

# A LONG LEGACY OF RESPONSIBLE INVESTING



The **United Church of Christ (UCC)** has a long and commendable legacy of applying faith values to its economic practices. This legacy also guides the work of **United Church Funds** in managing the assets of churches and faith-based institutions.

**1967**

UCC General Synod declares that **social values and social justice ought to be given consideration**, together with security and yield, in the investments of funds **held by religious organizations.** (1)

Following race riots in Rochester, New York, the UCC **supports local community organizing efforts** and sends an ambassador to Eastman Kodak board meeting to implore the company to maintain its **commitment to hire and train unemployed blacks.** (2)

**1972-1980**

Following unjust imprisonment of UCC minister and nine others, famously known as **the Wilmington Ten**, the UCC calls for an **end to mass incarceration and a moratorium on new prisons.** (5) (6)

**1979**

General Synod passes a resolution to leverage the economic power of its investments to **promote and protect human rights, as both a gift and a demand of God.**" (9)

**2005**

General Synod commits to peace in Israel-Palestine and recommends **use of economic leverage to challenge** corporations violating human rights norms in the Occupied Territories. In 2015, General Synod votes to **divest from** corporations that failed to make meaningful efforts to comply.(11) (12)

**2015**

General Synod passes a resolution urging five forms of socially responsible investment practices in support of "**a still speaking faith.**" (14)

**1969 - 1985**

In response to apartheid, the UCC joins other faith-based investors in **divesting from all corporations doing business in South Africa.** Nelson Mandela later notes that this ecumenical effort was an essential driver of regime change in South Africa. (3) (4)

**1971**

United Church Foundation (later United Church Funds) and the UCC Pension Boards are among the **founding members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.**

**1977**

After **calling for disarmament**, General Synod **resolves to divest** from publicly held stock in weapon manufacturing businesses. (7) (8)

**1985**

General Synod adopts pronouncement on **Just Peace Church**, declaring the UCC in opposition to war and supporting principles of non-violence. (10)

**2013**

General Synod votes to **divest from fossil fuels** — among other strategies — to **combat climate change.** (13)

#### Citation

(1) 67-GS-5

(2) 67-GS-08

(3) 69-GS-88

(4) 85-GS-65

(5) 73-GS-65

(6) 77-GS-75

(7) 77-GS-49

(8) 83-GS-72

(9) 79-GS-31

(10) 85-GS-50

(11) 05-GS-30

(12) 15-GS-30

(13) 13-GS-25

(14) 15-GS-18