



MIND Advisory Group

Since presenting its report to you last year, the Advisory Group has had an active twelve months. First it has prepared a number of detailed changes to the Disciplinary Process, the Incapacity Procedure and the Structure. The following papers accompany this report; (i) a paper setting out the proposed amendments to the Structure which the Advisory Group requests Mission Council to present to General Assembly in July next; (ii) complete revisions of the Ministerial Disciplinary Process and the Ministerial Incapacity Procedure showing all the changes in red which, subject to the ratification of Resolution 9 of 2010 by Assembly in July, the Group requests Mission Council to consider at its autumn 2012 meeting; (iii) short papers explaining how the various paragraphs of the two Parts I have been incorporated into Parts II; (iv) a paper setting out the MIND matters for inclusion in Mission Council's report to General Assembly.

The purpose of the changes to the Disciplinary Process and the Incapacity Procedure and a consideration as to how they should be brought into effect are contained in paper (iv), in which the Advisory Group offers suggested wording for the MIND section of Mission Council's Report to General Assembly in July. It is possible that some members of Assembly will, quite properly, wish to know what the changes involve and the Advisory Group includes in the proposed report to Assembly the suggestion that Mission Council might inform members of Assembly that copies of all the documentation will be made available for inspection.

In addition, the Advisory Group has carried out a complete review of the Guidelines and Forms following the introduction of the Caution Stage and the removal of the right of the Assembly Commission to attach recommendations to its decision. This has been a time-consuming but essential piece of work.

The Advisory Group continues to run training events for the various groups which have specific roles in the Disciplinary Process and has also held two training days for those with responsibilities under the Incapacity Procedure. These have all been well attended and the level of commitment of all involved has been impressive.

The Advisory Group also meets with the Synod Moderators on an annual basis to discuss matters of common concern. This ongoing dialogue is considered to be valuable to both groups.

At General Assembly this year Julian Macro completes his term of service as the Convener of the Advisory Group and we wish to place on record our heartfelt thanks for his wise counsel and his consummate skill in keeping a firm grip on all the different aspects of this complicated subject. Not only that, but he has given great support to those of us involved the training aspects of the work, having attended every single training day – quite an achievement!

In saying goodbye to Julian, the Group takes this opportunity to express its good wishes and support to Revd Peter Poulter, who takes over the convenerhip from Julian in July.