

# GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION GC05

## 2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: AVOID INVESTMENT IN THE PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM, COAL AND NATURAL**  
2 **GAS**

3 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS: Vernon A. Groves and Bob Wilson, leaders in the**  
4 **Creation Care Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, USA**

5 **SPOKESPERSON: Vernon A. Groves**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5496 SW 157<sup>th</sup> Pl., Aloha, OR 97007**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: groves99@comcast.net**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-641-5196**

9 **This petition is a change or addition to the 2012 United Methodist Discipline,**  
10 **Paragraph 717**

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12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: YES 9, NO 13, ABSTAIN 1**  
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14 **Text of the Disciplinary change or Resolution:**  
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16 It shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including  
17 the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and all administrative agencies and institutions,  
18 including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local  
19 churches, shall, in the investment of money, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions,  
20 companies, corporations, or funds whose practices are consistent with the goals outlined in the  
21 Social Principles; and shall endeavor to avoid investments that appear likely, directly or indirectly, to  
22 support racial discrimination, violation of human rights, sweatshop or forced labor, gambling, or the  
23 production of **petroleum, coal, natural gas**, nuclear armaments, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, or  
24 companies dealing in pornography. The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to  
25 shareholder advocacy, including advocacy of corporate disinvestment.  
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29 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

30 **What will this action accomplish?**

31 This action will signal that The United Methodist Church recognizes that its churches are on the front  
32 lines of climate change around the world, and that it is wrong for the denomination's pension fund  
33 and ministries to be funded through profits from the fossil fuel companies that are wreaking havoc  
34 on God's creation.  
35

36 **Why is it important?**

37 Continued investment in fossil fuels undermines The United Methodist Church's ministries with  
38 people around the world, particularly those who are young, old, sick, hungry and/or living in poverty.