



MISSION DRIVEN INVESTMENTS

Does your investment strategy reflect your values and mission? When looking for trust or investment management services, consider a partner that shares your faith, listens to your goals, and devises smart financial solutions to help you reach them.

New Covenant Trust Company (NCTC), a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation, can help you develop an investment portfolio that matches your faith-based values and principles. NCTC is able to offer customized solutions for investors, whatever their mission.

For example, mission-driven portfolios might screen investments for one or more of the following:

- Companies involved in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, war materials

- Companies that are making a major contribution to carbon dioxide emissions
- Positive investment in certain parts of the world

NCTC provides portfolio management services for individuals, families, trusts, trustees, endowments, and charitable and not-for-profit organizations.

Investment advisory services include the management of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs (exchange-traded funds), and other assets. Any special or unique assets in your current portfolio will be included in the overall investment strategy developed and implemented for you.

Need help developing your own Mission Driven Investment strategy? Please contact Tim Clark at 502-569-5914 or Brad Masters at 502-569-5910.

CASE STUDY: FOSSIL FREE INVESTMENT

SITUATION

First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida, has been committed to environmental stewardship for many years. Responding to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly's call to become a "carbon neutral" congregation, First Presbyterian conducted a capital campaign which has enabled it to make major energy-saving changes in the sanctuary and other buildings.

After prayerful study and discernment, the church's session endorsed an overture to the 2014 General Assembly calling for the denomination to divest from fossil fuel companies. (The overture was referred to the committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) for study.) In a blog published by the PC(USA)'s Environmental Ministries Office, First Presbyterian's pastor, Brant S. Copeland, said he and his session members "decided that we could not ask one council of the church to do what we ourselves were not willing to do." In order for its witness to be consistent, the session decided it needed to withdraw the church's endowment funds from major fossil fuel companies.

CHALLENGES

The New Covenant Trust Company (NCTC), a subsidiary of the Presbyterian Foundation, manages many congregational endowment funds and was already in conversation with Presbyterian groups promoting fossil free investments. NCTC manages investments with a socially responsible focus as mandated by the client which may include guidelines supplied by MRTI. Using the MRTI screen to eliminate companies with products related to alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and warfare was not enough for First Presbyterian Church Tallahassee. An additional screen was needed to avoid fossil fuel companies.



ACTIONS

NCTC met with the session of the Tallahassee Church in early 2015 and agreed to help them develop an investment strategy consistent with the congregation's values. To screen for fossil fuel companies, they used the Top 200 Fossil Fuel Companies supplied by Carbon Tracker — an annually updated list of the top 200 coal, oil, and gas companies with the largest potential carbon dioxide emissions.

In May 2015, following approval by the session, First Presbyterian's endowment funds were transferred to NCTC. The church's new investment strategy was officially launched July 1.

RESULTS

First Presbyterian Church now has a customized investment strategy that reflects its commitment to environmental stewardship. Copeland says, "We are extremely grateful to New Covenant Trust Company for working with us to align our session's investments with our moral and theological principles."

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