



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

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Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) is calling congregations and individuals to join us in endorsing the proposed 2014 UUA Business Resolution “Fossil Fuel Divestment” put forth by the Unitarian Universalists for Fossil Fuel Divestment and Sustainable Reinvestment. This Resolution is the type of moral witness called for by our 2006 Statement of Conscience of Global Warming/Climate Change and we commend the group and investment offices of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for working together to craft a resolution that is both prophetic and responsibly actionable. As the Earth’s nations repeatedly fail to take sufficient meaningful action to address our climate crisis, this Resolution offers one tactic, among the many needed, to raise our voices loudly and to work for a just, sustainable world.

This Resolution aligns our resources with our Unitarian Universalist values by calling for divestment of fossil fuel stocks, disinvestment in the fossil fuel industry, and reinvestment to support research, development and the implementation of clean energy technologies. It also calls upon the UUA, long a leader among religious institutions in shareholder engagement, to continue and increase its climate-related advocacy with fossil fuel industry management. UUMFE believes this Resolution offers a powerful platform for UUs to demonstrate the importance of socially responsible investment in creating a sustainable future for current and future generations. Collectively and individually, our denominational, congregational, and personal actions will serve as role models for others in our communities as we divest, reinvest and advocate loudly! We urge congregations not already invested in the UUA’s Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF), nor otherwise already practicing socially responsible investing, to consider joining the UUCEF because of the efficiencies it offers and the increased weight it gives our combined religious voice.

UUMFE’s purpose is to inspire, facilitate and support personal, congregational, and denominational practices that honor and sustain the Earth and all beings. Noting our place in the interdependent web of life, UUMFE calls upon all Unitarian Universalists to reflect on these words from Wendell Berry’s address at General Assembly 2013: “If we’re to continue to respect ourselves as human beings, we have got to do all we can to slow and then stop the fossil-fuel economy.” In addition, Berry suggests, “We must understand that fossil-fuel energy must be replaced not just by clean energy, but also by less energy.” Passing this Resolution in but one tactic and one step toward these ends.

We must all join forces to work for a just and equitable transition to a clean energy future and to a sustainable use of our natural resources. Beyond divestment and increased shareholder engagement, we must work to end fossil fuel subsidies in our economy, to improve public policies, and to loosen the stranglehold the fossil fuel industry has on our government and economy. We must address and reduce our unsustainable levels of consumption – comprising both embedded and direct energy usage – and recognize the ways that we, too, passively profit from the fossil fuel industry. We advocate a close



examination of congregational and personal conscience and energy consumption, and encourage a heightened urgency in your moves towards energy efficiency, renewable energy sourcing and decreased overall consumption.

We urge your careful consideration of this Resolution. Its passage could be crucial in today's campaign to mitigate the effects of fossil-fueled climate change, and help in reducing environmental degradation, inequitable suffering, and overwhelming despair. Join us in voting to support this Resolution. Together, we undertake this work for the preservation of life on Earth.

With gratitude for all that you do, and in joy and resolve,

Your UU Ministry for Earth Board members

Irene Keim, Chair, of Bushnell, FL  
*Unitarian Universalist Church In The Pines, Brooksville*

Cynthia Davidson of Lexington, MA  
*First Parish in Lexington*

Rev. Earl W. Koteen of Berkeley, CA  
*Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist*

Sandra Kurtz of Chattanooga, TN  
*Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga*

Kat Liu of San Francisco, CA  
*Church of the Larger Fellowship*

Ellen McClaran, Treasurer, of Portland, OR  
*First Unitarian Church of Portland*

Vincent Pawlowski of Tucson, AZ  
*Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

Rev. Frances Sink of Wilton, CT  
*The Unitarian Universalist Society in Stamford*