

**The Progressive Christian Alliance Leadership Council Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016 at 3 PM Central Daylight Time**

The meeting was held and recorded on Google Hangout.

Leadership Council Chair, The Rev. Lawton Higgs, Sr., called the meeting to order; other attendees were The Rev. Beth Abbott, and The Rev. Gina pond. The meeting proceeded following agreement that a majority of the members of the Leadership Council at a scheduled meeting constituted a quorum.

The Rev. Lawton Higgs, Sr. lead the opening reflection and prayer. His reflection was rooted in Isaiah 8:11-15. He commented that the Lord's hand is upon us as a very heavy weight. God's loving and just expectations are a call for us to respond faithfully as a community of faith in the Progressive Christian Alliance in light of the recent election outcome. Isaiah talked like they had Facebook in his day, referring to conspiracy theories and the fear of the people. In light of fearful news and despair, Isaiah encourages us not be afraid of what the world is afraid of, represented by the many posts of fear and despair that dominate Facebook in our day; but to give our attention to the social justice and radical inclusions of God's teaching so that we will not stumble, but giving our attention to the rock of justice and righteousness. Rev. Higgs called us to strengthen our spiritual discipline and our connection to one another. Noting that with these great gifts we will have an unfailing sanctuary in them and will not be defeated whatever the future brings.

Treasurers Report:

J.T. Ramelis submitted the treasures report by email.

Checking account balance \$426.74.

Contribution since last report \$47.94.

J.T reported that we have received a letter from the IRS acknowledging receipt of our 501©(3) application. They will notify us that we have been approved or to advise us of changes need to be made in the application.

It was agreed by consensus that the "Proposal for Membership Definitions and Yearly Dues", approved at our last Leadership Council Meeting, should be submitted to the Progressive Christian Alliance Membership for an official vote and for addition into the Constitution in Cannons. Leadership Council affirmed that a significant grassroots organizing campaign be used to inform the PCA membership of the "Proposal for Membership Definitions and Yearly Dues" to strengthen the PCA Community and our commitment to our membership and to the witness and work of social justice and radical inclusion in our culture.

Rev. Higgs agreed to write an article to be posted on our website and Facebook pages and groups about "the what" and "the why" behind our proceeding with this

proposal and the purposes we hope to achieve by approving it. To begin the process of approval, Rev. Pond volunteered to create a PDF of the document and to put it on our website with Rev. Higgs' article when it is complete.

It was reported that as a result of increased responsibilities in his ministry assignment The Rev. Reg Richburg has resigned from his position as the Regional Servant Leader of the Northeast Region. Rev. Richburg's resignation was received with the regrets and deep gratitude for the service that he has given in that role for the Progressive Christian Alliance.

The leadership council will begin work to identify another person for the Regional Servant Leader in the Northeast Region.

The Leadership Council then considered the complaints of ministerial misconduct against the Rev. Shane Hughes in the United Kingdom. Content of the complaint was submitted to the Leadership Council by the Rev. David Gray, Regional Servant Leader for the United Kingdom. It was with painful responsibility and deep regret that the Leadership Council voted to revoke the Rev. Shane Hughes's ordination and membership.

The full action and recommendations of the Leadership Council relating to Shane Hughes was communicated to Rev. David Gray in the following letter.



The Rev. Dr. R. Lawton Higgs, Sr. Leadership Council, Chair
Post Office Box 2144, Birmingham, Alabama 35210, United States
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November 17, 2016

Reverend David Gray
Progressive Christian Alliance
Regional Servant Leader
United Kingdom

Dear Reverend Gray,

Following the consideration of the materials you sent us about the complaints against the Rev. Shane Hughes, with deep sadness and regret the Leadership Council of the Progressive Christian Alliance took the following actions:

1. The Leadership Council affirms your document entitled "PCA Statement Regarding Ministers Who Misbehave."
2. The Leadership Council acted to revoke the membership and ordination of Shane Hughes in the Progressive Christian Alliance.
3. The Leadership Council asks you to inform Shane Hughes and all other known ministries that Shane Hughes is related that he is no longer a minister in good standing in the Progressive Christian Alliance and none of his actions or ordinations are in any way connected to the Progressive Christian Alliance.

Thank you for your faithful service in the Spirit of Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

R. Lawton Higgs, Sr.

Chair, Leadership Council
Progressive Christian Alliance

cc: Leadership Council

The Leadership Council also approved a post to be made on our website that if anyone is unclear about the credentials of someone who is ministering as a Progression Christian Alliance clergy they should contact the Leadership Council for confirmation of the person's status.

The Rev. Gina pond reported that she had completed a current map with the boundaries of the regions that are served by our Regional Servant Leaders. She indicated that there might need to be some redefinition of boundaries with possible addition of new regions to make the responsibilities of the RSLs more equitable.

The Leadership Council ordained Marie Ba'tel as progressive Christian alliance clergy.

The Leadership Council, recognizing the Progressive Christian Alliance's commitment social justice and radical inclusion affirmed that all Progressive Christian Alliance Members should be safe persons in our culture and create safe spaces for all people. The use of a safety pin or other symbol to designate our community is such place was encouraged.

Leadership council also affirmed an effort to create a Transgender Health Committee to support transgender persons in our culture and to give recommendation for responses to oppressive legislation or other issues that impact

their health and safety.

The Leadership Council approved as a primary goal for 2017 to be a Progressive Christian Alliance Annual Meeting. It was noted that the PCA annual meeting should be held at a venue that would enable maximum participation from the entire membership and provide for live streaming of all events and presentations and maximum use of social media to promote and inform from the event.

The commitment was made by the leadership Council to begin looking for a venue and start planning for this annual meeting is a 2017 goal.

The next meeting is to be set by a Doodle Poll, due to the absence of Rev. Ramelis and Rev. Self from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

R. Lawton Higgs, Sr.

01/08/17