

This is a copy for discussion purposes of a presentation made by the ACA literature committee on spiritual inclusion at the February 18, 2023 ACA quarterly delegate meeting.

Photo Acknowledgements

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We will provide information on how you and your meetings can be heard throughout this presentation and at the end.

Overview of Today's Presentation:

Four short reports followed by time for questions/feedback from you.

- What is Spirituality and How is Literature Committee working on it?
Christine B
- How the process of Literature Evaluation considers spirituality in documents.
Ralph B
- Work of the Spiritual Inclusion Group
Alexandra E
- Work of the Spiritual Inclusion Group
Erin D



The Continuing Conversation:

- Email us at spiritual@acawso.org
- Give feedback on specific pieces of literature at <https://acawso.org/feedback-on-existing-literature>
- Attend the Quarterly Literature Committee meeting April 1, 2023.
- Volunteer for one of many working groups Addressing these issues.
Access the volunteer form on our website ACAWSO.org/literature

Here is the ballot that passed in April 2021 asking the Literature Committee to revise the BRB to become more inclusive:

2021-6 . Final Motion passed: We move that a new literature subcommittee begin planning a revised edition of the Big Red Book, with new testimonials and updated content, to be more inclusive of all experience of gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, **religion/spirituality**, and a broader range of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.





These are all the groups in Literature addressing spirituality:

- Literature Evaluation Subcommittee. Chair Greg R; Vice Chair Ralph B.
- Language Subcommittee. Chair Alexandra E
- Literature in Development. Chair Erin D
- Big Red Book Revision working group: Sandy D
- Revised Twelve Steps: working group chair is open
- Spiritual Inclusion Working Group: The group has concluded. Its report is posted at:
acawso.org/literature

Here is a working definition of spirituality for fellowship feedback.

This definition is for working purposes and feedback. We acknowledge that it is based largely on work based on white Euro-centric views. Input is needed from our worldwide fellowship.

Spirituality is an experience of connection with something greater or within us; living every day in an open, present and loving manner.. . Some of us choose to call the power used in our program of recovery by traditional religious or spiritual terms or by secular terms such as Love, Universe, Spirit, Inner Wisdom, etc. Others may use no names at all or choose a secular force, such as the love and wisdom of their recovery community.

Spirituality is the aspect of humanity that refers to the way individuals or groups seek and express meaning and purpose and the way they experience their connectedness to the moment, to self, to others, to nature, and to everything around us and all that is.

Principles: connection, community, love, ethics, lived experience



A collage of religious and cultural images. At the top center is a circular image of a Hindu deity with a large, ornate crown and multiple arms. To the left is a circular image of a Shinto torii gate. To the right is a circular image of a Hindu temple interior with many lit candles. Below these are two circular images of people in Day of the Dead costumes. To the left of the center is a circular image of a Hindu deity statue. To the right of the center is a circular image of a person in a yoga pose at sunset. Below the yoga image is a circular image of a Hindu deity statue. At the bottom right is a circular image of a hand with a tilak symbol. The entire collage is set against a dark blue background with white stars.

- Spiritual inclusion is representing, embracing, and honoring different spiritual or secular expressions while being part of an organizational whole. Inclusion is a principle that requires love, acceptance, flexibility, and an orientation toward community.
- Principles: love, representation, embracing, honoring, curious, creative

Please give us your feedback:

- What is your reaction to the working definitions of spirituality and spiritual inclusion?





Literature Evaluation

Current evaluation criteria for spirituality in new literature is generic

- Is it consistent with the ACA Twelve Traditions?
- Is it consistent with ACA being a spiritual and not religious program?

Lit Eval is updating evaluation criteria

- One goal is to make spirituality evaluation more explicit.
- We welcome fellowship suggestions to help us.
- The Loving Parent Guidebook, Connections, Getting Started: each has tried to be spiritually inclusive prior to release of the spiritual inclusion working group results.

The fellowship can comment on existing literature at:

Feedbackonexistingliterature@acawso.org

Please give us your feedback:

- What suggestions do you have for evaluating ACA literature submissions for spiritual inclusivity?





ACA Diversity Statement:

ACA is an inclusive organization and open to all affected by family dysfunction. We strive to create an atmosphere that reflects the diverse communities we serve and where everyone feels empowered to be their full, authentic selves.

Our language and literature are the gateway to our fellowship. It is crucial that all see themselves reflected and welcomed.

“Allowing the true self to emerge in the nurturing atmosphere of ACA is a spiritual experience that awaits any adult child stepping onto the broad highway of ACA recovery” BRB p. xv.

Service coming from love is about opening to the spiritual principles in our Traditions.

- open-mindedness
- inclusion
- acceptance
- humility
- equality



ASSUMPTION 6:

ACA Literature assumes that spiritual tolerance of atheists, agnostics, non-believers, secularists, and spiritual but not religious members equates to spiritual inclusion.

“We invite spiritual inclusion by letting readers use their words of choice, or refrain from any wording, in any texts and prayers where the word God or Higher Power is currently used.”

Personal share from the working group: Erin D.





ASSUMPTION 3:

- ACA Literature assumes that a higher power is singular, or that people have only one power in their lives that is greater than themselves.

Personal share from the working group: Alexandra E.

How to Continue the Conversation:

Email us thoughts, ideas, and feedback at spiritual@acawso.org

Give feedback on specific pieces of literature at:
<https://acawso.org/feedback-on-existing-literature>

Attend the Quarterly Literature Committee meeting April 1, 2023.
11:30am Eastern
zoom 856 5245 7314

Volunteer for one of many working groups addressing these issues.
Access the volunteer form on our website ACAWSO.org/literature

RESOURCES

Read how new literature is addressing spirituality on the ComLine.

<https://adultchildren.org/ComLine>

Read the report of the Spiritual Inclusion Working Group at

<https://acawso.org/literature> under Resources

Read and share the powerpoint from today, which will be posted at

<https://acawso.org/literature> under Resources.

