

Your checkbook shows YOUR values; does the Church's investments show OUR values?

In the summer of 2013, in response to a growing concern about the effect of climate change on the world that God has given us including the greater effects on the poor and marginalized, the Bishop's Committee for Environment (BCE) and 3 parishes petitioned the Board of Directors of the Diocese of Olympia to divest from fossil fuel stocks. At the Board's request, the BCE submitted Resolution 5 to the 2013 diocesan convention; it called on the Diocese to divest of its holdings in Chevron and Exxon. Resolution 5 passed by a vote of 234—169.

The Board of Directors deliberated for more than a year and in January 2015 decided NOT to divest.

Meanwhile, the movement to divest was gaining momentum elsewhere in the Episcopal Church, other faith communities, foundations and colleges and universities. See a partial list below.

In July 2015, a resolution passed at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, our triennial national meeting, that called for divestment of the funds of the of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, and the Episcopal Church Foundation. It also called on dioceses and parishes to consider divestment over the coming year. The resolution passed by a vote of 628 -- 204 in the House of Deputies after previously passing in the House of Bishops.

Isn't it time for the Diocese of Olympia, acting through its Board of Directors, to divest of its holdings in Exxon and Chevron stock? Isn't it time to bring our investments in line with our values – our marks of mission and baptismal vows?

Join this movement to divest from owning and profiting from the fossil fuel industry.

- Schedule a workshop on divestment at your church; contact bce@ecww.org
- Talk to your vestry about supporting divestment of your church's funds as well as those of the Diocese of Olympia.
- Share in our work on divestment; contact bce@ecww.org

Others who have voted to divest:

- The Episcopal Church 2015 General Convention
- The Episcopal Dioceses of California, Los Angeles, Oregon, Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, Newark, Nebraska,
- Church of England (thermal coal and tar sands oil)
- Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia
- Anglican Church of Australia
- Presbyterian Church USA
- United Church of Christ, General Synod
- World Council of Churches
- United Church of Canada
- Uniting Church in Australia
And numerous regional church bodies and local congregations

Also, many other organizations, including:

- City of Seattle
- University of Washington (coal)
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- University of California (coal and tar sands)

