

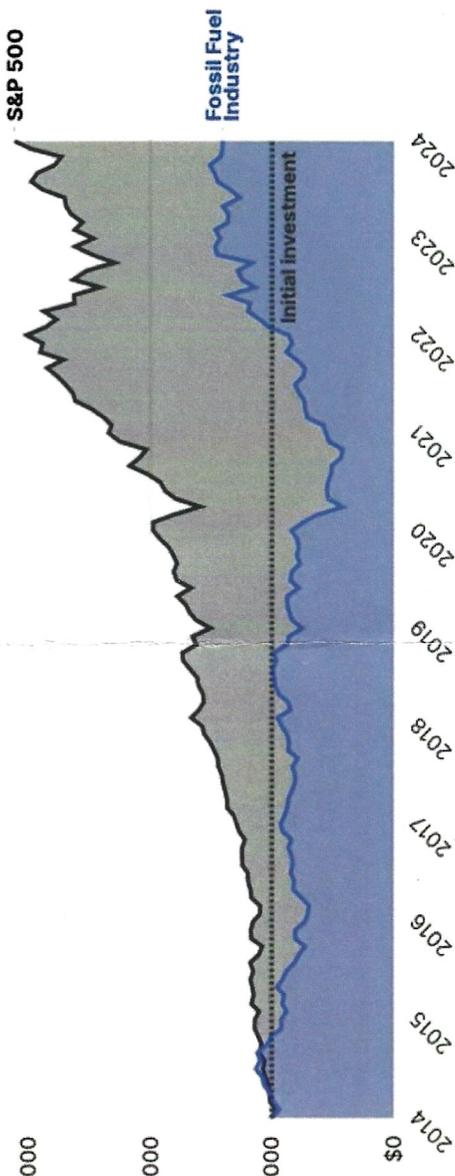
Value of \$10,000 invested in 2014

\$30,000

\$20,000

\$10,000

\$0



Source: S&P • Rebased total return
Lower line represents the S&P 500 Enerav Index



Graph tracks returns from fossil free investments compared to oil and gas.

Graph credit: Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, with permission.

United Methodist foundations, agencies, annual conferences, local churches, and church members to screen out fossil fuels from investments at every level of the church, in order that those funds can be invested to support a just transition to a clean energy future.

Our pastors, churches, the communities we serve, and God's beloved creation deserve our financial institutions to practice fiduciary responsibility as well as social and environmental responsibility. Divesting from fossil fuels aligns our financial stewardship with our ministries and missions.

press.un.org/en/2022/sgsm21228.doc.htm; ieefa.org/financial-case-fossil-fuel-divestment
carbonherald.com/fossil-fuel-investments-hold-back-portfolios-new-report-finds/
theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/14/fossil-fuel-investment-very-unwise-economic-risk-energy-expert-fatih-birol

Learn more at FossilFreeUMC.net and
Faith Foundation Northwest.



QR Code: Faith.Foundation/investments
Blessings on your divestment journey!
The first step is to contact Wespath and
EY Financial Services at 1-800-360-2539.

Fossil Fuel Investments Have Underperformed; They Pose a Financial Risk

“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.”

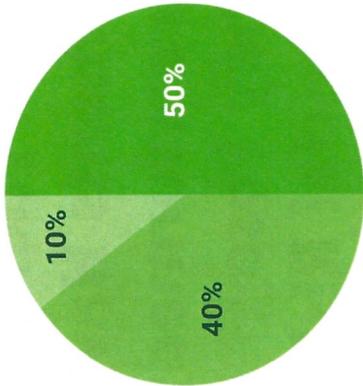
António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

The graphs in this flyer compare Wespath's Social Values Choice funds with Wespath's standard portfolios, which can include investments in thousands of fossil fuel companies.

FOSSIL FREE UMC

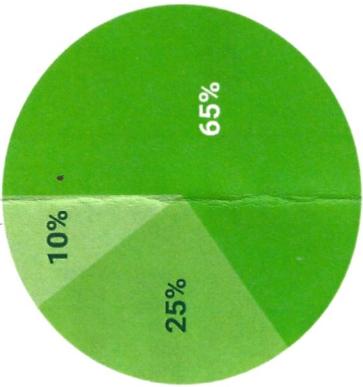
Wespath Social Values Choice (low-carbon) Funds

(These funds intended as fossil free and free of Palestine Conflict Stocks.)



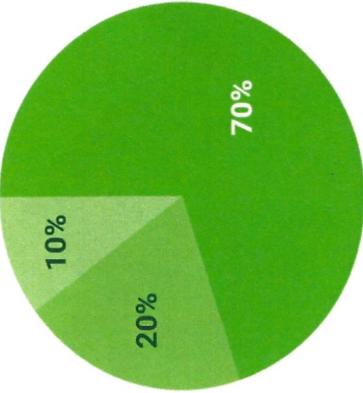
FOSSIL FREE
CONSERVATIVE

1MO: **-3.00%** YTD: **1.42%**
1YR: **9.50%** 3YR: **1.10%**
5YR: **5.42%**



FOSSIL FREE
MODERATE

1MO: **-3.10%** YTD: **2.73%**
1YR: **11.23%** 3YR: **2.46%**
5YR: **7.02%**

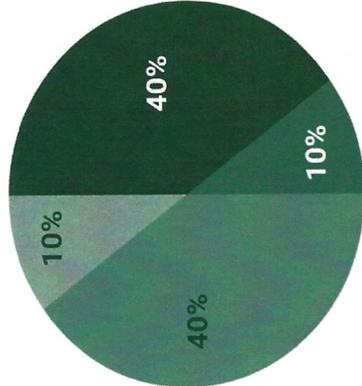


FOSSIL FREE
AGGRESSIVE

1MO: **-3.36%** YTD: **2.95%**
1YR: **13.45%** 3YR: **2.92%**
5YR: **7.55%**

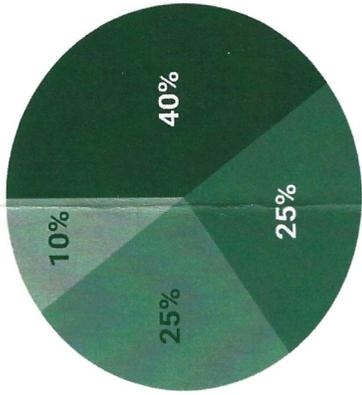
Wespath Standard Diversified Funds

(These funds include over a billion dollars in fossil fuel investments)



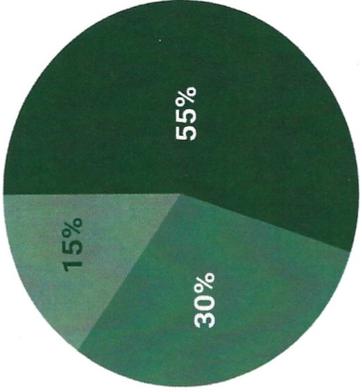
DIVERSIFIED
CONSERVATIVE

1MO: **-3.25%** YTD: **0.57%**
1YR: **7.82%** 3YR: **-0.43%**
5YR: **4.66%** 10YR: **4.91%**



DIVERSIFIED
MODERATE

1MO: **-3.26%** YTD: **0.98%**
1YR: **8.19%** 3YR: **-0.70%**
5YR: **5.09%** 10YR: **5.18%**



DIVERSIFIED
AGGRESSIVE

1MO: **-3.84%** YTD: **1.90%**
1YR: **10.08%** 3YR: **-0.26%**
5YR: **6.52%** 10YR: **6.59%**

According to a new report from the Institute for Energy Economic and Financial Analysis, fossil fuel investments have underperformed in the stock market for a decade. Fossil fuels are a “volatile and unstable store of wealth,” with a “negative long-term financial outlook.”

The report notes that “much of the optimism pinned on fossil fuels in recent years has been attached not to their stability, but to their volatility, depending on unpredictable crises and bad actors to deliver shocks to the system. With competition from less volatile and cheaper renewable energy sources growing rapidly, hydrocarbon producers may find it increasingly difficult to offer managed shareholder value.” Meanwhile, new studies show that portfolios that avoided investments in fossil fuels had higher returns.

Using this criterion, United Methodists should divest from fossil fuels that accelerate global heating and weather-related disasters. Fossil fuel companies pose the financial risks of volatile and uncertain returns, costs to comply with new regulations, costs for climate litigation, and stranded assets. Not only will fossil fuel investments harm the climate, the destruction and chaos caused by climate change will also harm fossil fuel investments.

In short, fossil fuel investments are risky for the climate and for the bottom line. We risk climate chaos leading to social breakdown, collapsing investment returns, or both. Either way, investing in fossil fuels is a dead end. It is time for

Get Started

See the webpage and video:
How we moved our funds into fossil free options at Wespath.
umcreationjustice.org/personal_divestment/

In 2016, the New York and Pacific Northwest Annual Conferences voted to divest their portfolios from fossil fuels. Recently the Faith Foundation Northwest did the same by investing in Wespath's low-carbon funds.

Members of the Pacific Northwest Conference next created the above linked how-to video. Presenters share how they divested their funds using existing Wespath options.

To find out more about Wespath's low-carbon funds, see the Faith Foundation Northwest website where a description of these funds and graphs of their returns are shown. They show that low-carbon funds have outperformed Wespath's standard diversified portfolios.

Connect with Faith Foundation Northwest, Wespath, and/or

EY Financial Services
at 1-800-360-2539.



Link to faith.foundation/investments

Sign-On:

Calling the United Methodist Church to Divest from Fossil Fuels.

Join thousands of United Methodist individuals, church members, ministry leaders, and organizations in seeking a fossil free UMC.



To sign on, follow the QR code:

Further Resources

MFSA's Plumblin: *Divestment from*

Fossil Fuels:

mfsaweb.org/generalconference/divestmentfromfossilfuels
mfsa-plumblin-
divestmentfromfossilfuels

Fossil Free UMC'S Talking Points at FossilFreeUMC.net

Including:

- Ten Reasons Why The United Methodist Church Should Divest from Fossil Fuels
- Ten Reasons for Central Conferences to Support Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Ten Reasons for Wespath to Support Fossil Fuel Divestment
- Plain Talk: This is what's at Stake.

See also:

Other Green Investment Firms:

Green Century Funds,
greencentury.com

As You Sow
asyousow.org

Find more Green Investment Firms:
FossilFreeFunds.org includes a video.

Divest Your Pension

— Move your money to
Low-Carbon

Funds at Wespath



FossilfreeUMC.net

Five Reasons to Divest from Fossil Fuels Now

1. Our Faith Calls us to Respond to Suffering. The United Methodist Church responds in Christ's love to the world's suffering. Fossil fuels cause untold suffering to God's good creation and to millions of God's people. If we divest from fossil fuels, that money can be invested in clean energy and hasten the transition away from fossil fuels.

2. Divesting from fossil fuels is an act of solidarity. Impacts of climate change and fossil fuel pollution are disproportionate: nations and neighborhoods that contribute least to the problems experience the most harm, especially communities of color. Children are more vulnerable to climate impacts and fossil fuel pollution than adults. Divestment is an environmentally just practice that moves the UMC in the direction of climate justice.

3. Financially, we do not need to invest in fossil fuels, and it's wrong to profit from the grave harm they cause. Many fossil-free and low-carbon funds outperform fossil fuel investments, including the low-carbon funds that Wespath administers. Fossil fuels are risky for the climate and for the bottom line. Divesting from fossil fuels and investing instead in a just, clean energy future aligns our financial stewardship with our ministries and missions.

Divest from Fossil Fuels but Stay at Wespath

Every United Methodist in every annual conference has the opportunity, right now, to move forward with Fossil Free UMC's mission to "faithfully address climate change by screening out fossil fuels from our investments at all levels of the church and by investing in goods and services that support a just transition to a clean energy future."

Although we continue to pray and work for The United Methodist Church to fully divest from all fossil fuels, Wespath has taken an important step by expanding low-carbon investment options in their Social Values Choice Funds. This means that people with investments at Wespath can already move their money from the standard Wespath investment funds into these special low-carbon funds. These funds are available to clergy as well as institutional investors such as annual conferences and church agencies.

A number of clergy and others with pensions or other investments at Wespath have moved into these "Social Values Choice funds;" others are also moving toward divestment. As of now, these are "passively managed funds," but Wespath recently announced that their low-carbon funds will soon be included in their Life Stage managed funds program. This is a step on the path toward divesting from fossil fuels, the primary cause of climate change.

4. Divestment is an Act of Faith. More than 1,600 institutions have already divested from fossil fuels, with combined assets worth over \$40.63 trillion. Faith-based organizations account for 35 percent of these institutions.

Those who have divested from fossil fuels include religious orders, Catholic dioceses, and denominations: the United Church of Christ, Episcopal Church, Unitarian Universalist Association, Presbyterian Church USA, the United Reformed Church, the Church of England, Quakers in Britain, Baptist Union of Great Britain, and many more.

Our sisters and brothers in the British Methodist Church, which is part of The United Methodist connection, have divested as a witness to their commitment to Christ. It is time for The United Methodist Church as a whole to join them.

5. Stockholder engagement with the fossil fuel industry doesn't work. Despite Wespath's decades of stockholder engagement with fossil fuel companies, the primary driver of climate change, they are expanding production and new infrastructure projects. Instead of transitioning to renewable energy, the industry distorts the science and continues to lobby governments to stall climate action. The fossil fuel industry causes the problem as it enjoys record profits. It is not going to solve it.

Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be, also.

Matthew 16:21