

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PROGRESSIVE CHURCH?

In our all-church survey last summer over 85% of the responses showed a theological orientation of “progressive.” This is a theological term, new for many, and not to be confused with political progressiveness. It is distinguished from theological liberalism in its post-modern perspective and shares the following characteristics:

- Spiritual vitality

- A willingness to question

- An affirmation of diversity

- Respect for other faiths

- A commitment to social justice

- Taking the Bible seriously rather than literally

For more information on progressive theology you may Google it (a really post-modern thing to do!), look it up on Wikipedia, or consider reading either of the following books:

“What Does a Progressive Christian Believe?: A Guide for the Searching, the Open, and the Curious,” by Delwin Brown; or “Finding Jesus Outside the Box: A Progressive Christian Manifesto on the Journey from Religion to Authentic Faith,” by Jarrod Cochran. And if you want to be really postmodern, download them on your Kindle, iPad or Nook.