

**Greetings,**

In this year’s annual report, we want to situate our work of developing incarnational leaders in a broader context.

Paula D’Arcy said, “God comes to us in the shape of our lives”. For most of us, the hardest life to occupy is our own. We want a faith that frees us -- not only so we can occupy our own lives with courage and compassion, but a faith that also frees this great, big, beautiful and crazy world. **We are hungry for a faith that works, really works**, even when the shape of that faith does not conform to what we’ve been taught. This task has never been more urgent.

The U.S. Army War College developed the acronym “VUCA” to help inform strategic decisions in the wake of the Cold War. It stands for Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity. Organizational consultants have popularized the term to help leaders make difficult decisions. It describes the instability of our rapidly urbanizing world and the globalizing impact of technology that none of us can fully grasp, though we can all feel it.

	Condition	Temptation	Incarnation
<b>V</b>	<b>VOLATILITY</b> Frequent, rapid, and significant change	React fearfully	Act courageously
<b>U</b>	<b>UNCERTAINTY</b> Unpredictable events and outcomes	Demand certainty	Ask questions
<b>C</b>	<b>COMPLEXITY</b> Interconnected factors complicate all solutions	Deny complexity	Honor complexity
<b>A</b>	<b>AMBIGUITY</b> Lack of clarity complicates understanding of real challenges	Eliminate tension	Hold the tension

The impact of all this instability and change on the church is hard to overstate. The president of Fuller Seminary, Mark Labberton, recently framed the question this way: “Will there be a church in the 21st century that matters?” He indicates that nearly half of all Fuller seminary students today are no longer seeking degrees for traditional church vocations. Whatever brings people to seminary, it has almost nothing to do with main-

taining the institutional church. People simply want a faith that works in the real world.

It's in this light that Street Psalms develops incarnational leaders.

Our call is to help leaders undergo the liberating Gospel of Jesus that frees us to occupy our own lives and effectively serve the communities we love. We've been doing this for more than two decades in church basements, street corners, prisons, businesses, boardrooms, and frankly some of the craziest "classrooms" you can imagine all over the world. We are rigorous in our training but flexible in our delivery. We walk with leaders over the long haul and that long term investment makes all the difference.

We recognize that undergoing the Incarnation is not without its risks, especially in vulnerable urban communities. Like Nicodemus (a religious authority) who came to Jesus under the cover of night, leaders need a safe place to work things out. We are not a secret society, nor do we have a secret formula. We claim no special revelation. We have nothing to hide, but we find great value in being under the radar, doing theology from below with leaders who can't afford to be detected too soon.

After Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be born again in chapter three of the Gospel of John, Nicodemus goes underground. He resurfaces briefly in chapter 7 and again in chapter 19 at the foot of the cross. At Golgotha he is an entirely new man, acting courageously and compassionately -- anointing Jesus for burial at great cost to himself. The point is that it takes time to be "born again" by the liberating Gospel of Jesus, which is exactly the story of so many of the leaders we serve. Think of our Training Hubs as a network of underground seminaries without walls that form and shape leaders for mission. We have no bricks and mortar to maintain. The city is our classroom, our parish, and our playground, where leaders are formed and shaped by the power of the Incarnation.

There is growing evidence that suggests we are in step with what the Spirit is doing worldwide. Our Training Hubs are led by seasoned Hub Directors who are embedded in urban communities and are supported by a virtual network. They are served by Senior Fellows who embody our gift. We partner with city-serving organizations and formal educational institutions that are on the cutting edge of change and are learning to risk on models like ours. As a result we are able to provide urban leaders affordable and accessible training that forms them for mission. Some are earning credit while most are just showing up hungry to find a faith that works. They are being born again, *again*.

Thank you for standing with us.

Much Peace,

**The Street Psalms Team**

# Highlights

FROM THE YEAR



street  
psalms



12

**TRAINING HUBS**  
in cities worldwide



1

**VIRTUAL HUB**  
serving a global  
network



9

**URBAN  
PEACEMAKER  
FELLOWSHIPS**



17

**SENIOR FELLOWS**  
serving the network



1,016

**LOCAL LEADERS**  
trained with ITF



57

**COHORTS**  
were gathered



6,000

**READERS OF**  
“Word from Below”

“Keep knocking and  
the joy inside will  
eventually open a  
window and look out  
and see who’s there.”

**RUMI**

## Financials

INCOME*	416,646
Corporations	14,100
Church & Organizations	10,055
Individuals	234,044
Foundations	131,836
Earned Income	26,611

EXPENSES	479,911
Training	220,130
Training Resources	46,673
Capacity Grants	105,176
Administration	107,936

\* Street Psalms’ contribution of \$416,646 plus in-kind gifts of \$100,000 from Resonate Global Mission is leveraging more than \$250,000 from UTC training hubs for a **total impact of over \$750,000 dedicated to developing incarnational leaders.**