

## Definition of Terms

**Spirituality** - spirituality is the notion of awe and wonder through connectedness with self, others, nature, mother earth, or that which transcends all of these, and helps us feel the unity of all being in this incredible universe.

**Spiritual Activism** - is defined on our website - <http://spiritualprogressives.org/philosophy/spiritual-activism/>

**Spiritual Leadership** - defined on our website - <http://spiritualprogressives.org/philosophy/spiritual-leadership/>

**Network** - people who share similar values and wish to support each other's efforts to bring healing and transformation.

### **Right, Left, Liberals, Progressives:**

These terms are a convenient shorthand for a more complex reality, but are useful to help us understand some key aspects of the differences between the Left and Right, and between Liberals and Progressives.

The **Right** believes that capitalist market, if left to its own self-correcting mechanisms, will correct itself to meet people's needs, and that all will profit through "trickle-down" economics. They believe that less government is better for everyone and seek to dismantle government programs that have put constraints on the ability of individuals or corporations to maximize their profits by providing for the needs of workers, or protecting the environment; though at the same time they support funding for military spending far in excess of the total cost of the social programs they oppose.

The **Left** seeks to end the oppression people are experiencing as a result of the deprivation of their economic and political rights and from the militarism that leads to wars. They recognize that human beings and their actions are destroying the environment and seek to address this environmental destruction. Liberals and progressives are two words that describe different tendencies in the Left.

**Liberals** focus on smaller goals believing that a set of piecemeal reforms can eventually heal and repair some of the worst aspects of capitalist society on people and the planet.

**Progressives** tend to focus on the need for systemic transformation of society as a whole and believe that smaller changes are unlikely to add up to a deep enough transformation to protect people's rights, well-being, and satisfy their fundamental needs in the long-run, and protect the earth.

**Spiritual Progressives** incorporate all of the concerns of progressives, and add another dimension by emphasizing that progressives have a limited understanding of human needs. People suffer not only from the deprivation of all the needs addressed by progressives, but also, and in many instances even more intensely, by the deprivation of

1. our need to be loved, cared for, respected, recognized in all of our complexities, and dealt with in a spirit of compassion and generosity; and
2. our need for a higher meaning in life than achieving money and power, a meaning that in some way connects to a transcendent purpose to our lives and that connects us to a

community of people who share that same or similar transcendent purpose for their lives; a community that responds to the universe with awe, wonder, and radical amazement and treats people as embodiments of the sacred.

It is the contention of spiritual progressives that until these other needs are both affirmed and explicitly addressed (as in the New Bottom Line), the progressives will fail to win enough support to actually achieve the goals that spiritual progressives share with them.

**Trumpism** - those who seek to undermine and quickly dismantle government wherever possible except those aspects of government that aid the super rich directly (for example, the military which serves the needs of American corporations, and the criminal justice system to the extent that it protects the wealth and property of the super-rich) or underfund government and restrict government activities so that it appears to be failing in its missions and hence loses popular support. Trumpism involves accepting those on the Right who engage in overt violence, threats of violence, bullying, and/or spread racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, or xenophobic ideas and/or behaviors. Many of those who voted for Donald Trump are not Trumpists in this sense, but there are millions of Americans who are.