

INVESTED  FAITH

Impact Report
2022

Building a Fund to Seed the Future



Letter From Our Founder

Dear Friends of Invested Faith,

It is surreal to look back to 2019, when I had some time to follow a hunch I'd been considering for some time: that churches and other religious institutions needed hopeful options by which their considerable assets might have immediate and ongoing impact. Noticing also the growing groups of colleagues imagining their ministry through the building and nurturing of social enterprise-businesses that heal the world, I began to wonder how we might build a bridge between the two.

Invested Faith was born out of the awareness that the seeds of tradition could and should propel the work of social entrepreneurs by sharing assets, joining mission to create legacy and future combined, and showing the world that people of faith are not giving up on shared efforts to heal the world.

I am so pleased and honored that so many of you have caught the vision and welcomed the future by becoming part of Invested Faith.

2023 will be a year filled with partnerships. I'm looking forward to engaging conversations with churches and other organizations who have caught the vision of Invested Faith and can imagine leaving a legacy that fuels the work of amazing entrepreneurs who you will meet in the following pages.

Please reach out; I would love to connect and explore ways we might do this together!

With God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

- Rev. Dr. Amy Butler
Founder,
Invested Faith





Who We Are

Invested Faith is a non-profit fund created to receive the assets of Christian institutions at the end of their life cycles. Contributing assets to be grown and distributed in small, unrestricted grants to faith-rooted leaders dreaming up new models of faith in action becomes a tangible way for the witness of faithful communities to live on.



After three years of building Invested Faith, we are even more convinced of its powerful potential to offer a hopeful opportunity for congregations in decline while bringing healing to local communities and building more just systems. The idea of small, unrestricted grants to faith-rooted social entrepreneurs is based on the teachings of Jesus, who kept inviting those around him to see the world with new eyes filled with possibility, to scatter seeds of goodness and justice with abandon fueled by hope. Invested Faith is doing just that!

“If Gospel is good news, then much of what gets passed around as “Gospel” is counterfeit at best. Social/spiritual entrepreneurs have a unique opportunity to cultivate demonstration plots where kindness, equity, justice, and love are practiced and proclaimed in unique and innovative ways.

Good news means the hungry are fed, the lonely are comforted, and the poor are lifted up. Invested Faith Fellows are true practitioners of this truly great news.”

- Kevin Wright,
Invested Faith Board Chair 2023



Our History

Invested Faith is founded and led by Rev. Dr. Amy Butler, an ordained American Baptist minister. Dr. Butler has worked for almost three decades as the leader of historic faith institutions. Former pastor of The Riverside Church in the City of New York, Dr. Butler's platform is large and influential across much of American Protestantism.

In the process of leading churches to new expressions of faith in a modern world, Butler realized how crippling our tendency to cling to the past can be. Like most of us, she has watched too many faith communities become victims of a theology of scarcity and die, unable to harness a new imagination for what God is doing in the world.

We believe the work of healing the world continues, even as the institutions we've known and loved for so many years face the reality of ending a traditional institutional life. Invested Faith offers churches and institutions hope by providing an opportunity to send their witness forward, creating an ongoing legacy that continues their witness beyond the life of their institutions.

While we awaken to the somber realization that many churches and other religious institutions are closing while their assets fall into the hands of developers or dwindle away, there are social entrepreneurs on the ground, doing the work of dismantling unjust systems and healing communities. We call these folks Invested Faith Fellows.

Invested Faith is a bridge to connect the resources of the church with the work of faith-rooted social entrepreneurs committed to the hard task of healing the world.





Our Fellows

Invested Faith Fellows are selected by our Board of Advisors based on three criteria:

- Faith-rooted. We believe: “where there is good, there is God.” Through this metric, we have funded Fellows rooted in Christian faith, as well as other major faith traditions.
- Changing unjust systems. Impactful justice-making goes far beyond social band-aids or even acts of compassion. Creative businesses can change the systems that undergird injustice by applying the pressure of competition to create opportunity and to right inequity.
- Building a sustainable business model. Seeking donations to support justice work is shifting. The traditional non-profit model of seeking donations to support justice-making work is in the middle of a massive shift. We are living in an era of discovering new models for energetic, thriving organizations that, through innovative business efforts and entrepreneurial philanthropy, can build long-term, sustainable justice-making enterprises. Invested Faith wants to help our Fellows lead the way!

At Invested Faith, we believe that we can do well while we do good.



California
Colorado
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Massachusetts
New York
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
Washington

Our
23
Invested Faith
fellows can be
found working in
14
different states
across the
United States.



Washington

Cultivate South Park



New York

The Current Project

NARY

Cordoba House Sunday School

Massachusetts

New Wine Collective



Pennsylvania

Black Economic Growth Alliance

Indiana

I Have a Dream Preschool Academy

Spolks

Colorado

EEqual

Creations @ The Edge

Argrow's House
Iowa

The Teen Care Network

Green Wall Street

Living Water Community Center

Virginia

Equitcity
Illinois

Lipstick Cult
Tennessee

Just Bakery of Atlanta

A Better Way Grocers

Georgia

A Soul Cleansing Documentary

Arrayed

California



The KIT Project

Meeting House Revival

Texas



Tiffany Terrell, A Better Way Grocers

Albany, Georgia

In the summer of 2019, Terrell looked around and realized that she lived in a community where grocery stores were closing and many residents had no access to food, especially healthy fresh food. After attending a conference and hearing stories of other communities working to address the “food deserts” that surrounded them, Terrell decided she had to do something.

Tiffany and her husband, Tommie Terrell, bought a bus from Facebook Marketplace and, with the help of her stepfather, retrofitted it as a one aisle mobile grocery store. “It was really an old milk truck. We just had a vision of getting food into the community.”

A Better Way Grocers focused on providing food to those most in need of healthy, affordable food. Over 70% of the people served by the mobile grocery do not have transportation. When Terrell began to dig deeper, she found that 61% of her clients had diabetes, 71% had high blood pressure and 66% had high cholesterol, all diseases that are highly impacted by lack of a healthy diet. Terrell designed an Eat Well, Be Well program to educate residents about healthy food and to teach people how to cook healthy food like Brussel sprouts and zucchini. The mobile grocery store now runs two buses each day and has plans for future expansion.

Terrell’s work flows out of her faith and belief in helping others. “I was raised Baptist and taught the principle of “You help your neighbor, period. You live a life that’s worth living.”

Tiffany Terrell
- Tiffany Terrell
Founder,
A Better Way Grocers



“This has truly been a labor of love. Food is one of those things that brings people together.”

- Tiffany Terrell,
Founder,
A Better Way Grocers





Kit Evans Ford, Argrow's House of Healing and Hope

Davenport, Iowa

As the granddaughter of a domestic violence survivor and as a sexual assault survivor herself, Kit Evans Ford finds her passion for her work in her family's story. Evans Ford is the Founder of Argrow's House of Healing and Hope in Davenport, Iowa, a refuge and center that provides free holistic services for female survivors of violence.

Named after her grandmother, the center offers counseling, in-person support groups and other services. This successful social enterprise also provides women the opportunity to earn a living wage by creating bath and body products. The sale of these soaps, body lotions, and bath bombs helps support the center.

The face of Evans Ford's grandmother is on the logo of Argrow's House. Her grandmother was married at the age of fourteen to an abusive 27 year old man. "Growing up I saw the scars on my grandmother, the intense reality of abuse, and how violence impacted generations after my grandmother - my mom, with my siblings, and others. If there had been a place like Argrow's house for my grandmother, and even my older sisters and my mom, they may not have had to live the majority of their life in abusive situations."

Argrow's House offers long term support for women struggling to recover from violence. "We work with families for the long haul, in solidarity with them, letting them know that we love them and care for them. We're a community. It's not something you're in for 21 days and then out."



"Healing is a journey, not something that just happens overnight."

- Dr. Kit Evans-Ford
Founder,
Argrow's House



Kit Evans-Ford

- Kit Evans-Ford
Founder,
Argrow's House



Drew Nagy, Living Water Community Center

Richmond, Virginia

“When people ask me what I do for a living, I reply that I am a gardener and beekeeper, but I get paid to preach. I serve as Pastor of Westover Baptist Church and Executive Director of Living Water Community Center. While attending seminary, I discovered my passion for creating and restoring biodiverse landscapes. This passion has led me to learn more about permaculture, landscape design and beekeeping!”

Living Water, a community center, bee sanctuary, and residential monastery, is an attempt to reimagine what a faith community looks like and how it engages with the local ecosystem. The campus of the 3-acre church is being transformed into a bee sanctuary to provide habitat and food for honeybees and native bees. Currently, over 80 flowering trees, a main source of food for bees, along with 100 shrubs, have been planted. The bee sanctuary functions as a “passive park” for neighbors and will become an extension of the walking trails along the James River.

Living Water offers honey from the hives for sale and families can also pay to “host” a beehive. A CSA (community supported agriculture) program offers families and individuals a chance to become bee supporters and receive a pound of honey each year. Several hundred pounds of fruit and vegetables from the community garden were donated this year to families through the center's food pantry.

Living Water hopes to open a monastic space in 2023. The monastery will offer residential space for people who want to work in the nature sanctuary, offer yoga classes or other health and wellness programs or serve the community in other ways.



- Drew Nagy
Executive Director,
Living Water Community Center



“We offer a sanctuary for people to worship and a sanctuary for the bees and nature.”

- Drew Nagy
Executive Director,
Living Water Community Center



Managerrie Winston, The KIT Project

Houston, Texas

Teacher Managerrie Winston, founder of the KIT Project, noticed a lack of diversity and cultural relevance in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum offered to students. After adapting SEL techniques to meet the needs of struggling Black and brown students in her classroom, Winston created The KIT (Keep it Together) Project which offers SEL curriculum centered on Black and brown experiences. Her 'BeYourSELF' Program offers culturally relevant yoga, meditation, and mindfulness events for teens.

The vision of the KIT Project is to ensure that underprivileged youth develop social emotional wellness while providing communities and schools with a diverse curriculum centered on Black and Brown experiences and resources.

The KIT project offers students the tools they need to deal with the myriad stressors in their lives. Winston still believes in keeping it together. "Keep it together - that's what we're taught as Black and brown people faced with racism. The KIT projects offers kids the tools they need to make sense of these experiences - the pain, the hurt, the loss - and to find the love and the hope to go on."

"It's about creating space for people to feel comfortable to have these conversations. It's okay to have moments of crying. Because otherwise, as humans, we just hold all of that stuff in. You'd be surprised how much kids are willing to share in a safe space."



Managerrie Winston

- Managerrie Winston
Founder,
The KIT Project





A Church Partnership

After learning about [Winston's project](#), The Board of Local Trustees for the [National City Christian Church](#) in Washington, DC, a Disciples of Christ church, offered to join the work of Invested Faith as an institutional partner and doubled the standard grant for Winston's work.

"I'm excited that we're able to connect with Managerrie because it's such a great program and we were able to find a connection into a different region," said BOLT treasurer Gentry Alexander. Many faith institutions are wondering where to place their resources so they directly support the work of spiritual entrepreneurs. If your church is closing and wants to leave a legacy, or if your church is trying to think outside the box about how to invest funds for maximum impact, request a conversation with Invested Faith.

We love partnerships where everybody wins!

INVESTED  FAITH
PARTNERS

Thank you to our collaborators

Invested Faith is grateful for our network of supporters and partners who share our vision of seeding the future through faith-rooted social entrepreneurs:

American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Baugh Family Foundation

The Board of Local Trustees (BOLT) of the National City Christian Church

Clara Elizabeth Jackson Carter Foundation

The CoCreators Network

DoGoodX

Good Faith Media

Glean Network

NBA Cares

Kevin Wright, Invested Faith Advisor

Joanne Sollis-Walker, Invested Faith Advisor

De'Amon Harges, Invested Faith Advisor

Countless volunteers and supporters





Education is a human right.

EQUAL

EEqual is a for-youth by-youth nonprofit working to overcome student homelessness by raising awareness and increasing access to higher education.

www.EEqual.org



INVESTED FAITH

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