

## **PCN and local groups**

The Progressive Christianity Network is based on individual membership, but those individuals can be supported and encouraged by attending one of the expanding number of groups across Britain, currently 57. At present over half of existing members choose to attend a group and others would very much like to but none as yet exists in their area. The network encourages the formation of new groups and the affiliation to PCN of existing progressive groups. We believe that the strength and future of progressive Christianity is nurtured through the mutuality and fellowship which develops in them. There is a wide diversity among such groups, not least in size, but all share a broad commitment to the Eight Points. Each is autonomous, self-supporting and self-directing, but with access via the website and the Administrator to both programme ideas and resources, as well as to committee support when requested.

### **Guidelines for groups who are affiliated to PCN or who wish to affiliate**

1. The support that PCN gives to a group is provided free (apart from DVD hire fees). The funding comes from PCN's membership.
2. PCN asks that all affiliated groups be open to all comers whether or not they have a church background
3. PCN asks that an affiliated group should identify itself as being progressive Christian in outlook and that at least the group convenor should be a member of PCN and that he or she should feel at ease with the Eight Points by which we recognise progressive Christianity.
4. Membership of PCN is encouraged, but not required of other group attendees.
5. PCN asks all affiliated groups to have an informative presence on our website and to keep it up to date. We are happy for you to place a link to your own website on the PCN website pages but we still ask that at the very least your group's PCN home page and programme page should be complete and up to date.
6. Groups in the groups network remain constitutionally independent of PCN. Being part of the PCN groups network is not a guarantee of PCN approval.
7. PCN does not seek "ownership" of group agendas or activities. All areas of group activity, including matters such as public

liability insurance and record-keeping are the responsibility of the individual group. Groups should check with the owners of their venue that they are insured.

8. PCN encourages and supports groups in the network to undertake occasional special events such as seminars and conferences which are open to the wider public, perhaps working with other groups in their region, in order to make progressive Christianity more widely known.
9. To this end PCN offers advice and publicity and, for larger projects, help with banking and underwriting costs within the constraints of its resources and current policy.
10. Use of the PCN name, initials or logo in any group activity (including the group's name, website, or special event) should always be done with the advance knowledge of PCN. This is because we are responsible for the good standing of the PCN name and wish to defend PCN from any moral, legal and financial liability which could arise from its inappropriate use. We reserve the right to ask for amendment to the wording of such use or to require the removal of the PCN name.
11. Groups are welcome to organise an event as a PCN event but we reserve the right to ask that its execution, (including such items as ticketing and publicity) is done in line with PCN policy.
12. If a group carries the PCN name or logo in its title, there may be circumstances where we ask you to carry a subtitle such as "an independent member of the PCN Britain network".
13. If a group has its own website, it should not use the PCN name or initials in the website's title. This is because it would be impossible for PCN to share in the management and oversight of an independent website. However, a website subtitle such as "affiliated to PCN Britain", may be used, along with our logo, provided PCN has approved the wording and appearance.

### **Benefits offered to groups which affiliate to PCN Britain:**

1. We have a library of DVD group study guides, including Living the Questions, which we make available for hire at a small fee. (Our DVD librarian is Jess Lee, [jess.lee@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:jess.lee@pcnbritain.org.uk) )
2. We will endeavour to supply PCN speakers.
3. We provide each group with its own section on the PCN website. In 2012 this will be five distinct pages.

4. We have a Group Convenors' forum available on the internet. This is one way for convenors to share ideas.
5. We offer you a spot in the PCN quarterly publication.
6. We provide occasional emailed news updates for groups.
7. We provide you with free PDF versions of the PCN newsletter to share with your group attendees.
8. We have help-sheets designed to assist you with event planning, should you wish to stage a public seminar or conference. Groups sometimes join up with each other to do this
9. Training and support is available in the use of your group's pages on the PCN website.
10. We may be able to help with the financing and insurance of special events
11. We can help with publicity, for example providing mail shots to members in your area.
12. We can provide general advice on starting and running a group