

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



**street
psalms**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear partners and friends,

We start a new fiscal year with immense gratitude for the rapidly-expanding ways that God has allowed us to share life-giving perspectives and practices across our global network. We are doing our part to develop leaders who seek the peace of cities to which they are called. A big part of our gratitude is for you—collaborating with us in such fruitful work.

The expansion this past year has been a whirlwind, which brings its own challenges. Presently I have the simple challenge of putting a human face on the numbers and outcomes we celebrate in the pages that follow. They represent so many lives and stories! But what does impact actually look like on our streets?

I'll pick one close to home and heart. On a May morning a few blocks from my own front porch, a group of us stood on a freshly blood-stained sidewalk. Before us in the weeds was a makeshift memorial with teddy bears, candles, and love notes. A young father had been gunned down as he was walking from the funeral of his uncle, who himself had been murdered days earlier.

Our group had assembled on the sidewalk to perform a “Moment of Blessing” before heading to a Street Psalms training retreat for urban leaders and others. Among us were a Black Lives Matter regional director, a wealthy philanthropist with right-wing politics, a left-wing pastor who relishes the word “liberal,” an evangelical suburban preacher, a young emerging leader in the ‘hood, an entrepreneur, and Denver Training Hub partner Jeff Johnsen—as well as Kris, Stephanie, and I from our staff. Try leading dialogical training with that bunch!

By day’s end, we’d have processed words upon words: powerpoints, handouts, and lively debate on urban challenges and transformation. But out on that sidewalk, as you can imagine, words fell away. Silence held us for a good bit. We knew we were on holy ground.

We passed around copies of our Moment of Blessing liturgy—a ceremony the Street Psalms network practices where there has been a violent death in our communities—and began to let it guide us. Moments into our responsive readings, a passing car slowed and then came to a stop before us. “Hmm, could be trouble,” I couldn’t help thinking. Out of the car and into our circle stepped a trembling woman. “I’m his mother” she said of the man whose death had brought us there.

This grieving mother served notice, if we needed it, that this holy ground was not ours. But she expressed no resentment; only anguish. And how the anguish gushed! This place of violence was terrible strange ground for her even more than for us. At the end the liturgy, after expressing by faith that this ground was reclaimed in God’s love, we simply held each other.

But that was not the end. Debriefing later, we remembered how this grieving mother pled for counseling services she couldn’t afford. Heads, hearts and hands together—from this wildly diverse cohort—came up with a plan that day. A month later, we gathered many of these same leaders for another training retreat, meeting with our city’s urban planners to address structural challenges in our most vulnerable communities.

This is the work we are blessed to do. We hope you’ll be encouraged, as you read the next pages, by the fruit of your partnership this year!

Peace,
Scott Dewey, with Kris Rocke

Street Psalms is managing partner of the global Urban Training Collaborative (UTC), in partnership with Leadership Foundations and Christian Reformed World Missions.

This past year the UTC's global network of 10 training hubs served missional partner organizations and individuals worldwide through a cohort model of training and a virtual hub hosted on the Street Psalms website.

In fiscal year 2015 the UTC facilitated six monthly cohorts exploring the head (theological reflection), heart (spiritual formation), and hands (social action) of mission.

- Organizational Directors (trained 6 leaders)
- Global Network of Training Directors (trained 10 leaders)
- Community Chaplains (trained 31 leaders)
- Training Collaborative Leadership Team (trained 5 leaders)
- Leadership Foundations Senior Associates (trained 10 leaders)
- Street Psalms Community (trained 9 ordained leaders)

2000

Leaders trained using UTC curricula in Tacoma, Seattle, Denver, Minneapolis, Anchorage, Phoenix, Philadelphia, Fresno; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Nairobi, Kenya; Johannesburg and Pretoria, South Africa; Marghita, Romania; and Delhi, India.

10

Official UTC training hubs worldwide: Guatemala City, Santo Domingo, Nairobi, Pretoria, Marghita, Delhi, Denver, Minneapolis, Tacoma, and Fresno.

\$537K

The UTC Hubs collectively raised \$537,000 in local revenue to train leaders in their respective contexts.

518

Churches and community-based organizations that accessed UTC trainings.

52K

Families impacted by leaders and organizations trained by the UTC.

In addition to UTC offerings, Street Psalms offers local trainings:

In Tacoma, Washington, Street Psalms hosts a weekly lectionary group and quarterly Urban Lecture Series; and in Denver, Colorado, we organize a monthly missional leader gathering; as well as numerous speaking/preaching engagements at conferences and churches, and one-two day intensive trainings and public liturgies.

At our annual UTC Hub directors gathering and training, held this year in Minneapolis, MN, the UTC established a core curriculum and offered a training summit for local leaders.

UTC Hub leaders also held regional summits in their respective contexts:

- Pretoria, South Africa: 184 participants from 17 cities and 16 countries
- Guatemala City, Guatemala: 72 participants from 10 countries
- Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.: 75 participants including 23 Hub directors and staff
- Denver, Colorado, U.S.: 2 retreat intensives trained a total of 25 local leaders

The leaders we train undergo a series of paradigm shifts that unleash the hidden potential in themselves and they cities they serve.

Message: *Scarcity to Abundance*

Leaders learn to employ an asset-based vision of life that begins with God's yes, rooted in the assumption there is enough—enough of all the ingredients for human flourishing in every context. We help leaders pay attention to how the Spirit is already at work in our cities and joyfully participate in unleashing forces for good.

Method: *Theory to Incarnational Practice*

Leaders learn to practice the incarnational vision of Jesus that begins with the lived experience of those who are most vulnerable, demonstrating the incarnational presence of Christ among the dispossessed.

Manner: *Rivalry to Peacemaking*

Leaders learn to enact a vision of civil society rooted in the biblical vision of shalom. They practice unplugging from the violence of rivalry and exclusion, instead modeling life-giving relationships in which enemies are embraced as friends and all parties are mutually transformed.

Messenger: *Fear to Freedom*

Leaders embody the freedom of Christ who is transforming our cities from the inside out.

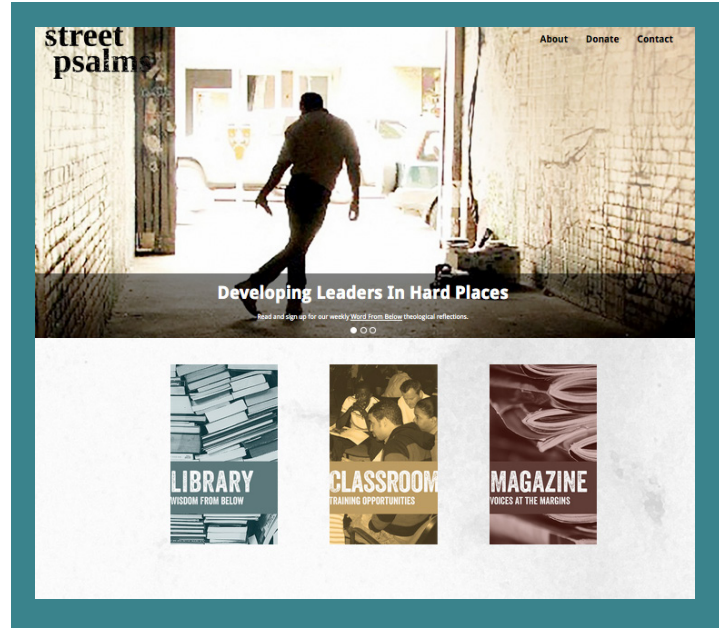
Street Psalms PRESS

This year we revamped our website, launching a virtual training and resource hub at www.streetpsalms.org.

Our new website offers an open library full of training resources for the head, hands, and heart of global leaders.

We continue to offer life-giving practices and perspectives through our publishing arm.

This year our weekly “Word From Below” theological reflection emails, our website library, and our books *Geography of Grace* and *Meal from Below* resourced thousands of readers.



In addition, Street Psalms and Leadership Foundations developed a training manual for the UTC outlining life-giving theological foundations, perspectives, and best practices for leaders serving in hard urban places.

Street Psalms COMMUNITY



The Street Psalms ordained community continues to meet monthly to energize our work and hold each other in prayer.

This past year we also laid the groundwork for growth by inviting a new cohort of novitiates into the discernment and training process for joining the Street Psalms Community.



KEY PARTNERSHIPS

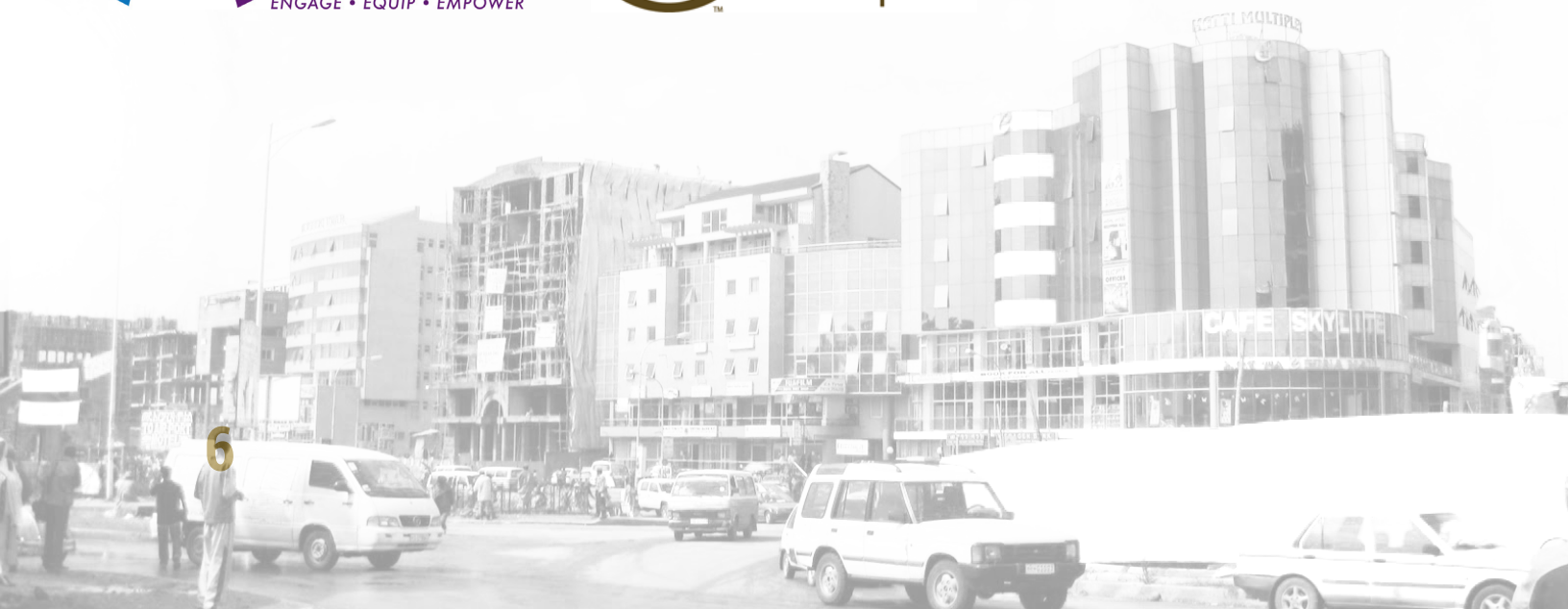
Street Psalms continued nurturing partnerships with **Christian Reformed World Missions, Leadership Foundations, Mile High Ministries, and Mercy Ministries**. We developed a new partnership with Fr. Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation. All three CTM sites—Guatemala City, Santo Domingo, and Nairobi—are well into the process of being certified as Local Leadership Foundations. We are committed to working alongside these and other organizations that share in the work of offering life-giving perspectives and practices to leaders worldwide.



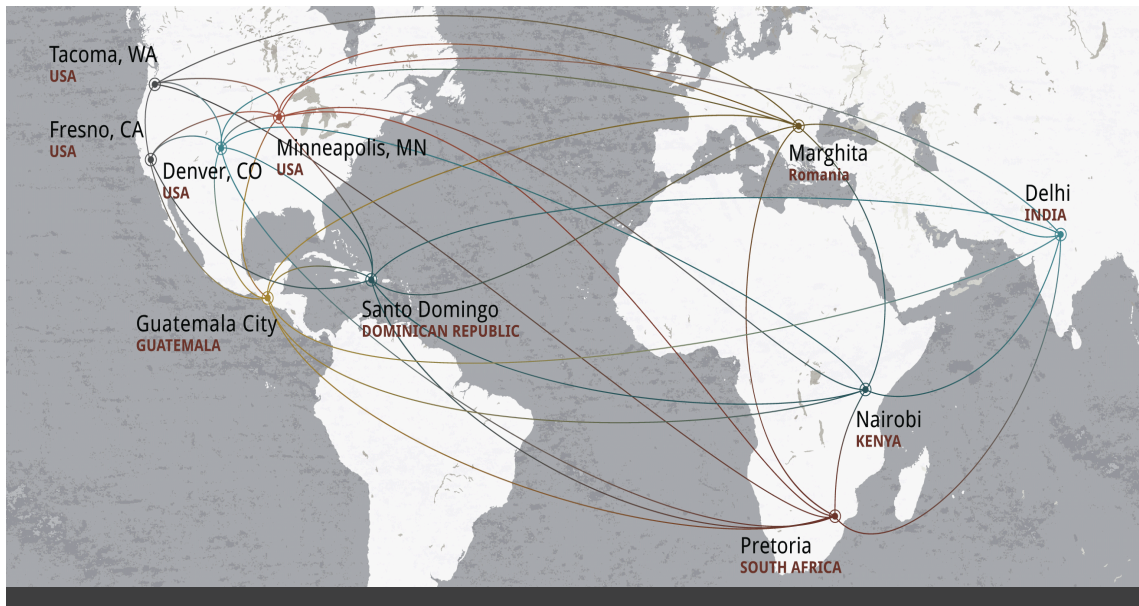
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS
SOCIO-SPIRITUAL URBAN TRANSFORMATION



CHRISTIAN REFORMED
WORLD MISSIONS



LOOKING FORWARD



Having laid a solid foundation for growth, this year sees Street Psalms taking giant steps forward with the Urban Training Collaborative (UTC). Street Psalms has officially assumed the role of Managing Partner of the UTC. Thanks to the generosity of Christian Reformed World Missions, we welcomed Street Psalms staff member Joel Van Dyke as Director of the UTC. In November 2015 the UTC will host hundreds of international leaders in Guatemala City for the “Synergy” conference.

Other upcoming UTC training hub summits include gatherings of leaders in Denver, CO; Nairobi, Kenya; and Pretoria, South Africa.

Our network of UTC regional training hubs continues to grow as we add partners from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and continue conversations with leaders in additional global urban centers.

We also look forward to deepening a new relationship with Fr. Richard Rohr’s Center for Action and Contemplation.

We are constantly adding resources developed by our networks around the world to the virtual hub at www.streetpsalms.org.

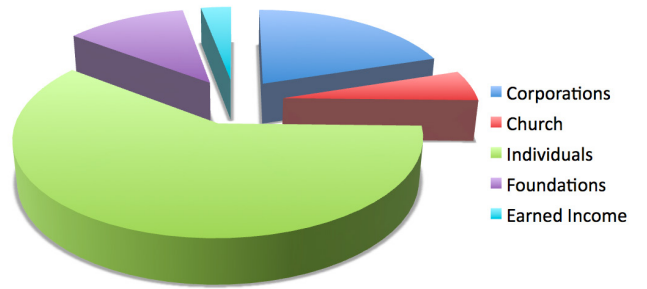
Drawing from the collective work and knowledge of our training partners, we are developing a comprehensive UTC training curriculum and accompanying facilitators’ guide to be released this year.

In the coming year we will double the number of learning cohorts trained by Street Psalms staff from six to twelve. These seasoned leaders serve as “multipliers” who extend our impact into many regions and communities.

FINANCIALS

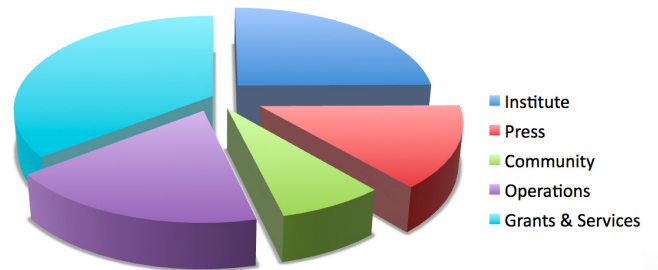
Thanks to our generous supporters, this year we continued laying the foundation for growth as we built partnerships worldwide and relaunched our website as an open resource library.

INCOME FY15	\$ 437,501
Corporations	87,423
Church	23,540
Individuals	262,448
Foundations	51,226
Earned Income	12,864



**We were also generously supported by \$194,000 of in-kind services donated by Matt Jensen Marketing, Christian Reformed World Missions, Leadership Foundations, and Urban Ventures with Studi-One-Eighty.*

EXPENSES FY15	\$ 473,221
Institute	117,552
Press	66,080
Community	35,266
Operations	86,823
Capacity Grants and Direct Services	167,500



GOVERNANCE

Our Board:

Joel Zylstra, Board Chair

Director of PLU's Center for Community Engagement

Michael Hillis, Vice President

Dean & Professor, Graduate School of Education, California Lutheran University

Ken Sikes, Secretary

Pastor of Manitou Park PC in Tacoma

Cefe Quesada, Treasurer

Global Head of I.T., Russell Investments



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street psalms

Developing Leaders in Hard Places