



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

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N E W S R E L E A S E

Robert P. Jones

“The Revival of Progressive Religious Activism and the Future of American Public Life”

**Thursday, January 21 / 5:30 p.m. / Free
Parish Hall, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara,
1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara**

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- **Robert P. Jones, founder and CEO of Public Religion Research Institute, Washington, DC.**
- **Thursday, January 21 /5:30 p.m.**
- **Parish Hall, Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara, 1535 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara**
- **FREE**
- **Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317**

Description:

The last five years have witnessed a remarkable resurgence of progressive religious activism in American public life. The identity and impact of this new movement is just beginning to be understood. Based on nearly 100 in-depth interviews with religious leaders conducted for his book, *Progressive & Religious: How Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist Leaders are Moving Beyond the Culture Wars and Transforming American Public Life*, Robert Jones paints a compelling portrait of this surprisingly complex new interfaith movement for social justice, which is neither simply a religious left countering the religious right nor a straightforward resurrection of older forms of progressive religious activism. Copies of *Progressive & Religious* will be available for purchase and signing.

Speaker Profile:

Robert P. Jones, Ph.D., is the President of Public Religion Research, a consulting firm advising national advocacy groups. Dr. Jones is also a Visiting Fellow in Religion at The Third Way, a progressive think tank, and a regular columnist for the online magazine *Religion Dispatches*. His firm specializes in research on religion and values using national public opinion surveys and focus groups, as well as coalition building between progressive political groups and religious communities. Dr. Jones is a member of the national steering committee for the Religion and Politics Group at the American Academy of Religion and a member of the Society of Christian Ethics. He and his family attend the Interfaith Families Congregation in Silver Spring, MD. Previously, Dr. Jones served as an affiliated scholar at the Center for American Progress and as the founding director and senior fellow at the Center for American Values in Public Life at People for the American Way Foundation. At PFAW, he directed the American Values Survey, one of the largest public opinion surveys on religion and politics conducted in the last four years. Prior to his work in DC, he was assistant professor of religious studies at Missouri State University and a teaching fellow in religion at Emory University. He holds a Ph.D. from Emory University, and a M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Jones is also the author of *Liberalism's Troubled Search for Equality: Religion and Cultural Bias in the Oregon Physician-assisted Suicide Debates* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2007).

Sponsors:

This free, public event is presented by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB and a grant from the Ford Foundation.

**For more information, call
UCSB Walter H. Capps Center for the
Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life
at (805) 893-2317**

**Editor: For color images,
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