

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**DIVEST RIVERSIDE!** “...to Foster Responsible Stewardship of all God’s Creation...”\*\*

- 1. What does “divest” mean for TRC?** To sell existing and preclude future investments in fossil fuels in TRC’s endowment portfolio.
- 2. What are “fossil fuels”?** Fossil fuels are geologic deposits extracted from the earth and converted into crude oil, coal, or natural gas, which in turn are burned to power the energy we use every day.
- 3. What does burning fossil fuels do to our climate?** Among scientists there is no doubt that burning fossil fuels is causing our atmosphere to overheat, with measurable and negative consequences. See Chapter 2, pages 7-8, for a concise and simple explanation of the process as well as the consequences for Earth.
- 4. Why should TRC care about burning fossil fuels?** Both the Bible (see Chapter 3, pages 9-12) and TRC’s Mission Statement (see Appendix A, page 16) require us to be “responsible stewards” of Earth, God’s gift to us.
- 5. How will divestment from fossil fuels affect TRC’s portfolio?** See Chapter 6, pages 19-21, about potential positive returns. See also Chapter 5, pages 17-18, about the risk of loss from fossil fuel “stranded assets.”
- 6. Is the goal of divestment to change the behavior of fossil fuel companies?** No. The goal is to delegitimize their use by changing public opinion, thus hastening the transition to clean energy. See pages 2, 5, 8, 16, 22, and 24.
- 7. Has TRC already divested or chosen not to invest in certain industries?** Yes. TRC does not invest in pornography, liquor, cigarettes, and weapons and has recently added for-profit prisons and pay-day loan providers. See Chapter 1, page 5. See also Chapter 5, page 15, about TRC Finance Committee’s “justice-based investing,” pages 17-18 and Appendix F, page 31.
- 8. Is there a link between racial and economic justice and environmental justice?** We see links (see Chapter 4, pages 13-14), but they are not identical struggles. They both need to be pursued, on parallel tracks.
- 9. Wouldn’t shareholder activism work just as well?** Unfortunately, shareholder activism on a variety of issues has almost never had any impact on corporate behavior. See Chapter 7, pages 22-23.
- 10. Have other organizations we respect divested from fossil fuels?** The Rockefeller Brothers Fund (see Appendix D, page 29), Union Theological Seminary (see Appendix E, page 30), and hundreds of other countries, cities, faith-based institutions, NGOs and individuals have joined the divestment movement. See [www.gofossilfree.org](http://www.gofossilfree.org) for the most current list.
- 11. Why should TRC join them?** TRC’s prophetic voice has long trumpeted moral and ethical leadership, and climate change, too, requires our voice. See Chapter 1, pages 4-6, and Chapter 8, pages 24-25.
- 12. If I have more questions and want to learn more, what should I do?** Talk to any member of the Beloved Earth Community, listed on p. 2. Check out “Readings and Sources” (Appendix G, pages 32-33) and the end “Notes,” page 34.

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\*\*Quote from TRC’s Mission Statement