

Canadian Unitarian Council
1997 Policy

Socially Responsible Investment Policy

Whereas the UUA's Principles and Purposes to which we in the CUC subscribe as a free and democratic religious community, call of the affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and respect for the interdependent web of all existence,

And whereas the by-laws of the Canadian Unitarian Council authorize the Board of Trustees to invest the funds of the CUC as the Trustees think fit,

We therefore resolve to recommend to the Board of Trustees of the CUC that in investing the funds of the CUC they make all reasonable efforts to avoid the holding of securities issued by corporations and agencies involved in nuclear power, military weapons, tobacco, gambling and all corporations that persist in human rights violations or persist in non-sustainable environmental practices.

We further resolve to recommend to the Board of Trustees of the CUC that they appoint an Investment Committee to carry out the following functions:

1. to advise the Board on investments to secure a just or reasonable return while avoiding undue risk,
2. to inform the membership of our societies about investing in a socially and environmentally responsible manner by conducting workshops and submitting newsletter articles,
3. to attend shareholder meetings if necessary and vote on issue in a knowledgeable manner and work with the Taskforce on Churches and Corporate Responsibility
4. to participate at social and environment investment conferences as representatives of the CUC Investment Committee.

Adopted by the Annual Meeting, May 19, 1997

2006 resolution

20. CUC STUDY RESOLUTION ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

This Resolution was prepared and proposed by:

Ahti Tolvanen, Julie Stoneberg, Pyteke Blauuw, Mary Ann Higgs, Margaret Wanlin, Bruce Hyer, Bob Manson, Jean Morrison. It was presented by Ahti Tolvanen on behalf of the group.

WHEREAS the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a Socially Responsible Investment Policy at its Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay in 1998, and

Whereas it was further resolved by the CUC to recommend to the Board of Trustees that in investing the funds of the CUC they make all reasonable efforts to avoid the holding of securities by corporations and agencies involved in nuclear power, military weapons, tobacco, gambling, human rights violations or nonsustainable environmental practices, and

Whereas it was also resolved to make arrangements to inform the membership of our societies regarding such investment practices and that our denomination be in attendance at shareholder meeting and vote in a knowledgeable manner, and

WHEREAS the increasing globalization of economic interrelationships and activities of businesses based in Canada and abroad creates new potential for both beneficial and harmful impacts; there is a more significant role now than ever for an active Socially Responsible Investment Policy, and

WHEREAS the said Policy needs to be more effectively supported at the level of local congregations and made know to individual Unitarians to be effective, and

WHEREAS the implementation of the Socially Responsible Investment Policy could only benefit from improved liaison with other faiths and like-minded citizens' organizations, and Whereas the recently achieved autonomy of the CUC from the UUA has led to a significant increase in the CUC investment portfolio and created a need to further develop our socially responsible investment practices, and

WHEREAS an effective and committed Socially Responsible Investment Policy is supported by the seventh Principle (Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part); the second Principle (Justice, equity and compassion in human relations) and the third Principle (Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations), therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

That this AGM direct the formation of a Study Group to begin a two-year Study, which shall be in the format of an action study, to propose and develop Socially Responsible Investment Practices among the member congregations and in the community contexts where congregations and individual members live and interact,

the membership of which Study Group may be augmented or altered by majority decision of said Study Group in consultation with the Board. The purposes of which Study, in which all congregations are invited to participate, are:

- a. to develop a Canadian network of Unitarians and like-minded groups and individuals to enable effective Socially Responsible Investment practices,
- b. to seek the support and expertise of other faith groups and like-minded groups and individuals with valuable experience in Socially Responsible Investing in Canada the USA and further abroad,
- c. to raise awareness in our congregations and among our members and friends of the ways and means in which Unitarians and those who support us can more effectively witness to the principles of our faith through dialogue with corporate leaders, the voting of our proxies as responsible shareholders, the presentation and support of shareholder initiatives at shareholder meetings, the convening of public events and the distribution of media communications,
- d. to engage member congregations in the development of policies and actions that will strengthen the practices Socially Responsible Investing as an integral part of denominational wealth management and as an effective form of denominational witness and interaction with our communities for the good of all, and
- e. to propose a resolution at the CUC AGM in 2008 that will establish a monitoring group to implement and recommend actions resulting from this the Study

MOTION: Moved by Julia Varga, duly seconded and carried: 'To accept this Study Resolution on Socially Responsible Investing'.

Canadian Unitarian Council – Conseil Unitarien du Canada
Assembled at its Annual General Meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick, May 19th to 22nd, 2006.

2010 resolution

22. MOTION ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING (SRI)

MOVED BY Margaret Wanlin, Lakehead, duly seconded and DEFEATED, that

Be it resolved that:

1. The CUC Board should set up a Standing SRI Committee to:

- a) inform the Board, congregations and individual members regarding SRI according to the Policy adopted in 1997;
- b) prepare an SRI Section or Appendix to the Annual Financial Report;
- c) initiate CUC representation at corporate shareholder meetings and carry out dialogues with corporations and agencies;
- d) produce literature, convene educational events, maintain a website and prepare articles for newsletters of the denomination on SRI issues;
- e) develop liaison and, where appropriate, arrange CUC representation, in the activities of other organizations involved in SRI;
- f) provide an “Ethical Money” verification, on principles such as Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), to interested congregations submitting their financial statements; and
- g) actively assist member congregations to open their own accounts in the CUC’s SRI-screened investment fund.