

Heartland Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) guides church discipline by administering judicial process involving remedial cases and disciplinary cases.

**Church discipline** is the church's exercise of authority given by Christ for guidance, control, and nurture of members and for constructive criticism of offenders. It does not mimic the civil judicial system, but instead seeks to honor God, preserve the purity and restore the unity of the church, achieve justice and compassion for participants, bring members to repentance and restoration, and uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed. (Book of Order D-1.0101.)

**Judicial process** is the means by which church discipline is administered within the context of pastoral care and oversight. The PJC administers judicial process by conducting trials and hearings to resolve two kinds of cases: (1) **Remedial cases**, which are to prevent and correct irregularities and delinquencies by councils; and (2) **Disciplinary cases**, which are to prevent and correct offenses by individuals. (Book of Order D-2.0101, 2.0102.)

At the presbytery level, the PJC handles **remedial cases** filed by a session against another session or filed by a member or employee of a particular church against the session of that church. (Book of Order D-6.0202.) For **disciplinary cases**, the presbytery PJC handles alleged offenses by minister-members of the presbytery, ministers working within the boundaries of the presbytery, and commissioned ruling elders serving churches in the presbytery. (Book of Order D-3.0101.) The PJC may also handle matters referred to it by sessions. (Book of Order D-4.0101.)