

# **Methodist Church of New Zealand / Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa**

## **Responsible Investment Policy**

Adopted 13 November 2025

The Methodist Church of New Zealand has a long history of investing responsibly in New Zealand. In association with the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church of New Zealand published its first ethical guidelines in 1983, to assist individuals and Church bodies in considering what were or were not appropriate investment objectives and practices.

This 2025 Policy is intended to be a living document and will be subject to regular review and improvement.

The Methodist Trust Association's (MTA) goal is to produce risk-adjusted returns that align with the values and principles of the Methodist Church, as well as our investors' return objectives.

In April 2022 the Methodist Church of New Zealand contracted with Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), a leading provider of corporate governance and responsible investment solutions, market intelligence, and fund services for institutional investors and corporations globally.

We have integrated information from ISS into our research and decision-making processes, resulting in significant efficiencies, as well as having access to better and more timely information. We currently use ISS' high-quality data, analytics, insights, and exclusion lists to implement the Church's Responsible Investment Policy.

This has also enabled us to now regularly report to both the Board and depositors on Responsible Investment, segmented into:

1. Church Values assessment – covers alcohol, tobacco, gambling, adult entertainment, private prisons, nuclear bases, coal oil and gas involvement. The Church's materiality threshold for Church Values issues has been reduced to 5% of revenues in most cases.
2. Controversial Weapons Assessment - covers anti-personnel mines, biological weapons, chemical weapons, cluster munitions, nuclear weapons, civilian firearms, and military equipment involvement.
3. Norm-Based assessment - covers human rights, labour rights, environment, and corruption.
4. Climate Impact Assessment - portfolio greenhouse gas emission exposure.

ISS services enable MTA to access real-time information on all our holdings, as well as potential new investments.

Our Responsible Investment Policy is implemented by using values/ethical negative screens, and through the integration of Norm-Based research and ESG factors into our investment analysis and investment decision making process.

<b>Norm-Based Research covers:</b>	<b>ESG Assessments:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anti-Corruption</li><li>• Environmental Protection</li><li>• Human Rights (including supply chain exposures)</li><li>• Labour Rights/Standards (including supply chain exposures)</li><li>• Military Equipment Involvement.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upstream risks related to a company's supply chain and natural resource usage.</li><li>• Operational risks related to a company's production and operational processes.</li><li>• Downstream impacts, positive and negative, from products and services sold.</li></ul>

## **Norm-Based Research Integration**

Norm-Based Research includes assessing investments against minimum standards of business practice based on national or international standards and norms such as the International Labour Organisation conventions, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Global Compact or the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

MTA previously used exclusion screens to cover Norms-Based issues but increasingly found this approach inadequate and unsatisfactory.

International best practice has evolved to now integrate Norm-Based Research into the investment decision-making process, which produces far superior results than the blunt screening approach, in this complex area.

ISS Norm-Based Research assists MTA by flagging any area of potential exposure, as well as providing detailed information on the issues for our research process.

This enables MTA to investigate all the flagged issues relating to companies we are considering for investment, enabling robust decisions to be made regarding each companies' adherence to global norms on anti-corruption, human rights, environmental protection and labour standards.

## **Norm-Based Research Explained**

Norm-Based Research identifies situations in which companies fail to prevent or address social or environmental controversies in line with established expectations for Responsible Business Conduct.

Norm-Based Research identifies corporate controversies and assesses how companies manage these controversies. The scope covers controversial practices that have adverse impacts on society and the environment in line with established expectations for Responsible Business Conduct. The core normative framework consists of the Principles of the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) and the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and is embedded in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The OECD defines Responsible Business Conduct as entailing “above all compliance with laws, such as those on respecting human rights, environmental protection, labour relations and financial accountability, even where these are poorly enforced. It also involves responding to societal expectations communicated by channels other than the law, e.g., inter-governmental organisations, within the workplace, by local communities and trade unions, or via the press.”

ISS Norm-Based Research updates its approach to the evolving framework of internationally recognized principles and standards, as well as a focus on company responsiveness and strict validation and verification of allegations.

ISS Norm-Based Research involves in-depth research through extensive dialogue with companies and stakeholders, and robust quality assurance and validation. This process includes:

- Assessment of accuracy and comprehensiveness of information obtained through a robust validation process involving engagement with issuers and/or key stakeholders.
- Qualitative insights garnered throughout the research process.
- Timely updates on developments as they occur.

We also use Norm-Based Research to:

- Assess supply chain risks (e.g. child/forced labour) and
- Identify and understand the nature of involvement for any company flagged for “military equipment involvement”, to determine whether it is in breach of Church values.

We now use Norm-Based Research, as this is the best method for identifying and researching all potential issues, resulting in well-considered decision making.

Our objectives relating to Military Involvement exposures have also changed, in relation to military equipment designed primarily for defensive purposes, in keeping with global best practice.

The invasion of Ukraine has forced the global investment management industry to reassess the responsible investment case for defense-related investment.

The manufacture of defense equipment is required for promoting/ensuring the democracy, sovereignty and social welfare of nations in the event of possible invasion.

Our UK colleagues' approach is to make a distinction between military equipment designed primarily for offensive use versus that designed primarily for defensive purposes.

Ideologically, we agree with this approach. However, in practice equipment and weapons are difficult to categorise as one or the other and will mostly be dual purpose. Accordingly, will not invest in companies primarily involved in the production of offensive military equipment or weapons, subject to the materiality threshold listed below.

We may invest in companies that provide services, systems or components, to companies that are involved in the production of military equipment that is designed primarily for defensive use, subject to the materiality thresholds outlined below.

Military Involvement	Exposure (% of sales)					
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%
Companies with US Department of Defense contracts related to the production or development of military equipment designed primarily for offensive use	Allowed		Not Allowed			
Companies that produce or develop components specifically designed for use in military equipment designed primarily for offensive use	Allowed		Not Allowed			
Companies with US Department of Defense contracts related to the production or development of military equipment, or components used in military equipment, that is designed primarily for defensive use, including missile defense systems and systems for tracking inbound missiles and other attacks	Allowed					
Companies with US Department of Defense contracts for goods and services that are clearly not related to the production of offensive use weapons, such as transportation, telecommunications and commercially available products, components, IT systems and services	Allowed					
Companies that provide vehicles, machinery or components used by the military or military contractors	Allowed					
Rocket launch services for satellites or space craft	Allowed					
Satellites or space craft (not carrying military equipment that is designed primarily for offensive use)	Allowed					
Satellites or space craft carrying military equipment, designed primarily for offensive use	Allowed		Not Allowed			
Investment funds with exposure to companies with US Department of Defense contracts related to the production or development of military equipment designed primarily for offensive use (% of the fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed			

As military involvement can be a complex “grey area”, any investments made in companies with “military involvement” will be pre-approved by the MTA Board.

ISS Norm-Based Research also identifies and evaluates allegations that companies fail to respect established norms for Responsible Business Conduct as set out in the relevant international initiatives and guidelines. The analysis results are categorised and presented according to ISS ESG’s traffic-light system (Green, Amber, Red).

For any company that is flagged as having Norm-Based issues, MTA now downloads a detailed report outlining the issues, severity and the companies’ responses and remediation. If MTA is satisfied that the issues raised are not of concern, mostly due to their historic nature, then investment may be approved.

In addition to the Norm-Based Research practice outlined above, MTA maintains a list of other breaches of Church norms that have been identified by Church members.

1. West Papua has been included on the exclusion list at the request of the church. MTA is reliant on Mission and Ecumenical and other Church sources to identify companies with significant operations (>5% of total revenues) in West Papua and to provide factual evidence to allow MTA to determine whether those Companies should be added to the Methodist Church of New Zealand's exclusion list.
2. On 19 April 2022 the MTA Board resolved to add Russia and Belarus to the exclusion list, following the invasion of Ukraine.
3. The MTA Board acknowledges the call from Conference 2023 for first steps towards reconciliation and peace in Gaza. MTA uses Norm-Based Research to ensure that companies with any involvement in this conflict are identified.

## **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Factors**

MTA has integrated the assessment of Environmental, Social and Governance risks and opportunities into the investment decision-making process.

ESG risks and opportunities are assessed across a company's value chain.

ESG information is also accessed through our Bloomberg market information system, providing up-to-date information for our portfolio holdings and each company we consider for potential investment.

ISS and Bloomberg data allow us to monitor third party ESG assessment company scores for each ESG factor, as well as how they measure up against their industry peers.

## **Global Warming Alignment**

We are committed to transitioning to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is needed to limit the increase in the global temperature to below 1.5°C. Current science indicates that global warming beyond 1.5°C has potentially catastrophic impacts on the natural world and human society.

ISS and Bloomberg data allow us to assess the investment portfolio's alignment with a potential temperature increase of 1.5° C by 2050, as well as see the alignment of each company within our portfolio and any potential new investments.

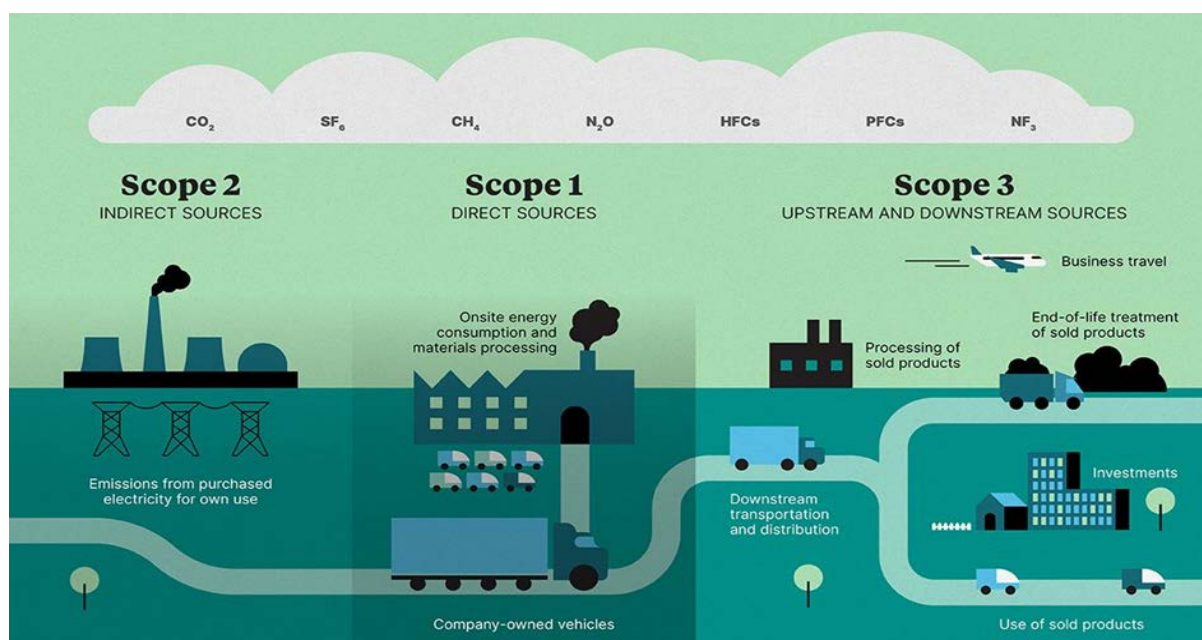
Portfolio alignment is reported to MTA depositors quarterly.

## Climate Impact Assessment

ISS and Bloomberg data allow us see scope 1,2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions for each company within our portfolio and potential new investments, as well as for the investment portfolio in total.

Greenhouse gas emissions exposure is reported to MTA depositors quarterly.

### Overview of Greenhouse Gas scopes and emissions



## Environmental

Environmental factors are an important consideration in the investment process, due to legislation in some countries, the impact they can have on investment returns and cash flows.

MTA monitors the environmental performance and risks associated with each company and/or industry, and considers the potential economic implications.

## Social

Social issues are mainly addressed in the Norm-Based Research section. Beyond that MTA considers the materiality of social issues, with a focus on the economic impact of any issues.

## Governance

Corporate governance is a risk factor MTA seeks to understand and take into account as part of the investment decisions.

Diversity of thought, skills and backgrounds are usually a feature of high-performing boards. It is often difficult to robustly assess diversity using these criteria, as disclosure is limited.

### Values/Ethical Negative Screens

The Methodist Church of New Zealand generally excludes companies that derive >5% revenue from products and services, listed below, that are not aligned to the social principles of the Methodist Church.

Ethical Screening	Controversial Weapons Screening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcoholic beverages</li> <li>• Adult entertainment</li> <li>• Civilian firearms</li> <li>• Conventional weapons and munitions</li> <li>• Gambling</li> <li>• Nuclear bases</li> <li>• Privately operated correctional facilities</li> <li>• Tobacco &amp; vapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-personnel mines,</li> <li>• Biological weapons,</li> <li>• Chemical weapons,</li> <li>• Cluster munitions,</li> <li>• Depleted uranium,</li> <li>• Incendiary weapons</li> <li>• Nuclear weapons (all),</li> <li>• White Phosphorus weapons</li> </ul>
<b>Energy &amp; Extractives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to fossil fuel activities - coal, oil and gas</li> </ul>	

### Interpretation of Responsible Investment Guidelines

The Church's Responsible Investment Guidelines require interpretation in their application. There are many grey areas, where there are likely to be disagreements. The following discussion tables provide some guidance about both the black and white issues, and how MTA will interpret and implement the Church's Responsible Investment Guidelines with regard to the grey areas. Contentious issues will be discussed by the MTA Board, who will make the final decision. Other decisions are delegated to management.

Members of the Church can raise an issue with MTA (by emailing the Executive Officer at [MTAfeedback@Methodist.org.nz](mailto:MTAfeedback@Methodist.org.nz)), regarding any company owned by MTA, which they believe is involved in one of the activities from the table above and therefore should be excluded from investment by MTA.

To enable proper consideration, the email **must** provide the following information:

- The name of the company



- The value/norm/activity for which the member believes the company breaches the Responsible Investment Policy's exclusion thresholds.
- **Facts and verifiable evidence** proving that the company is in breach of value/norm identified as well as the 5% exclusion threshold level, if applicable.

## Ethical Screening

### Alcoholic beverages

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to alcohol.

Alcohol	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Manufacturers of alcoholic beverages (includes spirits, beer, wine, RTD's)	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Retail sales of alcoholic beverages. This relates primarily to restaurant chains and convenience stores	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Agricultural products companies that sell products to the alcohol industry for use in the production of alcoholic beverages	Allowed						
Companies that sell unprocessed agricultural goods, such as barley or grapes, to alcohol producers	Allowed						
Companies that produce products to be used in the production of alcohol, such as enzymes, catalysts, and fermentation agents	Allowed						
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services specifically designed for producing alcohol	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services that are not specifically designed for producing alcohol.	Allowed						
Investment funds with exposure to companies that produce or manufacture alcohol (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

### Adult Entertainment

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to adult entertainment.

Adult Entertainment	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Providers of products which violate human dignity with denigrating and degrading portrayals of persons	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Distributors or broadcasters of adult entertainment products	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Investment funds with exposure to companies that manufacture or distribute adult entertainment products (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

## Civilian Firearms

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to civilian firearms.

Civilian Firearms	Exposure (% of sales)					
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%
Companies that produce or develop hunting and sporting weapons	Allowed					
Companies that produce or develop firearms, including pistols, revolvers, rifles, shotguns, sub-machine guns, or associated ammunition	Allowed	Not Allowed				
Retail or wholesale distribution of firearms or small arms ammunition	Allowed	Not Allowed				
Investment funds with exposure to companies involved in the production or development of firearms or small arms ammunition (% of fund)	Allowed	Not Allowed				

## Gambling

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to gambling or gaming industry.

Gambling	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Providers of gambling or gaming services	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Manufacturer of gambling/gaming equipment	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Provider of financial services to gambling or gaming operators	Allowed						
Suppliers of goods or services that are clearly nongaming-related to gambling or gaming operations	Allowed						
Investment funds with exposure to companies involved in gambling or gaming activities (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

## Nuclear bases

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to nuclear bases.

Some nuclear base operators may be involved in nuclear warhead modification, retrofit and maintenance activities as part of life extension programmes, to extend the life of nuclear stockpiles in the United States and United Kingdom.

Nuclear Bases	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Companies that operate nuclear bases	Not Allowed						
Investment funds with exposure to companies that operate nuclear bases (% of fund)	Allowed	Not Allowed					

## Privately operated correctional facilities

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to privately operated correctional facilities.

Privately operated correctional facilities	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Companies operating correctional facilities, including jails, prisons, penitentiaries, detention centres, prison camps and transfer centres	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Private equity funds with exposure to companies that operate private correctional facilities (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Investment funds with exposure to companies that operate private correctional facilities (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

## Tobacco & Vapes

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies with some involvement related to tobacco and vape products.

Tobacco & Vapes	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Manufacturers of tobacco or vape products	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Processing tobacco or vapes	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Suppliers of tobacco or vapes	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Retail sales of tobacco or vapes	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Suppliers of components of tobacco or vape products, such as cigarette papers and filters	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Suppliers to the industry of non-Tobacco or vape related supplies, including packaging	Allowed						
Investment funds with exposure to companies that manufacture or process tobacco or vape products (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

## Controversial Weapons Screening

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies with some involvement related to controversial weapons and munitions.

Controversial Weapons	Exposure (% of sales)						
	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Companies that produce or develop controversial weapons, including cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, depleted uranium, nuclear weapons, biological weapons, chemical weapons, incendiary weapons and white phosphorus weapons	Allowed		Not Allowed				
Investment funds with exposure to companies that operate nuclear bases (% of fund)	Allowed		Not Allowed				

## Energy & Extractives Screening

The following table outlines the materiality thresholds applied to companies or funds with some involvement related to the coal, oil and gas industries.

Climate Change - Coal	Exposure (% of sales)						
Coal mining	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
Power generation % output from thermal coal	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services that are specifically designed for coal mining	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services that are not specifically designed for coal mining	Allowed						
Investment funds with exposure to coal mining and power generation from thermal coal (% of fund)	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Climate Change - Shale Oil	Exposure (% of sales)						
ISS flag for Shale Oil involvement	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
	Not Allowed						
Climate Change - Oil & Gas	Exposure (% of sales)						
Companies classified as Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels by MSCI	0%	5%	10%	20%	25%	50%	100%
ISS oil and gas exploration, refining and processing	Not Allowed						
ISS Power generation % output from gas	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services specifically designed for oil and gas drilling and refining	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Companies that provide machinery, components, products or services that are not specifically designed for oil and gas drilling and refining	Allowed	Not Allowed					
Investment funds with exposure to companies involved in oil and gas exploration, refining and processing (% of fund)	Allowed						
	Allowed	Not Allowed					

# SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

A biblical and theological preamble the Responsible Investment policy  
of the Methodist Trust Association

**Faith and Order Committee**  
**March 2018**

Methodism is committed to

- Stewardship - the responsible use of money
- Social Justice - avoiding social harm
- Human Wellbeing – promoting positive development
- A Good Creation - sustaining the planet

God's purpose

Christian theology teaches that God brought this world into being, sustains it and brings it to completion. In Christ we have seen that God pours out the divine life for the life of the world and is ever active within the world encouraging it toward its fulfilment. The scope of God's transforming love is personal and communal, political and environmental, global and cosmic. In this divine work we are called to be co-creators. As the church seeks to manage its financial resources, there is the challenge for these fundamental convictions to shape both policy and decision making.

Word to Israel

God's word speaks to us across the generations and within our own day. From the beginning of scripture there is a call to delight in creation and to "replenish the earth". (Genesis 1:28 AV) Law is given to provide direction and call Israel to remember its obligation to the poor. "You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien." (Leviticus 19:10) At the heart of the Law is the notion of restraint. Alongside Law in the Old Testament the prophetic witness calls for moral responsibility in business and social relationships. "Seek justice, undo oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1: 17) God's vision is one of transformation: "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..." (Micah 4:3)

Word to the Church

This stewardship of resources continues to play a central role in the New Testament. In Jesus' parables there is witness to a world of grace in which hearers are surprised at God's generous love extending to all, even the marginalised. Jesus teaches, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) Jesus challenged the abuse of the Temple courts when he turned the money changers from their tables. (John 2: 14) A constant theme in the teaching of Jesus is caution about the accumulation of riches. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven." (Matthew 6: 19) Further wisdom of Jesus: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24)

John Wesley's witness

In the preaching of John Wesley there are insights that remain relevant to our management of the resources of the church. Before the development of economic theory in the nineteenth century, Wesley was a pioneer in articulating a critical theology of wealth. Wesley did not have a negative attitude toward money or the generation of wealth. He saw that it could be a blessing. All who fear God have a responsibility to know how to employ this valuable talent, for example in feeding the hungry **and clothing the naked**. **In his sermon The Danger of Riches he located four positive purposes of wealth: 1. provision for families, 2. generation of capital by business, 3. bequeathing resources to families, and 4. freedom from debt.** In 1746 he established a "poor man's bank" and lent small sums of money to those who wished to start businesses.

## John Wesley's warning

Careful study of Wesley's sermons reveals that he gave considerable attention to the place of wealth in society. In sermons such as *On Riches*, *The danger of Riches* and *The Danger of Increasing Riches* he outlined his awareness of the spiritual danger of wealth. Indeed so concerned was he about this that he saw the pursuit of wealth as being idolatrous. In his sermon *On Riches* he identified five dangers in amassing wealth. (1) It prevents us from attending to God and the things of God. (2) Riches can be a hindrance to loving neighbour and self (3) Riches can lead to pride, contempt for others and atheism and as such are a hindrance to holiness. (4) To deny ourselves and follow Jesus is a bigger challenge for the affluent. (5) He concluded that happiness is to be sought in God, and In God alone. For Wesley covetousness was the sin of desiring more. In his sermon on *The Danger of Riches* five desires are mentioned that he claimed have destructive spiritual consequences. (i) The desire of the flesh, the pleasure of tasting leading to gluttony. (ii) The desire of the eyes, wanting things that are ornate. (iii) The desire of honour, seeking admiration and applause. (iv) The desire of ease, the wish of comfort and desire to avoid every cross.

## John Wesley's economics

In his sermon *On the Use of Money* we are introduced to Wesley's famous teaching, "gain all you can, save all you can and give all you can." It is instructive to note some of the qualifications that are outlined. In gaining all we can Wesley insists that (a) we should not gain at the expense of "hurting the body". By this he meant people should not work too many hours or be exposed to harmful chemicals. (b) Nor should we do what is harmful to the mind by either breaking God's law or the law of the land. (c) Nor should we gain by harming neighbour. This Includes refraining from selling below market rate, setting out to undermine a neighbour's business and lowering the moral health of society. Further, Wesley considered we should not seek to avoid taxes, as these are used to do good in and for society.

## John Wesley's social responsibility

By "saving all we can", Wesley did not endorse the accumulation of wealth. Rather he advocated frugality and simplicity of life. He opposed expenditure that was designed to support comfort and luxury. He cautioned against purchasing things that appealed to the senses such as works of art and fancy clothing. By "giving all you can" Wesley recognised an obligation to others; especially the poor, even to those who may not be believers. Clearly Wesley sees the use of money as a spiritual challenge associated with particular temptations. He was constantly concerned that because the Methodist people were frugal they accumulated wealth and as a consequence lost the reality of Christian spirituality.

## Disturbing heritage

Methodism has sought in different ways to respond to its biblical and spiritual heritage. This has been expressed in the quest for social justice as conditions have been encountered in different periods of history e.g. in the fight against slavery, in the temperance movement, in the pacifist witness, in struggle against apartheid and in support for a minimum wage and good working conditions. It has been expressed through "humble philanthropy", in which wealth is used for the benefit of others without drawing attention to the donor. More recently the bicultural journey has been an expression of the sharing of resources and power. There has been the commitment both to refraining from engaging in harmful actions and the promotion of the communal well-being.

## Today's challenge

And now this heritage continues through the theological emphases inherited from Wesley, and the themes of stewardship, social justice, human wellbeing, and a good creation which have specific relevance for questions of responsible investment today. In our contemporary setting, these themes are seen to be linked to environmental concerns which are demanding more attention within Methodism, and are appropriately considered in the context of investment.

Finish then thy new creation

Managing wealth at family and institutional level requires spiritual maturity. Our tradition encourages the responsible and creative use of resources. Wealth can promote fullness life and healing. However our tradition does not endorse maximising return on investment. It calls for restraint in the interests of avoiding exploitation of people and exhausting the environment. Drawing inspiration from the gospel, the church is bound to engage in an ethical investment policy that serves the new creation. This vision should inform and critique our practice.

#### Wider Methodist Community

The Central Finance Board of the British Methodist Church formulated the following Biblical Principles to guide its work:

- to encourage the fruitful use of economic resources
- to encourage activities consistent with God's nature and values
- to encourage a concern for the vulnerable and oppressed

## **SOME SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH**

The ethical and social ideal of the Methodist Movement is the ideal of essential Christianity. Methodism's impact on the life of the eighteenth century was due in some degree to the rediscovery of a social message. In 1743 John Wesley wrote (*An Earnest Appeal to Men of Reason and Religion*): "We see, on every side, either men of no religion at all, or men of a lifeless, formal religion. We ... should greatly rejoice if by any means we might convince some that there is a better religion to be attained, a religion worthy of God that give it. And this we conceive to be no other than love; the love of God and of all mankind, the loving God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, as having first loved us, as the fountain of all the good we have received, and of all we hope to enjoy; and the loving every soul which God hath made, every man on the earth as his own soul."

Believing this and recognising that society at present falls far short of the Christian ideal, the Methodist Church stands for:

1. The sacredness of human personality and the equal value of all men and women in the sight of God.
2. Adequate opportunities of employment for all those willing and able to work, and reasonable standards of living for those, who because of age or infirmity, are not able to work.
3. The co-operation of employers and employees for the benefit of the community.
4. The duty of all to render conscientious service, the condemnation of scamped work, of sweated labour and of consumer exploitation.
5. The right to a just return for services rendered and the right to good housing, and a healthy environment.
6. The wise use and careful conservation of the world's physical resources.
7. The removal of the root causes of poverty, unemployment and war.
8. The promoting of social and industrial reforms by lawful means.
9. The right to freedom of conscience, constitutional liberty, secrecy of the ballot and access to the Courts.
10. Christian influence in politics and civic affairs.
11. The conviction that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ contains the message that will promote effectively the regeneration and reconstruction of society.

The Methodist Church reminds her people that Christian ethics cannot be maintained without Christian faith. The good life of the Christian and faith in Christ are inseparable. Where one fails the other cannot last.

**Adopted by Conference 1952; reprinted in the Minutes of Conference 1967; reaffirmed by Conference 1976**



## **A STATEMENT OF MISSION FOR THE PEOPLE OF AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND WHO ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE METHODIST TRADITION, BOTH IN METHODIST PARISHES AND IN CO-OPERATIVE VENTURES**

Our Church's mission in Aotearoa/New Zealand is to reflect and proclaim the transforming love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and declared in the Scriptures.

We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the world.

The Treaty of Waitangi is the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing partnership and will guide how we undertake mission.

In seeking to carry out our mission we will work according to these principles:

### **Christian Community**

To be a worshipping, praying and growing community, sharing and developing our faith, and working through its implications in our social context.

### **Evangelism**

To challenge people to commitment to Christ and Christ's way.

### **Flexibility**

To be flexible, creative and open to God's spirit in a changing world and Church, so that the Church is relevant to people's needs.

To release energy for mission rather than to absorb energy for maintenance.

### **Church Unity**

To foster networks and relationships with communities of faith having similar goals.

### **Inclusiveness**

To operate as a Church in ways which will enable the diversity of the people (e.g. all ages, all cultures, female and male) to participate fully in the whole life of the Church, especially decision-making and worship.

### **Every Member a Minister**

To encourage each person to develop his/her full potential by accepting and nurturing each other, developing skills and providing resources, challenging and enabling for service in the Church and community.

### **Cross-cultural Awareness**

To become aware of, and challenged by, each other's cultures.

### **Justice**

To work for justice for any who are oppressed in Aotearoa/New Zealand, keeping in mind the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi.

To share resources with the poor and disadvantaged in Aotearoa/New Zealand and beyond.

### **Peace**

To be peacemakers between people, and in the world.

**Healing**

To listen for hurt and work for healing.

**Ecology**

To care for creation.

**Adopted by Conference 1989**