

# Group Conscience Guidelines

From time to time, each group may hold a business meeting to discuss ways to improve meetings, make them safer and more welcoming to newcomers, and to address other matters concerning the group. In ISA, we refer to these business meeting decisions as a “group conscience.” When making these decisions, we should always be mindful of our Second Tradition: *For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving Higher Power as It may express itself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

Topics for a group conscience may include anything related to the group including, but not limited to:

1. Amending meeting and reading format
2. Amending list of meeting approved literature
3. Financial matters
4. Selection of trusted servants (Meeting Contact, Secretary, Treasurer, Intergroup Representatives, ...)

A group conscience may be called by any member of the group. This is done during a regular meeting when asked by the chairperson, “Are there any ISA related announcements at this time?” It is suggested group members be given two weeks’ notice of a group conscience and that the business meeting be scheduled 15-30 minutes after the regularly scheduled meeting.

During the business meeting, there is sharing of full information and individual points of view. All group members present at the business meeting discuss, debate, and then decide by simple majority vote (although unanimous vote is preferable). The group Secretary records the results of the group conscience in the meeting binder.