

**GENERAL SYNOD 2016  
RESOLUTION**

**Resolution Number A171 – R2**

**Subject:** Social and Ecological Investment Task Force

**Moved by:** The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald

**Seconded by:** The Rev. Bill Mous

**Be it resolved that this General Synod:**

request the Council of General Synod

1. to appoint a task force as soon as possible

a) to review, and if deemed appropriate recommend changes to the current investment portfolio and the investment policies and practices for the management of the General Synod assets and those of the General Synod Pension Plan in light of the Church's faith and mission, including the Church's social and environmental responsibilities;

b) building on previous work, to address environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices of corporations and industries in which our Church invests, to develop guidelines and policies for constructive dialogue, and where necessary divestment in organizations deemed to conflict with the creation of a low carbon economy;

c) to present an interim report that includes proposed policy changes and an implementation timeline, by May 2017 to the Council of General Synod;

d) to report annually on actions taken or under consideration that would make visible the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to environmental, social and governance principles and to propose a strategy for ongoing engagement and monitoring.

2. to include in the task force the widest possible range of internal stakeholders including those charged with the ministry of financial responsibility in matters pertaining to the General Synod and General Synod Pension Plan, and those with interests related to sustainable environmental investing.

**Source:** Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Coordinating Committee

**Submitted By:** Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Coordinating Committee

Does this motion contain within it any financial implications? **YES**

If yes, has the General Synod Expenditures Committee considered the implications? **NO**

## EXPLANATORY NOTE/BACKGROUND

### Explanatory Note/Background Information

Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Coordinating Committee, in conversation with the Creation Matters Working Group, gave consideration to the following in proposing this motion:

1. The **5<sup>th</sup> Mark of Mission**, “To Strive to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation and Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth” and the associated baptismal promise; and
2. The **direction from the meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion in Canterbury, England Jan. 2016** to “get behind the (United Nations) Sustainable Development Goals” that address the root causes of poverty including environmental abuse and the universal need for development that works for all people and creation; and
3. **The plea from a group of Anglican Bishops gathered near Cape Town in February 2015** viz. “We call for a review of our churches’ investment practices with a view to supporting environmental sustainability and justice by divesting from industries involved primarily in the extraction or distribution of fossil fuels”; and
4. Experience of **work undertaken in the Dioceses** of Ottawa, Montreal, Huron and Quebec which through strategic divestment or re-investment have led these bodies to significantly re-align their investment practices with their faith convictions; and
5. As members of the Anglican Church of Canada **we recognize the right to decent work** (Sustainable Development Goal #8) and look for the well-being of those workers transitioning to sustainable jobs throughout Canada with unique needs; and
6. The **principle of free, prior and informed consent** in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Anglican policy -- 2010 General Synod resolution A176; 2013 Joint Declaration; TRC Call to Action 48), and the June 26, 2014 Supreme Court of Canada Tsilhqot’in Aboriginal Title decision, the first time in Canadian history that a court has declared Aboriginal title to lands outside of a reserve; and
7. A mandate for such a group could well include among other things, **consideration of justice for non-human creation**, the interests of future generations of humanity, and support for environmental sustainability and justice; and
8. **Suggest a membership** reporting to the Primate and the Council of General Synod as follows:
  - The General Secretary
  - A member of the Investment Committee
  - A member of the Financial Management Committee
  - An administrator and a member of the General Synod Pension Plan
  - Two members of the PWSEJ/Creation Matters team
  - At least two persons who are Indigenous
  - A theological resource person
  - An investment professional

- A representative from a diocese directly affected by changing economic realities
- A representative from a diocese above with experience in divestment
- A representative from a diocese or institution that has chosen not to divest from fossil fuels.

9. Suggest that through an existing formal relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada that **SHARE provide support to the task force** proposed above.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION (G)**

*In the normal course, an ordinary motion must be passed by a majority of the members of synod voting together.*

*Six members of General Synod may, prior to the question being put, require a vote by Orders, with a majority of each Order being necessary to pass.*

*If a question passes on a Vote by Orders, any six members (two from each of three different dioceses) may require a vote to be taken by dioceses. A motion passes if a majority of dioceses (or a tie) vote in favour.*

*Source: Section 4 of the Declaration of Principles and sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Rules of Order and Procedure*