# **Guiding Principles:** Putting Our New Traditions Workbook to Work

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on NA unity.

When we come together in service, we connect with each other in a vital way. Most of us feel better when we are productive, and doing something together that helps addicts stay clean gives us a sense of belonging. The friendships we develop in service are unlike any in our lives—not because it's always easy or pleasant, but because we work hard, walk through struggles, and solve problems together. In contributing to our common welfare, we find meaning and joy. In creative action we find love and purpose.

<u>Discuss:</u> Does our NA community work together in a spirit of unity? How can we build or enhance a spirit of unity?



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**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.

Groups focus on our primary purpose: to carry the message to the addict who still suffers. Service beyond the group carries out some secondary purposes: creating meeting lists, getting literature into facilities, or putting on a dance. Each of these, in turn, supports our primary purpose. NA service is always connected in some way to our group purpose, and is under the same direction: Our leaders do not govern, service is not authority, and the ability to serve depends on the trust of those around us.

Discuss: What about	does a good group conscience process look like? What would an observer notice decision making in our service body?



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**Tradition Three:** The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.

Everywhere that addicts suffer, our message is the same: an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. There is a clear connection between the Third Tradition and the Fifth: we want all to feel welcome, and we want to do our best to carry the message. Our task in service is to ensure that addicts have the opportunity to recover in Narcotics Anonymous. The Third Tradition reminds us of that "any addict" in our message: we work to ensure that NA recovery is available to us all. Tradition Three asks us to return again and again to the question, "who is missing?" and reminds us that every addict with a desire to stop using is important to us.

Discuss:	Who is missing from our meetings? How and why do outside issues affect opportunities for addicts to recover in NA in our community?

