

DIVEST YOUR METHODIST CHURCH

Divestment (disinvestment) from fossil fuel companies is a powerful act of faith that hundreds of churches and other religious institutions around the world have taken to respond to the climate emergency. It involves shifting investments out of an industry that is a primary cause of the climate crisis.

In order to make a divestment commitment, your church/Circuit/District would be asked to:

1. Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies
2. Divest from direct ownership and any commingled (pooled) funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within five years.

Even if your church doesn't currently hold any investments in fossil fuels, it can send out a strong message by pledging not to invest in fossil fuels in the future.

Making a divestment commitment does not require your church to change its bank account, though you may wish to consider switching to an ethical bank account. If your church holds investments, you may need to find a different investment manager if your current one doesn't offer a fossil free fund.

For more information, email the Methodist Zero Carbon Group on methodistzerocarbongroup@gmail.com or visit Operation Noah's Bright Now campaign website on www.brightnow.org.uk.

DIVEST YOUR LOCAL METHODIST CHURCH

1 Find out how your church finances are managed

Speak with other members of your church about the climate crisis and the importance of fossil fuel divestment. You will need to find out how your church finances are managed – perhaps by asking your minister or church treasurer. Your church may just have a bank account or it may hold investments as well. Either way, your church can commit to divest.

2 Raise divestment at a church council meeting

Ask your church minister or treasurer if the issue can be discussed at your next church council meeting.

3 Make a commitment to divest

If your church makes a commitment to divest (within a five-year timeframe), let Operation Noah know (email: bokani.tshidzu@operationnoah.org) and communicate the decision to your investment managers.

4 Join a global divestment announcement

Join the next global joint divestment announcement for faith organisations in May 2021 to amplify the impact of your commitment.

DIVEST YOUR METHODIST CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT

1 Speak with your Superintendent Minister or District Chair and ask when the next Circuit/District meeting will be.

2 Draft a proposition (see example opposite) and ask if this could be included on the Circuit/District meeting agenda.

Use the attached draft resolutions and eco strategy template

3 A member of the Circuit/District meeting would need to sign it.

4 A member of the Circuit/District meeting would need to second it.

5 Hand the text to the Superintendent Minister/District Chair before the meeting.

6 The Proposal should be debated at the Circuit/District meeting.

Example proposition:
'As a Circuit/District we commit to divest from any investments in fossil fuels as soon as possible, and within five years at the latest. If we do not hold any fossil fuel investment then we commit to not investing in fossil fuels in the future.'

DIVEST THE METHODIST CHURCH AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

The Methodist Zero Carbon Group is campaigning to ensure that the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church fully divests from fossil fuels, following the resolution on divestment passed at Methodist Council in October 2020.

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