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Douglass Leadership Institute Appoints Bishop Garland Hunt as New President

WASHINGTON, DC - The Douglass Leadership Institute (DLI) Board of Directors today announced the appointment of Bishop Garland Hunt as its new President, following the passing of the organization's beloved founder Rev. Dean Nelson. While battling cancer, Rev. Nelson nominated and expressed his full confidence in Bishop Hunt as his successor at the most recent DLI board meeting, held December 11, 2023. The Board's vote to appoint Bishop Hunt was unanimous.

"Rev. Nelson's recommendation of Bishop Hunt at our December meeting resonated with everyone on the board. Hunt possesses both the character and experience needed to continue the work Dean started and to lead us into the future. While we grieve Rev. Nelson's passing, we are confident in God's sovereignty over this organization and Bishop Hunt's unique gifting to continue the mission," said Keith Frasier, chairman of the board.

"It's an honor to assume this role," Bishop Hunt said. "No one can replace the unique set of gifts that Rev. Nelson brought to this work, but I am fully committed to helping DLI continue and even expand what he began. During a time of cultural upheaval and spiritual darkness in America, the work of the Douglass Leadership Institute is needed now more than ever."

Nelson founded the Douglass Leadership Institute in 2015 to equip faith leaders, especially in the African American community, to apply Biblical values and principles to public life and the marketplace. DLI equips men and women of faith for civic engagement and leadership to bring about positive community change through forums, pastor roundtables, policy briefings, and many other outreach events. Rev. Nelson grew DLI into a nationwide network that affirmed and embraced a more complete understanding of the Black American Christian perspective and experience.

"Bishop Hunt mentored both my husband and me from our college days," said Julia Nelson, board member and widow of Rev. Nelson. "Along with Bishop Wellington Boone, he taught us what it meant to fully commit our lives to Christ in word and in deed. I can think of no one better to lead DLI into the next chapter."

Bishop Garland Hunt, previously the senior policy advisor for DLI, has served as the Senior Pastor or Executive Pastor of The Father's House Church in the Atlanta, Georgia area since 2000. Hunt served in various roles of executive leadership for about 30 years, including as President of Prison Fellowship, Executive Vice President of Fellowship of International Churches, Executive

Vice President of Wellington Boone Ministries, and President of New Generation Campus Ministries.

In 2023, Hunt was appointed as a board member to the Department of Juvenile Justice by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. In early 2021, Hunt was appointed by Governor Kemp to the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless Commission. In 2004, Bishop Hunt was appointed to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Sonny Purdue and served as Chairman of the Parole Board from 2006 to 2008. In 2010, Governor Perdue appointed Hunt as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice.

After obtaining B.A. from Howard University and J.D from Howard University Law School, he served as a judicial law clerk and staff attorney with the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Learn more about DLI at: www.dlinstitute.org

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