

Religious progressives launch new network: Network of Spiritual Progressives

News in the [August 23, 2005](#) issue

More than 1,200 spiritual progressives gathered in Berkeley, California, in July for a national conference to build an organization for the spiritual and religious left.

Dubbed the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP), the new organization seeks to challenge not only religious conservatives, but America's materialistic culture and the antireligious bias among secular liberals, said conference architect Michael Lerner, a rabbi and editor of *Tikkun* magazine.

"The monologue of the religious right is finally over," said socially liberal evangelical Jim Wallis, who edits *Sojourners* magazine. Speakers included linguist George Lakoff and retired Episcopal bishop John Shelby Spong.

Another conference is planned February 10-13 in Washington. -*Religion News Service*