

Discipline Process Review Group

Update to Bush Telegraph

February 2016

The Discipline Process Review Group was established by the Council of Assembly (June 2015) to consider how well we are being served by Chapter 15 of the Book of Order in particular, and other associated sections of the Book of Order and the Supplementary Provisions. The membership of the group was finalized late August 2015 and the group met for the first time via conference call on 9 September 2015. The group has met five times since then.

At a meeting in November 2015 it became clear that before we did any consultation, policies on confidentiality, security of information received and the relationship of our processes to the Privacy Act (1993) had to be defined. This has dominated our work. The outcome will have significant impact on our original brief from the Council of Assembly. In summary, the group is not a party to past discipline proceedings and is therefore not entitled to the content. Therefore, in our conversations with courts of the church and individuals we will regularly ask if people before us are entitled to the information they are sharing, and if other parties to the information have given consent for the information to be shared with us.

A timeline for participation by church courts and individuals in the review will be made available as soon as possible. We are about to contact church courts for dates of their scheduled meetings so that a realistic timeline can be established. The general flow of consultation follows.

- Establish a timeline after consultation with synods, presbyteries, advisory groups
- Invite to participation in an online survey
- 1st conversation with church courts
- Submissions from and conversations with individuals
- Interim Report to GA 2016
- Feedback to church courts and other submitters a response to what we have received and heard heard.
- 2nd conversation with church courts
- Preparation of final report for Council of Assembly

Rev. Geoffrey Skilton (Convener)

Penelope Stevenson, Deborah Bower, Rev Hone Te Rire, Meauli Seuala

25 February 2016