



a hidden
wholeness

2023 Annual Review



SPIRITUAL
FORMATION
SOCIETY
of Arizona

formation | direction | connection

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Vision

The desire of SFSAZ is to foster the spiritual formation movement in Arizona (and beyond) & create safe environments where learners and leaders can experience and grow in the love of the Trinity.

Mission

We offer a safe place to grow and explore on your journey of the heart. From our regular gatherings to retreats to an annual conference, our desire is to provide opportunities with the following components:

- exposure (learning from the rich historical and Biblical tradition of spiritual formation)
- experience (not just talking about Him, but experiencing Him together)
- encouragement (support for your life in Christ and in your ministry for Him)

greetings from Ted

Friends,

And I do mean it when I say “friends.” Jesus called his followers friends. The beloved in Song of Songs, after meditating on the lover of her soul says, “This is my beloved and my friend.” The Arabic word for friend is saddiq, and it is related to the Hebrew word for righteous. This word is a Middle Eastern colloquialism which is to say to someone close to you “my friend,” or literally, “my righteous one.” What a beautiful picture of what we share in Christ! So, with boldness, I say “thank you, friends” or “thank you, my righteous ones.” We are all sharing in the desire to live in the love of the One who loves us.

Thank you for the ways you have shared in this work of the Spiritual Formation Society as we now celebrate ten years of creating space for leaders and learners to deepen in the love and fellowship of the Trinity. You make it possible for us to serve individuals as well as partner with organizations, ministries, and churches who desire to take care of their souls. We’ve partnered with ministries like Music Serving the Word, Surge Network, Canaan in the Desert, and many others, and we’re excited to watch what God unfolds as we move forward.

In the last year, we’ve added two new team members who are a part of our ministry staff: Renee Clark who is our hospitality coordinator and Jess Meeks who is serving as a Minister of Formation and taking a lot of things off my plate!

As the Spiritual Formation Society of Arizona celebrates our 10th anniversary, we are focusing on continuing to watch and be attentive to all that God is doing and how He is leading us. We look forward to celebrating all that God has been up to these last ten years and also reflecting on where it seems He might be taking us in the next ten years.

Our theme as we move forward is “A Hidden Wholeness” as we seek to live in and lead others in the reality that we are whole in Christ. There is nothing to achieve or earn, but there is an infinite God to experience and know in the depths of who we are.

In our “over-busy, over-noisy, over-doing” world, we can easily compartmentalize our lives and miss the wholeness of life that we have in Christ - mind, body and soul. Colossians 3:4 assures us that our “life is hidden with Christ in God.” The verses immediately preceding encourage a seeking of and setting the mind and heart on God. It can be difficult to set our hearts in attunement with God, but we can experience our union with Christ as we pay attention to the quiet gentle voice.

Creating spaces where leaders and learners can pay attention to and rest in their belovedness is at the heart of our continuing vision. This fall, join us as we celebrate ten years and look forward to the next ten years of paying attention to that hidden wholeness.

Join us this fall for one of our three celebrations as we look back in thankfulness and forward with joyful anticipation.



Dr. Ted Wueste, Director of SFSAZ

Stories of transformation

"SFSAZ has been a community that feels safe enough for me to be vulnerable about Soul matters. Ted and the other leaders have modeled and led me in Spiritual practices and rhythms of formation that have transformed my soul and my life. I have a new cadence for my soul and relationship with the Lord. Forever grateful." -Kerry Failoni



2023
in
review

- 15 individuals graduated from the first formatio cohort -
- 17 individuals joined the second cohort
- 360 Engaged through Events & Retreats
- 5 Renew retreats
- 3 gatherings for spiritual directors for connection, encouragement, and equipping, hosted by MSW Ministries at Ravenscroft and sponsored by Surge Network - 42 spiritual directors as members
- Podcast Season 4 - The Church is Dying, or Is It? Hosted by Ted Wueste and Gray Ewing
- Simple Pause app released in Spanish
- John DelHousaye released volume 3 of the The Fourfold Gospel: A Formational Commentary on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Tom Ashbrook authored & released Connected: Rediscovering Life-Giving Love with God

"Jesus promises to give us abundant life. After 20+ years of full time vocational ministry that abundant life had dwindled to a trickle of life. Engaging with the Spiritual Formation Society of Arizona has helped me reconnect with God as my source of life and discover joy in my journey with Jesus."
-Ben Gores





"I have been a devoted follower of Jesus Christ for 54 years, but the past 2 years in the Formatio program have been the best. The spiritual disciplines that I learned and practice have drawn me much closer to my wonderful Savior."
-Steve Brooks

2013 - Ted Wueste and Donna Otto formed the Spiritual Formation Society of Arizona. Hosted the first day event in March: Mansions of the Heart with Tom Ashbrook. Spiritual Formation Discovery event in the fall taught by Tom Ashbrook. Soul care day hosted.

2015 - Volunteer ministry team and the board of directors formed. Second conference with John Coe on Essentials of Spiritual Formation Pt 2.

2017 - Offered first 48-hour silent retreat. Alan Fadling taught on An Unhurried Life at the annual conference.



2014 - First annual conference with John Coe at the historic Squaw Peak Inn on Essentials of Spiritual Formation. Offered a 24-hour silent retreat. Jeannette Bakke spoke on spiritual direction at an evening event.

2016 - Steve Macchia and Adele Calhoun taught on spiritual disciplines and rule of life at the annual conference. Pastor formation groups created for support and encouragement.

"SFSAZ provides a stable, slow platform for me in a tumultuous, accelerated life. I'm grateful for the steadiness its creators regularly provide."
-Hannah Cook-Kelley





“SFSAZ for me has been the well that I continue to return to as my soul thirst for water. I come again and again to dip my bucket down deep and draw up refreshment for my soul.”

-Maureen Alianza

2019 - Be/Still began. Blue Christmas service. LuAnn Roberson stepped in and led the Society while Ted was ill.

2021 - 1st Formatio cohort began in fall. John DelHousaye joined as theologian in residence and Jim Beadle as the director of finance. John D. began a global Bible Institute training pastors & leaders. A Simple Pause app released by LuAnn Roberson.

2023 - Formatio cohort graduated, team grew again with Renee Clark as hospitality coordinator and Jess Meeks as a minister for formation.

2018 - Annual conference on spiritual formation and the church. Gem Fadling spoke about the Enneagram at an event. Offered a mental health first aid.

2020 - The staff team grew with Sheli Sloterbeek as a minister for formation/administration, and Michael Donnelly as a minister for counseling and soul care. Began offering events online during covid.

2022 - Tom Ashbrook joined as a minister for formation. Partnered with MSW Ministries at Ravenscroft with a Fernando Ortega benefit concert.

I have found so many others here in this community to be kindred hearts, “my people”, who value the deepening journey with God and each other, who find a welcome and love in the soul of God, deep comfort in the cross of His Love for us.” -Kris Jensen



Why I partner with SFSAZ

"When Ted began SFSAZ, my husband and I were among his early supporters because we saw the sincerity of his longing to encourage, strengthen, deepen and enliven the spiritual lives of those in ministry, bringing them into deeper intimacy with Christ. Today we support SFSAZ and its amazing staff because of their commitment to minister to ones whose faith and spiritual life are languishing and in need of revival, and also to guide those who desire to deepen their faith and intimacy with Jesus Christ."

-Christy Fonvielle



"We support SFSAZ because we want to support those who support leaders in our churches who help guide and lead us spiritually. It's truly full circle."

-Brad Ghaster

"The SFSAZ provides a unique opportunity for journeying with other believers in the pursuit of union with Christ. I wholeheartedly support the mission and vision and want to support the society and its leadership so more people can join with us."

-Terri Keizer

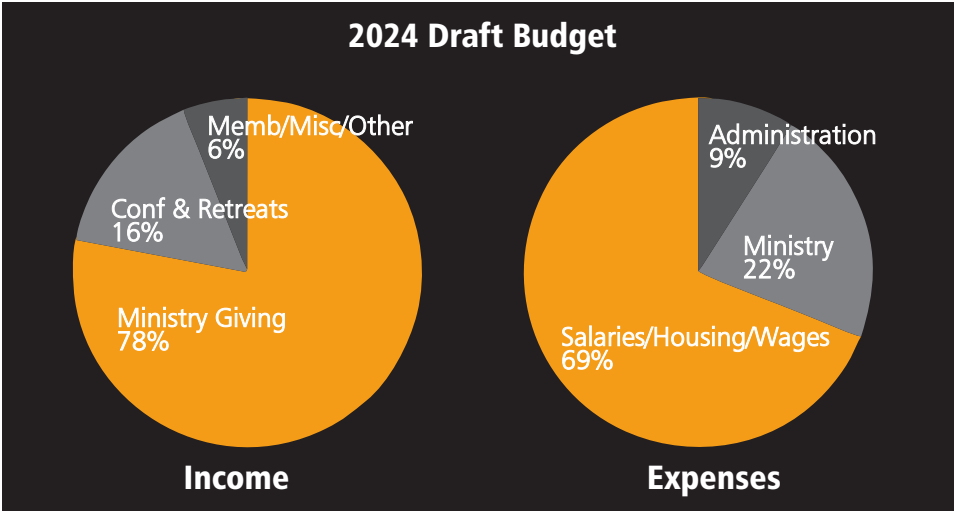
"SFSAZ is a ministry I have long supported financially as I feel it addresses a much less heralded need in taking care of the pastors/support staff spiritual needs and support as well. They give so much to their community but often at the expense of their own needs, which I can relate in an analogous manner as a physician giving everything to support the medical needs of the community. While I have not been able to participate much directly due to my busy schedule, I do believe in the ministry strongly by giving financial support and helping give support in that way." -David Kahn



Financial Report

2023 Budget	Jan-Aug Actuals	2023 Projected	2023 Year End Need	2023 Total Forecast
369,024	221,124	326,759	+ 20,000	= 346,759

We have been able to stay under budget this year so our year end need is less than total budgeted. \$20,000 is needed in addition to the regular generosity of our partners to finish the year strong.



Our need as we move into 2024 is \$40,000 in additional funding. Part of this is salary for new team member, Jess Meeks, and part is rising costs as well as expanded ministry.

We will wait for God’s provision and move forward as he provides.

This need can be met through NEW PARTNERSHIPS, increased regular giving from our existing team, and one time gifts. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you might be involved this coming year.

Board & Staff

"The SFSAZ offers opportunities and direction for people who want a more intimate relationship with God. It also provides a community of like-minded people to accompany you on your spiritual journey. Finding the Society and engaging in the opportunities offered has been life changing for me. I thank God for Ted and the SFSAZ."

-Brenda Dinell



L to R Jess Meeks, Raychel Reed, Michael Donnelly, Renee Clark, Tom Ashbrook, Ted Wueste, Art Guina, LuAnn Roberson, Brenda Dinell, Sheli Sloterbeek, John DelHousaye
Not pictured: Jim Beadle, Travis Collins and Jody Humber

"I am super grateful to God for birthing the SFSAZ in the state ten years ago. I appreciate having dedicated servant leaders modelling and championing contemplative spirituality and humbly resourcing the church toward deepening transformation in Christ for His glory and for the sake of others."

-Art Guina

Partnership in Ministry

What is a Ministry Partner? Quite simply, someone who partners with us in ministry. This comes in the form of prayer, finances and serving.

How can you pray?

If you are not currently receiving a monthly prayer update from one of our team members, let us know and we will get you connected.

How can you give?

1. Friends of the Society: monthly giving

- Your monthly gift can go to the support of a specific team member (\$25, 50, 100, 200 +)
- Your monthly gift can go to overall SFSAZ team support (\$25, 50, 100, 200 +)

2. Scholarship monthly giving

- Give monthly to assist someone in the Formatio program (\$100 (half monthly tuition), 200 (full monthly tuition))
- Give monthly to scholarship pastors/ministry leaders for the annual conference (\$10)
- Give monthly for scholarships in any area needed

3. Supporters of the Society: one time gifts that will help us finish the year strong and build toward the vision for next year.

*To choose where your giving will go, scan the QR code or go to sfsaz.org/give online and choose where you would like your gift to go in the first drop down menu. Click continue and add any further comments.

Scan this QR code to set up recurring or one-time gifts.



Checks can be mailed to: SFSAZ 10434 N. 43rd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85028



facebook.com/sfsaz



[@SFSAZ](https://instagram.com/SFSAZ)

Scan this QR code to set up recurring or one-time gifts.



Scan this QR code to register for November 8, 2023 online update.



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