Dear Friends,

In 2016, by God’s grace and the support of the Denver Institute for Faith & Work (DIFW) community, we were able to deepen and expand our mission to form men and women who live with Christ in all of life, bear witness to the gospel in every area of culture, and serve the needs of the world with the work of their hands.

Last year, we announced plans to launch the 5280 Fellowship, a nine-month intensive experience for emerging leaders in theology, work, and culture. Today, it’s here. After months of curricula design – including assembling a lengthy collection of readings – recruiting, fundraising, and prayer, on September 2, 2016, we welcomed 29 Fellows to our launch retreat. A new community, a new vision – and a new creation – was born.

Last year we also welcomed 742 people to our public events (99 percent of whom would recommend the experience to a friend), hosted 225 people at our monthly Vocation Groups, increased to 19 partner churches, and reached over 16,000 people through DenverInstitute.org. Event topics ranged from topics related to theology, work, calling, culture, and a wide array of professional industries.

We host events in partnership with local churches on issues of work, calling, and culture.

We serve churches and pastoral leadership in their efforts to engage culture through the vocations of their congregants through events, resources, experiences, speaking/teaching, and personalized consultations.

We provide media, storytelling, educational resources, and volunteer-led groups that connect Christian theology with daily work across sectors.

The theme of this impact report is “New Creation.” For me, with the launch of the 5280 Fellowship, I’m reminded that not only will Christ restore the world in the future, but we are called to live in a new world today: “If anyone is in Christ, he only will Christ restore the world in the future; but we are called to live in a new world today.”

As I look forward, I believe DIFW can help. There is a growing need for stories, educational resources, and communities that move information to application for our hearts, our workplaces, and our cities. As I look to 2017, we are now in the early phases of producing a series of online courses, studies, and lessons on Christian faith and work across a wide variety of sectors. We also anticipate creating broader, deeper resources for our partner churches, graduating our first class of Fellows – and welcoming those Fellows into a new alumni network.

Enjoy this report. In an age of uncertainty and cultural marginalization for the church, may it fill your heart with a deep and lasting hope.

Grateful for your partnership,

Jeff Haanen
Executive Director

ABOUT

Guests at Taking Your Soul to Work are deep in conversation during a discussion portion of the program, November 19, 2015, at AMG National Trust in Greenwood Village.

programs

Emerging Leader Fellowships
Launched in 2016, the 5280 Fellowship is a rigorous and selective nine-month leadership program for emerging leaders in Denver. In partnership with local churches, the program includes theological study, spiritual formation, professional development, and learning from senior leaders in the city.

Events & Forums
We host events in partnership with local churches on topics related to theology, work, calling, culture, and a wide array of professional industries.

Church Partnership Network
We serve churches and pastoral leadership in their efforts to engage culture through the vocations of their congregants through events, resources, experiences, speaking/teaching, and personalized consultations.

Groups & Resources
We provide media, storytelling, educational resources, and volunteer-led groups that connect Christian theology with daily work across sectors.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year was also filled with chances to learn through trial and error: The 5280 Fellowship took more time to build than I anticipated; we kept experimenting with Vocation Group formats to better gauge effectiveness; we learned to market differently for one-night events versus day-long conferences. We certainly made mistakes in 2016, but I also think we’re getting smarter.

As I take a look at the global faith and work movement, I’m encouraged to see more traction in many cities. More are realizing the critical need for theological education around issues of work and calling as a part of all-life discipleship. At the same time, we have so far to go: Some fields have almost no solid Christian thinking; many faith and work initiatives lack a broad, interdisciplinary perspective; and far too many initiatives stop at knowledge and never work their way toward spiritual formation, emotional maturity, and day-to-day practices in the workplace.

As we see in Scripture, on the morning of the first day of the week, Mary came to the tomb of Jesus, expecting to mourn over her teacher’s dead body. But the tomb was empty, and she discovered that Jesus, the light of the world, was resurrected from the dead. The rising sun had dawned. The new creation had begun.

The theme of this impact report is “New Creation.” For me, with the launch of the 5280 Fellowship, I’m reminded that not only will Christ restore the world in the future, but we are called to live in a new world today: “If anyone is in Christ, he only will Christ restore the world in the future; but we are called to live in a new world today.”

Enjoy this report. In an age of uncertainty and cultural marginalization for the church, may it fill your heart with a deep and lasting hope.

Grateful for your partnership,

Jeff Haanen
Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS,
A.D. 370
Basil, the bishop of Caesarea, establishes the first public hospital to care for the poor, the infirm, and the traveler. It lays the foundation for hospitals to serve the indigent ill throughout Western history and launches the discipline of public health.

1088
The first university is born in Bologna, Italy, out of the monastic tradition teaching canon and civil law. Universities teaching principally law, medicine, and theology – such as the University of Paris (1150) and the University of Oxford (1209) – proliferate throughout Europe.

1100-1200s
Early capitalism develops principally in Christian Italian city-states as sophisticated management, free markets, free labor, a cash economy, credit, private firms, and secure property rights develop. Christian virtues of work, frugality, honesty, and equality lead to unprecedented wealth production.

1215
The Archbishop of Canterbury drafts the Magna Carta and King John of England agrees to it. This leads to English common law and the limiting of the power of kings – and ultimately the birth of universal human rights in the modern world.

1500s
Reformers Martin Luther and John Calvin recover the doctrine of vocation, teaching that through the “priesthood of all believers,” secular work – not only the work of priests or monks – is how God provides for the needs of the world.

1508-1512
Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel ceiling, including nine scenes from the book of Genesis. The artistic imagination, from classical music to Renaissance and Gothic art, flourishes throughout the Middle Ages under the patronage of the Church.

1550-1700
The Scientific Revolution is inaugurated by key discoveries of Christians such as Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon, and Galileo Galilei, who wrote: “God is known by nature in his works, and by doctrine in his revealed word.”

1700s
The Enlightenment, an intellectual movement in Europe that stressed reason, individual autonomy, and scientific inquiry, begins to separate the realms of church and state, public and private, fact and value, faith and work.

MID 1900s
Christian intellectuals in England such as Dorothy Sayers, J.R.R. Tolkien, and C.S. Lewis leverage their literary abilities to compose novels, fantasies, essays, plays, and philosophical treatises on Christianity in the modern world. Sayers publishes Creed or Chaos in 1954.

1900s
Denver Institute for Faith & Work is founded as an expression of the Christian church’s historic commitment to living out Christian faith in all arenas of life.

1950-1700s
MODERN-DAY PEOPLE SOMETIMES RESTRICT THE MEANING OF “FAITH AND WORK” TO WORKPLACE EVANGELISM OR THE HOBBY LOBBY DECISION BY THE SUPREME COURT. BUT CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CULTURE FOR A LONG TIME, CREATING HOSPITALS, UNIVERSITIES, WORKS OF ART, AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE WORLD. THIS TIMELINE HIGHLIGHTS THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST – WORKING – THROUGH THE AGES.
cultivating leaders

On September 2, 2016, at a retreat in the mountains, 29 men and women officially became the inaugural class of the 5280 Fellowship. Catherine Alvarez, business development officer at Red Rocks Credit Union, summed up many Fellows’ goals, “In the 5280 Fellowship I hope to gain biblical knowledge, lasting friendships, connections, and new skills that can help grow God’s Kingdom here in Denver.”

The Fellowship is a selective and rigorous nine-month experience for emerging leaders in theology, work, and culture. The program includes reading assignments on topics ranging from biblical worldview and calling to contemporary issues, spiritual formation exercises, a personal and professional development process, and discussions with dozens of different Senior Leaders – like Bill Kurtz, pictured – who connect Fellows to the key issues and institutions in the city today.

It is designed to help professionals early in their careers to think theologically about work and culture, discover a network of like-minded peers across industries, deepen their effectiveness as leaders, learn to experience God’s kingdom in daily realities, and engage the key issues of our city through new relationships formed with leaders in the city.

Miles Dake, a mechanical engineer at M.E. Group, shared his reason for applying, saying, “Through the Fellowship I believe others’ experiences will have a huge impact in helping me to understand how God’s truth impacts all aspects of work and civic life.”

To learn more about the 5280 Fellowship and its impact, visit 5280fellows.com/stories.

by the numbers

- 3 5280 Fellows cohorts based at local churches
- 12 Community & Culture meetings across the city
- 29 5280 Fellows, from 12 industries & 13 church homes
- 42 Senior Leaders contributing to the 5280 Fellowship
- 196 Planned contact hours with Fellows in the program
- 599 Pages in the 5280 Fellowship curriculum reader

Andrew Brill
finance associate, Focused Energy

“In order for the church to become a culture-maker, there needs to be a community of diverse people in diverse occupations: media, finance, politics, education, business, etc. The 5280 Fellowship is trying to build this community – founded in the gospel – which I believe is critical to the future of our nation.”

Bill Kurtz, one of dozens of Senior Leaders in Denver contributing to the 5280 Fellowship, is the founder of the high-performing public school network Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). On September 28, 2016, he met with a small group of Fellows at DSST’s Stapleton campus to discuss leadership and the education challenges facing the city. Learn more about the 5280 Fellowship Senior Leaders at 5280Fellows.com/Faculty.

partner institutions

- Gordon College
- Fellowship Denver Church
- Denver United Church
- Cherry Creek Presbyterian
On June 8, 2016, Kate Redden, a financial advisor with Ronald Blue & Co., connects with other finance professionals during Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds at the Commons on Champa in downtown Denver.

Dr. Curt Thompson, psychiatrist and author, addresses a packed room at Colorado Community Church on September 15, 2016. Unashamed explored the nature of shame – including its spiritual and neurobiological roots – and provided practical, biblically-based tools for dealing with its damaging effects at work and in relationships.

Bethany Jenkins of The Gospel Coalition and The King’s College answers an audience question during Word & Work, an event for pastors, as David Kim (left) from Redeemer Presbyterian’s Center for Faith & Work and Brian Gray of Denver Institute listen in.

"I was challenged to re-frame my approach to my work as my service to God’s kingdom, rather than as a mere service to myself – only a source of income and nothing more," shared Justin Engel, brand and innovation strategist at Egg Strategy in Boulder, after attending "Navigating the Tensions Between Faith & Work" in March.

Justin is just one of nearly 750 people who attended one of our Events & Forums last year. These public gatherings tackle topics related to vocation and calling – such as "Taking Your Soul to Work" – as well as industry-specific themes like investing. Participants frequently describe their event experience as "refreshing," "much needed," "encouraging," and "challenging."

"Reimagining Medicine‘ nurtured a part of me that is usually ignored when it comes to my work. While my faith and calling are intimately connected for me, the rest of the world is usually only willing to consider one or the other. It is a relief to bring these together."

DR. ROBIN DICKINSON
Physician

by the numbers

3 Events designed to serve pastors
9 Public events or forums
99% of attendees would recommend DIFW to a friend
742 Event attendees

EVENTS & FORUMS

new creation, renewed minds

2016 events

Unashamed: An Evening With Curt Thompson
Purposeful Retirement: Discovering God’s Call for the Third Chapter of Life
Stocks, Bonds & Mutual Funds: How Theology Can Renew Personal Investing & Financial Planning
Reimagining Medicine Conference
Thriving Cities: How Can Our Work Help Denver Flourish?
A Church in a Thriving City
Word & Work: Forming Disciples for All of Life
Navigating the Tensions Between Faith & Work
Taking Your Soul to Work

by the numbers

3 Events designed to serve pastors
9 Public events or forums
99% of attendees would recommend DIFW to a friend
742 Event attendees
Because Jesus’ death and resurrection begins the redemption of all of creation and work is the way humans build civilization and shape creation, for better or worse...

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19-20A

“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them... We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us...”

We need men and women who leverage their vocations to participate in Christ’s reconciliation of the world through their work.

That’s why Denver Institute exists to form leaders who:

THINK THEOLOGICALLY, NOT SECULARLY.
EMBRACE RELATIONSHIPS, NOT ISOLATION.
CREATE GOOD WORK, NOT SHODDY WORK.
SEEK DEEP SPIRITUAL HEALTH, NOT RAZOR-THIN RELIGION.
SERVE OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY, NOT MERE CAREER SUCCESS.

THINK THEOLOGICALLY, NOT SECULARLY.
EMBRACE RELATIONSHIPS, NOT ISOLATION.
CREATE GOOD WORK, NOT SHODDY WORK.
SEEK DEEP SPIRITUAL HEALTH, NOT RAZOR-THIN RELIGION.
SERVE OTHERS SACRIFICIALLY, NOT MERE CAREER SUCCESS.
CHURCH PARTNERSHIP NETWORK

scattering and gathering

Each day, thousands of Christians scatter throughout the Front Range, taking their “salt and light” into corporations and retail shops, restaurants and warehouses. Then – as the local church – they gather together on Sundays to worship corporately.

Through the Church Partnership Network, Denver Institute serves and equips pastors and their congregants in order to build a robust community of culturally engaged churches. Our other programs – Events & Forums, Groups & Resources, and Emerging Leadership Fellowships – are part of the way in which we serve 19 church partners.

The vision of the Church Partnership Network is to deepen the engagement of the Church with a theology of work, vocation, and specific sectors through events, pastor gatherings, guest teaching, consultations, and educational resources for local pastors and their congregants. In 2016, we touched more than 120 pastors and ministry leaders in the metro area through 3 events.

New church partners in 2016:
- Bridgeway Church (Littleton)
- Little Christian Church (Littleton)

GROUPS & RESOURCES

cultivating community

In coffee shops and conference rooms across the city – often very early in the morning or as the capstone on a long day at the office – small groups of workers gather to pray, study, and connect. In 2016, these Vocation Groups offered more than 225 members a place to expand their network of peers as they encouraged one another to go about their daily work in business, mental health, media, and other fields in distinctly Christian ways.

Using a curriculum launched earlier this year that covers theology, vocation, industry-specific issues, spiritual health, and service, 22 volunteer leaders convened 15 Vocation Groups monthly.

In the spring, we announced the Women & Vocation Initiative, a project focused on expanding the conversation about women and work by exploring the role women play in God’s mission. The first fruits of this effort are two new groups focused on women and vocation, with quarterly large-group gatherings starting in November 2016.

new vocation groups in 2016
- Business (DTC)
- Media & Communications (Boulder)
- Media & Communications (NW Suburbs)
- Financial Advisors (Denver)
- Purposeful Retirement (Denver)
- Women & Vocation (East Denver and South Denver)

sowing seeds in colorado and beyond

Although much of our work focuses on serving workers along Colorado’s Front Range, our online presence allows us to extend our mission much further. From the hub at DenverInstitute.org, we offer exceptional educational content as well as stories of men and women responding to God’s call and the movements of the Spirit in their work life.

In the past year, influential publications including Christianity Today and the Boulder Daily Camera have published pieces by DIFW staff, helping sow the seeds of cultural renewal.

As part of our commitment to a great user experience for DenverInstitute.org visitors, we redesigned the two most popular sections of our website: events and the blog. We launched 5280Fellows.com in January to promote and support the 5280 Fellowship.

by the numbers

16,747 Web visitors
1,423 Social media followers (Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn)
90 Videos in our Vimeo library

"OUR PARISH CHURCH VALUES AND SUPPORTS THE WORK OF DIFW BECAUSE THROUGH THE INSTITUTE WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP IS INCARNATED AND MAGNIFIED BEYOND OUR OWN CAPACITY. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK, AS WELL, THAT SUPPORTING DIFW IN THE WAY WE DO HELPS BUILD UP AND ENCOURAGE THE WIDER CHURCH CATHOLIC AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH’S ROLE IN BEARING WITNESS TO THE KINGDOM, AS LIGHT THAT PUSHES BACK DARKNESS AND AS SALT THAT PRESERVES."

THE REV. CHRIS DITZENBERGER
Rector, St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church

By Mike Wright, pastor of Littleton Christian Church, and Shane Sunn, senior pastor of St. Patrick’s Presbyterian Church, listen as David Kim and Bethany Kim speak at Word & Work: Forming Disciples for All of Life on March 10, 2016.
"I had opportunities that friends and family members who were going to school on the other side of town could never dream of," remembers Renise Walker, a fourth-generation Coloradan and 5280 Fellow.

Growing up in the burgeoning suburb of Aurora allowed her to take AP classes and get into a good college, but the sting of inequality – especially for many of her peers – sparked a passion for justice at an early age.

For example, while attending Colorado College she observed two different elementary classrooms in her urban education class. One was an International Baccalaureate school where students spoke French, did science experiments, and appeared to fall in love with education. In another urban school, she saw chaotic behavior, failing test scores, and a principal who explained that kids in poverty couldn’t learn nouns and verbs like other “normal” kids.

"Given their early school experiences, what kind of future possibilities do these two sets of kids see for themselves?" she wondered.

Today Renise is an education liaison for the State of Colorado. Her job is to plug the “leaky talent pipeline,” which refers to the number of students who don’t complete the path from high school to employment in the highly skilled workforce. According to the Colorado Workforce Development Council, only 18 percent of ninth graders in Colorado will complete high school and enter the job force within one year of graduating college. Renise works to repair this pipeline by collaborating with businesses, educators, and government officials to align workforce needs, educational opportunities, and young people looking for a career.

"I believe we are saved by God’s grace and invited into God’s plan to heal the world and redeem his creation," Renise says. "In our communities is where that happens." But that conviction wasn’t always so – and has been tested since returning to Colorado from an early career venture to Washington, D.C.

"My move from D.C. to Denver has resulted in a difficult career transition," Renise says. "I went from working in a faith-based environment where I felt whole – able to integrate my faith, my commitment to social justice, my passion and love of people into my job – to now working in government, where the emphasis is on separation of church and state."

"I want to talk about faith at work," Renise confesses, "since I believe faith undergirds everything I do."

Renise explains why she applied for the 5280 Fellowship. "I want to talk about faith at work," Renise confesses, "since I believe faith undergirds everything I do."
Last October, Dr. Brad Strait, senior pastor at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church (CCPC), led a planning retreat for his elders and pastoral team. He asked them, “What would we like to be different about the people of CCPC in five years, Lord willing?”

Together they wrote up a list of about 100 items, which they whittled down to 40 important issues, and finally just five core areas to guide the next five years of ministry. One of these pillars focused on the integration of faith and work. The fourth pillar, written as a prayer, said, 

Lord Jesus, may we eliminate the divide between worship and work?

Brad says, “Faith and work redefines for us the ill-fitted secular/sacred boundaries. Each person can be a sacred tool in the Lord’s hand as they produce a sacred ‘set apart for God’ work product. We see Jesus reflected in our gifts, skills, creations, and products.”

He adds, “Faith and work is key because it expands the definition of a ‘call to ministry’ and its subsequent scope.” For CCPC, a Denver Institute partner church and host of a 5280 Fellows cohort, “All of life can be a call from Jesus and every job can be a place of kingdom expansion. We live out Jesus in every place.”

TEACH ME, MY GOD AND KING,
IN ALL THINGS THEE TO SEE,
AND WHAT I DO IN ANYTHING
TO DO IT AS FOR THEE.

From “The Elixir” by George Herbert (1593-1633), poet

---

Helen Young Hayes, a former mutual fund manager with Janus Capital, and Dan Kaskubar, executive pastor at Hope Community Church, met at a DIFW breakfast on job creation for at-risk communities in the fall of 2015. After Rev. Julius Walls spoke, Helen and Dan struck up a conversation about how our community might provide meaningful work in a sustainable way for men and women with barriers to employment.

Six months later, Helen and Dan created Activate Workforce Solutions, a new public benefit corporation that helps “businesses discover, retain, and develop loyal talent in hard-to-fill and high-turnover jobs.”

The recruitment firm sources from a variety of workforce development groups including ministries like CrossPurpose and Mile High WorkShop, screens for character and motivation, and provides ongoing support for employees through personal development plans and wrap-around services. “We hope to enable hundreds of individuals in our communities to experience economic freedom and flourishing lives through the dignity of work,” says Helen, who is the company’s CEO. She adds, “It has been my joy to learn to love Jesus by rolling up my sleeves and becoming part of his grace and redemption through starting Activate.”
NEW OFFICE SPACE: THE TREE OF LIFE

From a pile of lumber, a carpenter can bring forth new creation: desks and shelves, tables and cabinetry. When, by God’s grace, DIFW moved into its first permanent office space on March 1, we tapped craftsman Josh Mabe to create furniture for the space. Josh travels around Colorado to gather wood from abandoned barns and dilapidated homesteads to find the wood he works with.

His work is informed by a rich understanding of God’s work of “making everything new” (Revelation 21:5). Josh considers how the work of his hands is a part of that in the way he transforms forgotten and decaying wood into new furniture that becomes part of the life of offices and homes around the state.

As a result, our office space is not only functional and productive but its design is a picture of our mission at work in the city. It hosts staff, Fellows, pastors, donors, Vocation Group leaders, board members, and key leaders in the city. We invite you to stop by our offices at 600 Grant Street, Suite 722, in the Governor’s Park neighborhood any time. A cup of coffee and a comfortable couch await.

LOCATING TO THE FUTURE

a note from jeff haanen

Whenever I announce future goals for DIFW, I always feel it necessary to include a caution from James 4:15, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” Moreover, Proverbs 16:9 says: “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” God’s plan and will is preeminent – our human plans are secondary.

Nonetheless, the resurrection gives me an eternal hope and causes me to dream with a deep faith for the future of our city and world.

In 2017, by God’s grace, we plan to:

- Create a digital community offering lessons and studies on faith and work across industries
- Serve church partners more effectively through new resources and teaching, and grow to 25 network members
- Create an alumni network for 5280 Fellows and refine the nine-month experience
- Expand the Women & Vocation Initiative
- Host an annual DIFW dinner in January with D. Michael Lindsay, president of Gordon College
- Expand our media reach through storytelling, educational resources, and video content

Interested in hearing more about our “Strategic Plan 2020”? Contact me at hello@denverinstitute.org.

WHY I GIVE TO DENVER INSTITUTE FOR FAITH & WORK

“People spend more time at work than they do with their families or any other endeavor. When Jesus is a part of the workplace, it can literally be the most effective environment for sharing the good news of Jesus. DIFW provides practical tools and encouragement to live out your faith in the workplace.”

Tim McTavish, GivingZone.com

“I support DIFW because it provides our city both a vision for the true meaning of work as well as Vocation Groups that facilitate ways to creatively and practically apply it day-to-day. I also think it’s great how DIFW is unifying so much of the Denver Christian community behind its redemptive mission.”

Chad Hamilton, Mariner Wealth Advisors

“People need support in bringing faith to work, and DIFW provides us with the tools and guidance to do that.”

Rebecca Offner, Surefire Medical

“People need support in bringing faith to work, and DIFW provides us with the tools and guidance to do that.”

Rebecca Offner, Surefire Medical
“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”
2 Corinthians 9:7-8

The generosity of our community of generous supporters in 2016 left us filled with gratitude. We experienced your generosity in every way – connections to new servant leaders in Colorado, lending your expertise and insight to our programs, spreading the word about the 5280 Fellowship, and giving financially to support our mission.

In 2016, by God’s grace, total revenue grew by $186,548, allowing us to welcome our first class of 5280 Fellows, expand to 23 partner churches, and host nearly 1,000 people at our events.

“It feels like home to be around these kind of Christians. I feel like I’ve been waiting for this kind of group my whole life.” Dr. Jessica Stern, Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist and 5280 Fellow

2016 FINANCIALS

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2016 sources of funding

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY with comparative totals for 2015

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Denver Institute for Faith & Work is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Colorado and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
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contact us

Denver Institute for Faith & Work  
denverinstitute.org  
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denver institute  
FOR FAITH & WORK

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