



Dear Friends,

God has provided abundantly for The Colossian Forum this year. He has built, grown, and blessed it. It belongs to him. We are thankful and humbled by your support in 2016 as we solidified the foundation for a successful launch of The Colossian Way—an intergenerational, small group journey that gathers Christians together in messy situations for the sake of discipleship. This experience cultivates Christian virtues, helping participants turn conflicts into opportunities for witness, spiritual growth, and transformation. You have been pioneers and visionaries with us as God does a new, transformative thing in the midst of his people!

Here are a few highlights from 2016:

Successfully piloted The Colossian Way in communities across the country

We designed The Colossian Way experience to be more than curricula

providing information on divisive topics. It's also meant to be a formational tool equipping leaders to transform challenging issues into opportunities for deep discipleship and fellowship in an age of increasing polarization and fragmentation. This year, 10 Christian communities participated in a pilot of The Colossian Way. The communities comprised settings as diverse as churches, high schools, and colleges from Michigan to Colorado to Pennsylvania. Participants ranged in age from 15-85, and were as diverse ideologically as they were generationally.

Throughout The Colossian Way experience, we received a regular stream of encouraging stories. One teenage girl, who began The Colossian Way journey feeling only marginally connected to her church, ended with a clear sense that “these are my people!”

Another young man commented after the experience, “I don’t have any place in my life to talk seriously about divisive issues. The last place I expected it to happen was at my church! When are we going to do this again?”

People, young and old alike, reported feeling called out of the fear and loneliness created by polarization into fellowship with one another and with God. Through the exceptional support and guidance of their leaders, believers captured the vision of The Colossian Way and carried it forward in their communities.

Developed a 3-year strategic plan

We spent a significant amount of time in prayer and discernment during the year laying out a 3-year strategic plan for The Colossian Forum, which our Board of Directors approved in the fall. The plan was a huge step forward in solidifying

our mission, vision, and goals for the national launch of The Colossian Way.

It also marked a major turning point in moving us from researching how The Colossian Way “works” to inviting believers across the country to join us on the journey. By equipping Christian communities to take on TCF’s transformational work, we set in motion the opportunity for an increasing number of believers to experience the dazzling truth that, even in the midst of conflict, “all things hold together in Christ” (Colossians 1:17).

We look forward to even more stories of connection and growth as The Colossian Way expands and is adopted by Christian communities across the country.

Established a new look, new location, and three new websites

During the year, we unveiled a new logo for The Colossian Forum as well as a new tagline (*Hope in Practice*). Our original logo and tagline reflected an emphasis on faith and science topics while our new look highlights our broader mission

and vision of inviting communities to transform a wide-range of culturally divisive issues into opportunities for discipleship and witness.

In November, we moved to a new office space on the west side of Grand Rapids which provides additional room for staff expansion and collaborative working. The larger facility also allows more people to participate in gatherings and trainings for The Colossian Way.

We also launched three new websites in 2016 that support our work:

- *ColossianWay.org*: Showcases The Colossian Way experience and shares the stories of our pilot groups. (Launched January 2016)
- *TeachFASTly.com*: Equips teachers to foster discipleship among students specifically at the intersection of faith and science. (Launched September 2016)
- *ColossianForum.org*: Highlights our core mission of equipping leaders to transform polarizing cultural conflict into opportunities for spiritual growth and witness. It also invites visitors to explore our current projects, upcoming

events, our blog, and more about our staff and mission. (Launched October 2016)

I am deeply grateful for all of you. It’s a joy to know that you are breaking new ground with us, praying for us, and sharing in this innovative work of proclaiming the good news of Christ’s peace afresh to this hurting and fragmented world. I look forward to the year ahead as we see what God has planned for The Colossian Forum and our small role in his kingdom work.

Thanks be to God!



Michael Gulker
President

2016 HIGHLIGHTS



250

Number of Colossian Way participant guides printed



10

Number of pilot groups in The Colossian Way



185

Number of people who participated in The Colossian Way pilot groups



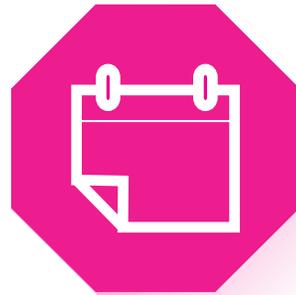
3

Number of websites launched



3

Number of grants received



2.5

Days at a strategic planning retreat



4

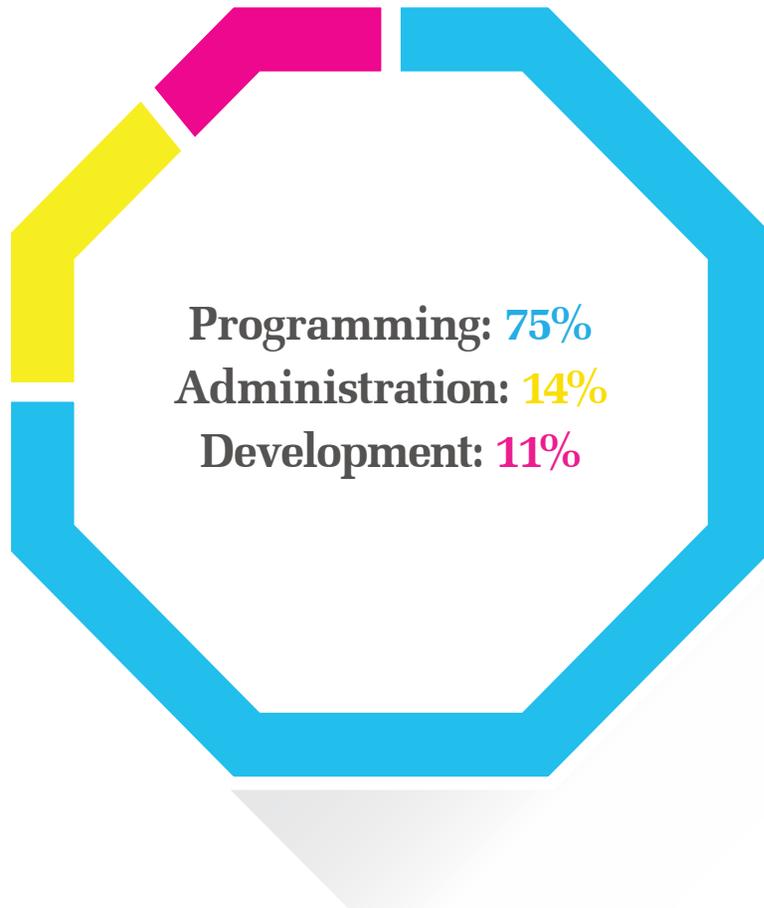
Colors in our new logo that kicked off the rebranding of TCF



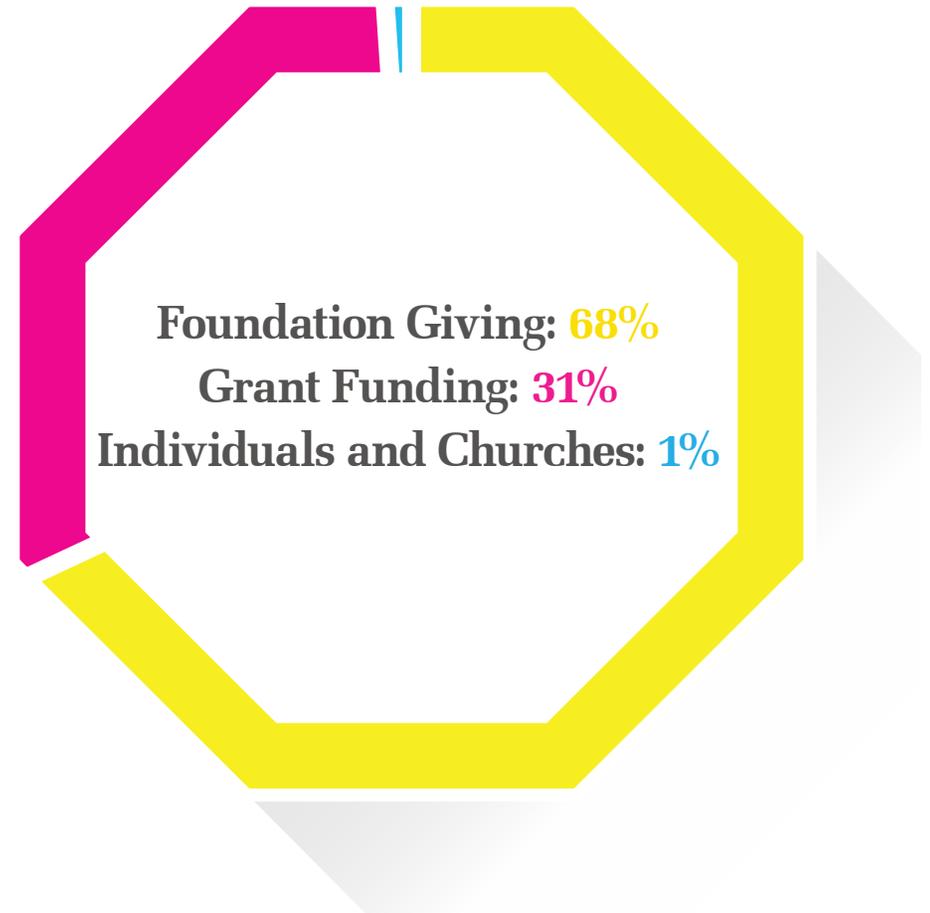
75

Guests at our annual Christmas Open House in our new office location

2016 EXPENDITURES*



2016 REVENUE



*based on unaudited results