices in Yes-voting groups expressed concern about the impact of change.

They shared:

- Strong attachment to ACA’s identity
- Concern about losing history or continuity

- Worry that change could happen too quickly or without enough clarity

**Summary:**

Some expressed that protection of the fellowship felt just as important as inclusion.

## **Minority Views within NO Votes**

Some minority voices in No-voting groups emphasized urgency around inclusion and access to recovery.

They shared:

- Concern that people may “self-exclude before ever attending”
- That some “missed joining for years because of the name”
- A sense that the name affects whether people recognize themselves and seek help

**Summary:**

Some described the program as a “life and death program” and felt that reducing barriers should be a priority.

## **Minority Views within ABSTAIN Votes**

Minority voices within abstaining groups often reflected strong feelings on one side or the other.

They shared:

- Frustration with lack of clarity about cost, process, or long-term impact
- Concern about making a decision without enough information
- Desire for more discussion before deciding

**Summary:**

At the same time, many supported abstaining to avoid division and protect unity.

## **What Minority Voices Show**

Across all groups, many minority voices said they did not want to block the group conscience, even when they disagreed.

These perspectives show:

- The emotional impact of the decision
- The importance of being heard
- A strong commitment to fellowship principles and unity

## Summary:

Minority voices highlight that both inclusion and protection can feel deeply important, and that unity includes making space for different experiences and perspectives.

## What This Tells Us

This vote was not just about a name.

It reflects how the fellowship balances different forms of care:

- Care for newcomers who may never arrive
- Care for long-time members and ACA's history
- Care for unity when there is no clear answer

**Yes, No, and Abstain votes all represent sincere efforts to reduce harm**, based on different experiences and concerns.

## Next Steps

- A full report, including results, analysis, and a proposed implementation plan, will be posted prior to the 2026 Annual Business Conference (ABC).
- Delegates will review and confirm the next steps at the 2026 ABC.
- Any changes will be introduced gradually after the 2026 ABC.

Thank you to all groups who took part in this important process. We encourage you to send a delegate to the 2026 ABC on May 16 and 17, 2026. <https://adultchildren.org/business-meetings/>