

CODA UK National Service Committee (NSC)
ADDITIONAL MEETING Saturday 8th August 2026, 2.00-4.00pm
AGENDA, MOTIONS AND MINUTES

[Join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 857 1637 8916

Password: 874688

Please note that there will not be enough time in the meeting to go through written material in detail, so **we ask all members to come prepared, having read the items in advance.**

The NSC Secretary will record votes and any actions, which we will review at the end of the meeting. Any references to individuals are on a first name basis only. If you do not wish to be mentioned by name in the mins, please make this clear to the minute taker.

Agenda item	Start	Finish
1 Welcome , moment's silence, 12 Traditions and Sharing Guidelines. Reminder of 30 second time out with serenity prayer if anyone requests. ~5 mins	14.00	
2. Introductions and Feelings check in (individual only – service positions and “ <u>three words only</u> ” for feelings check-in. less than 10 mins Present – Jon (NSC Chair), Rochelle S (NSC CSC Delegate & Sponsorship Rep), Mandy D (NSC CSC Delegate & GSR Thursday East Kent Nethergong online), Andy B (NSC Secretary & GSR Canterbury Sunday online), Julia (NSC Meetings Secretary), Mario (GSR Guildford Saturday morning men's group); two members who wished to remain anonymous Apologies – Emily, Annie, Gillian, Mali		
3. For this meeting: less than 10 mins There is no limit of individual share timings, but • Please be succinct to allow others time to share • Suggest ‘round robin’ – please allow everyone to share before coming in a second time Agree & count initial number eligible to vote – 6 GSRs/NSC officers (note, members with a vote at another Voting Entity should not vote here) Appoint a spiritual timekeeper		14.20 latest
3a. Motion to Re-establish the Delegate Relations Committee 23 mins – see following pages At 13:41, check number eligible to vote and move towards voting – unchanged Voted: 6 (unanimous) – approved	14.20	14.43
3b. Motion to End Board-Imposed World Service Sanctions with Immediate Effect and Make Fellowship Amends 23 mins – see following pages At 14:04, check number eligible to vote and move towards voting – unchanged Voted: 1 in favour, 4 against, 1 abstain – not approved	14.43	15.06
3c. Motion to Establish Procedures for the Imposition of Sanctions and Consequences 23 mins – see following pages At 14:27, check number eligible to vote and move towards voting – unchanged Voted: 5 for, none against, 1 abstain – approved	15.06	15.29

3d. Recognition and Listing of CoDA Meetings 23 mins – see following pages At 14:50, check number eligible to vote and move towards voting – unchanged Voted: 5 for, 1 against, 0 abstain – approved	15.29	15.52
4. Do the motions need shortening? Who will do this if so? 4 mins Not required now. CSC may shorten them after they are presented.	15.52	15.56
5. Agree notes on-screen if necessary 3 mins	15.56	15.59
6. Close – long form Serenity Prayer 1 min	15.59	16.00
Date of next CSC related NSC meetings: 3 sessions, late September to mid October. Survey will be issued late August.		

3a. Motion to Re-establish the Delegate Relations Committee

Motion

Move that the CoDA Service Conference re-establish the Delegate Relations Committee (DRC) as a standing Conference-appointed committee supporting Delegates and Alternate Delegates throughout their service.

Intent

To complete and continue the Delegate support work begun by the former Delegate Relations Committee. A Committee will be formed to preserve and share CoDA's collective Experience, Strength and Hope by developing practical guidance and resources that help Delegates and Voting Entities understand the opportunities, responsibilities, good practices and practical aspects of Delegate service throughout the CoDA Service Conference cycle.

Background

The Fellowship Service Manual, Part 3, Section 02, states that a Voting Entity's primary purpose is to represent its communities at the CoDA Service Conference.

Delegates make that representation possible. Their service is not limited to attending Conference and voting. It includes preparing beforehand, communicating with their Voting Entity and reporting back afterwards.

Conference recognised this continuing need by creating a Delegate Relations Task Force in 2022 and establishing the DRC as a standing committee in 2023.

In April 2026, the Board designated the DRC as a workgroup. Although the Committee had developed Policies and Procedures, the section dealing directly with practical Delegate guidance remained unfinished.

The change in status did not answer whether this work was still needed. Conference originally created the DRC because ongoing support for Delegates was recognised as a distinct service function.

Service Concept Nine states that Conference gives responsibilities to committees and determines the scope of their work.

Implementation

Following approval:

1. The Board shall circulate an expression-of-interest form to current and former Delegates and Alternate Delegates, and to Voting Entities listed with VEL for wider sharing.
2. Current and former Delegates and Alternate Delegates should normally comprise the majority of the Committee. Members with relevant Voting Entity or world service experience may also serve.
3. The Committee shall be formed through CoDA's established appointment process and shall elect its trusted servants through group conscience.

4. Its first work shall include reviewing previous DRC materials, completing unfinished Delegate guidance and updating resources in line with the current Fellowship Service Manual, CoDA Bylaws and Conference decisions.

The Committee may develop practical resources, orientation, drop-in clinics, question-and-answer sessions and other learning opportunities through its own group conscience.

Financial Impact

Minimal. Existing CoDA communication systems, online meeting facilities and website resources may be used. Any future expenditure shall follow CoDA's established budget process.

3b. Motion to End Board-Imposed World Service Sanctions with Immediate Effect and Make Fellowship Amends

Motion

The CoDA Service Conference directs that every sanction, prohibition or wider restriction from CoDA service imposed upon an individual member on or after January 1, 2024 shall be withdrawn.

Where the restriction remains in effect, it shall cease immediately upon adoption of this motion.

Where the restriction has expired or otherwise ceased, Conference acknowledges that its effects cannot be undone and makes a Fellowship amends by formally withdrawing the action, correcting CoDA's records and communications, and apologising to the affected member.

Accordingly:

1. Every continuing restriction covered by this motion shall cease immediately. Each affected member shall be eligible to seek and undertake CoDA service without disadvantage arising from the former action.
2. Within seven days, the Board shall notify every affected member, including those whose restrictions have expired, that:
 - a. the action has been withdrawn;
 - b. it shall not be used to prevent, discourage or disadvantage them in future CoDA service; and
 - c. Conference offers an apology and Fellowship amends for the restriction and its effects.
3. Any current notice stating that an affected member is sanctioned, prohibited or generally restricted from CoDA service shall be withdrawn or corrected. Where an earlier notice was circulated, the same recipients shall, where reasonably practicable, be informed that the action has been withdrawn.
4. CoDA's records shall distinguish between the historical fact that an action occurred and its present status. The record shall state that the action was withdrawn by Conference and carries no continuing finding of ineligibility.
5. Where an affected member's former term remains current and the position continues to exist, the member shall be restored to active service within fourteen days, including any reasonably necessary access, communications and service materials.
6. Where the term has expired or the position no longer exists, the member shall nevertheless be restored immediately to full eligibility for future CoDA service.
7. Nothing in this motion prevents a substantial current concern about a particular service position from being considered afresh through fair process and authorised group conscience. The former sanction or restriction shall not be treated as proof that the concern was established.
8. The Board shall report completion of these actions to the Fellowship within thirty days. Personal names and confidential details shall not be published without the affected member's consent.

Addition to FSM Part 1, Section 03, before the paragraph: “List of Affirmative Communication Actions”

“Removal from Service and Wider Restrictions

A CoDA service body may address concerns about a trusted servant serving in a position for which that body is responsible, using clear notice, an opportunity to respond, mediation where appropriate, fair process and its authorised group conscience.

Removal from that particular position shall not, by itself, affect the member’s eligibility for unrelated CoDA service.

No service body may make a final Fellowship-wide determination that an individual, group or entity is no longer recognised as belonging to CoDA. That determination belongs to Conference and must follow guidelines accepted by Conference.

Between Conferences, the Board of Trustees may take narrowly limited temporary action where reasonably necessary to fulfil its legal, financial, custodial or other material responsibilities. The reasons, authority and scope of the action shall be stated in writing, the affected party shall be given an opportunity to respond, and the matter shall be referred promptly to the IMC where appropriate.

Any temporary action affecting wider participation in CoDA service shall remain in force only for as long as immediately necessary and shall be presented to the next Conference for determination.”

Intent

To end Board-imposed world service restrictions and make a Fellowship amends by withdrawing their continuing effects.

Conference is not being asked to reopen historic disputes or decide that every affected person behaved perfectly. Members may be difficult, outspoken or unaware of the effect of their behaviour. They may also perform valuable service.

The Trustees involved were human trusted servants too. Conference need not condemn or punish them in order to correct actions based upon a misunderstanding of Conference authority.

We forgive those who made the decisions, restore eligibility to serve, and use fair process, the Issues Mediation Committee (IMC) and group conscience for any present concern about a particular position.

Background

A number of trusted servants have been restricted not only from particular positions but from participating more generally in CoDA world service.

Service Concept Eight has at times been understood as providing authority for such restrictions. However, read as a whole and alongside the Conference-endorsed booklet *The Twelve Service*

Concepts: Alive and Strong, it concerns Conference's responsibility to protect the identity and common welfare of CoDA.

The Concept states that the most serious sanction Conference may impose is to no longer recognise an individual or group as belonging to CoDA. This requires consistent violation of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and guidelines accepted by Conference. It does not create a category in which a person remains a CoDA member but is prohibited by the Board from participating in world service.

Suitability for a particular service position is a separate question for the service body responsible for that position, using fair process and group conscience.

This interpretation is consistent with:

- Tradition Three, which does not make membership dependent upon popularity or perfection;
- Tradition Five, which returns us to carrying the message;
- Tradition Nine, which makes service bodies directly responsible to those they serve;
- Tradition Twelve, which places principles before personalities;
- Steps Six and Seven, which teach humility concerning shortcomings; and
- Steps Nine and Ten, which call for amends and continuing inventory.

The Longer Serenity Prayer asks for patience with changes that take time and tolerance of those with different struggles. Tolerance does not require CoDA to overlook harmful conduct or retain someone in an unsuitable position. It requires us to distinguish difficulty in one role from finding that a member is unworthy to serve anywhere in CoDA.

The Fellowship declared 2026 the Year of Love and Acceptance. Conference can give practical expression to that commitment by ending the continuing restrictions and ensuring that future concerns are addressed through the proper process.

Financial Impact

The direct financial impact is expected to be minimal.

Implementation will require limited administrative time to identify continuing restrictions, withdraw or correct notices, update records and report completion.

No financial compensation, damages or reimbursement is authorised by this motion.

The motion may reduce future legal, administrative and dispute-resolution costs by directing concerns towards fair process, group conscience and the Issues Mediation Committee.

References

1. Steps Six, Seven, Nine and Ten.
2. Traditions Two, Three, Five, Nine and Twelve.

3. Twelve Service Concepts, particularly Service Concept Eight. *The Twelve Service Concepts: Alive and Strong*, explanation of Service Concept Eight.
4. Fellowship Service Manual, Part 1, Section 03..
5. Motion 25020, declaring 2026 the Year of Love and Acceptance.

3c. Motion to Establish Procedures for the Imposition of Sanctions and Consequences

Motion: To amend the Fellowship Service Manual, Part 1, Section 03, subsection: **Disagreement, Mediation, and Resolution in Our Group Conscience Process**

Intent

To clarify the principles governing the application of sanctions and other consequences following unresolved disputes by promoting fairness, consistency, confidentiality, proportionality, accountability, and periodic review, while preserving CoDA's existing communication, mediation, and decision-making structure.

Amendment:

Remove the paragraph:

" The IMC will present the relevant information to either the CoDA's Board of Trustees (unless a Board member or the Board is directly involved with the dispute) or at the next CSC to allow for accuracy, objectivity, and fairness."

Replace with the following:

"Principles for Applying Consequences"

The IMC shall present the relevant information to the appropriate decision-making body. Where the Board of Trustees or one or more of its members is directly involved in a dispute, the Board shall not determine the outcome of that dispute. The CoDA Service Conference shall determine the outcome in accordance with procedures established by Conference.

Information presented by the IMC shall be fair, balanced, and concise. It shall distinguish established facts from allegations or opinions, identify the relevant Fellowship Service Manual provisions, summarise the communication and mediation undertaken, include any response provided by the affected person or service body, and include any recommendations made by the IMC.

Before any consequence is applied, the affected person or service body shall be informed of the concerns, provided with sufficient information to understand, and respond to them, and given a reasonable opportunity to be heard. They shall receive written notice of the final decision, the reasons for it, any consequence applied, and the process for requesting reconsideration or review.

In deciding whether sanctions or other consequences are appropriate, the Board of Trustees or the CoDA Service Conference shall consider whether the Fellowship Service Manual process has been followed, whether the information presented is reliable and relevant, whether the proposed action is proportionate to the circumstances, and whether it falls within the authority of the body making the decision.

A sanction need not be applied where a less extensive action is sufficient. Where the concern relates to a person's continued suitability for a particular service position, removal from that position by the vote required under the applicable governing documents may itself be an adequate and proportionate consequence. Any additional restriction, loss of recognition or exclusion from other service shall require separate consideration and justification.

The IMC shall protect the confidentiality and dignity of everyone involved in the dispute. Information shall be shared only with those who reasonably require it for communication, mediation, decision-making or review. Where related disputes involve some of the same individuals, each matter shall remain confidential unless disclosure is agreed by the person concerned, is reasonably necessary for the fair handling of the dispute or is otherwise required by law. Personal names and identifying details shall be omitted from published reports wherever reasonably possible.

A person or service body affected by a sanction or other consequence may request reconsideration where they believe that relevant information was overlooked, materially inaccurate information was relied upon, the procedures in this Fellowship Service Manual were not followed, or the consequence exceeded the authority of the body that applied it.

*Requests for reconsideration or periodic review shall be administered in accordance with the procedures set out in **FSM Part 5, Section 04 - subsection: Issues Mediation Committee**.*

Continuing sanctions and other consequences shall be reviewed periodically and may be varied or concluded where circumstances have materially changed, significant new information becomes available, or the purpose of the consequence has been achieved. The written decision shall explain how reconsideration or review may be requested.

The purpose of reconsideration and review is to support fairness, accountability, and consistency in the application of consequences."

Background

The Fellowship Service Manual currently authorises the Board of Trustees or the CoDA Service Conference, working together with the Issues Mediation Committee (IMC), to apply consequences where appropriate. In recent years, actions described as sanctions, loss of recognition, removal or other disciplinary measures have highlighted the need for clearer guidance concerning the principles that should govern such decisions. The FSM presently provides very little guidance on the presentation of information, the protection of confidentiality, the opportunity to respond, proportionality, or the reconsideration and review of continuing sanctions or other consequences.

This amendment does not create new disciplinary powers or alter the existing authority of the Board of Trustees, the CoDA Service Conference, or the Issues Mediation Committee. Instead, it provides guidance intended to promote fair, respectful, and consistent decision-making while protecting the dignity of everyone involved.

The amendment also complements Service Concept Eight by providing clearer guidance for the application and ongoing review of consequences within CoDA service.

The existing Fellowship Service Manual provisions requiring that disputes use CoDA's own mediation process, and providing that the IMC works with CoDA members rather than attorneys, remain unchanged.

This amendment establishes the principles governing the application of Consequences. Administrative procedures for the Issues Mediation Committee are intended to remain in, or be developed within, FSM Part 5, Section 04 – subsection: Issues Mediation Committee.

Financial Impact

None anticipated.

The existing Fellowship Service Manual provisions requiring disputes to use CoDA's internal mediation process, and providing that the IMC works with CoDA members rather than attorneys, remain unchanged

Reference FSM Part 1, Section 03 – subsection: **Disagreement, Mediation, and Resolution in Our Group Conscience Process**: <https://coda.org/wp-content/uploads/FSM-Part-1-Structure-and-General-Information.pdf>

3d. Motion: Recognition and Listing of CoDA Meetings

Motion: Move to amend the Fellowship Service Manual, Part 2: Meeting Handbook, Section 01, “Introduction and Getting Started”, under “What is a CoDA Meeting”

Intent: To provide an alternative registration route for CoDA meetings and clarify that separate listing on coda.org is not required for recognition.

Current wording

1. Register on coda.org by using the online registration form. Required information includes day and time of meeting, first names of one or two contact members and their email addresses, phone number is optional. Listings are expected to be updated annually and when information changes.

Replace with

- 1. Register on coda.org using the online registration form, or through one or more appropriate CoDA service bodies, such as a national or regional service body, that maintain an accurate and publicly accessible meeting directory. A meeting registered through an appropriate CoDA service body or intergroup shall not cease to be recognised as a CoDA meeting solely because it is not separately listed on coda.org.*
 - a. In-person meetings should ordinarily register through coda.org or through an appropriate CoDA service body serving the country or geographical area in which they meet. Online and telephone meetings should ordinarily register through coda.org but may also register through an appropriate CoDA service body willing to list them.*
 - b. Required information shall include the day and time of the meeting and the first names and email addresses of one or two meeting contacts. A telephone number is optional. Listings are expected to be reviewed annually and updated whenever information changes.*

Consequential amendment

In FSM Pt 2, Section 01, under “Things to Consider When Starting a New CoDA Meeting”,

Current wording:

Register your meeting

You may register your meeting online at coda.org. Once you have an official number, the meeting will be listed in the CoDA Meeting Directory. If your Voting Entity or Intergroup maintains a meeting list, please notify them as well. Please use your assigned group number on all correspondence with CoDA.

Replace with:

Register your meeting

You may register your meeting through coda.org or through an appropriate CoDA service body or intergroup that maintains a publicly accessible meeting directory. A meeting registering through coda.org will be assigned a group number and listed in the worldwide CoDA Meeting Directory. Meetings listed in more than one directory are responsible for keeping each listing current. Where a group number has been assigned, please include it in communications with CoDA. The meeting is responsible for keeping all its directory listings current. When a meeting contact rotates, responsibility for updating each listing, together with any relevant login details, should be included in the service handover.

(**Note:** Registration or listing through a CoDA service body does not, by itself, determine Voting Entity membership or representation. Those matters are addressed separately in other sections of the Fellowship Service Manual.)

Rationale

1. Members and newcomers often use local or national directories because they are easier to search and provide information relevant to their area. Online and telephone meetings should also be included where appropriate, so that accessible meetings listed only on coda.org are not missed.
2. Requiring every meeting worldwide to register through coda.org centralises recognition within a directory administered by CoDA, Inc. The worldwide directory is invaluable, however, absence from it should not, by itself, determine whether an autonomous group registered through an appropriate CoDA service body or intergroup is recognised as a CoDA meeting.
3. CoDA service bodies in different countries should be free and encouraged to develop and grow directories appropriate to the communities they serve. This supports the common welfare of the international Fellowship and allows service to grow through group conscience rather than central control.
4. The 2018 FSM permitted meetings to register with either CoDA Inc. or their Voting Entity. This motion restores an alternative registration route and asks Conference to clarify whether separate registration on coda.org is required for every recognised CoDA meeting.

Principles:

Traditions One and Five: Accurate meeting information helps suffering co-dependents find meetings and supports CoDA's common welfare and primary purpose.

Tradition Four: Reliable public meeting information affects newcomers, other groups, and CoDA as a whole.

Service Concepts Two and Twelve: Maintaining accurate meeting directories is vital Fellowship service work that helps carry the CoDA message. Service bodies in different countries should be encouraged and supported to provide the meeting information their Fellowships need, alongside the worldwide directory.

References and resources

Current FSM, Part 2: Meeting Handbook

<https://coda.org/wp-content/uploads/FSM-Part-2-Meeting-Handbook.pdf>

2018 FSM, Part 2: Meeting Handbook

<https://coda.org/default/assets/File/SSC/Newest%20FSM/FSM%20Part%202%20Meeting%20Handbook.pdf> The 2018 FSM stated: "There are minimal requirements to be considered a CoDA meeting. These requirements are to ... register the meeting with either CoDA Inc. or their voting entity."

Related Conference decision: CSC Motion 24063 introduced the current 2024 wording under "What is a CoDA Meeting."

Motions database: <http://motions.coda.org.tempwebsite.net/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2f>

