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Cal-Nev Climate Justice Ministries

Fossil Fuel Divestment

“Climate justice through faith-inspired connection, education, advocacy, and action”

Help in Divesting from Fossil Fuels

This special issue of our newsletter includes some upcoming events and useful resources to make a difference through divesting from fossil fuels. Divesting involves shifting investments away from polluting coal, oil, and gas and instead investing in just and sustainable forms of renewable power.

In this issue are the following articles :

[Fossil Fuel Divestment Summit](#) - upcoming summit organized by our conference CFA

[Divestment Movement Café](#) - a conversation about fossil fuel divestment

[Divestment Resources](#) - links to 7 informational articles

[Fossil Free UMC](#) - resources and support for acting for a just clean energy future

[Boycott Chevron](#) - join UMKR and climate groups boycotting Chevron

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:5).

As Rev. Sharon Delgado said in the UM Creation Justice February newsletter, “These are difficult times for people who seek peace, justice, and healing for our human family and for the whole community of life. In Los Angeles, as the devastating fires still smolder and toxins contaminate neighborhoods, rains threaten to bring landslides to the scarred earth. In Washington D.C., as the need for strong climate action increases, the new administration is canceling positive climate programs and has declared an “energy emergency” in pursuit of its goal to “drill, baby, drill.” Yet the science is clear: To stabilize the climate and prevent runaway climate change, we must phase out fossil fuels. As United Methodists and as followers of Jesus, we are challenged to respond faithfully to today’s threats to God’s creation with resilience and hope.”

Fossil Fuel Divestment Summit



Save the Date
California-Nevada Summit
on Fossil Fuel Divestment
March 25-26, 2024

“Investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure is moral and economic madness. Such investments will soon be stranded assets — a blot on the landscape and a blight on investment portfolios.” UN Secretary-General, António Guterres

The California-Nevada Conference Council on Finance and Administration is organizing a Summit on Fossil Fuel Divestment to be held at the Conference Center on March 25th through 26th. It will be geared specifically toward representatives from Conference financial agencies, but presentations will be livestreamed for anyone who wants to know more about how our Conference is approaching fossil fuel divestment as a response to climate change. This Summit is the outcome of a Recommendation on fossil fuel divestment that was passed in June 2024 at the California-Nevada Annual Conference Session. The purpose of the Summit is to “uphold best practices for investment management and to “identify sound financial strategies to screen out fossil fuels from our conference investment portfolios.”

Topics to be covered will include climate change as a spiritual challenge for people of faith, the call to climate justice, the moral rationale for fossil fuel divestment, financial aspects of divesting from fossil fuels, the risks and returns of investing in and divesting from fossil fuels, and how to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in a fiscally and socially responsible way. Following an initial address by Bishop Sandra Olewine on Tuesday evening, speakers will include:

- [William Morris](#), from the California-Pacific Annual Conference, is an organizer with GreenFaith and chairs Young Evangelicals for Climate Action (YECA). He will share his knowledge and experience working with GreenFaith on their

People vs. Fossil Fuels campaign, and his first-hand experience of the impacts and responses to the LA fires.

- [The Rev. Jim Antal](#), author of *Climate Church*, *Climate World*, will talk about why and how the United Church of Christ divested from fossil fuels and their process for doing so.
- [Jake Barnett](#) from Wespath will talk about Wespath's investment management practices and changes they have recently made to make it easier for pastors to transfer their pensions, and for Annual Conferences and other UM institutions to transfer their holdings, into Wespath's low-carbon funds.
- [Julia Frisbie](#), Executive Director of the Faith Foundation Northwest, will speak about how agencies can divest from fossil fuels to Wespath's low-carbon Social Values Choice Funds and how the Faith Foundation Northwest and PNW Annual Conference did so.
- [Daniel Cohn](#), analyst for Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), will offer financial reasons for divesting from fossil fuels, discuss risks and returns, and will talk about how to move to fossil free funds beyond Wespath's options.

Presentations will be livestreamed on Tuesday evening March 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. (PT) and on Wednesday morning March 26 from 9 a.m. to Noon (PT). More details and a registration link will be forthcoming.

Email for More Information

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Divestment Movement Café



Join UM Creation Justice Ministries on February 19th at 10 a.m. (PT) for the first *Movement Café* of 2025. The focus is fossil fuel divestment, and conversation will help connect the dots as to why divestment is an important tool to fight climate change. The cafés usually last about 90 minutes.

Rev. Sharon Delgado from our task force will speak to the potentials and pitfalls of net zero. There will also be a discussion on the theological imperative of taking action, as well as how to divest through Wespath. Julia Frisbie, Executive Director of the Northwest Faith Foundation will help walk attendees through the funds Wespath offers, and how to encourage your church and conference also to divest.

NOTE: If you registered for any of the previous cafés, [everyone must re-register for the 2025 series](#).

February Movement Café

If you are unable to attend the café, then the recording will be available, usually a week or so later at the same link as above. Or, you can subscribe to the UM Creation Justice Movement YouTube channel at the link below and be notified when new videos are posted.

Subscribe to Movement Café Videos

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Divestment Resources



The February issue of the [UM Creation Justice Newsletter](#) contains lots of important news about divestment including these articles:

- [A Theological Reflection on Divestment From Fossil Fuels](#) by Pat Watkins
- [Next Step for UMC Net Zero Agencies: Divest from Fossil Fuels](#) by Sharon Delgado
- [Net Zero Needs Fossil Fuel Divestment](#) by Jaydee Hanson
- [Progress Report on The United Methodist Church's Goal of Net Zero](#) by Bob Downs
- [What If We Get It Right? A Book Review](#) by Richenda Fairhurst
- [Climate Finance and COP29](#) by Becca Edwards
- [Intergenerational Cooperation in Climate Change](#) by William "Bill" Myers

February UMCJM Newsletter (coming soon if not there yet!)

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Fossil Free UMC



[Fossil Free UMC](#), convened by our task force member Rev. Sharon Delgado, has lots of resources on divestment. Their mission is: *To build on the stated commitments of The United Methodist Church to faithfully address climate change. To act by screening out fossil fuels from our investments at all levels of the church. And to invest in goods and services that support an immediate and just transition to a clean energy future.*

Recent articles include:

[Fossil Fuel Divestment as Climate Change Strategy](#)

[It's Time to Phase Out Fossil Fuels!](#)

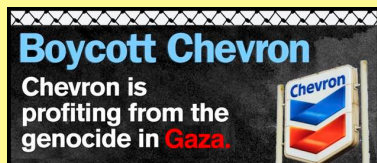
[A Theological Reflection on Divestment from Fossil Fuels](#)

[Five Reasons for Annual Conferences to Divest from Fossil Fuels](#)

Fossil Free UMC

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Boycott Chevron



Our Climate Justice Ministries Task Force, along with the Palestine Task Force has endorsed the UM Kairos Response's Chevron boycott and divestment efforts.

We encourage you to take the pledge to boycott Chevron Corporation until Chevron ends its complicity with Israel's occupation of Palestine, and in climate destruction globally. Individuals and congregations can sign the [petition](#) created by United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR).

More details in this Cal-Nev Conference News Article

UMKR Boycott Information

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