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Contacts:

Katie McCloskey

Director, Social Responsibility

212-729-2608

katie.mccloskey@ucfunds.org

Press Release

United Church Funds Announces Changes in Exclusionary Screening

New York, November 17, 2017 – United Church Funds (UCF), a financial ministry of the United Church Christ (UCC), today announced the modernization of its exclusionary screens – the practice of avoiding investments in industries or operations involved in activities that are conflicting with United Church of Christ’s (UCC) still speaking faith. United Church Funds will start implementing the new exclusionary screen in January 2018.

Katie McCloskey, UCF Director of Social Responsibility said, “The previous exclusionary screening policy implemented a responsive rather than holistic approach to our screening procedures. The decades-old baseline for our screening approach led to an antiquated temperance model of exclusionary screening with disjointed updates.”

“The modernized exclusionary screening will maintain its tobacco screen, military weapons, nuclear weapons, occupied territories and coal and tar sands oil screens. In addition, UCF’s investment managers should avoid companies whose practices within the following environmental, social and governance (ESG) impacts are unacceptable: firearms, private prison operation, human rights, environmental/greenhouse gas impact and responsible water use,” added Ms. McCloskey.

The process to modernize the exclusionary screens started with gathering a task force of clergy and lay leaders, investment professionals and Theologians, and fiduciaries of UCC endowments and assets. The task force considered the moral teachings of the UCC, the investment performance implications for potential screens and the most efficient ways to use UCF’s socially responsible investing (SRI) platform to promote sound ESG behavior.

David A. Klassen, UCF Chief Investment Strategist said, “We fully support the evolution in approach towards screening. These changes reflect our investment priorities and values, and we will continue to work with the investment managers to implement these modernized exclusionary screening policies, and to avoid investing in companies whose practices are not in line with our SRI strategy.”

“Rest assured that the UCF investment staff and the investment committee frequently monitor any impact that screens would have on performance. In general, what we found is that over three and five-year time horizons, there have been no negative impacts of screens on investment portfolios of UCF,” added Mr. Klassen.

United Church Funds proactively takes these steps to continue to be a leader in the implementation of social responsibility policy in its investment strategies. To learn more about the modernized exclusionary screening, please [view this video](#).

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About United Church Funds

Established in 1909 to administer the Pilgrim Memorial Fund for the benefit of retired pastors, United Church Funds (UCF) has evolved into a full-service investment manager with over \$800 million of assets under management. Alongside some of the historic endowments of the United Church of Christ (UCC), the assets entrusted to UCF include the savings, gifts and endowments of local churches, associations, conferences and faith-based organizations. Offering an appealing alternative to banks, mutual funds and wealth managers, UCF seeks solid investment performance with a purpose to grow your assets in order to support your mission – ensuring assets under management benefit from some of the best investment managers on Wall Street while remaining faithful to Christian values. Learn more at ucfunds.org.