



Seven Key Areas

Faith-consistent use of assets Finances and investments

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The world's religions control large amounts of wealth, mostly held on behalf of their members. The assets of some religions run into the trillions of US dollars, and investments, for many, total several billion. These assets earn huge incomes, used to support the running of faith groups and places of worship and for charitable purposes.

But with great wealth comes great responsibility – are faith groups investing in assets which reflect their values? Are they investing their funds in ways that support their ethical, social and environmental goals?

These guidelines provide you with simple questions to consider when mobilising your financial assets for the benefit of people and planet.

Steps and questions to consider as you develop your Faith Plan

<i>Name of faith community/group/organisation</i>	
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Use and management of finances and investments

First steps: <i>Examine your financial assets (pensions, investments, endowments and other funds) and the policies which govern these investments.</i>	
1. Is there a clear and link between the core beliefs, values and teachings of your faith tradition and the way that you invest.	
2. If you have a formal investment plan, is this reflected in your investment policies and guidelines (your sector, asset and geographical allocation, risk exposure, return objectives, liquidity requirement, impact and	

<p>time horizon). In short, do you practice faith-consistent investing?</p>	
<p>3. Have you clearly identified the positive ethical, social and environmental issues you want to support with your investments, and have you considered the long- and short-term consequences of your investment decisions?</p>	
<p>4. Similarly, have you considered the consequences of your decisions to screen out certain investments? How might you counteract unintended negative (often societal) effects of avoiding certain types of investments (by sector, industry or asset class)?</p>	

<p><i>Next steps: How have you documented your faith-consistent investing policy and the lessons learned?</i></p>	
<p>1. Taking the previous questions together, have you documented your faith-consistent investing commitments in your investment policy and guidelines, or any similar documents agreed by your governing bodies? FaithInvest has produced some useful guides which can support this process.</p>	
<p>2. Have you tracked the impact as well as the financial performance of your investment decisions?</p>	

3. What successes can you celebrate – whether financial or broader social, ethical or environmental successes?	
4. What challenges have you learnt from?	
5. What general principles can you share about the types of approaches and investments that worked well or poorly?	
6. Have you considered directly investing in, or working to create, the kind of financial institutions	

that enable investment in positive social, economic and environmental change? For example, development finance institutions, or microfinance initiatives.	
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For more information...

Finance – Divestment and Investment

- FaithInvest: www.faithinvest.org, including
 - [Sustainable Banking](#)
 - [Developing Faith-consistent Investing Guidelines](#)
 - [From Faith Values to Investment](#)
- Operation Noah <https://operationnoah.org>
- JLens Investor Network: www.jlensnetwork.org
- GreenFaith: [Multifaith Climate Finance Campaign](#)
- [Faith in Finance](#), A working paper by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation
- [The Zug Guidelines](#), A compilation of the principles guiding investment decisions by dozens of faiths