



## The aims of the Progressive Christianity Network, Britain

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting held in York, it was proposed that there should be an alteration to our constitution to include a new section called Aims. In the course of discussion it emerged that several sets of aims have been published over the lifetime of PCN and it was agreed that any new set should be adopted only after taking into account these previous versions. A working party was set up consisting of three trustees and three non-trustees and was asked to come back with a revised proposal. Its members were trustees Paul Onslow, Angela Smith, and Richard Tetlow together with non-trustees Hugh Dawes, Paul Dawson and Maureen Foxall. The PCN chair also took part ex-officio.

Following several months of collaboration by the working party, the set of aims printed at the foot of this article was agreed and was accepted by the PCN Management Committee. These were then offered to the membership at large and were adopted by the AGM in London in April 2013 as the revised aims of PCN Britain.

There was one unexpected footnote to this exercise which arose following correspondence between the Charities Commission and our secretary, Paul Onslow. The commission said it does not approve the inclusion of aims (or *furtherances* as they prefer to call them) within a constitution. What this means is that while the object of a charity can only be changed following a vote by a quorate AGM or SGM, aims can be modified without such reference. However, the committee did refer them to a quorate AGM, even though they do not appear as part of our constitution.

Please note that PCN's object remains unchanged: 'The advancement of the Christian Religion in such exclusively charitable ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion see fit.'

### **The revised aims (or furtherances) of PCN Britain are:**

*Promoting a way of living consistent with the 8 points and with a progressive inclusive, open approach to religion.*

*Supporting groups of PCN members and non-members, to explore a progressive understanding of Christianity*

*Supporting and encouraging members of the Progressive Christianity Network, both those whose faith is lived out within the community of church as expressed in mainstream denominational Christianity and those outside of any such organised institutional Christian framework.*

*Networking, conferencing and providing forums for open debate about all aspects of Christianity, including interaction with people of other faiths.*

*Engaging in discussion and negotiation with members of different Christian denominations, promoting agendas and understandings that are both liberating and radical.*

*Developing and encouraging progressive Christian congregations and communities.*

*Promoting membership of PCN Britain*

May I take this opportunity to offer many thanks to all those who worked so diligently and thoughtfully.

Angela Smith, chair PCN Britain