



Committee for Discipline

Committee Members

<i>Chairperson</i>	Rev Ken Devereux
<i>Convenor</i>	Rev Ruth Vertigan
<i>Member</i>	Dr Neville Barber
<i>Member</i>	Rev John McKane (<i>No longer in WA Synod</i>)
<i>Member</i>	Rev Alan Thompson (<i>Vic/Tas Synod</i>)
<i>Member</i>	Brian Gluestein

After a disappointing loss in a basketball game, the then captain of the Wildcats, Damian Martin acknowledged the opposition, saying “They were great and taught us a lesson”. He went on to say “If you play with discipline, good things can happen.” (Quoted by Ben Mallis in *Pick and Roll*, on 19 October 2019)

The message about playing with discipline applies equally within the church.

A less familiar name may be that of Cath Taylor from Uniting World. She said: “I remember being introduced to the concept of spiritual disciplines through the classic book by Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*. In the book, Foster unravels the path to spiritual growth based on the ancient disciplines of meditation, prayer, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance and celebration. I was captivated by the freedoms each discipline opened up. This was ‘lived theology’, not endless sermons unravelling yet another text from the Scriptures. This was what it meant to actually put into practise a life like Christ’s. My favourite time of the year to live out these disciplines is Lent...” (Lent Event, February 2017).

What a deep richness is wrapped up in the concept of living with faithful spiritual discipline within the Christian community. There are infinite formal and informal ways in which we harness our energies and offer words and actions with Christ-like discipline through our individual and collective behaviour. All members of the Uniting Church are encouraged to continue to live and grow in faithfulness, love and integrity. For leaders this includes compliance with Working With Children Checks and Police Clearances, but it is so much more.

Church Councils, the Presbytery and the Synod each have significant responsibilities regarding the establishment and maintenance of healthy discipline within the Uniting Church. “Discipline in the Church is the exercise of spiritual authority with a view to honouring Christ the Head of the Church and ensuring the spiritual well-being of its members” as the **Regulations** summarise it (5.1.2)

The Synod Committee for Discipline is pleased to be able to report that it has not had to deal with any complaint against a Minister during the last year.

We prayerfully seek some new members for the Committee this year in order that a suitable group will be available to respond if called upon.

Ken Devereux, Chair

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