



MINUTE FOR MISSION

November 15, 2005

Progressive Engagement The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as Responsible Investor

MRTI

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) believes that church investment is more than a practical question. It gets to the question of our identity, acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all that we do and in all that we own. For more than twenty years, the Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) Committee has implemented the General Assembly's policies on socially responsible investing.

Where and What?

During its formal existence, MRTI has engaged corporations on a number of issues—from weapons manufacture to tobacco, from human rights concerns to the production of violent video games. MRTI has engaged multinational companies due to their operations in Syria, Iran, Colombia, South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Guatemala, China, Sudan, Burma, and the United States. MRTI recently began progressive engagement because of growing concerns over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



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Progressive Engagement

One instrument of socially responsible investment is progressive engagement (known formally as “phased, selective divestment”). This is a deliberative process focused on transformation. The hope is that dialogue with corporations will bring productive corporate change, making further steps in the process unnecessary. Progressive engagement involves:

1. Correspondence and dialogue with the leadership of a multinational corporation
2. Shareholder resolutions and proxy voting
3. Recommendation of divestment to the General Assembly as a last resort

Prayer

You are invited to pray for this important ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Pray for:

- Careful and deliberate discernment on the part of the MRTI committee
- Transformation as a result of MRTI’s ministry—for the multinational corporations, the regions of the world in which they operate, and all Presbyterians involved in the process
- Pastoral concern for those who are directly affected in the process, particularly Presbyterian employees of corporations being engaged

More Information:

www.pcusa.org/mrti
(800) 872-3283

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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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