

Investment Solutions that Benefit All

Shareholder Engagement—Aligned with United Methodist Values

Wespath conducts engagement to address sustainability issues including environmental, social and governance (ESG) concerns. We influence corporate business practices through analysis, dialogue with corporate executives and, when necessary, shareholder resolutions. Our engagement accomplishments include:



Water conservation

Wespath successfully engaged **Sysco** to measure and manage water use in its agricultural supply chain. The company later reported that the action helped them find new efficiencies that improved their operational efficiencies and financial performance.

Climate change

Wespath—in cooperation with other global investors—is engaging the world’s major energy companies regarding climate risk. **ConocoPhillips** set its first public goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and electric utilities are rapidly shifting away from coal to cleaner fuel sources.



Worker safety

After the Rana Plaza factory disaster, Wespath contributed to two investor statements urging the adoption of the *Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh*. **Abercrombie & Fitch, Adidas, American Eagle Outfitters, Inditex of Spain (Zara)** and hundreds of other companies have signed the accord.

Child labor

Hershey Company announced that it would source only 100% fair trade-certified cocoa by 2020, following a multi-year engagement with Wespath and other concerned investors addressing industry-related child labor and sourcing concerns. The program has significantly improved the livelihood and productivity of cocoa farmers—yield has increased by 45%, and 65% of farmers now receive basic literacy training.



Human rights

Wespath is requesting that companies incorporate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into their governing policies. Wespath also developed a framework to identify companies with excessive human rights-related risk.

Conflict-free minerals

Intel announced it would begin producing “conflict-free” microprocessors in response to a lengthy engagement with Wespath and other shareholders on the use of minerals sourced from conflict regions, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Access to medicines

Wespath and other shareholders helped convince **Bristol-Myers Squibb** to work with the *Medicines Patent Pool* to make the HIV/AIDS drug *Atazanavir* more accessible and affordable in developing countries.



Executive compensation

Several pharmaceutical companies—including **Abbott Laboratories, Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Hospira, Stryker, CR Bard, GlaxoSmithKline** and **Regeneron Pharmaceuticals**—adopted the *Principal Elements of a Leading Recoupment Policy*, a corporate governance initiative that helps companies recover compensation paid to executives who were subsequently discovered to have violated health care laws. Wespath worked with other investors to promote adoption of this policy.