

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments

Discipline ¶: 717

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Amend ¶717 as follows:

¶ **717. *Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments***—In the investment of money, it shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, make a conscious effort to invest in the securities of institutions, companies, corporations, or in funds with policies and practices that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles. All United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to seek investments in the securities of institutions, companies, corporations, or in 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 and sovereign securities in which they invest. This includes engaging with companies, governments (to the extent reasonable, safe, and

permitted by law), intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other policymakers, to create positive change, including advocating through active stewardship that companies (particularly the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters) support and align with a just and equitable transition to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and holding companies and governments~~them~~ accountable for their actions, while also considering exclusion if companies and governments fail to act responsibly.

Date: July 21, 2023

Signature of Petitioner: _____

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