

Church Investment Group

Serving the Episcopal Church and Its Christian Mission



The purpose of Church Investment Group's investments is to provide a stable and growing funding source to support current and future Episcopal Church missions, while maintaining long-term purchasing power and being consistent with our faith-based values.

Since the 1960's, the Episcopal Church has encouraged socially responsible investment. Ethical investment considerations form an integral part of the Church Investment Group's mission and witness. Through an ethical investment policy, Church Investment Group (CIG) seeks a constructive engagement with the corporate world in order that responsible environmental and business practices and high standards of corporate behavior are encouraged and supported. The Church Investment Group is also mindful of the need to avoid undermining the credibility, effectiveness, and unity of the Church's mission by profiting from, or providing capital to, activities that are materially inconsistent with Episcopal values.

Church Investment Group has found that the inclusion of environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria in our portfolio's investment process enhances the ability to manage risk and to achieve the long-term performance necessary to support sustainable spending policies. Integrating ESG analysis in the selection process for the companies that CIG's portfolio holds provides additional insight into a company's long-term competitive edge and forward planning and helps highlight risks and opportunities that might not be identified by solely relying on traditional financial analysis.

Church Investment Group implements a four-pronged approach through (1) proactive investment guidelines; (2) proxy voting and corporate engagement; (3) exclusion of investments due to ethical consideration or excessive sustainability-related financial risks; and (4) assessment of the real-world impacts of our portfolio investment choices. By exercising fiduciary duty in this way, the Church Investment Group intends to meet its financial objectives and to integrate Environmental, Social and Governance investment criteria into all of the Portfolio's investment asset classes and management process.

A. Inclusionary guidelines:

Church Investment Group seeks to emphasize sustainable and responsible investments in its Portfolio by incorporating Environmental, Social and Governance factors as part of the overall investment process. The following set of values serves as a guiding framework/inclusionary screen for investment decisions.

Environmental values:

Investing in companies that plan for resource efficiency and measure, manage, disclose, actively plan and act to reduce their environmental impact through their operations, products, and supply chain. We seek to invest in companies that promote solutions including, but not limited to, renewable and clean energy, clean transportation, clean water, clean air, natural resource efficiency and stewardship, and sustainable food and agriculture systems.

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Social Values:

Investing in companies that actively maintain policies and practices that support workforce well-being, human health, worker and product safety, and inclusivity and diversity.

Governance Values:

Investing in companies with a corporate governance culture that promotes shareholder engagement, fair executive compensation policies, board diversity, anti-corruption and anti-bribery practices, conscientiousness regarding human rights, sensitivity towards the communities in which the companies operate and full governance disclosure.

B. Exclusionary Guidelines:

The Church Investment Group follows the exclusionary guidelines of the Episcopal Church, including seeking to invest with investment managers do not hold tobacco manufacturers or companies for which the manufacture of firearms represents more than 10% of annual revenue.

C. Proxy Voting

Proxy voting is an important component of Church Investment Group's approach to stewardship. CIG has designed its portfolios in order to be able to vote its proxies in alignment with the guidelines developed by The Episcopal Church. The Church Investment Group seeks to implement its proxy voting approaches in accordance with the proxy choices of the Committee on Corporate Responsibility (CCSR) of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

D. Measuring Impact

CIG has a first Quartile portfolio in regard to environmental, social and governance criteria as assessed by a third-party ESG assessment firm, Impact Cubed, compared to the MSCI All Country World benchmark. CIG seeks profitable investments with real world impact.