



July 10, 2023

Dear Valued Clients:

We are just back from General Synod 34, which proved to be a fruitful and historic event. It was such a pleasure to see many of you in person again, and we thank those of you who attended our workshops and events, including the highly impactful Valerie Russell Luncheon, featuring author, attorney, activist and MacArthur Fellow Bryan Stevenson.

Regarding the market, our Investment Team has prepared the following summary of the second quarter of 2023:

“Global equity markets continued to rally – led by mega-cap technology companies and driven by artificial intelligence enthusiasm – and first quarter earnings were better than anticipated. Large cap stocks (S&P 500 index) were up +8.74%, and small cap stocks (Russell 2000 index) were up +5.21%. International developed stocks lagged U.S. stocks, gaining +2.95% for the quarter, and emerging market equities were up +0.90%.

“Fixed income returns were mixed during the quarter. The Barclays Government Credit Index, a proxy for the U.S. fixed income market, was down -0.93%, but emerging market debt was up +1.53%.

UCF congratulates the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman – and the first Black woman – to lead the United Church of Christ, and we also welcome new UCF board members. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

UCF is pleased to announce the awarding of \$182,000 in Brown Endowment scholarships to 24 Members in Discernment (MID), who are persons preparing for ordained ministry in the UCC. The awarded scholarships, ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000, will assist MIDs in their seminary or theological education. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

On the responsible investing front, we recently celebrated a majority vote for the Dollar General shareholder resolution filed by UCF and Domini Impact Investing. The resolution called for fairer labor practices, enhanced worker safety and improvement in human rights. [CLICK HERE](#) to read our full article about this victory.

UCF will host our next quarterly Town Hall meeting via Zoom on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. We will share more information and a registration link via email in the next few weeks.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-877-806-4989 or info@ucfunds.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Buck".

Charles Buck
President and CEO



PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR THE 2nd QUARTER OF 2023

The following performance numbers are preliminary and have not been audited. However, they will give you an idea of how our investment funds, net of fees, performed in the 2nd quarter of 2023.

	<u>2nd Quarter</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Fixed Income Fund	-0.55%	2.43%
Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Index	-0.93%	2.21%
Fixed Income Policy Index	-0.36%	2.82%
Domestic Core Equity Fund	9.07%	17.37%
S&P 500 Total Return Index	8.74%	16.89%
Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund	7.02%	14.26%
MSCI ACWI IMI net	5.89%	13.25%
Small Cap Equity Fund	5.72%	10.16%
Russell 2000 Index	5.21%	8.09%
International Equity Fund	2.12%	9.57%
MSCI ACWI ex US net	2.44%	9.47%
Total Equity Fund	5.72%	13.15%
MSCI ACWI IMI net	5.89%	13.25%
UCF Balanced Fund	3.32%	8.80%
Policy Index (60% MSCI ACWI IMI net/ 40% Fixed Income Policy Index)	3.38%	9.02%
Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund	4.04%	9.59%
Policy Index (60% MSCI ACWI IMI net/ 40% Fixed Income Policy Index)	3.38%	9.02%