



BLUEPRINT

1543

COMPANY LAUNCH



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In case there was any doubt about the need for the work of Blueprint 1543, the year 2020 happened. The election-year politics mixed with an epidemiologically puzzling pandemic yielded a toxic cocktail that inebriated communities and their leaders. Fear- and anger-fueled struggles to influence, or even coerce, frequently led to weaponizing “Science.” Politicians of various levels and affiliations have claimed that their decisions are based on nothing more than “Science.” Members of the general public either ran to or away from “Science” to support their own views on this or that policy. The use of quantitative and evidential reasoning that would not pass an undergraduate statistics course became the scaffolding of daily news. The public understanding of what the sciences are, and are not, and how they should inform personal and public decision-making was on full display in 2020 and left wanting.

But there was good news. In October 2020, Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health was awarded the Templeton Prize. In his acceptance address, he shared his own story from scientific atheist to Christ-following scientist. He illustrated how a genuine, lived Christian faith can animate the tools of the sciences to make significant scientific discoveries and also bridge ideological divides with colleagues and even opponents. Among the many lessons of 2020, it taught us that we need more Francis Collinses.

Blueprint 1543 is here to help.



Justin L. Barrett, Ph.D.
President



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Ana Ávila
Science Engagement
in Latin American
Evangelicalism

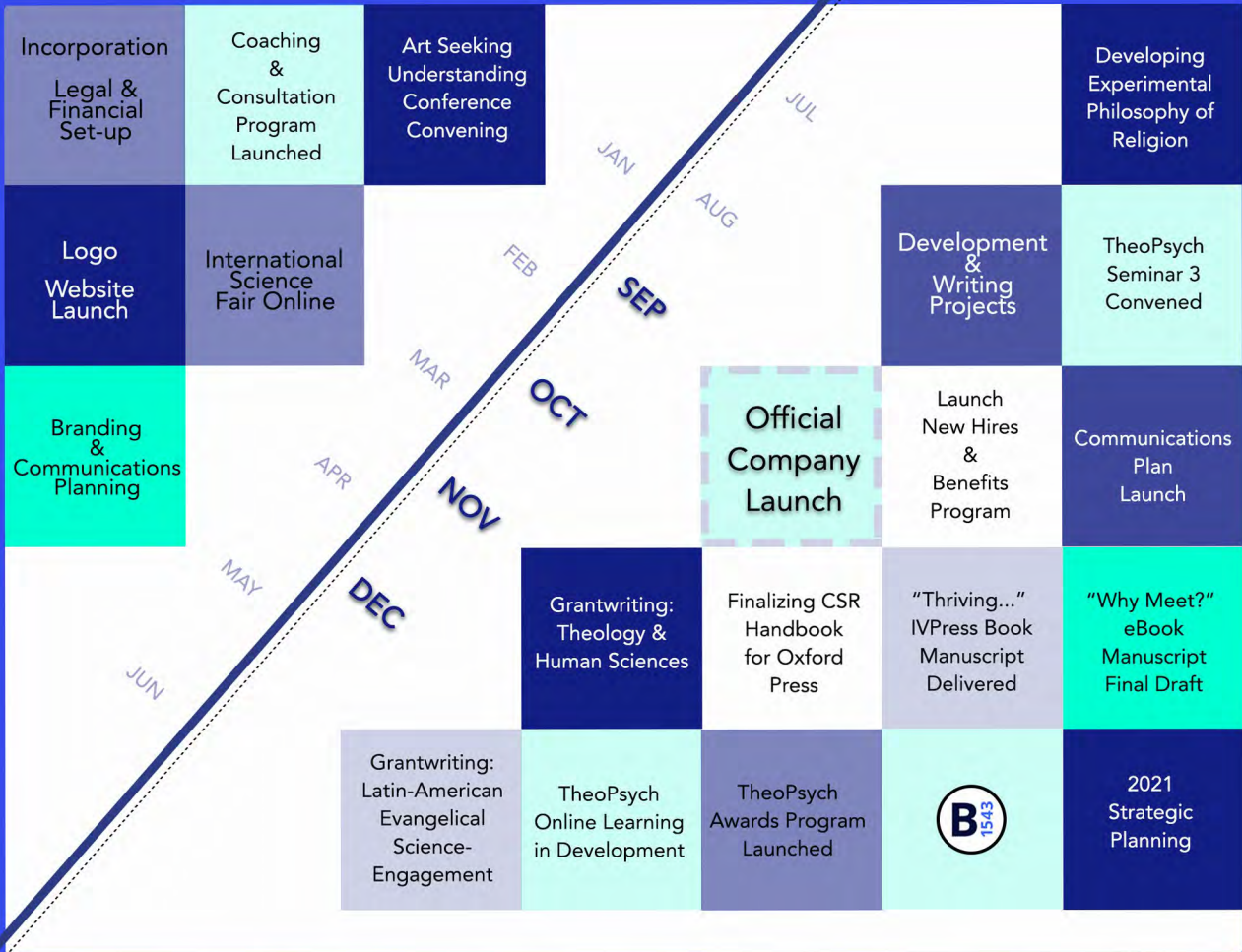


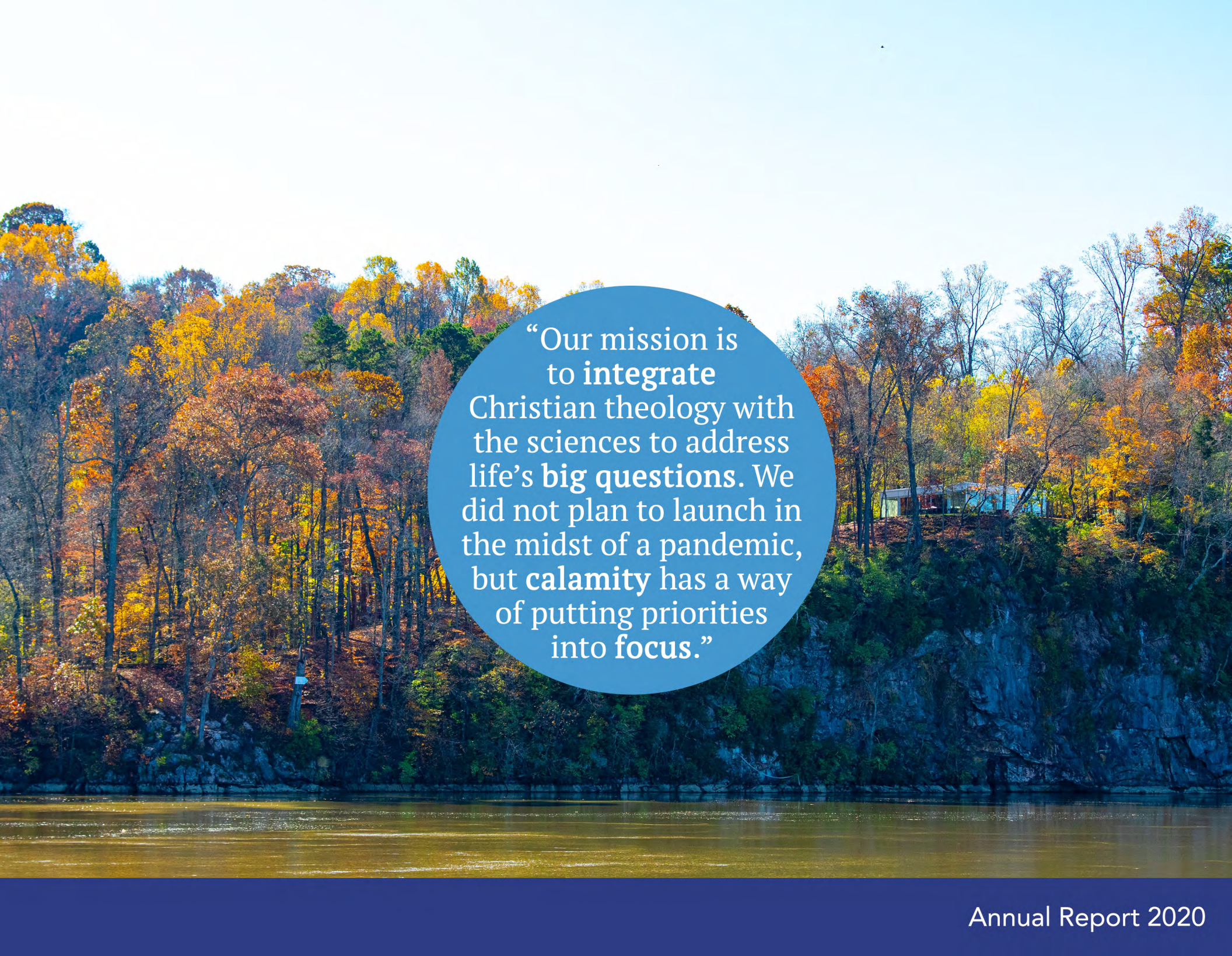
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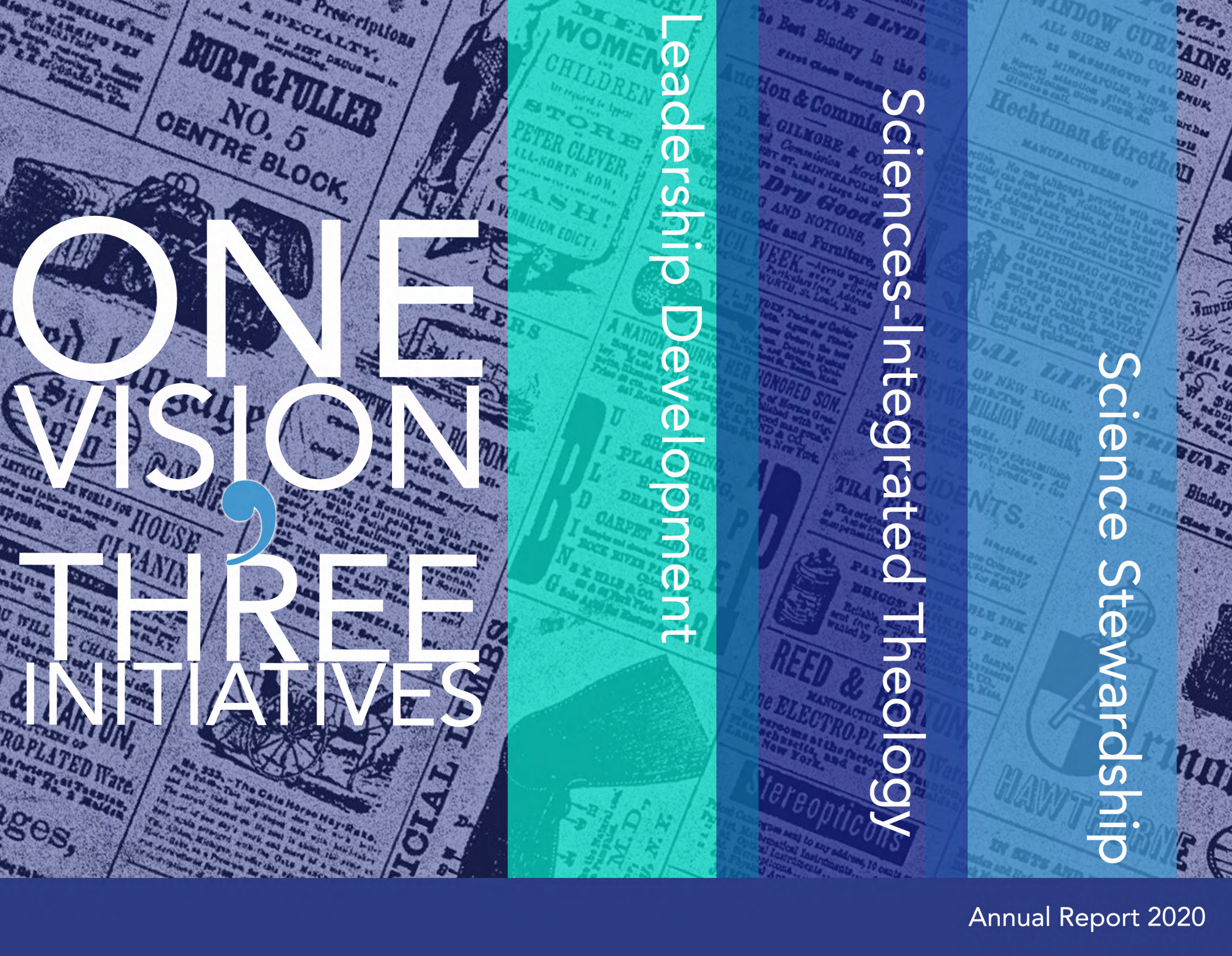
Oliver Crisp
TheoPysch

COLLABORATORS





“Our mission is
to **integrate**
Christian theology with
the sciences to address
life’s **big questions**. We
did not plan to launch in
the midst of a pandemic,
but **calamity** has a way
of putting priorities
into **focus**.”



Science Stewardship

Sciences-Integrated Theology

Leadership Development

ONE VISION, THREE INITIATIVES

Sciences-Integrated Theology

Theology is critical to orienting human thriving. But the problems we encounter today are increasingly complex and unanticipated by previous generations. Likewise, contemporary science has empirical insights that can sharpen the wisdom of theological projects. This initiative develops activities to give us sciences-informed theologians and theologically-informed scientists—and they'll collaborate! These projects will deepen the talent pool of scholars equipped to do sciences-integrated theology, demonstrate the utility of interdisciplinary work, and convene field-building activities.



+ Science Stewardship + Leadership Development



Theologians Evan Rosa, Jim Stump, Sarah Lane Ritchie, and Scott Harrower (left to right) learning from our first of three TheoPsych seminars.

WILD RELIGIONS

We were recruited to serve on an advisor panel for Pascal Boyer's "Wild Religions" planning grant based at Washington University in St. Louis. This planning grant concerns how to use cognitive and evolutionary scientific perspectives to study the various kinds of religious beliefs and practices that seem to pre-date doctrinal religions like Christianity, and also seem to crop up within Christian and other doctrinal religious communities. What makes these forms of religious behavior so persistent? What motivates them?

Blueprint is particularly interested in this work because it may lay the groundwork for a human sciences-integrated approach to Christian missiology and practical theology.



THEOPSYCH

Phase two of our TheoPsych project was funded by the John Templeton Foundation (JTF) very quickly after our official launch. In phase one, we hosted seminars on the psychological sciences for theologians. We then worked to maximize the impact of those seminars in a few ways.

We began planning an online conference to network all 3 cohorts; we started coordinating a TheoPsych-themed scholarly journal issue with *Theologica*; we began developing a series of free online learning modules to take learners through media resources on psychological science and its relevance to theology; and we took first steps toward creating a primer on psychological science for theologians.

We also oversaw a group of TheoPsych small grant awardees, active with exciting projects of their own. Six projects from our third cohort were awarded in the last quarter of 2020, bringing the total number to 16.

ART SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

The ASU program is focused on using the sciences to identify if and how the arts bring about new spiritual information and insights. In 2020, Blueprint was contracted by the Templeton Religion Trust (TRT) to provide leadership development to scholars in this new interdisciplinary space.

We held grant development coaching and consultations with scholars/teams who were applying for grants in the ASU program, and we designed and delivered a two-week program launch conference, which was delivered online.



LAUNCHING EXPERIMENTAL PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

We provided support in the grant design and proposal development for long-time collaborator Dr. Ian Church, for his major grant application to JTF. Beginning in 2021, this new phase of his project on the “Probabilistic Problem of Evil” will begin, for which we provided research consultation and coaching.

Building upon this prior proof-of-concept work, the new program will launch a community of scholars doing experimental philosophy of religion, an effort to use scientific methods to explore the intuitions and judgments used in philosophy of religion arguments. This project spans sciences-integrated theology and leadership development. We will continue our roles of providing coaching and guidance to Dr. Church and administrators at Hillsdale College. We’ll also provide help to oversee the design of studies, and coordination of the various projects (subawards) into a common enterprise.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Our work in TheoPsych and similar programs revealed a gap; theologians seeking to do interdisciplinary work need collaboratorative partners with expertise in the sciences. But where are those science experts who are willing to play nice with theologians? Blueprint was asked whether we might contribute to a JTF initiative looking at just this issue. We were invited to write a full grant proposal to produce strategy documents (for funding bodies and organizations resourcing scientists) that will make recommendations for how to catalyze human scientists toward collaboration with theologians. If funded, the grant's research activities will begin in Fall 2021. We're enthusiastic about this project since its aims and activities fall into all three of our organizational initiatives.

THEOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE HUMAN SCIENCE



ACTIVATING SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT IN LATIN- AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM

Ana Ávila is an author, thought leader, and senior editor of science for one of the biggest Christian websites in Latin America, The Gospel Coalition's Spanish language resources (La Coalición por el Evangelio). Because she is so well-positioned to be a leader in her context, we submitted a proposal to JTF to support her work producing popular and scholarly resources in English and Spanish.

Ávila will participate in a master's-level equivalent training program that will deepen her understanding of human sciences with an emphasis on issues related to theology and lived religious expression. She will also receive professional coaching on how to implement her learning, and will partner with us to develop creative communications in both Spanish and English.

Cross-training activities with Ávila have already begun, and the project will officially launch in 2021.

Leadership Development

Leaders are needed to accomplish the goals of our organization. Oftentimes those with the right expertise lack the training and skills to lead large programs and build new fields to bring scholars together from across disciplines. To be able to address big questions in novel ways we will mobilize scholars, science professionals, and pastors in their unique areas of contribution. Through professional coaching, consultation, team building, and workshops, we can expand the capacity of key leaders with stronger projects and ongoing support.

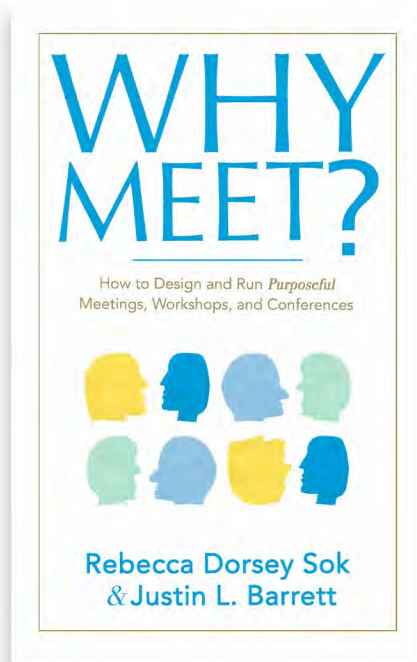


+ Science Stewardship

+ Sciences-Integrated Theology

PUBLISHING

Much of our time in 2020 was given to exciting writing projects! We were delighted to deliver three manuscripts for publishing dates in 2021, all in line with the mission and vision of BP1543.

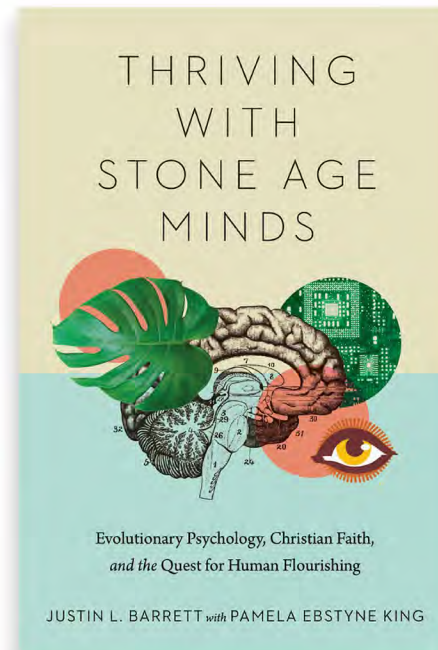


WHY MEET?

A program officer at Templeton Religion Trust requested we put our experience with events on paper. The aim would be to help other program officers, grant applicants, and grant recipients better understand how to think about, design, and run *purposeful* events (both in person and online). The result was this ebook that provides support for those who want to hold events, but need help thinking through the whys, whats, and hows of doing so well. (Available on Kindle now.)

THRIVING WITH STONE AGE MINDS

The manuscript for Justin Barrett's next book, *Thriving with Stone Aged Minds* (co-authored with Pam King), was turned into the publisher, InterVarsity Press, for release in June 2021. The book examines the gap between human nature and modern culture, and how to create thriving by addressing the discord in that space.



THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF RELIGION

Oxford University Press' Handbook for Cognitive Science of Religion, a landmark edited volume on the subdiscipline edited by Justin Barrett, is with the publisher for copy-editing. Justin and Sarey coordinated with over 30 authors and co-authors for two years to compile the thorough overview of the field. (Release date TBD)



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

SPEAKING

Given our unique blend of expertise, some special speaking opportunities came our way. 2020 was the year the online event was forced to flourish, and given it was the primary way to connect with peers, we were grateful to share to a variety of audiences.

"Unlocking Joy During a Crisis: Key Habits" |

Fusion Real Talk Event Workshop, April
- Rebecca Dorsey Sok

"The 4 Phases of Project Development" |

Art Seeking Understanding Conference, June
- Rebecca Dorsey Sok

"What is TRT?" |

Art Seeking Understanding Conference, June
- Rebecca Dorsey Sok

"Scientific Methods" Series |

Art Seeking Understanding Conference, June
- Justin Barrett

"The 4 Phases of Project Development"

| TheoPsych: Restoring Human Nature Conference, July
- Rebecca Dorsey Sok

"Religion, Evolution, and Christianity" |

Veritas Institute, June
- Justin Barrett

"Science-engaged theologies: Variations on a common theme?"

(Panelist participant) |
New Visions in Theological Anthropology (NViTA) Event, December
- Justin Barrett

"Is my faith just a by-product of evolution?" |

UCCF: The Christian Unions, Science Network (UK) Event, December
- Justin Barrett



Science Stewardship

STEM fields greatly impact human flourishing, but people of faith tend to be underrepresented in these fields. A majority of women, Latinos, and African Americans identify with Christianity, making the case for increased diversity in STEM fields even stronger. We hope to help remedy this problem by activating projects that network STEM leaders (present and future), normalize the presence of people of faith in STEM fields, equip STEM Christians with greater theological literacy, and deploy them to serve communities.



+ Sciences-Integrated Theology

+ Leadership Development



OPERATIONS

Legal groundwork

What makes a startup a legally recognized nonprofit organization? In 2020 we were able to officially open our doors as the IRS approved our nonprofit status. With our designation in hand we could finish setting up the behind-the-scenes applications and approvals that make our nonprofit go. In 2020 we:

- Received IRS nonprofit designation letter
- Received Tennessee tax exemption status
- Registered as a charitable organization
- Convened our board of directors

The making of our team

What sets a startup on a path towards success? The right people contributing to our mission doing what they're uniquely designed to do. In 2020 we went from zero employees to three full-time and one part-time team members, plus multiple collaborators and friends. Together we are building Blueprint 1543. In 2020 we:

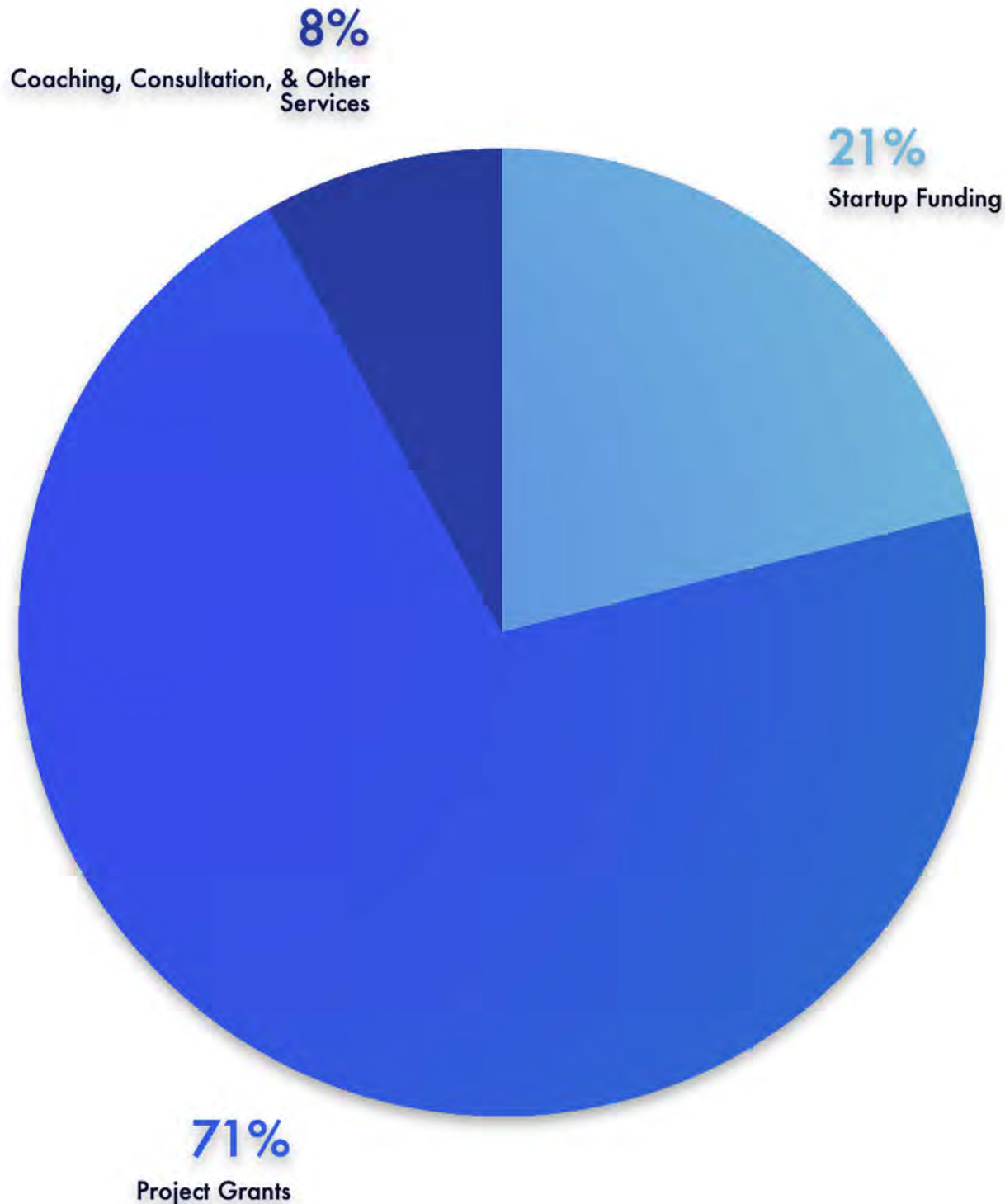
- Hired our team and began payroll and benefits programs.
- Supported our collaborators with specific project contracts.
- Established independent contractors and vendors to help us with specialized skills and services.

Building relationships through communications

How will people understand our mission? Great work matters little if it happens in vacuum. A key part of our start up strategy was to focus intentionally on our communications. In 2020 we began designing and implementing our brand story as a way to find mission-minded partners, collaborators, and clients we could serve. To do that we:

- Designed our logo
- Built our website
- Established a newsletter
- Setup a social media presence

FUNDING



What financial strategies will bring long-term sustainability?

We were funded by a combination of activities that empowered us to launch. We brought in multiple grants as well as monetized select services around coaching, coaching and consultation, speaking, and more.

We were financially supported by:

- A start up funding grant
- Multiple project grants
- Services provided



WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

We built our organization because we love helping people realize the full potential of their work. If you're developing a project that aligns with our mission, and need help making your vision a reality, we might be the right mix of content and strategy consulting that you didn't realize you needed.



Coaching

We provide advanced professional coaching for individuals (and teams) who have all the relevant skills/expertise for the work at hand, but need to develop out particulars, maximize impact, and take advantage of opportunities.

Consultation

We provide consultation service for those who have need for expertise in certain areas, such as grant writing skills or developing a new interdisciplinary subfield.

Coaching & Consultation

We also combine coaching and consulting into one service when clients need help to process and analyze (coaching) as well as time to learn more (consulting).

Speaking

We're available to speak at meetings or events. Contact us if you think we might help you achieve the goals of your event through teaching.

Convening

If you want to bring people together for an intentional purpose, but lack event experience or just want to increase efficacy, we can help you bring it together (whether in person or online).

Collaboration

Perhaps your organization would like to partner with us in a way that makes use of our mutual skills, expertise, and resources. A collaboration may allow us to accomplish the most robust project.



