
Investing with Integrity



FIRST STEPS FOR FRIENDS BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION

Based on recent experience, we suggest that the discernment process include opportunities to:

- 1) Become familiar with the most recent climate data and information regarding fossil fuel reserves to understand the urgency of action.
- 2) Understand what screens you currently have in place and where your funds are invested. Consider if they clearly reflect your principles.
- 3) Consider where to begin the conversation (Finance, Social Concerns, Earthcare, Business Meeting, etc.).
- 4) Ground your reflections and worship in testimonies and previous minutes.
- 5) Understand the financial need of your Meeting and seek a transition that will continue to meet its needs, while honoring that principle can occasion the need for sacrifice.
- 6) Consider options for reinvestment that meet your Meeting's values (community development investing, socially responsible investing, and initiating reduction of your carbon footprint). Ask your financial manager about options if you decide to reinvest in the stock market. Research the growing number of fossil free funds available.
- 7) Minute your concern and decision.
- 8) Share your minute and decision with the wider community of Friends, the relevant businesses and your elected officials.
- 9) Follow up on the decision.
- 10) Consider other witness opportunities.

POSSIBLE QUERIES FOR WORSHIP SHARING:

In what ways do moral implications enter into the investments we make as Friends? How do Friends testimonies and queries provide spiritual guidance in the ways we invest our money?

In what ways is our money invested for purposes we really support? Does our Meeting serve social, economic and environmental justice in its investments?

What are the moral dimensions for Friends groups when considering investment in or divestment from fossil fuel companies?

What, if any, instructions have we given to those who manage our resources regarding screens for the environment for our investments?

What is our financial involvement in the fossil fuel industry? How are we led in regard to these investments?

Are we ready to minute our concern for the urgency of action on climate change? Do we need to request more information? Are we ready to direct a reinvestment of our money?

STEWARDSHIP OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES

All that we have, in ourselves and our possessions, are gifts from God, entrusted to us for our responsible use. Jesus reminds us that we must not lay up earthly treasures for ourselves, for where our treasures are, there will be our hearts also. We cannot serve both God and Mammon.

Stewardship is a coming together of our major testimonies. To be good stewards in God's world calls on us to examine and consider the ways in which our testimonies for peace, equality, and simplicity interact to guide our relationships with all life.

"O that we who declare against wars, and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the light, and thereby examine our foundation and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon our treasures, the furniture in our houses, and our garments, and

try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions."

John Woolman, c.1770

In a world of economic interactions far more complex than John Woolman could have imagined, Friends need to examine their decisions about obtaining, holding, and using money and other assets, to see whether they find in them the seeds, not only of war, but also of self-indulgence, injustice, and ecological disaster.

Good stewardship of economic resources consists both in avoidance of those evils and in actions that advance peace, simple living, justice, and a healthy ecosystem. Good stewardship also requires attention to the economic needs of Quaker and other organizations that advance Friends' testimonies.

*Faith and Practice, Philadelphia
Yearly Meeting p.80*

RESOURCES OTHERS HAVE FOUND USEFUL

Films to watch together and discuss:

Do the Math—44 minute inspiring overview of the concern and the strategy. Available on line at <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/do-the-math/> or from the Eco-Justice Working Group

Out of Balance: ExxonMobil's Impact on Climate Change. An award winning film by Quaker documentary producer Tom Jackson. Available through itunes, Amazon and Netflix

and directly from Joe Public Films at worldoutofbalance.org or streamable version is through Cinequest Online at: <http://www.cinequestonline.org/VideoDetails.do?navLoc=0%2C2%2C3&vid=21&linkType=Browse&resultIdx=4>

Watch ***Unburnable Carbon*** at: <http://www.carbontracker.org/carbon-bubble-interactive>
