Proposal to use non-gendered and universal language when referencing a Higher Power in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of CPA

We propose updating the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of CPA to more accurately reflect our program. As we approach our 20th anniversary, we feel it's prudent that our main pieces of literature, the very base of our program, reflect the inclusive, non-religious nature of CPA. To do this, we would like to update the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to use more universal and gender neutral language when referring to a Higher Power.

Precedent:
- Other fellowships have tailored the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to better reflect their programs.
- CPA has done similar tailoring by adding "thy will, not mine, be done." to the Serenity Prayer
- March 2014- CPA approved changing wording of Step Six from "our defects" to "all these defects"
- January 2022- CPA approved changing "men and women" to "people" in the CPA Preamble

Other information:
- According to our literature, three-fourths substantial unanimity at the WSC is needed to make changes to Steps, Traditions, Concepts of Service or General Warranties
- According to present policies and procedures, the changes would not be made to books until publishing of a 2nd edition.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with proposed changes:
- Recommended changes are highlighted
- * indicates no changes suggested

The Twelve Steps of CPA

1. *We admitted we were powerless over pain and illness—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. *Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him a Higher Power of our understanding.
4. *Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God our Higher Power, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God our Higher Power remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him our Higher Power to remove our shortcomings.
8. *Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. *Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. *Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him—a Higher Power of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. *Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others with chronic pain and chronic illness, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

The Twelve Traditions of CPA
1. *
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority— a loving God Higher Power as He may express Himself— expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. through 12. *