

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

Fossil Fuel Investments Have Underperformed; They Pose a Financial Risk

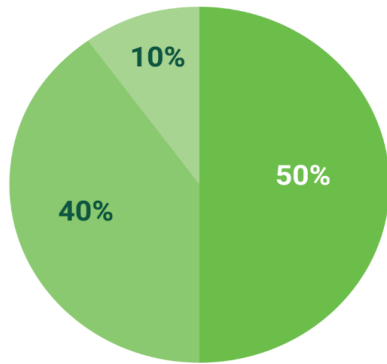
“Investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure is moral and economic madness. Such investments will soon be stranded assets — a blot on the landscape and a blight on investment portfolios.”
 António Guterres
 UN Secretary-General

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



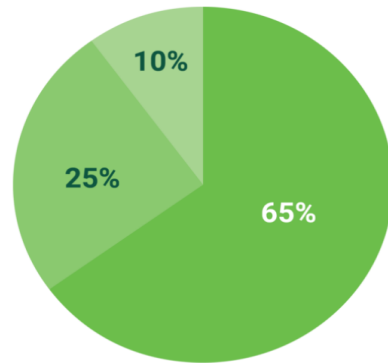
Wespath Social Values Choice (low-carbon) Funds

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



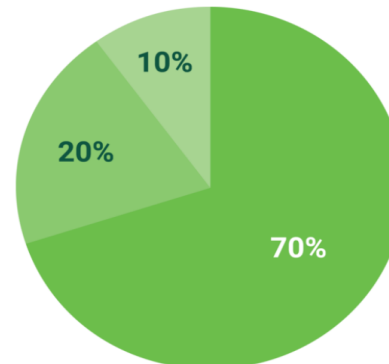
FOSSIL FREE
CONSERVATIVE

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%**

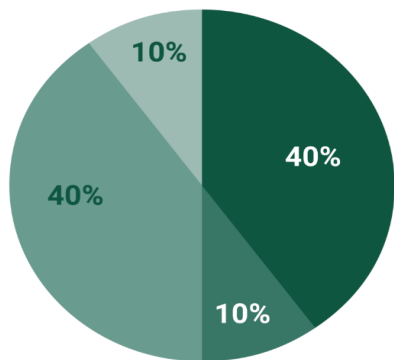


FOSSIL FREE
AGGRESSIVE

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

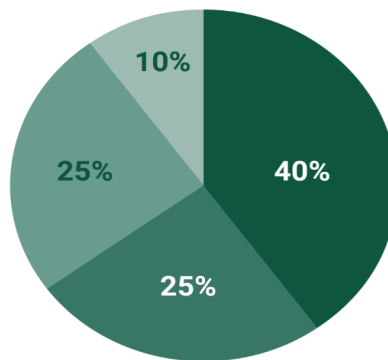
Wespath Standard Diversified Funds

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



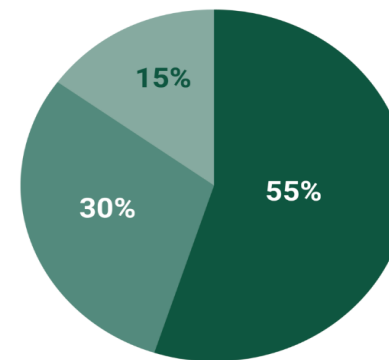
DIVERSIFIED
CONSERVATIVE

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



DIVERSIFIED
MODERATE

1 MO: **-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