



THE OIKOS INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL IMPACT



The Oikos Institute for Social 2023 Impact Report

The F.I.S.H. Capitals

F.I.S.H. is an evaluation and planning process developed to empower organizations to take full advantage of all available capital resources to strategically respond to the disorienting effects of structural inequities. Organizations revisit their theological and cultural foundations to determine how they might reimagine their relationship to their communities, invest in their communities and more fully access their Faith, Intellectual, Social and Human Capital. We call this Fishing Differently™

Faith/Financial Capital comprised the money and assets which anchor institutions receive from their traditional revenue sources in support of their ongoing expenses and primary missions. For example, educational institutions derive their financial capital primarily through tuition, grants, and alumni giving, while communities of faith receive their financial or "faith capital," (the term we use in this context) largely through tithes and offerings.

F

Intellectual Capital is the individual and collective knowledge, skills, experience, and expertise organized to achieve a specific goal. Each member has gifts and talents which are valuable if they are recognized, utilized, and developed.

I

F.I.S.H.

S

Social Capital is the network of relationships among institutions and people who live and work in a particular community, enabling that community to function effectively. Building Social Capital is an invitation to ask, "Who, outside of our community, should we partner with in executing missions and goals?"

H

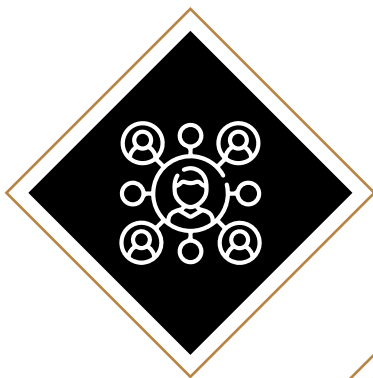
Human Capital is about the implementation of projects and programs which are relevant and have demonstrable impact on human lives. As the faithful, are we not responsible for assisting?

Table of Contents

F.I.S.H. Capitals	i
Fishing Differently™	1
Discover and Dream Cohort Process	2
Cohort Corner	3
Real Estate Investment Funds Flexible Financing Tools To Take Projects From Idea To Reality	5
Accomplishments	7
Case Study	11
Feeding the 5,000: Small Churches Delivering Outsized Community Impact	
Fishing Differently™ 2023 Recap	12
Making Waves on Social Imapct in 2024	14
Oikos Team	15
Conference Supporters	17
Our Partners	18

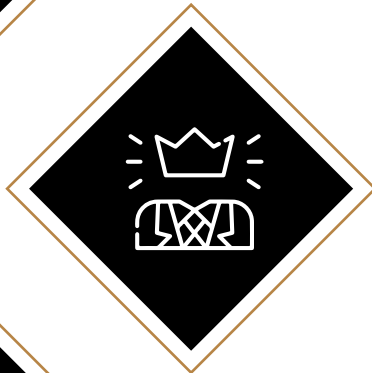
Fishing Differently™

The Fishing Differently™ model is aimed to equip BIPOC institutions to effectively leverage their assets, including Faith Capital, Intellectual Capital, Social Capital, Human Capital, and real estate for communal transformation and economic mobility. Our asset-based approach to community development aims to accelerate the relief of distressed communities; alleviating human suffering; maximizing human capital; and solving social problems.



Distressed Communities

Those experiencing structural inequities; disproportionate unemployment, wealth inequality and gentrification



Faith Inspired Leaders

Those inspired to make positive changes that solve or at least address social injustice and relieve human suffering



Place-Based Impact Investors

Address the needs of neighborhoods and regions that are underserved and under-funded.



Anchor Institutions

Those embedded in the ecosystem of the community that possess a strong connection as well as a depth of knowledge and understanding of their community needs and circumstances. Anchor Institutions such as faith communities and BIPOC organizations possess underutilized real estate, lack of access to funding, and lack of mission-aligned development consultation and preparation to bring vital community service providing projects to fruition

Discover and Dream Cohort Process

The Oikos Institute partners with seminaries, universities, faith-based denominations, and others to create 2- to 3-years Fishing Differently™ learning opportunities for an ecosystem of congregational teams within the partner's region; Oikos calls these "Cohorts". For the majority of future Cohorts, Oikos will serve as the program host and will lead recruitment of congregational teams, create and facilitate content delivery, and provide administrative support. In some areas, the Cohort may be sponsored by the partner institution and will jointly fundraise to support the initiative.

Preparation 6 months - 1 year

- Confirm program partner(s), and the role and offering of each partner
- Define target cohort participants and program goals
- Identify program funding (approximately \$150K-200K per year for a cohort of 8-16 teams)
- Prepare applications and outreach content
- Engage part-time program manager

Launch - 3 months

- Announce program opportunity and conduct outreach
- Review applications and select participants
- Program launch gathering
- Fishing Differently™ Assessment of participating congregations

Program Delivery 2- 3 years

- Online and/or in-person delivery of Fishing Differently™ learning modules

The Oikos Institute's Program Support

- Fundraising collaboration – joint outreach and grant writing with partner(s)
- Fishing Differently learning module content
- Part-time program coordinator to deliver content and manage regional engagement
- Connections to additional potential partners and resources

Partners Program Support

- Funding and/or fundraising collaboration
- When necessary, serve as program host, providing online or in-person gathering space
- Participate in recruitment of congregational teams from the target community
- Provide administrative support to the program
- Optional: provide aligned content and/or assist with content delivery

Cohort Corner

Cohorts Started in 2023



**Rev. Dr. Challis
Bradford**
Regional Coordinator
Dallas County

Dallas County Cohort

Launched in January 2023, the Dallas County Cohort was a collaboration with Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and funded by a generous \$100,000 grant from the Texas Methodist Foundation. Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford led 14 active congregations engaged in transformative learning modules with Oikos, fostering economic vitality and social impact. Each participant was awarded a Certified in Practical Ministry with a Specialization in Social Innovation from PST, marking a significant step towards lasting community change.



**Rev. Lisa
Hammonds**
Regional Coordinator
Middle Tennessee

The Middle Tennessee Cohort

The Middle Tennessee Cohort - In a dynamic collaboration with the American Baptist College (ABC), Nashville, TN, the Middle Tennessee cohort launched in March 2023 led by Rev. Dr. Lisa Hammonds. Through the "Empowering Congregations" program, supported by ABC's Lilly Endowment Grant, 15 active congregations engaged in transformative learning modules throughout the year. This innovative partnership aims to empower Black congregations in Nashville and the surrounding area, fostering growth, community impact, and sustainable change.

Ongoing Cohorts and Partnerships



**Rev. Regena
Thornton**
Regional Coordinator
DC

DC Cohort

DC Cohort Cohort— The DC Cohort led by Rev. Regena Thornton with 7 active congregations concluded their partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary. Having completed vital learning modules, each church received a \$10,000 grant from Trinity Church Wall Street, propelling the initiation of impactful projects. The cohort experienced two enriching in-person gatherings. In April 2023, the Cohort members featured presentations on financial readiness and grant preparation. Additionally, the cohort visited Emory Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Washington, DC, led by Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniels—an exemplar of "Fishing Differently™" ministry and also a 2023 Oikos Social Impact Honoree.

Cohort Corner



**Rev. Dr. Susan
Hillary Buckson**
Regional Coordinator
Atlanta

Atlanta Cohort

In the heart of Atlanta, our vibrant cohort, led by Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson includes 9 active congregations in collaboration with the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). Following intensive training in January 2023, these congregations received \$20,000 grants to kickstart pre-development for their impactful projects, solidifying our commitment to community growth and transformation.



**Rev. Dr. Hanna
R. Broome**
Regional Coordinator
North Carolina

North Carolina Cohort

With 14 active congregations, Oikos' North Carolina Cohort led by Regional Coordinator Rev. Dr. Hanna Broome stands strong in partnership with Wake Forest University and the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South. Engaging in ongoing learning modules on F.I.S.H. Capitals, women's health, and HIV/AIDS training, the cohort made a significant impact at the 2023 Fishing Differently™ Conference with 14 attendees. This showing reflected their dedication to innovation and social progress.



Rev. Brian Smith
Coordinator/Partner, Chicago
Theological Center

Chicago Cohort

Oikos' Chicago Cohort, with 12 active congregations, successfully completed crucial learning modules, showcasing their commitment to growth and development. Several members also actively participated in the 2023 Fishing Differently™ Conference, contributing to the exchange of ideas and strategies for community impact.

Real Estate Investment Funds Flexible Financing

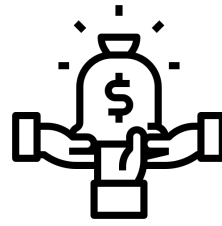
Tools To Take Projects From Idea To Reality



Oikos Mobilization Grant Pool

Funded by donations and grants from individuals and institutions, the Oikos Project Mobilization Grant Pool provides grants to cohort participants to support initial project needs, such as technical assistance for financial and project readiness, project ideation and visualization, and preliminary opportunity assessment and feasibility analysis.





Oikos Catalytic Loan Fund

Funded by loans and donations, the Oikos Catalytic Loan Fund will provide patient capital to cohort participants to support the pre-development process, allowing them to maintain agency in the use and development of their assets. These loans will fund architecture, design, and engineering fees; environmental assessments; legal fees; holding costs; and other consulting fees associated with the pre-development process. The Oikos Institute is working to capitalize and gain CDFI certification for this nonprofit loan fund.



Accomplishments

Raised \$3,032,000



The Oikos Institute for Social Impact has made significant strides in fostering positive change nationwide, supported by \$3,032,000 in funding. These funds were allocated towards cohort development, operations, and innovative programs. Throughout 2023, they were strategically utilized to drive impactful outcomes. Looking ahead to 2024, the Institute aims to continue leveraging this support for lasting change. Gratitude is extended to all partners and supporters for their invaluable contributions.

Two New Cohorts



In 2023, the Oikos Institute for Social Impact successfully established two transformative cohorts. The Dallas County Cohort, in collaboration with Perkins School of Theology and Southern Methodist University, engaged 14 active congregations in transformative learning modules. This cohort was supported by a generous \$100,000 grant from the Texas Methodist Foundation and was led by Regional Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford. This cohort focused on fostering economic vitality and social impact, with each congregation awarded a Certificate in Practical Ministry with a Specialization in Social Innovation. The second cohort was launched in Middle Tennessee and is in partnership with the American Baptist College's Empowering Congregations program. This cohort has 15 congregations in Nashville and surrounding areas and is led by Rev. Lisa Hammonds and supported by ABC's Lilly Endowment Grant. This Empowering Congregations initiative will empower Black congregations in promoting growth, community impact, and sustainable change.

Inaugural Conference Held: Fishing Differently™ 2023



The inaugural Fishing Differently™ Conference held in Chicago, IL, from September 20-22, 2023, aimed to unite stakeholders nationwide to enhance collective impact for social change. Overall, the Fishing Differently™ Conference proved to be a transformative experience, empowering participants to apply newfound insights and inspiration to their endeavors, driving positive change in their communities. For further details, please refer to page 11.

Accomplishments

Fishing Differently Webinar Series



The Oikos Institute for Social Impact undertook an impactful initiative in 2023: the Fishing Differently™ webinar series. These webinars served as a precursor to the Institute's inaugural conference, attracting participants who are dedicated to harnessing the power of their Faith, Financial, Intellectual, and Social capital to enhance human capital and drive greater social impact. Throughout the series, faith inspired leaders discuss insights and strategies for effecting positive change in their communities. For those interested in accessing these enlightening discussions, the webinars are available for viewing on the official YouTube channel of Crossing Capital Group Inc: bit.ly/FishingDifferently-YouTube



Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) Webinar



In an impactful collaboration with CCDA, Oikos hosted a compelling webinar in July 2023 on the crucial theme of "Empowering Congregations for Community Transformation and Economic Mobility." Participants engaged in an enriching conversation which explored strategies to uplift congregations and to drive positive community impact. The webinar showcased Oikos' commitment to fostering dialogue, sharing insights, and empowering communities for lasting change

Case Study: Feeding the 5,000: Small Churches Delivering Outsized Community Impact



Commissioned by Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School and authored by Dr. Dave Kresta, this case study sheds light on the resilience and effectiveness of faith-driven social justice efforts operating under the framework of "Fishing Differently™." Focused on the impactful endeavors in Morristown, NJ, the study delves into the collaborative initiatives of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams, and the Spring Street Community Development Corporation (CDC), Table of Hope, directed by Executive Director Teresa Williams. Despite facing resource constraints, Bethel Church, comprising less than 40 active members, has emerged as a significant catalyst for social impact within its community by harnessing the power of their assets. The CDC boasts of thousands of volunteers who assist to distribute groceries to community members every week. For further details, please refer to page 11.

Accomplishments

Locke Award



Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Williams, Jr., Oikos' co-founder and board chair and also the CEO of Crossing Capital Group, LLC, received the Wesleyan Partners, Locke Innovative Leader Award in April 2023. This accolade aligns with Oikos' principles of Fishing Differently™, exemplifying innovative spiritual leadership and mission-driven entrepreneurship. The award underscored Oikos' commitment to transformative leadership for a better world.

Symposium on Philanthropy and the Black Church



Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount is the co-founder and Executive Director of Oikos, and the leader of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. In April 2023, he played a pivotal role in the Symposium on Philanthropy and the Black Church. Co-hosted by Garrett-Evangelical and Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, the event brought together 70 influential leaders in philanthropy and faith. It sparked a crucial dialogue on the necessary collaboration between philanthropy and Black religious institutions. This symposium, a testament to Oikos' commitment to advancing vital dialogues, delved into past efforts and addressed present challenges, representing a significant stride towards fostering meaningful partnerships between philanthropists and the Black Church.

Council on Foundations Denver Conference, Leading Locally



Rev. Dr. Sidney S. Williams was involved in a panel entitled, "Unleashing Catalytic Capital and Resources for Durable Change". This conference was curated by Melanie Audette Senior Vice President, Mission Investors Exchange.

African Methodist Episcopal 10th District Annual Conference



In a noteworthy event, Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams, and Dallas County Regional Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford, addressed the AME 10th District Annual Conference. The discussion centered on the transformative principles of "Fishing Differently™" and the profound impact of Oikos within the 10th District. Rev. Dr. Williams illuminated the collaborative efforts, emphasizing how the Oikos approach is shaping and empowering communities. This engagement underscores Oikos' commitment to dialogue, partnership, and community-driven initiatives.

Accomplishments



Neighborhood Economics

Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams captivated the audience as a featured speaker at the historic Duling Hall in Jackson, Mississippi, in April 2023. He introduced the transformative concepts of "Fishing Differently™," and demonstrated Oikos' leadership in fostering innovative dialogues that ignited positive change.



African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church Growth and Development Conference

Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams introduced the transformative principles of "Fishing Differently™" at the AME Church Growth Conference January 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee. This infusion of innovative concepts added a dynamic layer to Oikos' ongoing mission which promised continued spiritual and numerical growth within the congregations.



Aspen Religion and Society Program Powering Pluralism Summit

Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount, along with Dr. Elizabeth Lynn and Rev. Dr. Carlos Perkins of the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, presented on the topic "Philanthropy and the Black Church: A Necessary Collaborative for the Common Good" at the Aspen Religion and Society Program Powering Pluralism Summit.



Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders (ECFPL) Team Leadership Gathering

Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount and Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams led a workshop at the Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders Team Leadership Gathering on the topic "Fishing Differently and the Oikos Institute." Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount and Rev. Dr. Dave Odom, Executive Director of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, led a workshop at the Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders Team Leadership Gathering on the topic "Sustainability and Culture Change."

Case Study

Feeding the 5,000:

Small Churches Delivering Outsized Community Impact

Written by Dr. Dave Kresta

Commissioned and prepared by Leadership Development at Duke Divinity School



"Feeding the 5,000: Small Churches Delivering Outsized Community Impact", a case study commissioned by Leadership Development at Duke Divinity School, authored by Dr. Dave Kresta was completed. The study explores the remarkable transformation of Bethel AME Morristown, a congregation with a commitment to social impact and an asset-based approach to community development. Rev. Dr. Sidney Williams, the Pastor at Bethel, who wrote the book "Fishing Differently™ Ministry Formation in the Marketplace" and CEO of Crossing Capital Group is the co-founder of the Oikos Institute for Social Impact that trains over 80 churches across the country in the Fishing Differently™ model. He has played a pivotal role in implementing the Fishing Differently™ model at Bethel, making it an ideal case study for those interested in creating positive social impact.

The case study highlights the remarkable achievements of Bethel AME Morristown and provides invaluable insights into the transformative power of faith communities. It is a testimony to the possibilities we can achieve when we harness our resources and apply them for the betterment of our communities. Access the case study "Feeding the 5000" by Dr. Dave Kresta through the following link:

<https://bit.ly/FishingDifferentlyBethel>



Fishing Differently™

2023 Recap



To elevate Oikos' mission, the inaugural Fishing Differently™ Conference took place in Chicago, IL, from September 20-22, 2023. The conference aimed to foster a cohesive national dialogue, bringing together partners, colleagues, funders, investors, and practitioners from across the nation to amplify their collective impact.

During the Pre-Conference Lunch and Learn on September 20, 2023, faith-inspired leaders explored social impact themes. Dr. Dave Kresta presented a Fishing Differently™ case study of Bethel AME Church Morristown, commissioned by Duke Divinity. Notable figures, such as Bishop John R. Bryant, Retired Prelate of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the renowned Rev. Jesse Jackson, offered their wisdom and support.

Rev. Traci Blackmon led an inspiring worship session, urging attendees to "F.I.S.H. Differently". She subsequently changed her itinerary and stayed for the duration of the conference. The first day of the conference concluded with a VIP Reception at the VU Rooftop, offering networking and entertainment.

On September 21, 2023, the conference commenced with a Morning Manna led by Rev. Dr. Jeanette Wilson, followed by thought-provoking discussions on "Reimagining Social Justice." Design labs explored the therapeutic power of imagination and the concept of pivoting in the face of adversity. Shawn Ginwright, PhD, and author of "The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves", was Oikos' keynote speaker at the Fishing Differently™ luncheon.

Fishing Differently™

2023 Recap



The Impact Awards Gala honored social impact visionary leaders, including Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., who received Oikos' Lifetime Achievement Award.

On September 22, 2023, the closing Plenary featured Dr. Roslyn Artis, delivering a compelling message to "Launch Out Into The Deep."

Overall, the Oikos Institute's Fishing Differently™ Conference 2023 was a transformative experience, encouraging attendees to carry forward the gained knowledge and inspiration into their personal and professional lives.

The 2024 Fishing Differently™ Conference will be held from September 5-7, 2024 in Dallas, TX. Please visit <https://bit.ly/FishingDifferentlyDallas2024> for more details.



Making Waves on Social Impact in 2024



In 2024, the Oikos Institute for Social Impact is poised to embark on a transformative journey of impactful activities and grants aimed at fostering communal transformation and economic mobility.

Oikos received \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. that will help establish "Discover and Dream - A Thriving Congregations Initiative Program." "We are excited and grateful to be a part of the Lilly Endowment's Thriving Congregations Initiative. This grant will enable us to empower additional congregations in the vibrant communities of Detroit, New Orleans, and Chicago. This grant will allow us to continue to impart an asset-based approach to missional work, and aid congregations to engage in the work of social impact as an act of discipleship," said Dr. Reginald Blount, co-founder and executive director of Oikos Institute for Social Impact.

Oikos received a \$175K grant from Trinity Church Wall Street to develop two case studies, building on the case study done on Bethel A.M.E. Church-Morristown. This work will provide more tangible examples of what fishing differently™ means, bringing the concepts to life and helping congregations imagine how to apply them in their own context.

Oikos received a \$94,000 general operations grant from the Wayfarer Foundation. With grant support and program service contracts, Oikos has expanded its work significantly and will continue to reach churches from all over the country this coming year.

Oikos received the second half a 500k grant from the Conrad Hilton Foundation, and we await word from the Wayfarer Foundation what their next level of grant support will be.

Oikos celebrates receiving a 3-year \$500K subaward from Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, DC to assist them with an environmental justice initiative that targets urban surface improvement for 45 million people, enhancing reflective, porous, and green surfaces, especially in marginalized neighborhoods, with the goal of reducing heat, flooding, pollution, and energy use. Four of the cities that are part of this initiative are in areas where we currently have cohorts. Oikos will connect many of our churches to this social impact work.

Oikos aims to raise money for their loan fund and obtain Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) status providing flexible capital for pre-development. Rooted in understanding community needs and cultural competence, Oikos aims to go beyond traditional banking, fostering holistic community development.

Following the inaugural success, Oikos will hold the 2nd Fishing Differently™ Conference in Dallas, TX, September. Uniting funders with faith leaders, the conference empowers communities and explores innovative asset-harnessing approaches. Social Impact Awards celebrate the faithful, and the Lifetime Achievement Award honors exceptional contributions in social impact, justice, economic empowerment, and ministry.

Oikos Team

Board of Directors



**Rev. Dr. Sidney
Williams, Jr.**

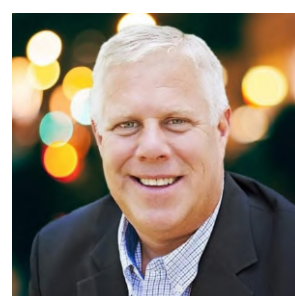
Chair

Co- Founder of Oikos and
CEO of CCG



Rev. Dr. Jon Robinson

Vice-Chair



Richard Babcock

Secretary

COO of Crossing Capital Group



**William W. Towns,
Ph.D., MBA**

Board Member

Adjunct Professor of Social
Impact, Kellogg School of
Management



**Alan Ferguson,
Sr., MBA, MS, BA**

Board Member

President and CEO, Atlanta
Habitat for Humanity



Joyce Moy, JD, BA.

Board Member

Founder and CEO of Fintelligent
Strategies, Inc.



Rev. Jamar Boyd, II

Board Member

Senior Pastor of Kenwood United
Church of Christ Chicago.



**Rev. Dr. Andrea
Wright, CPA**

Board Member

Treasurer Partner, Johnson Lambert LLC

Oikos Team

Staff



Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount

Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Oikos Institute



Rev. Regena Thornton

Assistant Director



Kara Clark

Chief Financial Officer



Rev. Dr. Susan Hillary Buckson

National Training Director



Rev. Dr. Challis Bradford

Director of Grants



Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome

Regional Coordinator
North Carolina



Rev. Mashod A. Evans, Sr.

Regional Coordinator
Detroit



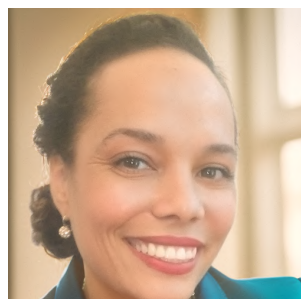
Rev. Lisa Hammonds

Regional Coordinator
Middle Tennessee



Rev. Carolyn C. Cavaness

Regional Cohort Coordinator
Greater Philadelphia Area



Athena Piryli-Johnson

Director of Marketing and
Client Relations



Rev. Jeri L Wright

National Conference Director



Rev. Brian Smith

Coordinator/Partner, Chicago
Theological Center

Thank you to Our Partners

Fishing Differently™ Conference Partner



Fishing Differently™ Conference Supporters



Thank you to Our Partners

Oikos Partner



Oikos Supporters:



Contact Us



THE OIKOS INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

 info@oikosinstitute.org

 www.oikosinstitute.org

 www.fishingdifferently.net

 @OikosInstitute

 @OikosInstitute

 @the-oikos-institute-for-social-impact

 @CrossingCapitalGroupInc