



NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS

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PRESS RELEASE

May 10, 2017

Potential Plan for Re-structuring of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) and the Office of General Assembly (OGA)

It has come to my attention that actions are being taken to gather information at the Presbytery level concerning the re-structuring of PMA and OGA. One of the actions of the 222nd General Assembly was the formation of an Administrative Commission to define the form and function of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of General Assembly.

It is my understanding that the PCUSA wants to hold a "pre-presbytery meeting" to solicit feedback on their plans for the restructuring of PMA and OGA. They plan to hold meetings at every presbytery and solicit this feedback.

The restructuring issue is that the board is entirely too big, and they want to downsize the PMA Board. I encourage all concerned Presbyterians to take the following actions:

1. Make sure that all commissioners attend the pre-presbytery meeting and the presbytery meeting
2. Encourage other churches who have a vested interest in diversity to attend *and*
3. Speak up for the continued presence of diverse representation on the Board.

By diversity representation, I don't mean making sure that some of the Board members are minority, I mean keeping/allowing voice and vote of those groups that represent the interests of African Americans and other diverse groups in the PCUSA.

By failing to oppose this issue, the hard work that has been done to get the PCUSA to collaborate and consider the voice of diversity groups will be eliminated. Those groups may continue to exist, but they will not be at the table where decisions are made.

Please advocate against this effort to reduce diversity within the Church. Diversity should not be considered as a liability but as an asset. All institutions and organizations that have a viable future are embracing this truth.

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