

**Proposed Agenda Item for the 2022 Conference:
The book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**

For the purpose of maintaining unity the text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published. If revisions to pages 117 and 66 have been changed, they should be restored to the original version of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Background:

It would seem that if the Conference is going to have a Unity in the fellowship about our policies, it is counterproductive to have two diametrically opposed items. It is not possible for the fellowship to implement and then practice policies that are in conflict with each other.

2002 It was recommended that:

The text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson, remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published.

2003 It was recommended that:

A *draft Introduction* to be added to the front matter of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be developed by the General Service Office's Publications Department and reviewed by the trustees' Literature Committee and brought back to the 2004 Conference Literature Committee for their consideration.

Note: The purpose of adding an Introduction would be to explain the language in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and would include the following information:

- Time and era of publication
- Language as a reflection of the time period

Reference to the 2002 Conference Advisory Action:

"It was unanimously recommended that the text in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill Wilson remain as is recognizing the Fellowship's feeling that Bill's writings be retained as originally published."

This Introduction is to create a unified response to questions regarding specific

language, idioms, and historical figures or events from A.A. members, newcomers and non-alcoholics

2005 It was recommended that:

The following introduction be added to the front matter of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

“Introduction (As it is in current 12 & 12's)

Alcoholics Anonymous first published this book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, in 1953. Bill W., who, along with Dr. Bob S., founded Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, wrote the book to share 18 years of collective experience within the Fellowship on how A.A. members recover, and how our society functions.

In recent years some members and friends of A.A. have asked if it would be wise to update the language, idioms, and historical references to present a more contemporary image for the Fellowship. However, because the book has helped so many alcoholics find recovery, there exists strong sentiment within the Fellowship against any change to it. In fact, the 2002 General Service Conference discussed this issue and “it was unanimously recommended that the text in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, written by Bill W., remain as is, recognizing the Fellowship’s feeling that Bill’s writing be retained as originally published.”

We hope that the collective spiritual experience of the A.A. pioneers captured in these pages continues to help alcoholics and friends of A.A. understand the principles of our program.”

First attempt for a change after 30 years of publication

1984

The words “queers” (p. 140) in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* **not be changed** to “homosexuals and lesbians,” recognizing Fellowship feeling that Bill Wilson’s textbook writings be retained as originally published

No further change requests until 2021

From Concept X

In all matters of joint or conflicting authority, therefore, a senior jurisdiction must be established. The junior jurisdiction must be heard and, regardless of the question

involved, there must be an understood point or body where a final settlement can be had. It is understood that lesser conflicts are not to be loaded upon the Trustees for final decision. But it should always be clear *where the point of final decision is located*.

A condition to be avoided at all costs is *double-headed* business or policy management. Authority can never be divided into equal halves. Nowhere does such split authority or double-headed management so bedevil a structure as in its executive departments.