

MAILING LABEL

3000 Fifth Street NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112-2598

KALEO CENTER  
FOR FAITH, JUSTICE & SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

# FAITH RESPONDER

# THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

**W**e hear the rattle of spray paint as our neighborhood mosque gets tagged. We see the videos and videos and videos that lay to rest the notion that “we are all as free as the next person” before the law. We smart at the smoking canisters and feel the cold spray that hits us as we stand for the land. We see the repulsive salutes and hear the cheers, and any doubt that this could happen today is replaced with a deep disquiet.

At the same time, as people of faith, we know that this is our place—up close and engaged—speaking to wrongs, providing sanctuary and living our beliefs. We summon our courage, allowing our core convictions to steady us in this churn. We are called to respond.

This response is why Kaleo Center exists. At Kaleo Center, we work to ignite the prophetic tradition of justice: preparing faithful leaders and communities with the skills needed to act powerfully for the common good, connecting with partners and standing with allies in common mission, and advancing the art and science of social transformation.

This is not a drill, and it is nothing new. The world has always needed people of faith living their faith. In the same way, faithful people have ever sought to create beloved community.

It’s at this intersection that faith responders are most needed.

# Dear Friends

It has been a remarkable year—both in terms of the the political, social, and ethical challenges facing our country and the growth and impact of Kaleo Center as a vital response.

Over the past year, the Kaleo Center continued our work to channel our deepest held faith values—along with theological, strategic, analytical, and practical skills—to bring about social transformation. The 2016 milestones include expanded educational concentrations, increased collaboration with justice partners, the new community offerings of Kaleo Express, and engaging in an ever-growing and deepening national conversation.

Kaleo Center’s efforts in social transformation has also recently been named the flagship offering of United Theological Seminary, a role which strengthens how we engage the imaginations of all people of faith to “call forth the world we seek.” This is a powerful testament to the credibility of our offerings and the need of the world.

In a political and social context in which the voices of hate, violence, and division are amplified and reinforced by those with power, the strength of faithful voices to respond and proclaim our ethical and moral imperatives is more important than ever.

My hope is that you will hear the call and join us—because faith is where the journey of Kaleo Center begins and justice is where it leads.



In solidarity,  
Beth Zemsky  
Board Chair

## Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals and foundations who gave to Kaleo Center during 2015-2016:

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Beth Zemsky



Members of Sacred Solidarity congregations participate in anti-racism action and reflection.

Preparing faithful leaders and communities with the skills needed to act powerfully for the common good.

Teaching, curriculum development, and advocacy within theological education are essential to Kaleo Center's mission. Without our academic offerings, Kaleo Center would be just one more social justice nonprofit among many. We exist to equip clergy, faith-based leaders, lay people and community members with the skills needed for effective social transformation.

Our academic programs prepare faith leaders to be powerful agents for change—providing tools and information and forming skills and practices they need to bridge faith, justice and the public square.



Claire Curran, ST student and Communications & Outreach Manager with MNIPL supports Indigenous Organizers at 10/28/2016 public action demanding Hennepin County Deputies be recalled from Standing Rock.

Connecting with partners and standing with allies in common mission.

Kaleo Center's work in the community is at the core of our commitment and effectiveness. During the last 12 months, Kaleo Center stood with our community partners and worked to strengthen collaboration.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN COMMUNITY**

**MARCH (Multi-faith, Anti-Racism, Change, and Healing):** We continue to provide staffing support and leadership to the MARCH table. MARCH has three core priorities:

1. *Rapid Response Network:* develop, train, and mobilize faith leaders in response to calls from communities



Advancing the art and science of social transformation.

Justice has never been solo endeavor, and we are blessed to be working with partners across the nation to advance the field and strengthen the national presence of our collective work.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FIELD ADVANCEMENT WORK**

**Theology of Solidarity:** In collaboration with the Center for Sustainable Justice hosted theologians and faith-based justice practitioners to be part of a Theology of Solidarity reflection circle. We

## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

### Designated as United's Flagship offering:

Social Transformation is now core to education at United, putting United and Kaleo at the forefront of an emerging movement among seminaries across the nation.

### Social Transformation Concentration:

Following development of a new concentration in Social Transformation available within our MA and M. Div., United now offers a new Masters of Arts in Leadership for Social Transformation (M.A.L.S.T.). Within this concentration, students serve in community or congregational contexts for the entirety of the

program. This fall we admitted 9 new social transformation students to this concentration, and we will launch our first cohort in January.

**Kaleo Express:** As new 90-minute high-value, low-commitment entry points to social transformation, our monthly Kaleo Express events have been offered throughout the Twin Cities in coffee shops and community gathering spaces. Led by experts in the field, the events have generated capacity crowds and an enthusiastic response.

*Examples include:*

- Examining this Moment through Movement Eyes

- Rest, Renewal, Resistance: A Radical Sabbath
- Theology of Improv
- One-to-ones and Spiritual Practice
- Using the Pulpit of the Press
- Self-care and the Call of Social Justice

**Daylong workshops:** Some Kaleo Express topics have been expanded into 1-2 day workshops, offered to the community but available for academic credit. Our first example of this is an extended version of the popular "Using the Pulpit of the Press" Kaleo Express training. We aim to offer 4-6 of these types of 'hybrid' community/for credit classes annually.

of color for clergy support at public actions.

2 *Sacred Solidarity Network:* The development of a network of predominately-white congregations committed to addressing white supremacy and the spiritual practice of 'follower-ship,' listening to and learning from the experience and wisdom of people of color. On Sept. 11, 90 faith leaders from 12 congregations gathered to begin a year-long journey of mutual accountability by sharing timelines of their racial history, developing strategic work plans and sharing between paired congregations. Congregations include: Shir

Tikvah, First Universalist, Living Table, First Unitarian Society, First Congregational, Lyndale, Linden Hills, Calvary Lutheran, St. Joan of Arc, Plymouth, First Covenant, Mayflower.

3 *Discomfort & Disruption—Understanding Movements to End Policing:* Forums on policing and explaining Black Lives Matter tactics to people unfamiliar with organizing principles.

**Healing Justice—Building a Religious Movement for Justice:** Kaleo Center co-sponsored this event with Center for Sustainable Justice and Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light.

Kaleo led a workshop on the social transformation matrix.

**State of the UUnion:** Kaleo was part of a panel discussion with Mayoral Candidate Nakima Levy Pounds and Minneapolis Councilwoman Alonda Cano at the annual Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance event.

**Night of a New Day:** Our annual fund-raising gathering brought together 150 people to honor two remarkable individuals—Lena Gardner and Pastor Danny Givens—whose leadership in the work of Black Lives Matters has inspired powerful networks of interfaith and multi-racial allies.

gathered for a powerful conversation about solidarity from our various religious traditions. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to create a compelling written resource that explores the theology of solidarity to be published by Auburn Seminary.

**Justice Ministry Education:** Kaleo is on the national advisory board for the Justice Ministry Education initiative that is developing a "context-based practicum" like format for social justice. Six sites around the country are participating, including United,

and we are organizing a cohort to begin in January.

**National Network Development:** Kaleo Center received \$15,000 from the George Family Foundation to support our work convening social transformation educators and practitioners. Our focus is organizing seminaries with social justice/transformation programs to collaborate on advancing the field of faith-grounded, social transformation.

**Highlighted as a "Bright Spot in Theological Education":** Auburn Seminary released a national study entitled identifying Kaleo as a bright spots as it seeks to move beyond "education about issues and instead offer training in the skills and capacities for leadership of movements for justice."

United Theological Seminary students both compel social transformation from the pulpit and actively lead it from within the communities they serve. United's flagship Leadership for Social Transformation program equips future clergy, chaplains and non-profit leaders to convert passion for social justice into ethical and sustainable community change.

*Lewis P. Zeidner, Ph.D., President,  
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities*

The Kaleo Center's workshop at Mayflower UCC invited our justice teams out of their silos to work together. It helped them think clearly about which strategies have the highest impact.

*Rev. Emily Goldthwaite-Fries, Mayflower UCC, Minneapolis*

So often I have heard people say, "but what can we do?" or "how can we help?" when they are confronted with social justice issues. The issues seem overwhelming and usually outside the scope of impact that one or two people can have. The Social Justice & Transformation class provides a foundation for building a faith community in which people become effective agents for change in the issues they feel led to address. You will learn how to assess yourself, your team, and your organization and what steps to take to move forward in the journey of social justice. This should be a required course for anyone preparing to lead a faith community or non-profit organization.

*Nathan Black, MDiv, '18*

Leadership and Strategies for Social Transformation have me a more concrete understanding of how to lead in a way that develops and empowers people, instead of just elevating self through charisma or force. I loved getting to meet people who are really doing social justice work. They brought hope for a better world and encouragement that living into my calling is actually possible.

*Chelsea Stanton, MA, '16*

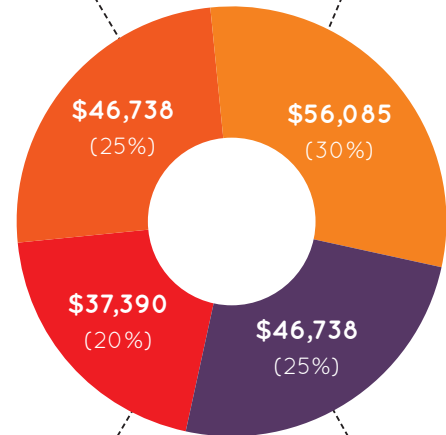
## Program Areas and Expenses

### Being Able

We advance the praxis of social transformation by building our own research and programmatic capacity and organizing a national movement to advance social justice as a practical, theological discipline.

### Making Ready

Academic and community programming which equips and empowers faithful leaders with the theological, strategic, analytical and practical skills needed to act powerfully for the common good.



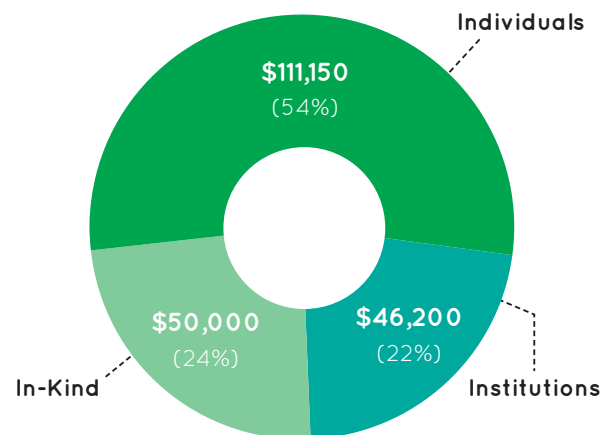
### Calling Forth

Through action alerts, theological reflection and participation in campaigns and movements, Kaleo Center works to restore to life, enliven and provoke the best and deepest passions in persons of faith.

### Standing With

Kaleo Center has supported a wide range of social change movements, including marriage equality, racial justice and voting rights, mass incarceration, Indigenous rights and economic justice initiatives.

## Income



**KALEO CENTER** is funded by 101 individuals who see the present and pressing need for this work. You can easily support our mission today at our web page: <http://kaleo.center/donate/>