

FTE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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DIFFERENTLY



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**LISTEN TO DIVERSE VOICES**

Connect Communities

**INSPIRE ACTION**

REDESIGN MINISTRIES

**DISRUPT COMPLACENCY**

Teach Boldly

**BUILD BRIDGES**

VALUE DIVERSITY

**FORGE NEW NETWORKS**

Cultivate Creativity

**CROSS BOUNDARIES**

SEEK WISDOM

**FOLLOW AUTHENTIC CALLING**

Focus on Impact

**BE GUIDED BY LOVE**

TAKE RISKS

# D I F F E R E N T L Y

ADAPT TO CHANGE

**BE COURAGEOUS**

Ignite Hope

**CREATE SPACE**

TEST THEORIES

**CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO**

Serve Community

**ENGAGE AND COLLABORATE**

BE VULNERABLE

**LEAD WITH INTEGRITY**

Empower Educators

**MULTIPLY MINISTRIES**

FORTIFY FAITH

**NURTURE GIFTS**

Love Your Neighbor

**EXPLORE NEW MODELS**



## How Will YOU Lead Differently?



“PEOPLE WHO LEAD DIFFERENTLY HARNESS WINDS OF CHANGE. IT IS NOT EASY. BUT IT CAN MOVE OUR WORLD CLOSER TO GOD’S DREAM FOR HUMANITY.”

Time in today’s world is filled with swift transitions.

These transitions can be hard. They shake the foundations on which our institutions and communities are built. They make the world suddenly different, and not always in good ways.

What is *your* response to swift (and sometimes unwelcome) change?

Some leaders try to beat back the wind of change—even as it blows through churches, classrooms and society. This does not work.

Other people move *into* the strong wind of change to learn what it has to teach them. Not unlike the first Christian disciples at Pentecost—as the swirling wind of the Spirit moved around and through them—this makes them world-changers.

People who lead *differently* harness winds of change. It is not easy. But it can move our world closer to God’s dream for humanity.

These faithful innovators are sometimes called “disruptors.” Inspired by faith, guided by wisdom and fueled by courage, they *decide* to lead differently.

FTE creates space where leading differently is encouraged, not rejected. Over the past year, we did this with more than 100 leaders of congregations and church-related organizations. And we did it for over 250 young leaders who are reimagining Christian vocations.

Some are starting new kinds of missional churches and ministries. Others are serving in traditional settings, but in innovative ways. Many are teaching, working or writing in communities beyond the walls of the academy and church.

These young pastors, teachers and servant leaders believe the Christian church has a relevant role to play in God’s work in the world.

They lead differently because Christian leaders are not formed in a vacuum, but by their neighborhoods, congregations, schools and the needs of the world.

They lead differently because diverse communities no longer automatically come to churches and classrooms where the world’s needs are not always served.

They lead differently because our pulpits and lecterns must be in the community to boldly live

out the Gospel of Christ in the world.

Through the centuries, effective leaders have adapted to changing times.

How will you?

Decide. Then give it a try. You just might find the “disruptive difference” that revives your corner of the world.

Come tell us how you will lead differently. Together, making one disruptive difference at a time, we can ride the winds of change into a hope-filled future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Lewis".

Stephen Lewis  
President, Forum for Theological Exploration

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YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD WITH COURAGE AND WISDOM TO CREATE THE **HOPE**-FILLED FUTURE THAT THE CHURCH, THE ACADEMY AND OUR COMMUNITIES NEED.



## Leading Differently in **MINISTRY**

It takes courage and capacity to create new models of ministry for a changing world. To be faithful innovators, diverse young leaders need different talents, tools and preparation. Strategic support enables them to honor traditions, innovate and forge high-impact ministries that matter. That is why FTE inspires, connects and equips.

### To Inspire Young Leaders, FTE:

- » Hosted two Regional Discernment Retreats; 129 young adults asked purpose-driven questions, developed mentoring relationships, discovered their gifts for Christian leadership, and learned how to lead differently.
- » Gathered 74 young adults in a diverse community of peers and connected them with innovative church leaders at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum.
- » Provided leadership enrichment opportunities for:
  - 3 young adults to explore faith, politics and advocacy with Christian leaders at the Korean Community Church Development's National Lighting the Community Summit.
  - 4 young leaders to participate in the Festival of Young Preachers to cultivate the practice of Gospel preaching.
  - 9 doctoral students and young adults to attend the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference to engage in issues of faith and justice.
  - 13 young adults to join the 21st Century Free-

dom Ride with the School for Conversion; this pilgrimage of the Southern Freedom Movement sparks insight into vocational discernment.

### To Connect Church & Faith Leaders, FTE:

- » Convened 20 Christian leaders at two new Regional Leadership Network conversations to explore work with young adults and to connect incubators that nurture young people for ministry.
- » Brought together 69 diverse church and faith leaders during the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to exchange ideas and ignite the passion of young people to faithfully lead.
- » Co-hosted with Lilly Endowment nearly 200 leaders from 104 organizations for the Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation initiative. Participants built peer relationships and strengthened their capacity to help students discover their call.



### To Equip Christian Leaders, FTE:

- » Awarded 15 grants (totaling \$24,000) to young adults. Grants support projects to explore their call within an innovative ministry setting and to develop a mentoring relationship with a Christian leader.
- » Provided 36 grants (totaling \$206,415) to diverse church and organizational leaders to mentor, create vocational resources and develop pastoral internships for young people to discern a call to ministry.



### FTE Grants Are Available For:

- » Mentoring
- » Ministry Exploration
- » Pastoral Internships
- » Recruitment for Ministry
- » Vocational Resources
- » Vocational Friendships



## Leading Differently in **EDUCATION**

It takes focused resources, brave academic networks and systemic change to cultivate scholars of color who are needed in theological education. A different cultural landscape calls for diverse leadership—to teach in the classroom, transform campuses and connect the community. That is why FTE invests and challenges.

### To Invest in Doctoral Students, FTE:

» Awarded 16 FTE Doctoral Fellowships (totaling \$375,000) across 11 institutions and gathered 24 doctoral students of color at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum for mentoring, peer support and vocational exploration.

» Hosted a Workshop on Writing and Publishing with Penn State University Press Director Patrick Alexander and Society of Biblical Literature Executive Director John Kutsko, for 11 doctoral students to help strengthen writing skills and create networking opportunities that support the dissertation stage of their degrees.

### To Challenge Institutional Leaders, FTE:

» Gathered 9 leaders from FTE's Institutional Doctoral Network at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to explore challenges for schools to create spaces where faculty and students of color can thrive.

» Hosted the third annual Mentoring Consortium with partners representing 7 institutions to further collective efforts to cultivate scholars of color.

» Awarded grants to 5 institutions from FTE's Institutional Doctoral Network to forge initiatives that build their capacity to recruit, support, mentor and hire scholars of color.



## Leading Differently on **SOCIAL MEDIA**

It takes inspired voices, expanded imaginations and diverse views to build movements that serve God and neighbor. How can we tap the most creativity, connect innovators and share ideas that help Christian leaders make a difference in the world? FTE offers platforms, hosts forums, shares stories and connects change agents.

### A Platform for Diverse Voices

» 26 blogs from 20 contributors—more than 11,000 views

### An Online Forum for Engagement

» 1 Tweet Talk with over 400 tweets and 57 contributors to address what it means to lead differently through the church and academy

### A Storyteller to Ignite Hope

» 12 stories with over 60,000 views to share insights on purpose, innovative ministries and bold, faithful leaders

### A Connector of Christian Leaders

» 2,866 Twitter Followers  
4,360 Facebook Fans  
727 Instagram Followers



## Leading Differently in **COMMUNITY**

It takes missional commitment, renewed ministries and risk-taking compassion to go beyond church walls to connect with community partners. Different social needs call for leading differently—through creative ministries embedded in community coalitions. That is why FTE sparks, supports and empowers.



### To Spark Action in Communities, FTE:

» Gathered 100 diverse Christian leaders at two Community Forums to explore the church's role in social issues affecting communities and actions needed to create a more hopeful future.

### To Support New Pastors, FTE:

» Co-hosted with Lilly Endowment 47 new pastors at the Transition-into-Ministry Participants Gathering, creating a community of peer support and a space to share challenges, lessons and concerns in the first few years of ministry.

### To Empower Faith-based Volunteers, FTE:

» Hosted 29 leaders across 18 faith-based volunteer service organizations at the FTE Volunteers Exploring Vocation National Partners Gathering to identify best practices for supporting and nurturing young adult volunteers as they explore their purpose, passion and call.

### Local Connections, National Network FTE in Action in 2016



# GIVE

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YOUNG CHRISTIAN LEADERS  
NEED YOU TO **GIVE**  
DIFFERENTLY AND INVEST  
IN THEIR GIFTS AND CALLS  
TO MINISTRY AND  
TEACHING.





# Investing Differently to Create a Hopeful Future

**D**o you long for a different world? One with compassionate and thriving communities, schools and churches? Then give *differently* and multiply your impact. Your gift to FTE empowers hundreds of diverse young people to lead differently, to do God's work in the world and to create a more hopeful future.

**Presidential Partners**  
**\$10,000+**

Lilly Endowment, Inc.

**Leadership Partners**  
**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

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The Reverend Dr. Lee and Ms. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty  
*In honor of the Reverend Stephen Lewis*

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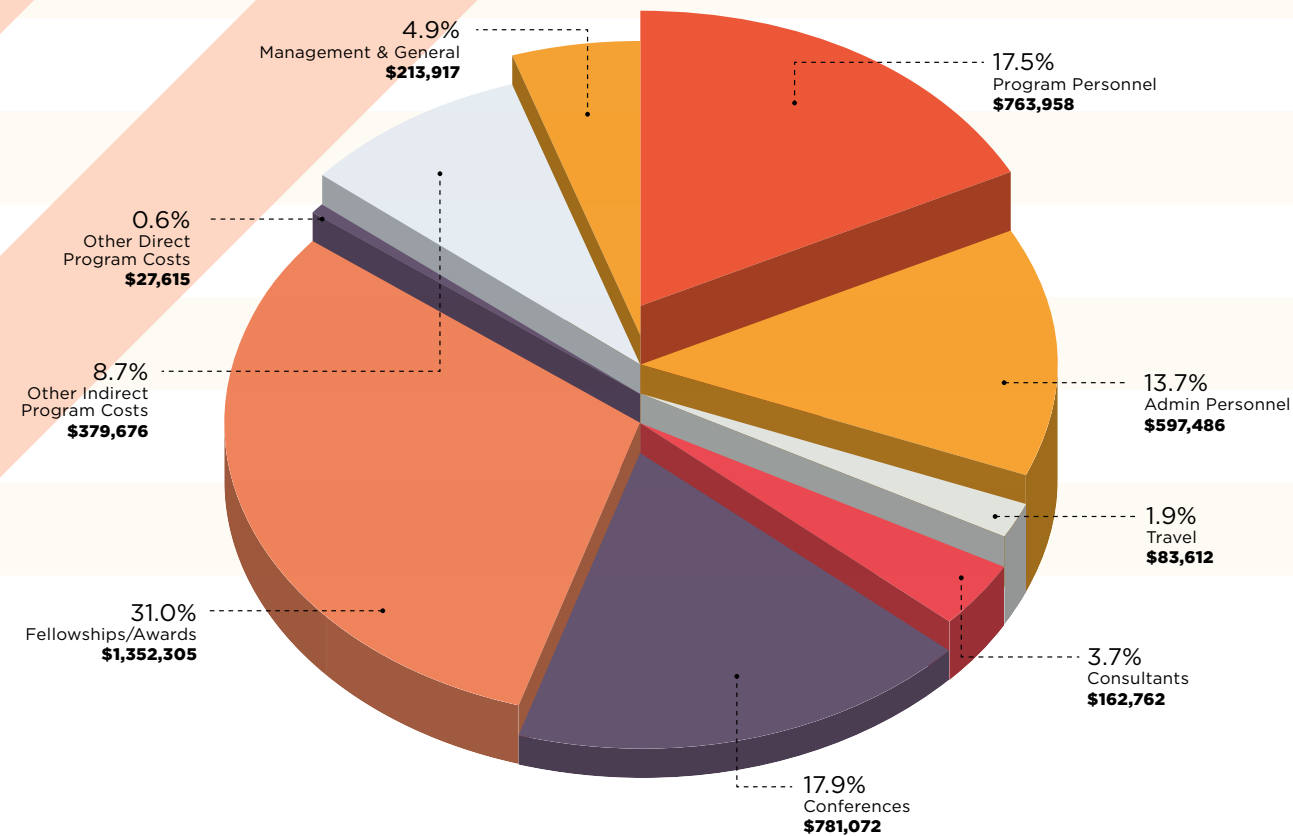
## Financial Highlights

### 2015 Statement of Financial Activities

#### Revenue

FTE is primarily funded through foundational grants, investment income from those grants, and contributions from the FTE community.

#### Expenses



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YOUNG LEADERS SHARE  
GOD'S **LOVE** DIFFERENTLY  
BY BOLDLY SERVING AS  
THE HANDS AND FEET OF  
CHRIST IN THE WORLD.

*Inspiring Leaders to  
Shape the Future*



**Forum *for* Theological Exploration**

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