LEAD CHANGE FOR GOOD

We are inspired by Christian leaders and communities who step up, speak out and work toward creating a better world for all God’s people.
Congregational change for good

Click to watch how people are leading change for good

Community change for good
Institutional change for good

Vocational change for good
We share an urgent calling to lead change in the world

Which way do we run when we see a crying need for change in our world? Do we run with compassion toward human suffering to offer our help?

Or—in the face of danger—do we turn away from the problem because the risks required to make a positive difference are just too great?

So many people, causes and issues need our help. So much has to change. What would our communities look like if we didn’t have people with the faith and courage to stand up and lead necessary change for what is good?

This past year, we’ve seen staggering discord, racial violence, injustice, environmental degradation and natural disasters, both at home and around the world.


That is why I marvel at the faithful and courageous leaders we see in FTE’s network. They are young adults, students, teachers, ministers, nonprofit organizers and community change agents. In spite of the odds, they lead change for the good of their communities and the world.

They are spiritual first responders. They choose to run toward hurting people and places because that is where God calls them to go.

They are spiritual first responders. They choose to run toward hurting people and places because that is where God calls them to go. They are true to the Way of Jesus. Sometimes they might be fearful. Sometimes they might be fearless. But their focus is always on being faithful. Their sense of Christian purpose to do God’s work in the world inspires FTE to do work that inspires others.
Join with us in supporting them! From Los Angeles to Atlanta, from the upper Midwest and Canada to our country’s southern border, FTE is convening God’s agents of change in the world. Read about them in this report. Watch the videos that tell their stories. Listen to their passion.

Then discern where and how God is calling you to lead change for good.

Like those disciples in the early Christian church, our way forward begins within groups of diverse people whose hearts are on fire with the love of God and neighbor.

To lead change for good is to partner with God in fulfilling that vision in the Book of Revelation: the creation of a new heaven and a new earth—the radical realization of justice, peace, mercy, love, and abundant life for all.

Stephen Lewis
President, Forum for Theological Exploration
All neighborhoods need faithful, courageous leaders in ministry who lead change for good

Changing the world happens one neighborhood at a time. It takes bold leaders who faithfully address the issues our communities face—sparking dramatic transformation that will lead to abundant life for all. These leaders are fueled by the courage to create, innovate and honor models of ministry that shape a more hope-filled future. That is why in the past year FTE and our dedicated supporters have empowered and inspired leaders who are committed to doing good—and doing it now.

To Empower Young Leaders, FTE:

» Hosted 2 Regional Discernment Retreats serving 132 young adults across 23 states to explore questions about their purpose and call.

» Provided 4 vocational enrichment opportunities for 23 young adults and students.

» Awarded 13 grants totaling $15,826 to support local projects that cultivate innovative ministry and develop mentoring relationships between young
people and Christian leaders.

» Brought together 54 young adults from 20 states, Washington, D.C. and 2 Canadian provinces at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to discover how to lead change for good through the church and academy.

To Inspire Church & Faith Leaders, FTE:

» Co-hosted with the Lilly Endowment gatherings for
  - 170 leaders from 92 Christian colleges and universities who work across 31 states to identify and cultivate the gifts of young Christian leaders.
  - 103 campus ministry organizations at public universities and colleges in 32 states and Washington, D.C. and 2 national organizations to help students discover their purpose and call.
  - 49 new pastors from 21 states transitioning from seminary to the pulpit to provide a community of peer support and a space to share challenges and experiences.

» Gathered 76 leaders from congregations, intentional Christian communities and faith-based service organizations to share insights on how to ignite the leadership gifts of young adults.

» Awarded 77 grants totaling $685,961 to cultivate vocation-sustaining friendships in ministry and to develop resources, create internships, mentor, recruit and build capacity to support young adults exploring ministry.

How are the young adults FTE empowers leading change for good?

Darcie Wada creates spaces of welcome and worship for differently-abled populations.

Deontez Wimbley engages Black congregations on rising rates of HIV/AIDS and ministers to them with a theology of health and wellness.

Kiersti Phenow advocates for the right of all communities to access healthy, sustainable food. She promotes gardening as a tool for healing trauma by connecting people to the earth, their neighbors and themselves.
An increasingly diverse world calls for diverse and capable leaders who can lead systemic change and create spaces for future leaders to thrive. Academic networks that discover and cultivate scholars of color in theological education are essential to thriving campuses and communities. That is why FTE and our champions have supported and connected with rising scholars and institutional leaders who are leading change for good.

All communities need faithful, diverse leaders in education who lead change for good

To Support Rising Scholars, FTE:

- Provided 32 doctoral students with stipends to attend professional meetings and workshops.
- Selected 16 FTE Fellows from 13 institutions and awarded fellowships totaling $375,000.
- Hosted 42 doctoral students from 24 institutions at the FTE Christian Leadership Forum to provide networking, vocational exploration and mentoring.
» Offered a writing and publishing workshop to 11 doctoral students at the dissertation stage of their degree programs.

» Celebrated 15 scholars who completed their doctoral programs and 23 leaders who were appointed to faculty positions—all FTE Doctoral Alumni or doctoral event participants.

» Partnered with the Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR) to provide 2 prospective doctoral students with support to attend SSBR’s annual meeting to connect them to Black scholars and to expand their imagination about scholarship and teaching.

How are the rising scholars FTE supports leading change for good?

Malith Kur, a Sudanese refugee, explores possibilities for peace through church and government collaborations in South Sudan.

Lisa Dellinger, a Chickasaw theologian, explores how Indigenous and First Nations’ Christians can practice liberation, self-determination and Spirit-centered relationships in a dominant Christian culture shaped by colonialism.

Toni Bond Leonard works to bridge relationships between reproductive justice activists and churches working with Black women of faith.

To Connect with Institutional Leaders, FTE:

» Gathered 11 higher education leaders to share best practices on recruiting and mentoring students of color.

» Hosted 12 faculty members from 8 institutions to discuss strategies to remove barriers to diversity and inclusion in theological education.
A sustainable future requires the gifts of Christian leaders who create solutions to issues that impact communities and the planet in harmful ways. Today, many young Christian leaders want to move their faith beyond the walls of churches and classrooms to create a more just world where all people flourish. That is why FTE has designed an innovative new pilot project, DO GOOD X.

DO GOOD X catalyzes a diverse community of Christian social entrepreneurs to launch impact ventures that address our world’s greatest problems.
To Catalyze Christian Entrepreneurs, FTE:

» Hosted 31 leaders at a community forum exploring the intersection of faith and social entrepreneurship.

» Launched an accelerator program with 14 change-makers from 10 states and Washington, D.C. who are committed to Christian faith and to starting projects for social good.

» Gathered 33 faith leaders and entrepreneurs at a conference to empower, connect and resource ideas for good.

How are the Christian entrepreneurs FTE catalyzes leading change for good?

Kit Evans-Ford and Dwight Ford are creating an organization that brings hope, peace and job opportunities to women healing from violence and abuse.

Armel Martin and Tyler Sit are using the power of hyperlocal food to create an abundant neighborhood economy through healthy and profitable backyard farming.
Together, we need to connect with inspired voices to lead change for good.

It takes a community of bold, diverse voices and imaginations to spark change the world needs. That is why FTE shares stories, reflections and connects change-makers who will build God’s beloved communities.

Connecting Christian Leaders

3,211 Twitter Followers
5,414 Facebook Fans
1,062 Instagram Followers
188,000 Website Visitors

Inspiring Stories

1,388 hours of stories highlighting ways pastors, scholars, students and community leaders are leading change for good.
Words of Power

1,570 live stream views of the Rev. Dr. Heber M. Brown’s sermon, The Prophetic Possibilities of Privilege, during the Christian Leadership Forum

Thoughtful Reflection

26 blogs from 23 contributors with over 11,000 reads
You can lead change for good

Will you? Give today and impact hundreds of young leaders ready to pour their lives into leading the church and academy into the future. These young people want to lead change for good in theological education, within our faith communities, and in the spaces and places where love of God and neighbor might transform us all.

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Revenue

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