

Preconvention Institute—Thursday, October 25th, 2018—approximately 7:00pm

Presenter: Dr Lisa Miller

Title: “The Spiritual Child; Implications of science for healing and growth”

Abstract: Science shows that every child is born with an innate capacity for spirituality, a direct personal relationship with G-d, the Higher Power or ultimate loving presence. Hundreds of peer review articles now show that personal spirituality, a direct relationship with G-d, is exceptionally robust in protecting against the prevalent forms of suffering (depression, anxiety and substance abuse). Common conditions such as developmental depression suggest that for many youth suffering is part of spiritual emergence, and can be part of path spiritual development.

Learning Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

- 1) Identify the protective benefits of spirituality against common forms of psychopathology.
- 2) Identify pathways towards spiritual development supported by science.
- 3) Draw implications for treatment and prevention from the clinical science on spiritual development in children and adolescence.

Primary Audience: Social workers, Social work students, Clergy, Human Service professionals

Content Level: Intermediate

Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 3.0

Bio Information: Lisa Miller, Ph.D. is Professor and Founder of the Spirituality Mind Body Institute at Columbia University, Teachers College. Dr. Miller has published over a hundred research articles and chapters on spirituality and psychology in youth.

Dr. Miller is author of the New York Times Bestseller, *The Spiritual Child; The New Science of Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving* from St. Martin’s Press as well as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the APA journal, *Spirituality in Clinical Practice* and solo Editor of the *Oxford University Press Handbook of Psychology and Spirituality*.

Dr. Miller is an elected to Fellow of the American Psychological Association, winner of the Virginia Sexton Mentoring Award. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Yale University and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from University of Pennsylvania, where she was mentored by Martin Seligman founder of positive psychology movement.