



RECOVERY ROAD ONLINE GROUP CONSCIENCE

Group Unity Step Four of our program states:

“Each meeting group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or Recovery Road Online as a whole.

Here are some selected readings from our writing on this Group Unity Step. The second paragraph reads: *“Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps of Recovery and Unity have been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire; only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error, which under the guidance of a Higher Power, has brought us to where we started today.”* The fifth paragraph concludes with the sentence, **“Every group has the right to be wrong.”** Since this right is the only right ever mentioned in most recovery writings, the Main Advisory Board (MAB) always considers this principle when members bring conflicts and issues to the board. More than once, members have been advised to work it out within the group.

This begs the question that the board has discussed often, “What is a group?” Is it the individual meetings or is it Recovery Road Online as a whole? There is not an easy answer in our virtual meetings, meetings before the meeting and meetings after the meeting. Certainly, the Group Unity Step suggests that there is a difference between the meeting group and Recovery Road Online as whole; clearly, RRO as a whole is not the self-governing group.

Recovery Road Online is in this trial and error process of defining just what is a meeting group. For example, Group Unity Step Two advocates that a meeting group pick its own leaders but recognizes that immature groups may not be ready to do this. While chairpersons have been recruited for time slots, on occasion there is no selected host. We hope that all meetings will eventually hold a group conscience both to select leaders and to resolve any other meeting group issues. In the meantime, are these meetings a self-governing group? These groups certainly have the right to be wrong.



GROUP CONSCIENCE

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The question has been asked, does any meeting have the power to exclude a member from that meeting for disruptive behavior? On a fellowship level, following group unity step three, RRO recognizes that it does not have the power to eject a member from the fellowship as a whole, and has refused every request to do this based on this principle. Individuals, however, have been asked to leave voluntarily, but never ejected.

At meeting level, this goes back to group conscience while using the fellowships suggested Group Unity Step 3 guidelines. This trial and error, on a case by case basis, is what has and will continue to lead to greater unity (In addition the Recovery Road Online Chairpersons Facebook Group has many "Helpful Hints" and "Technology Tips" on this subject).

So, it can be recognized that the meeting group has certain powers that Recovery Road Online does not. The foremost power the meeting group possesses is the power to heal. This power has saved us all and must be preserved. Nobody looks to the Recovery Road Online Main Advisory Board or RRO as a whole for recovery. God gave that power to the meeting group. The Group Unity Steps guide us in preserving this power to heal. Who is responsible to adhere to the Group Unity Program? We all are responsible. When a chairperson makes a pronouncement as the nature of any meeting, any member can ask the chairperson, respectfully of course, for a group conscience on that issue. If the chairperson refuses, then that is a group conscience, and it may be time to find another meeting. The literature suggests that self-styled leaders that do not follow the group conscience will soon find themselves alone. Your silence is also considered a group conscience.

Recovery Road Online is a spiritual program based on spiritual principles. We do not restrict any group as to meeting format or recovery literature. Freedom demands responsibility and participation. Pick the meetings that you belong to and be responsible in those meetings. We often announce at the end of a meeting, "Talk with each other but, let there be no gossip or criticism of one another." If it is not your meeting, then it is not your business. We are all in this fellowship together and Group Unity Step Four suggests that our trial and error will work out if we put God first.

