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## Motion 2: Advance Communication of Conference Motions to Groups

Proposed Motion to the General Service Conference of AA in Ireland

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### MOTION

*That Conference establish and adopt a formal procedure comprising three stages. First, that all motions proposed for consideration at each General Service Conference be communicated to groups across Ireland no less than eight weeks prior to Conference, allowing each group to convene a Group Conscience meeting on each motion and for that conscience to be carried upward through the structure by their GSCD. Second, that the deliberation of each motion at Conference include a delegate from each Provincial Intergroup, ensuring that the full range of voices — including minority opinion — is heard before any vote is taken. Third, that following Conference, each GSCD and Intergroup Secretary attend their respective Intergroup meeting and each Area meeting within their region to present a summary of the discussion held and the conclusion reached on each motion considered.*

### BACKGROUND

The General Service Conference Delegate (GSCD) is elected by their Intergroup to carry the voice of the groups they represent. The Service Handbook describes the GSCD's role as one of active communication in both directions — bringing matters from Conference to the groups, and bringing the conscience of the groups to Conference.

In practice, groups are not always made aware of the specific motions to be considered at Conference before votes are taken. This means that Delegates may attend Conference without having had the opportunity to consult the groups they represent, and that the aggregate Group Conscience — the ultimate authority in AA — may not be reflected in Conference decisions.

Furthermore, no formal requirement currently exists for Conference members to report back to Intergroup or Area meetings following Conference. Without such reporting, the Fellowship at group level has no reliable means of understanding what was discussed, what was decided, or why — and the principle of accountable, transparent service is diminished.

This motion asks that a formal procedure be established to ensure the flow of information operates in both directions — from groups to Conference and from Conference back to groups — as the Traditions and Concepts intend.

## RATIONALE

Concept IV affirms that throughout the Conference structure, a Right of Participation should be maintained, ensuring that each level of service is allowed representation in reasonable proportion to its responsibility. Groups bear the ultimate responsibility in AA; their participation in the deliberative process should be real, not nominal.

Concept V affirms a Right of Appeal, assuring that minority opinion will be heard. The inclusion of a delegate from each Provincial Intergroup in the deliberation of each motion gives practical effect to this right, ensuring that Conference benefits from the full breadth of the Fellowship's conscience before reaching its conclusions.

The Service Handbook states that the Group Chairperson is responsible for conveying relevant information from Conference to the group. This duty presupposes that such information is available to be conveyed. Advance communication of motions makes this possible; post-Conference reporting at Intergroup and Area level makes it a matter of record.

Advance communication of motions would not constrain Delegates from exercising their own judgement at Conference. It would, however, ensure that such judgement is informed by genuine consultation — which is the foundation of the GSCD's mandate. Post-Conference reporting closes the loop, keeping the Fellowship informed and Conference accountable.

These procedural changes would require no amendment to the Traditions or Concepts. They would formalise good practice and bring the mechanics of Conference into closer alignment with the principles that govern it.

## RELEVANT TRADITIONS AND CONCEPTS

*Tradition Two: '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.'*

*Concept I: 'The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective Conscience of our whole fellowship.'*

*Concept IV: 'Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional Right of Participation.'*

*Concept V: 'Throughout our world service structure, a traditional Right of Appeal ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard.'*

*Service Handbook (Chairperson duties): The Group Chairperson 'conveys any relevant information from Conference to the Group.'*