

SPIRITUAL FORMATION SOCIETY of Arizona

formation | direction | connection

Extending the Reach of Spiritual Formation

a note from Ted

Friends,

"I think I'm willing to be open, I think I'm ready to be wrong... I'm ready to come home. I think I'm ready to be loved. I think I'm ready to find a table where I belong."
– Table Where I Belong, Good Shepherd Collective

These words resonated with me as we had just finished a staff meeting a few months ago. We had been praying and wondering together about the theme of our annual celebration. We came away with a deep longing for everyone, those who have been around the SFSAZ for a long time as well as those who perhaps hadn't even attended an event yet, to feel loved, welcomed and in a place where they could rest and be themselves.

As I reflected on the table, I was reminded that it is the place in the home where everyone gathers to be nourished - body and soul - to connect and to share life. Conversations, tears, community, play, prayer and so much more happen at the table. The table might even be symbolic of being home... that "place where you can relax, where you can be completely yourself, where the cares of the day seem to melt away." (Chuck DeGroat, Healing What's Within)

Our heart is to invite people to the table where we can all take off our masks, lay aside our accomplishments and failures, and simply ***be***. Coming to the table slows us down - it creates space - for awareness of God's presence and response to His leading.

Our deep joy and desire is to offer a space where something good can happen. Growth. Transformation.

We know that it is not so much what we do or what we offer, but ***how*** we offer. We offer contemplative presence where Father, Son, and Spirit can be experienced in a way that we hope is welcoming, feels safe, and where each person can experience their belovedness. A place where the light of His presence is so bright that, as the familiar hymn says, "the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

However, we know we can't do this on our own - nor would we want to. We seek partners in our mission to offer safe spaces for leaders and learners to experience deepening intimacy with the Trinity. We want to follow His heart here in Arizona and around the world. The good news of the Gospel is that the kingdom of God is here, now. God is present, active, and at work all around us. We get to do this work of pointing people to the Lord, "because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil 1:5) Thank you for partnering with us and welcome to the table of the SFS of Arizona.

Grace and Peace,



Ted

Vision & Mission

Our vision is offering safe spaces for leaders and learners to grow in deepening intimacy with the Trinity. We do this through spiritual direction, soul care days, retreats, and programs.

" ... until Christ is formed in you." Galatians 4:19

Our heart as we move into the future is to continue to serve in ways that give ministry away and empower leaders and learners to provide soul care and spiritual formation in their contexts.

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men and women, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Focus

Why we focus on leaders:
The spiritual health of the leader leads affects the health of the ministry/organization/church.

Leaders are hurting:

- 65% of pastors reported feelings of loneliness and isolation (Barna Group, 2023).
- 24% of U.S. senior Protestant pastors had seriously considered leaving full-time ministry in the previous year (Barna Group, 2026).
- 81% were reported as not receiving regular personal spiritual support from peers or mentors, based on Barna data cited by Carey Nieuwhof.



2026 in Review

Leaders and Learners Served Through:

- **Renew Retreats:** 16 retreatants which include lead pastors, university professors, ministry directors, missionaries, psychologists and executive directors
- **Spiritual Direction:** 84 leaders and learners meeting monthly with our staff team and 46 spiritual directors in our online directory
- **Group Spiritual Direction**: 30 monthly participants
- **Silence and Solitude Retreats:** 28
- **Soul Care Day Retreats:** 263
- **Online Opportunities:** 247 plus combined offerings with SFS Network
- **Expanding SFS Communities:** SFSOZ, SFSTX, and SFSWA with more coming
- Our team offering retreats and discernment with other organizations and ministries
- **12 leaders and learners** in the current *formatio* cohort
- **2,200 Active Users** of the A Simple Pause app *in English, Spanish and Chinese*
- Monthly Contemplative gatherings **be/still** and **creative pause** continue to grow across the country.

Annual Giving Opportunities

$25,000
Expand the Formatio 2 year program to 3 additional areas
Help further launch the SFS Network
Support and strengthen our infrastructure & operations

$15,000
Expansion and Refinement of the Formatio Curriculum
Retreat for Nurturing Formation Leaders around the Country
Retreat for Pastors

$10,000
Provide support for training spiritual directors (2 half scholarships)
Investment in our ministry team through retreat/rest/replenishment
Investment in international leaders (Philippines, Europe, Africa)

$5,000
Scholarship a participant for Formatio
Development of a retreat for 20-30 year olds

$1,000
10 scholarships to our annual conference
Scholarship a leader for a week Renew Retreat

*These are some examples of the impact that your gift can have throughout the upcoming year.

Expanding Spiritual Formation

- **SFS Network** (currently AZ, WA, Ozarks, TX and conversations with three other areas)
- **Doctor of Ministry class:** The Active Contemplative – a partnership with Surge Network offered at Western Theological Seminary with cohort retreats in Michigan and Arizona
- **SFSAZ expanding** outside of Phoenix to Tucson and other areas of the state as God leads
- **Growing Partnerships** with other local ministries
- Connecting, consulting and serving churches
- Next Generation focus



Monthly Giving Opportunities

$1,000

Continued development and support of the Simple Pause app
Ensure that financial barriers never prevent participation in offerings
Contribute to the growing infrastructure of the Spiritual Formation Society

$500

Give space to pursue new opportunities to minister
Development of a "signature retreat" that can be repeated & entrusted to others

$250

Continue to offer all online classes and experiences at no cost to participants
Meal and space for nurturing pastors/leaders (Pastors at the Table)

$100

Increase our online presence and connections
Hospitality for our Renew Retreats

$50

Making formation accessible to more and more people
Scholarship for a Soul Care Day

*These are some examples of the impact that your gift can have throughout the upcoming year.

Testimonials



"I hit a place of burnout, I had very been depressed for months. I wasn't doing well... (on a Renew Retreat) I was able to relax and I felt an invitation to embrace Jesus. It was different and it began a process of opening myself to hear from the Spirit in ways that I had not done before. It was powerful ... for the first time in a very long time, I was able to be real. I was able to be vulnerable, and I felt that I was really loved during that time."

-Wade Myers

"Formatio gave me the framework and practices to recognize and actively participate in a personal relationship with Jesus, every minute of every day. This profound recognition healed my soul. Which then lead the way to the healing of my body. Previously, I had concentrated almost exclusively on my physical symptoms and how to fix them. However, as my soul transformed my body followed. And the many obstacles previously in place were able to be set aside and HE used them to demonstrate his hand in my life. I will be forever grateful. I stand in awe of the grace and mercy of our Lord. He knows me intimately and thus provided exactly what I needed."

- Connie Jones, Formatio participant

"Spiritual direction helped me develop the ability to notice (God) and stay with God... Sharing with another person and having them listen and reflect back what they are hearing can help you see things from a different perspective and hopefully hear things from God's perspective as well. "

-Luke Harris



"There was just something different about being a part of the Formation Society. I found that I could connect with God in more intimate way... this is the way I always want to live."

-Kerry Failoni



Scan the QR codes to watch a video from each person.

How Funds are Used

This breakdown of funds represents a blend of historical expenses and planned investments that support the ministry of SFSAZ.

Ministry

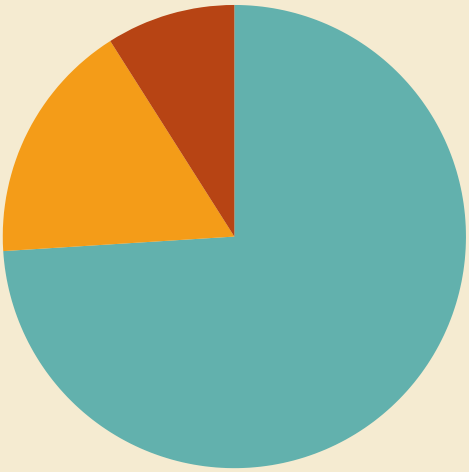
Includes expenses directly supporting ministry programs, including retreats, formatio two-year program, Annual Conference, soul care days, free online events, scholarships to events and the A Simple Pause app.

Administrative

Supports the essential functions that sustain, strengthen and further the ministry, including administrative and hospitality staff, technology systems, compliance and organizational infrastructure.

Fundraising

Supports donor engagement, communications, fundraising and development events and initiatives that invite others to partner with the SFSAZ in the world that God is doing in so many lives throughout Arizona and beyond.



a note from our finance director

Together, we made several strategic investments this year that position SFSAZ for continued growth and impact. These included transitioning to a new database platform that better supports our partners, improves operational efficiency, and enhances our ability to serve the broader community for years to come.

We also welcomed the A Simple Pause app into our ministry and have been actively updating content in English, Spanish, and Chinese to expand its accessibility and reach. In addition, the growing number of retreats, workshops, and other formation opportunities offered by SFSAZ contributed to increased operating activity and related costs. Like many organizations, we experienced inflation-driven increases in venue, travel, hospitality, and program expenses, along with advance deposits needed to secure locations for future events and support continued growth in our offerings.

Despite rising costs, your faithful partnership and generosity continue to strengthen our mission. We are deeply grateful for your continued support of the Spiritual Formation Society of Arizona. Your investment in this work enables us to expand our ministry, strengthen our programs, and continue fostering spiritual formation in the communities we serve. Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future.

Jim Beadle, Finance Director



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