

Reviving Spiritual Literacy

“The great challenge of our moment is the crisis of isolation and fragmentation, the need to rebind the fabric of society that has been torn by selfishness, cynicism, distrust and autonomy. At some point there will have to be a new vocabulary and a restored anthropology, emphasizing love, friendship, faithfulness, solidarity and neighborliness that pushes people toward connection rather than distrust.”

– David Brooks, “The Death of Idealism,”
The New York Times, September 30, 2016

An Invitation to Participate

John W. Nupp

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Joshua Martin Siegel

Rabbi Emeritus

Columbia Jewish Congregation

Rabbi to the BWC

Michael Meyerson

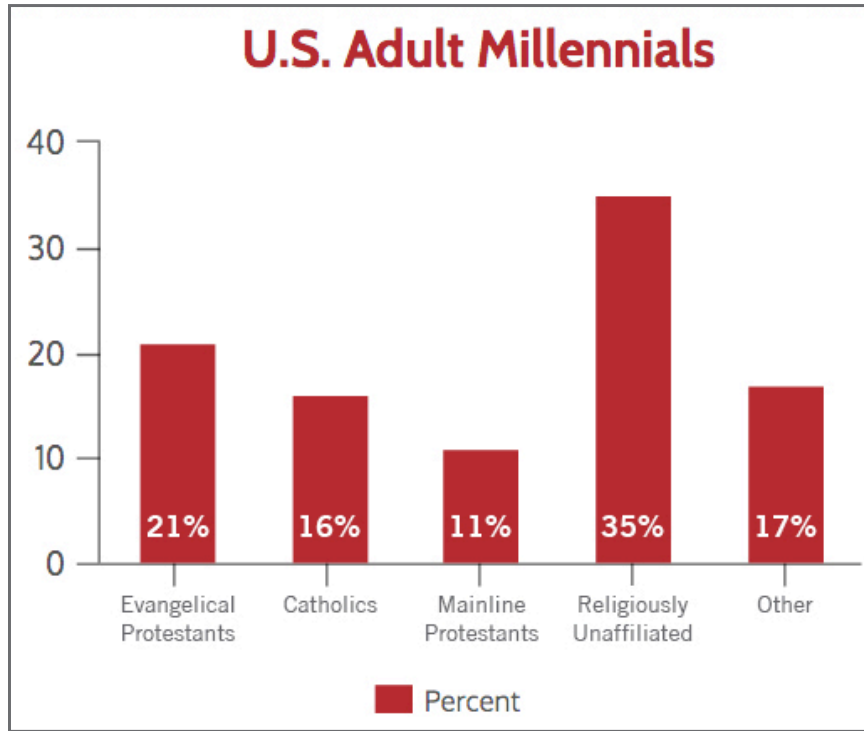
DLA Piper Professor of Law, University of Baltimore

Author of “Endowed by Our Creator: The Birth of
Religious Freedom in America”



The Vision

Create a team of leaders who will nurture Spiritual Literacy in our churches and communities.



*Percentages based on 2014 Pew study

What we see emerging from the Spiritual Literacy project is simply and profoundly the hope of “a Common Tree” – something which lives and grows as a gift to the community to which it is given. By our efforts, in partnership with others and the Spirit of God, we aspire to add beauty and depth to our world, that all may be blessed.

The Need

The Landscape of our society, in spiritual terms, is little more than a valley of dry bones. We find more and more people who are looking for meaning beyond the traditional religious structures. Meanwhile, even within the church, few people even expect to experience an encounter with God.

The Goals

- Create a collaborative, interactive experience, first for clergy, then for both clergy and laity (and eventually those outside the church), where people can learn to talk about spirituality and its role in their lives.
- Create a way for people to start their spiritual journey in a multitude of ways: with service, belief, study, or community relationships.
- Help people recognize and overcome the inherent limits of language in discussing God.
- Guide our church so it can help people gain greater access to the Eternal.
- Share our experiences to improve the communities in which we live.

“Humility, Love and Wisdom: The Basic Vocabulary of Spiritual Literacy”

A 25-Hour retreat experience for clergy, November 29-30, 2016

Commuter rate: \$160 (includes dinner on Tuesday and lunch and dinner Wednesday)

Overnight accommodations available at nearby Turf Valley resort by advance reservation

The Franciscan Friary, 12290 Folly Quarter Rd. Ellicott City, MD 21042

Contact John Nupp for more information: jnupp@bwcumc.org

