



# What Does It Mean to Invest as a Faithful Steward?

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**Wespath**

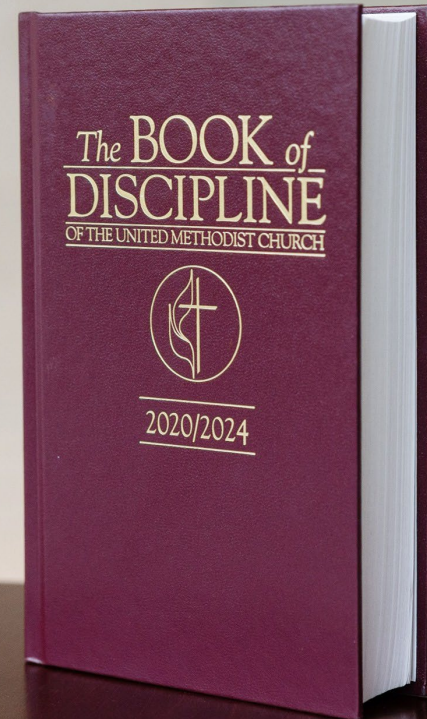


# Question to Answer in One Word in the Chat

What first comes to mind when you hear the statement, faithful steward?

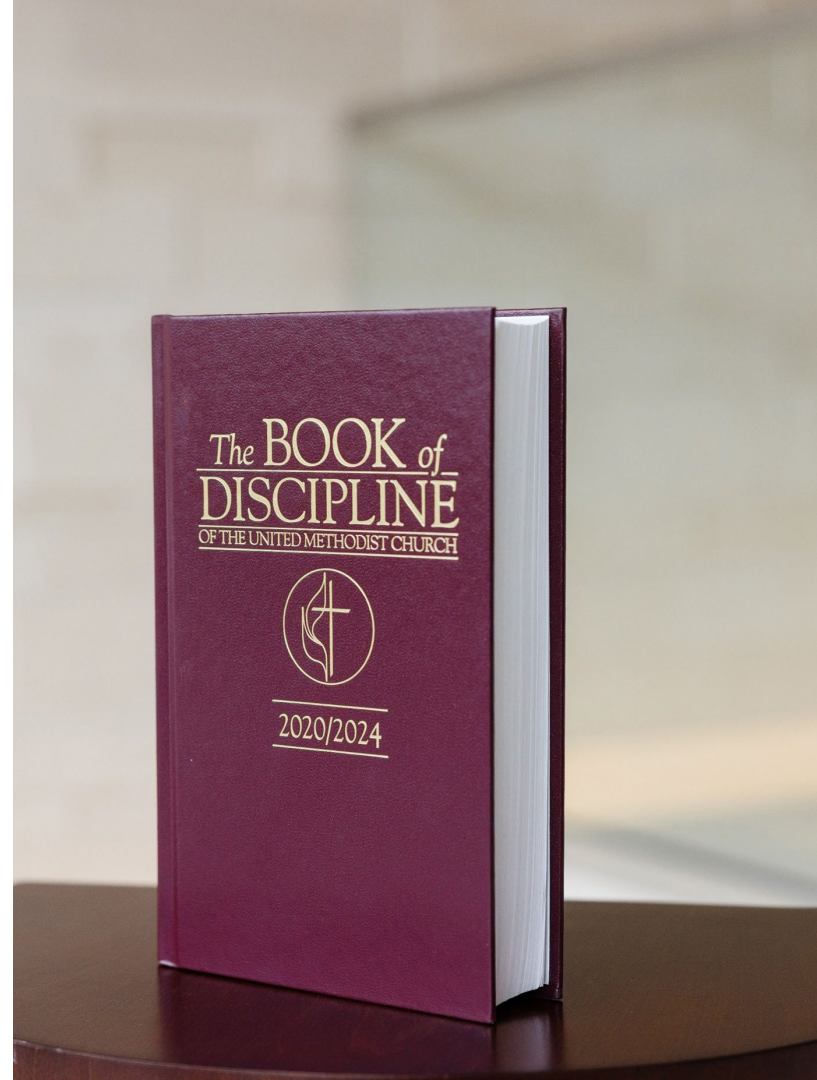
# Community of All Creation (¶160)

**We affirm that all creation belongs to God and is a manifestation of God's goodness and providential care.** Human beings, nonhuman animals, plants, and other sentient and non-sentient beings participate in the community of creation, and their flourishing depends on the care of all God's creation. Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity's use and consumption, **we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God's creation.**



# Community of All Creation (¶160): Creation in Peril

We acknowledge that unsustainable human activities have placed the entirety of God's creation in peril. Further, **we confess that the degradation and wholesale destruction of the natural environment threatens unprecedented harm, bringing danger to human and nonhuman life alike.**





## Question to Answer in the Chat

Name one harm or threat  
directly impacting your  
community in this moment.

# UMC Directives for Church Investments

Today, *BoD* asks that Wespath:

## ¶1504.14

“discharge its fiduciary duties ... solely in the interest of the participants and beneficiaries ... with care, skill, prudence and diligence”

## ¶717

“make a conscious effort to invest ... with the goals outlined in the Social Principles”



# BOD ¶717 Guides Church Investments

“...All United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to seek investments in **institutions, companies, corporations, or funds that promote racial and gender justice, protect human rights, prevent the use of sweatshop or forced labor, avoid human suffering, and preserve the natural world, including mitigating the effects of climate change.** In addition, United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to avoid investments in companies engaged in core business activities that are not aligned with the Social Principles through their direct or indirect involvement with the production of **anti-personnel weapons and armaments (both nuclear and conventional weapons), alcoholic beverages or tobacco; or that are involved in privately operated correctional facilities, gambling, pornography or other forms of exploitative adult entertainment.** The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions and actively exercise their responsibility as owners of the companies in which they invest. **This includes engaging with companies to create positive change and hold them accountable for their actions, while also considering exclusion if companies fail to act responsibly...**”



Invest  
Responsibly



Avoid Certain  
Investments



Engage for  
Change

# PSP Affordable Housing Highlight

## West End Heights – New York

**Wespath Investment: \$1.8 million**

**60-unit apartment building**

- 38 units for individuals who are served by a local nonprofit agency assisting residents experiencing mental illness or exiting homelessness
- Support services on site
- HVAC uses fossil fuel-free, electric heat pumps





## Question to Answer in the Chat

Name one way that investing  
has made an impact in your life.

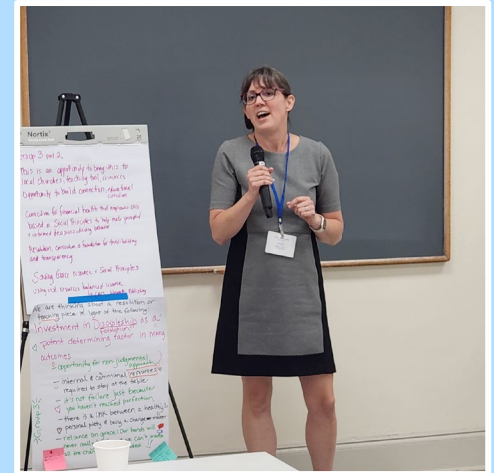
# ¶717 Gathering

Wespath



# Wespath Hosted Gathering

- 2-day gathering with roughly 40 participants, including four general secretaries
- Goal was not to re-write ¶717. Goal was to build relationships and mutual understanding
- **Significant differences remain**, particularly around the realities of divestment
- **Three Core Themes to Carry Forward:**
  - **Faith and Values Alignment:** UMC identity, faith and values must remain central
  - **Social Principles as a Guide:** The Social Principles continue to serve as the north star for this work
  - **Broader Global Engagement:** Future processes should include perspectives beyond the U.S.-heavy group involved so far



# Having a Faithful Stewardship Conversation

We respect the diverse concerns and perspectives of United Methodists around the world. We would value hearing your thoughts in the chat on many topics, including:

- How do we reflect **faithful stewardship in our investments**? What are the restrictions and constraints?
- How can United Methodists **foster economic development** in the worldwide Regional Conferences?
- When Wespath has discussions with global corporations with operations that may affect worldwide Regional Conference communities, what **feedback** would you like us to share?



# Next Steps

**Wespath**



# Join the Conversation



Connect us with  
people in your network  
and invite us to events  
to listen and speak



Sign up to receive updates  
on the global conversation



Check out our website for  
even more information



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