



2015  
ANNUAL REPORT

ACTIVE FAITH MATTERS



## FTE's Mission

To cultivate diverse young adults to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and academy.

# What is active faith?



**Active faith is faith that seeks to know its context and the challenges therein; faith that is engaged in the work of transformation and kingdom-building; faith that is a conduit between the needs of the world and the power of the Spirit.**

Liv Gibbons  
Pastor  
Northwest United Protestant Church  
Richland, WA

### Active faith is justice-making.

Eboni Marshall Turman  
Assistant Research Professor of Theological Ethics and Black Church Studies; Director, Office of Black Church Studies  
Duke Divinity School  
Raleigh, NC

**Active faith is embodying the essence of our tradition through our words and actions. It means pushing ourselves to lean into the prophetic and shaking ourselves from our complacency.**

Jennifer Bailey  
Founder, Executive Director  
Faith Matters Network  
New York, NY

**An active faith is faith that goes beyond one's belief and hope in God's love and grace; it includes daily practices that sustain one as well as action to love others through serving. An active faith matters because God calls each of us, as believers, to actively live out our faith daily by obeying Him. We are created in His image to be His hands and feet while here in this world.**

Geri McKenzie  
Pathways to Ministry Administrator  
Wilshire Baptist Church  
Dallas, TX

**Active faith is a matter of life and death for all of us.**

Edwin Estevez  
Evangelist  
Presbytery of New Castle  
FIRST New Worship  
Community Program  
Wilmington, DE

### An active faith challenges the status quo.

Danielle Ayers  
Minister of Justice  
Friendship West Baptist Church  
Dallas, TX





## Active Faith Ablaze For What Matters

Imagine the world without the active faith of God's people.

Sweeping change continues to march across the land of all nations. It brings out the best and worst of humanity. Only an *active faith*—anchored in the possibilities of a more hopeful future—keeps citizens and communities from being overwhelmed by the daunting realities they face every day.

Look around you. See how Christian believers with active faith do what needs to be done. They serve, feed, house, heal, build, advocate, protest, clothe, guide, listen, love and minister to neighbors in need. They show up for hurt people in hurt places.

Active faith is catalyzed by courage. It is fuel for those who reject what is wrong with the status quo—and who search for a more faithful way forward.

This year, my FTE colleagues and I have been moved by the ways an active faith sparks the

enlightened actions of a new generation of social innovators, pastoral activists and prophetic caregivers.

These young leaders want their faith to matter. They connect their faith to the concerns of their families, communities and countries. They see the church and academy as places for mobilizing the work of God's people—liturgia—in service to the church's mission in the world.

Engaged in the issues of the day, these faithful Christian leaders bring more light and less heat, more unity and less discord. The light of their faith shines out of church sanctuaries and campus classrooms, and it moves out, into the streets and cities where it is needed.

Active faith leaders are God's hands of compassion and feet of action in society.

This is why FTE's work is focused on cultivating diverse, faithful, wise and courageous leaders.

Because the church and the world need them.

We work with partners to weave together a network of emerging leaders. Here they find companions for the journey, practices that deepen their discernment, and opportunities that help broaden their imagination. They also find resources for their vocational aspirations toward Christian ministry and teaching.

Having met these young leaders, we *can* imagine a new world of hope, justice and love. Ablaze with the Spirit's power—and inspired by an active faith—I hope you will join this movement to create that new world, with God's help.

Stephen Lewis  
President, Forum for Theological Exploration



**Active faith is the turning of dreams into deeds. It's living in such a way that our lives wouldn't make sense if the gospel were not true.**

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove  
Associate Minister, Saint John's Missionary Baptist Church  
Director, School for Conversion  
Durham, NC

# ACTIVE FAITH MATTERS IN MINISTRY

# ministry

## Because COURAGEOUS LEADERS do God's work in the world

We actively invest in the potential of rising young leaders. Why? Because honing their passion and ability to lead people means a better future for the church and communities everywhere. This work lights sparks of insight on where and how new leaders can transform the world with their gifts.

### For Young Leaders, FTE:

- Designed and hosted the FTE Christian Leadership Forum, where 71 young adults—accompanied by guides and mentors—explored why an active faith matters for Christian communities and the world they serve;
- Enabled five emerging young pastors to attend the Festival for Young Preachers to discern their call to ministry through the practice of gospel preaching in a supportive environment;
- Created opportunities for nine young adults and doctoral students to participate in the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, joining diverse scholars, laity and clergy to examine issues of faith and justice; and
- Hosted three Regional Discernment Retreats, where approximately 200 young adults explored Christian leadership, innovative ministries and vocation within a community of peers.

### With Church Partners, FTE:

- Brought together 46 congregational leaders and church-related partners at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to discover new ways to nurture young leaders for ministries that meet community needs and create a hopeful future;
- Hosted a consultation with nine diverse

congregational leaders to learn effective practices for accompanying young adults in their exploration of vocation and Christian ministry; and

- Co-hosted with the Lilly Endowment 49 leaders from 26 public university campus ministries for the Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation initiative. Participants create a community of learning and share resources to help college students with vocational discernment.

### Through Grants, FTE:

- Provided Ministry Exploration and Mentoring Grants (totaling \$22,720) to 14 young adults to connect them with innovative Christian leaders and ministries;
- Launched Vocational Resources Grants (up to \$10,000 each), Congregations Working with Young Adults Grants (awarded 7 grants totaling \$70,000), and Intentional Christian Communities on College Campuses Grants (awarded 9 grants totaling \$90,000) for Christian leaders to support young adults as they pursue their purpose, passion and call to ministry;
- Awarded Pastoral Internship Grants (totaling \$185,300) to 13 congregations and organizations, and Mentoring Grants (totaling \$50,000) to four organizations to create leadership opportunities for young adults discerning a call to ministry; and
- Gave Vocational Friendship Grants (totaling \$40,000) to 27 new pastors to create communities of peer support.



# education

ACTIVE FAITH MATTERS IN EDUCATION

## Because DIVERSITY is the cornerstone of cultural understanding

We actively invest in creating campus-based networks. These support networks discover and empower future professors, pastors and community leaders. Why? Because our world is at a crossroads of progress on pluralism. This work helps diverse educators share knowledge as they build mutual understanding and model partnerships in an increasingly diverse world.

### For Doctoral Students, FTE:

- Awarded 20 FTE Doctoral Fellowships (totaling \$385,400) and gathered 38 doctoral students of color for professional development, vocational exploration and mentoring at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum; and
- Presented a Workshop on Writing and

Publishing for 13 FTE Doctoral Fellows currently at the dissertation stage of their doctoral programs. The workshop provided students with insight about the publishing industry, helped them strengthen their writing skills and offered them networking opportunities.

### With Institutional Partners, FTE:

- Launched the FTE Institutional Doctoral Network and gathered 10 partners at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to build their capacity for cultivating scholars of color; and
- Hosted a Mentoring Consortium for 12 higher education leaders to discover and enact best practices for identifying and mentoring scholars of color.



**An active faith engages, moves, and hopes. It does not ever give up but will keep on working even if things do not seem to be moving in the right direction.**

Tat-Siong Benny Liew  
Class of 1956 Professor of New Testament Studies  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, MA







# community

ACTIVE FAITH MATTERS IN COMMUNITY

## Because the CHRISTIAN CHURCH helps people connect and thrive

We actively invest in sustainable leadership. Why? Because creative pastors, volunteers and students do grassroots work that serves and sustains local communities. But effective ministry and civic leadership—day in and day out—isn't easy. This work inspires, renews and refreshes those who devote their lives to Christian service.

### For a Diverse Community of Christian Leaders, FTE:

→ Hosted a community forum at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. Together, 25 young adults, doctoral students, local pastors, civic and institutional leaders, and media explored the future of faith, Christian leadership and diversity. Panelists included seminary, pastoral ministry, volunteer service and health

ministry leaders. Over 70 people joined the conversation live online.

### For New Pastors, FTE:

→ Co-hosted with the Lilly Endowment the national Transition-into-Ministry (TiM) gathering for 49 new pastors. The program builds sustainable networks of support and friendships among pastoral residents, while creating space for them to reflect on the practices of ministry.

### For Volunteers Exploring Vocation, FTE:

→ Ignited new ideas to help young adult volunteers identify their purpose and vocation in life by hosting a national forum for 27 leaders of 19 faith-based volunteer service organizations.

**Active faith is a substantial and comprehensive system of beliefs mobilized, charged, ignited and compelled to respond to the imposing mutations of daily life. Without an active faith, one is rendered impotent to oppose the injustices of our global environment.**

Dionne P. Boissiere  
Chaplain  
Church Center for the United Nations  
New York, NY





# 2014 Donors

## Your Act of Faith

Active faith requires concrete acts of faith—steps that transform the world over time. It is how you make a difference. Young Christian leaders need your act of faith to support FTE as it supports them. We thank our devoted donors. Please join them. Make your gift to FTE today.

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# Financial Highlights

## 2014-2013 Statement of Financial Position

	2014	2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 473,705	\$ 107,353
Investments	19,179,538	21,602,304
Prepaid expenses	42,746	25,749
Fixed assets, net	48,840	59,461
	<b>\$ 19,744,829</b>	<b>\$ 21,794,867</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts and grants payable	\$ 449,204	\$ 392,557
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted	6,090,529	5,603,568
Temporarily restricted	12,391,919	14,985,565
Permanently restricted	813,177	813,177
Total net assets	<b>19,295,625</b>	<b>21,402,310</b>
	<b>\$ 19,744,829</b>	<b>\$ 21,794,867</b>

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# FTE Community Platforms and Advocacy

**FTE Blog** To provide a platform for Christian leaders to voice their views and insights on faith, current issues and leadership in the church, academy and community.

→ Posted 39 blogs with 29 contributors; more than 11,000 views

**Online Facebook Forum** To discuss how Christian leaders' ministry, teaching and scholarship is impacted by injustice and brutality, and how to respond in ways that create a more hopeful future.

→ Reached 4,789 people; 153 comments; 71 "likes;" 90 minutes

→ Seven posts on FTE's blog inspired by this topic

**Tweet Talk** To broaden the conversation among diverse Christian leaders on an active faith, why it matters and how it might be lived out in the world.

→ Over 200 tweets in 60 minutes; 45 contributors

**Video Platform** To create an outlet for FTE Christian Leadership Forum participants to share *Why Active Faith Matters* in the world.

→ Created 10 videos; 1,300 impressions on Twitter

**One Minute to Inspire** To inspire leaders to discover how they might shape the future through Christian leadership in their communities.

→ Published six one-minutes stories; over 18,000 views across social media networks



*Inspiring Leaders to  
Shape the Future*



**Forum *for* Theological Exploration**

160 Clairemont Avenue, Suite 300

Decatur, Georgia 30030

678.369.6755

Thousands of FTE leaders impact your world. You'll find them leading, caring, teaching and serving in churches, schools and communities near you. Help diverse young adults become faithful, wise and courageous leaders.

Connect with us at [www.fteleaders.org](http://www.fteleaders.org)