

What is an informed Group Conscience?

- The group conscience is the aggregate of experience a group develops after applying the Traditions and Concepts to a question.
- The group conscience is not a majority vote; it is the totality of opinion and experience expressed by the group members. It should always include the minority opinion.
- Unanimity is not required, but the minority opinion needs to feel heard and considered.
- Be informed: The group cannot effectively take its conscience until the members are educated as to what the issues are.
- To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions through full discussion on sensitive issues; every voice is given space to be heard respectfully.

"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 Second Tradition**

"That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity." **Concept XII, Warranty Four**

"The entire structure of AA depends upon the participation and conscience of the individual groups... AA is shaped by the collective voice of its local groups and their representatives to the General Service Conference, which works towards unanimity on matters vital to the fellowship." [The A.A. Group Pamphlet](#)