

**We could direct a billion dollars towards God's clean-energy world this week just by divesting from fossil fuels-  
*quite a fundraiser!***

**1. Engagement with the fossil fuel industry hasn't worked**

The earth is facing the most serious environmental crisis of its history, a crisis caused by the fossil fuel industry even though it knew of the dangers 50 years ago and not only did nothing, it covered up the science. The fossil fuel industry caused the problem as it enjoyed record profits. It is not going to solve it.

**2. The UMC has always responded in Christ's Love to the hurt, pain, and suffering of God's people in the world**

Fossil fuels cause untold suffering for millions of God's people, some who are dying, some who are displaced, many of whom contributed little or nothing to the problem. In order to alleviate that suffering we have to end our addiction to fossil fuels.

**3. 1600 other organizations have already divested, a third of those are faith organizations**

Our sisters and brothers in the British Methodist Church have divested as a witness to their commitment to Christ.

**4. Financially we don't need fossil fuel investments**

There are fossil free funds out there that out perform fossil fuel funds (see back of this sheet).

**5. Transition to sustainable sources of energy**

If we divest from Fossil Fuels and re-invest that money in sustainable sources of energy we will be providing capital to the sustainable energy industry which will hasten the transition away from fossil fuels.

*Pat Watkins, Caretakers of God's Creation, UM Creation Justice Movement, Fossil Free UMC*

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## Divestment Finances: Divestment Benefits & Fiduciary Responsibility

**Stranded Assets:** Fossil fuels represent a financial risk because their share prices are based in part on "proven reserves" that haven't been extracted yet. Extraction will have to slow down, an eventually stop, before all the current proven reserves are all extracted, so we expect these to become stranded assets. When the carbon bubble bursts, the share prices of fossil fuel companies will drop. **We don't want these overpriced stocks in our portfolio.**

**Fiduciary Responsibility:** Fiduciary duty means acting in another party's best interest instead of your own. In the financial world, this means listening to the goals and objectives of your client and offering financial tools that are a good fit, instead of pressuring your client towards goals and objectives that fit what you already offer. Wespath has a fiduciary duty to serve our best interests within the boundaries of our goals and objectives. **This body gets to set the boundaries.**

**Ethical Exclusions:** Wespath has a proven ability to maintain diversification while honoring ethical exclusions.

**Performance:** Wespath's existing fossil free options have outperformed their non-fossil-free counterparts for the past 5 years.

Those supporting our Fossil Fuel Divestment Effort include:

United Women In Faith, Methodist Federation for Social Action, The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement, GreenFaith, Interfaith Power and Light & more, including thousands of local church groups and United Methodists around the world.



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