**Tradition 2: For our group purposes there is but one authority- a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants- they do not govern.**

**Q. How do we exercise group conscience in service?**

 **Service begins when we set ourselves aside and welcome the newcomer:**

1. Group meetings are the primary vehicle for spreading the message.
2. Everything we do to help a family member or friend get the message is service.
3. Welcoming the newcomer might be the most important thing we ever do.
4. We lead by example.
5. We respect, encourage and value the newcomer’s input.

**When a group is clear on its purpose, its ultimate authority and its message, the rest falls into place:**

1. We invite a Higher Power to influence our decisions.
2. We hear the voice of our HP when we listen to each other with an open mind and when we practice unity in action.
3. We practice anonymity when we separate the ideas from the people who express them; principles over personalities.
4. We see the outcome of GC in the atmosphere we create before the meeting begins, during and after our meeting, and in our business meetings. Although we cannot measure GC, we can feel it.
5. A strong group tends to be consistent and recognizable, not just with its format, but in its values. We can sense the difference between a meeting that is spiritually based and one that is personality driven.
6. The voice of a loving HP in our GC leads to healthy groups and healthy groups are powerful. We are a force for good in the lives of our addicts, our families, our communities and our world.

**When we start a new meeting, we may be a natural leader. If we are wise, we help those who join us to learn to take on responsibilities. We are looking for service opportunities to share that leadership among others in the growing group community:**

1. When we ask a member to serve, we have a responsibility to them and the group to support them as best we can, offering help and guidance. The better we define a task or project, the easier it is to do well. Clear guidelines and formats are most effective when they support trusted servants rather than restrict them.
2. Trusted servants insure the meeting format is followed and pay attention to how the meeting is running.
3. Leadership never means that a single person is in command. A controlling attitude can drive away a new member.