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GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITION #1
2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TITLE: Sustainable and Socially Responsible Investments

SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: OR-ID Holy Land Task Force, OR-ID MFSA, First United Methodist Church Portland Planet Church

SPOKESPERSON: Dee Poujade

SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 1441 SW Clay St., Apt. 308, Portland OR 97201

SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: traveling.mimi@gmail.com

SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-310-5577

AMENDED IN YELLOW, ADD IN BOLD, DELETE IN STRIKEOUT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Failed, 7-16-1.

This petition is:

A change or addition to the 2016 United Methodist Discipline, Paragraph 717:

Text of the Disciplinary change or Resolution:

In the investment of money, it shall be the policy of The United Methodist Church that all general boards and agencies, including the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (**Wespath**), and all administrative agencies and institutions, including hospitals, homes, educational institutions, annual conferences, foundations, and local churches, make a conscious effort to invest in institutions, companies, corporations, **governments**, or funds with policies and practices that are socially responsible, consistent with the goals outlined in the Social Principles. All United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to seek investments in institutions, companies, corporations, governments, or funds that promote racial and gender justice, protect human rights, prevent the use of sweatshop or forced labor, avoid human suffering, and preserve the natural world, including mitigating the effects of climate change. In addition, United Methodist institutions shall endeavor to avoid investments in companies engaged in core business activities that are not aligned with the Social Principles through their direct or indirect involvement with the production of anti-personnel weapons and armaments (both nuclear and conventional weapons), alcoholic beverages or tobacco; or that are involved in privately operated correctional facilities, gambling, pornography or other forms of exploitative adult entertainment. **United Methodist institutions should similarly not hold sovereign or government debt in states conducting prolonged military occupations in states conducting prolonged military occupations, as determined by the United Nations, as they violate international law and human rights standards.** The boards and agencies are to give careful consideration to environmental, social, and governance factors when making investment decisions and actively exercise their responsibility as owners of the companies in which they invest. This includes engaging with companies to create positive change and hold them accountable for their actions, while also considering exclusion if companies fail to act responsibly.

45 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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47 Three nations have subjected, and continue to subject, populations under prolonged military
48 occupation: Israel has occupied the Palestinian territories since 1967, Turkey has occupied
49 Northern Cyprus since 1974, and Morocco has occupied Western Sahara since 1976. These
50 “occupations” have thus denied the subject populations their self-determination in violation of
51 the system established by the Charter of the United Nations and International Law in general.
52 Further, all of these above-named occupying powers have been named in United Nations
53 Security Council resolutions and/or International Court of Justice rulings as having engaged in
54 prolonged military occupations and are thereby violators of international law. As such, they are
55 responsible for human rights abuses, generally including reduction of food assistance to
56 refugees, failure to protect civilian persons, land confiscation, home demolition, and violence
57 against civilians.

58 **Why is it important?**

59

60 When we, as individuals or institutions, buy sovereign debt (government bonds) we are lending
61 money to governments without any formal mechanism for advocacy. Governments violating
62 human rights by conducting prolonged military occupations or other practices that violate the
63 human rights of its people are violating international law and human rights standards. Such
64 investments are morally wrong and financially risky.

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