Dear Friends, Buenos dias!

As I look back over the last year, I am immensely grateful to be able to share some of the extraordinary work done by our gifted and passionate staff at Intersections International. We have expanded the programmatic impact of Believe Out Loud by supporting LGBT-focused humanitarian relief projects in Puerto Rico with our partner Waves Ahead. Hurricane Maria may be a distant memory for many on the mainland, but its explosive intensity devastated the U.S. territory, wiping out infrastructure and forever changing the lives of thousands of our neighbors. Intersections is committed to rebuilding the island and its communities in meaningful ways. As we move forward with more advanced phases of our work, what stays with me are the precious people we’ve been privileged to serve.

I hold in my heart Ricky Santiago’s tears as we stood together in the devastation of his completely collapsed home and hair salon in Humacao. I remain grateful for our ability to participate in a 72-person home reconstruction effort that restored him, his family and others to some normalcy of life. Our shoulders, wearied by the work of reconciliation, rebuilding and justice-seeking, were bolstered by the powerful prayers of Illuminada Brown Estien who prayed for us as we brought food, water and supplies to families on Vieques. We adopted a palliative care wing at an HIV/AIDS hospice center in Toa Baja, P.R. There, we re-equipped staff with gently used computers, iPads and cellphones. We also purchased new mattresses, bedding supplies and much more for residents of the center.

Our Global Peacemaking efforts are forging new partnerships in Europe, on the Arabian Peninsula, in Pakistan, Nigeria and South Sudan. We are excited about the emerging possibilities to heal trauma and bring hope. We work alongside religious and secular leaders committed to peaceful dialogue and integral change, whilst also supporting refugees, exploited women and children, vulnerable senior citizens and other marginalized groups.

Through the lens of Arts Engagement, we traveled to historic Montgomery, AL, to interview Civil Rights Attorney and Equal Justice Initiative Founder Bryan Stevenson in our ongoing quest to dismantle racism in tangible ways. During that trip we also met with Murray Sams Jr., an Army veteran we featured on our Service Together platform where we share the contributions and skills of veterans who bravely served our country. We commemorated the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Letter From Birmingham Jail by commissioning a spoken word poem featured on our website. We continue to use theatre and performance as tools for confronting social injustices, leading us to explore an artistic partnership with The August Wilson Red Door Project, currently tackling police profiling in fractured communities.

We appreciate your generosity, prayers and support as we continue this important work in the world.

Gratefully,

Julie Johnson Staples

Collegiate Senior Minister serving as Executive Director of Intersections International

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs...

—Titus 3:14
Puerto Rico at a Glance: 2018
Having Impact Amidst the Devastation of Hurricane Maria

4,645 human death toll from Hurricane Maria.

6,900 school children show signs of ‘clinically significant’ PTSD.

Intersections, supporting Waves Ahead, has helped renovate or rebuild 16 homes on the island.

More than 250 schools have closed in Puerto Rico since the storm.

Intersections provided computers, food supplies and new mattresses to re-equip a palliative care center in Toa Baja.

+32% increase in the suicide rate in Puerto Rico. Feelings of despair are inter-generational. Intersections and Waves Ahead, newly partnered with SAGE, are working to address the spiritual and mental health of the Puerto Rican people, especially LGBT youth, teens and the elderly.

30,000 Number of homes still using blue tarps since Maria made landfall in September 2017.

450,000 Number of people who left Puerto Rico after the trifecta of Hurricanes Irma, Maria and José swept in 2017.

Sources available in 2018 Annual Report at intersections.org.
Our Programs

Arts Engagement

Intersections continues to use art and theatre engagement as innovative tools toward building a more just world. In 2018 original works were created by Artist-in-Residence Chuk Obasi to invoke discussion and reflection on powerful current and historical moments. Intersections combines education and artistic expression to frame activism and insight around social change for diverse audiences. We continued our year-long art program with middle schoolers in Montclair, N.J. and co-facilitated an Arts, Literacy and Leadership Program for youth in St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“The presentation sparked another level of heartfelt consciousness when there was the addition of dance, song and poetry.”

Kimani Fowlin, audience member at our Puerto Rico: Rebuilding Strong fundraising event

Believe Out Loud

Believe Out Loud is the leading platform for LGBT people of faith. On our website and through social media, we provide content that aims to ease specific tensions that exist at the intersection of religion and LGBT identity. We work to empower, affirm and educate LGBT people of faith and their allies within their religious and secular communities—online and also through offline workshops and events. Emotionally supported, intellectually stimulated and spiritually affirmed, Believe Out Loud community members are ambassadors of hope and change.

Intersections expanded the Believe Out Loud online platform to partner with new organizations in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. Virgin Islands providing direct humanitarian aid and residential reconstruction relief to the LGBT community following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

“Believe Out Loud claims a space in the middle of society for LGBT people of faith—an existential act in these scapegoating, demonizing and marginalizing times.”

Anna Dreves, Justice, Advocacy and Civic Engagement Manager, Intersections International
**Service Together**

At the intersection of veterans and civilians is Service Together, where we endeavor to unite veterans and their communities in mutual pursuit of justice-minded, social initiatives. We leverage engagement through education, empowerment and the arts, particularly writing, through which veterans can share their unique perspectives and poignant stories of their military experiences with the rest of us. Service Together is committed to creating space online and in person for meaningful dialogue and clearer understanding of the military experience during and following deployments.

“Service Together has helped me immensely by providing guidance and a platform for my writing. I have found the conversations with the editors and other veterans to be a vital lifeline these days.”

Nelson Lowhim, U.S. Army, SSG

**Global Peacemaking**

Whether doing humanitarian relief in Puerto Rico with our partner Waves Ahead, or traveling to the Sultanate of Oman, or the United Arab Emirates to meet with religious and secular leaders, Intersections remains committed to building relationships, shattering stereotypes and breaking down barriers. Through multi-cultural, inter-religious education and dialogue, deeper understanding can take root and negative narratives can be dismantled.

Intersections responded to increases in domestic violence and sexual assault following Hurricane Maria by partnering with the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix to support vulnerable women and girls in our ongoing effort to meet urgent needs.

We provided direct support to women living with HIV/AIDS and initiated dialogue to address homelessness in the U.S. Virgin Islands in collaboration with the Frederiksted Health Center. We expanded the global reach and impact of our work by participating in or hosting programs with clergy from South Sudan, Germany, the U.K., Canada, Finland and Pakistan. Our ministry remains committed to meeting at the intersection of those difficult places in the world where conversation and advocacy foster meaningful change for disenfranchised lives.

“In the work of Global Peacemaking, Intersections seeks out diverse people of diverse faith traditions who have like-minded visions of peace. Intersections believes that partnership is the only approach that has a chance to foster lasting peace.”

Barbara Costigan, Intersections Board Member
Online Community

With 2019 well underway, we continue to deepen the way we directly engage with our Believe Out Loud community by creating spaces offline to provide spiritual, psychological and material support, along with educational resources. However, recognizing that the needs might be most urgent in geographic areas we are often unable to physically reach, we are taking deliberate steps to technically, substantively and aesthetically expand and refine our online presence. This includes the upcoming launch of a completely redesigned, vibrant and sophisticated website, as well as development of a Believe Out Loud mobile app. Mobile accessibility effectively subverts what exclusion and marginalization aim to achieve—it draws in where fear and hatred push away. We have also begun work on a faith formation program with the Open Doors Church, Iglesia Cristo Para Todos, an LGBT-affirming congregation in Levittown, Puerto Rico.

NC Faith Forward

Believe Out Loud’s work in North Carolina, as part of the N.C. Faith Forward Coalition and in direct partnership with local organizations, remains crucial. North Carolina’s complex political landscape signals and uniquely impacts the future of American politics and our cultural outlook. Intersections is committed to supporting our local partners as they work to ensure the safety, equality and dignity of LGBT people of faith in the state and beyond.

Humanitarian Efforts

We have taken our Global Peacemaking efforts boldly into the world. We will continue to support families and marginalized individuals wherever the needs are the greatest through programs like P.I.P.E.S., which offers LGBT elders and older adults in San Juan weekly art therapy, mental health counseling, support services and advocacy. We will work with the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix to
create a comprehensive eight-week program to empower and embolden teens in order to combat the rise in domestic violence and sexual assault following Hurricane Maria.

Peaceful Exchange

We are committed to building upon important relationships with the Al Amana Centre in Oman. As Intersections continues the work of inter-faith, inter-cultural dialogue among diverse people, we will also continue partnering with those committed to peaceful exchange and seeking justice for all God’s people.

Arts, Culture and Activism

Intersections continues to explore new national partnerships, including one with a game-changing theatre company in the Pacific Northwest endeavoring to change the racial ecology of communities far and wide. We look forward to rich possibilities for creating safe spaces for conscience-shifting conversations between communities of color and law enforcement. There is need across our country for this crucial dialogue. Forming the right partnerships allows us to confront issues of racism, hatred and discrimination in powerful ways that foster change.

Supporting Our Veterans

We remain committed to our veterans and maintaining places for them to share their unique stories and perspectives through Service Together. With approximately 162 wars and armed conflicts being fought in the world, returning veterans and their families need our respect, understanding and support. Intersections stands at the precipice of gratitude and advocacy for this community.

Our Mission

*Intersections International builds bridges of justice, reconciliation and peace. We work to inspire hope, while meeting the urgent needs of our world’s most marginalized communities.*

Photos courtesy of Rev. Julie Johnson Staples, August Wilson Red Door Project, Marcia Fingal, Anna Dreves and Roxanne Kent.
Summarized Financial Statements (audited)
Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

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<th>Description</th>
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Liabilities and Net Assets

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<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
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Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue

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<td>Contributions and Grants</td>
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<td>Collegiate Church Appropriation</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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Expenses

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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Donated Goods &amp; Services*</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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Ending Net Assets

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*Donated Goods and Services include in-kind contributions of rent, professional services and goods.
Sources of Revenue $1,973,931

Collegiate Church $1,238,579 (63%)
Contribution & Grants $323,482 (16%)
Donated Goods and Services $385,363 (20%)
Other Income $26,507 (1%)

Expenditures $1,485,397

Program Services $547,656 (37%)
Donated Goods and Services $385,363 (26%)
Administration $443,506 (30%)
Fundraising $108,872 (7%)
Our Vision

At Intersections International, we envision a time when our distinct identities no longer incite division, discrimination, destruction and despair. We envision a just world united in diversity, a world in which human differences serve to advance connection, equality, respect and abundance for all God’s people.