

## Money, Values and Impact: A Conference on Ethical Investing for UU Congregations

May 9, 2009

All Souls Church, Unitarian  
1500 Harvard St., NW  
Washington, D.C., 20009

### Overview:

Join **nationally prominent UU leaders and socially responsible investing experts to explore how your congregation can do well by doing good.** Learn about opportunities to help build a more “green” and just economy while making sound financial moves in difficult times. Explore investment vehicles, exemplary practices and policies, and strategy options. Equip yourself with the knowledge and resources needed to align your congregation’s financial management practices with Unitarian Universalist social and environmental justice principles. Come away with new tools and insights about how to enhance your congregation’s financial standing **and** justice ministries.

**Workshops will be geared to meet the needs of participants** who want to know the basics as well as to those who want more intermediate-to-advanced discussion and information.

### Who should attend?

- *Church administrators or other staff responsible for church finances*
- *Investment/Endowment/Finance Committee members*
- *Staff and volunteer leaders active in racial, social, economic and/or environmental justice projects*
- *Congregational members working on affordable housing or community economic development*
- *Green Sanctuary congregations and candidates*
- *Board of Trustees members and church officers*

### Why come? What to expect from the day...

Lively, interactive plenary sessions and skill-building workshops have been designed to enable you to:

- Develop an awareness of the basic premises of financial stewardship and the three separate Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) strategies (negative and positive stock screening, community investing, shareholder advocacy).
- Understand the role of SRI within congregational endowment and other financial management policies and practices.

- Learn about successful practices of SRI implementation at the denomination and congregational level.
- Dialogue about how UU support of social and environmental justice issues can be reflected in our financial management and endowment stewardship – particularly the financial marketplace tools available (and not yet available) to help with this.
- Build a support network of finance and social justice leaders to continue to share ideas, experiences, and resources after the conference.

## Confirmed speakers include:

**Tom Bird**, Sr. V.P., Smith Barney

**Tim Brennan**, Treasurer, Unitarian Universalist Association

**Lenard Cohen**, Principal, CF Services Group, Inc.

**Enterprise Community Partnerships** – which staff t.b.d.

**Mark Flood**, Chair, All Souls' Church (Washington, DC) Investment Committee

**Donna Katzin**, Executive Director, Shared Interest

**Jerry Konohia**, President and CEO, OpenDoor Housing Fund

**Stephanie Leighton**, Director of Equity Research and Sr. Portfolio Manager, Trillium Assets

**Leslie Lowe**, Director of Energy and Environment Program, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

**Vanessa Lowe**, Co-chair, UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing

**Rev. Sydney Morris**, Co-chair, UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing

**Reginald Stanley**, Sr. V.P., Chief Marketing Officer, Calvert Investments

## Endorsing organizations:

- All Souls Church, Unitarian (Washington, D.C.)
- Unitarian Universalist Association Committee on Socially Responsible Investing
- Unitarian Universalist Association, Joseph Priestley District
- Unitarian Universalist Association, Office of the Treasurer
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (Virginia)
- Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ)

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## Program schedule:

*The schedule is a work in progress. All speakers listed are confirmed. The start time will be 9 a.m. and we will conclude at 4:30 p.m. There may be some refinements of details within this framework as the planning process evolves.*

9:00                    **Registration, networking time, beverages & a light breakfast**

- 9:20           **Welcome and Creating Community (includes short worship)**
- 10:00           **Plenary 1 – For Such A Time As This – SRI in context**  
 From its modern beginnings in the 1960s through its current state today, our speakers will examine the evolution, accomplishments and challenges of the socially responsible investing movement in the U.S. – and the role of Unitarian Universalists within it.  
 Leslie Lowe (ICCR) and Tim Brennan (UUA)
- 11:00           **Break**
- 11:15 – 12:30 **Workshop Sessions**
- 12:30           **LUNCH BUFFET begins**
- 12:50   **Luncheon & Plenary 2**  
**SRI Lessons from the Field -- Financial Results and Social Impact**  
 Two practitioners tell their stories and share insights.  
 Donna Katzin (Shared Interest) – Reinvesting in South Africa  
 A case study of Shelter Rock UUC's evolving approach to SRI
- 1:50           **Break**
- 2:00 – 3:15   **Workshop Sessions**
- 3:15           **Break**
- 3:30 – 4:30   **PLENARY 3 -- New Ideas & Opportunities: The Cutting Edge**  
 We conclude the conference by reviewing the ideas and actions emerging from workshops and with a keynote by one of the movement's most visionary and engaging leaders.  
 Reginald Stanley (Calvert Investments)
- CLOSING** – reflection, evaluation and blessing

## Workshop Selections:

In order to respond to different interests and experience levels, workshops are organized into three different tracks, explained below. Workshops will be offered at two different times in the program. Each workshop session will offer a set of concurrent workshops with options from each track.

**Nuts & Bolts track** – the basics, for people or congregations thinking about investing for the first time.

**Strategy track** – the discussion will assume some basic knowledge and will explore socially responsible investing techniques in greater depth and specificity.

**Combo track** – discussions that combine values questions, investment strategies and investment vehicles.

### **Nuts & Bolts 1: Overview of SRI**

This is a basic introduction to the three main techniques of socially responsible investing: security screens (negative and positive screens), shareholder advocacy, and community investing. What are they? What are the strengths and limitations of each? What resources exist to help congregations in each of these three areas? What are some first steps for congregations who want to pursue one or more of these strategies? This will also include a few ideas for congregations that have no Endowment funds – how to use checking accounts, money market accounts and credit cards in SRI ways. And a method available to all – coordinated corporate campaigns.

### **Nuts & Bolts 2: Intro to Money Managers**

This session will cover:

- What kinds of services do money managers and advisors offer?
- When should congregations go the professional route?
- How to choose advisors wisely?
- What kinds of questions should congregations ask of their advisors?
- How to talk with money managers about socially responsible investing?
- Where to find independent sources of information and analysis?

### **Nuts & Bolts 3: How to “SRI” Your Investment Policy**

Perhaps your congregation has an investment policy but hasn’t considered socially responsible investing approaches before. Perhaps your congregation has no investment policy at all. Regardless of your beginning point, this workshop will explore “model” policies, processes and strategies for getting them approved and implemented.

### **Nuts & Bolts 4: The UUA’s Common Endowment Fund**

Many congregations choose to hitch their investment wagon to the UUA’s star – the Common Endowment Fund – which is highly diversified and incorporates the three legs of socially responsible investing in the portfolio. How does this work? How does the CEF approach SRI? What are the pros and cons of this approach?

### **Nuts & Bolts 5: Prudent Practices for Investment Stewards**

This session will focus on fiduciary practices for persons who have the legal responsibility for managing investment decisions (trustees and investment committee members). It will discuss the framework to organize, formalize, implement, and monitor prudent practices.

### **Strategy 1: Community Investing – Affordable, Green Housing**

Many congregations support affordable housing construction in their communities. What has the impact been? What’s the most strategic use of investment funds in this sector for congregations at this time? How are congregations marrying interests in greening the economy, creating jobs, and building affordable housing? Case studies to include: the Open Door Housing Fund (formerly known as the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation) and Enterprise Community Partnerships.

### **Strategy 2: Stock Screens**

Smaller investors may go the mutual fund route. There are many “pre-screened” SRI mutual funds. Investors can also ask managers to screen their portfolio in customized ways if they invest in individual stocks and bonds. What are the options? How to evaluate them? What are the pros and cons of different approaches?

### **Strategy 3: Emerging carbon markets as new sources of congregational SRI funds**

Carbon markets (where people and companies buy off-sets to compensate for carbon dioxide emissions they create) may offer congregations a source of new revenue for “green” community investing. How does this work? What are the possibilities, pitfalls and ethical questions?

### **Combo 1: Creating Constructive Congregational Dialogue about Ethics and Money**

What are constructive, effective ways for engaging congregations, investment committees and social justice groups in discussions around their values, mission, endowments, and financial policies? How do we link our practices with our UU identity? How can this process be an educational and spiritual growth opportunity for all concerned? Come get a sneak preview of a new curriculum developed by the co-chair of the UUA’s Committee on Socially Responsible Investing.

### **Combo 2: Bringing a Racial and Environmental Justice Lens to the Investment Table.**

Many UUs were inspired by Van Jones at the 2008 GA. Many have taken the Jubilee I and II workshops and are part of the Journey to Wholeness initiative. We long to be a denomination known for our racial justice work and for our commitment to becoming Green Sanctuaries. But few justice leaders within our congregations are comfortable in financial realms and vice versa. What are some first steps social justice activists and those responsible for church finances can take? We’ll look at exciting work around toxic pollution and racism as one example of how congregations new to sri can make an impact locally and nationally.

### **Combo 3: Investment Management in “Interesting” Times**

Unemployment is high, the stock market is low. How can congregations handle the financial rapids with integrity and vision? Two investment managers – one with a traditional focus and one who specializes in SRI -- will dialogue over some of the thorny issues in a “talk show” format. Potential topics include: defensive investment strategies for hard times, how to deal with limitations on investment manager flexibility imposed by negative SRI screens, and how well SRI strategies fare in down markets. Lively audience participation is expected!

## **Registration information:**

*Register now to take advantage of early bird rates. Multiple registrations from the same congregation receive discounts if done at the same time.*

### Registration fees:

<b>Before April 15</b>	\$20 – individual \$15/person for multiple congregational registrations
<b>April 15-May 4</b>	\$25 – individual \$20/person for multiple congregational registrations
<b>May 5- May 9</b>	\$35 – individual \$30/person for multiple congregational registrations

*Scholarships are available. We do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone’s and any congregation’s participation. Please note this need on your registration form.*

### Food:

Organic, fair trade coffees and teas will be available throughout the day.

Our tasty low-carbon-footprint lunch will feature organic, locally-grown or produced, vegetarian and vegan fare.

If possible, please bring your own coffee mug! This will be a Zero Trash event.

### Directions:

All Souls Church in Washington, D.C. is conveniently accessible by **public transportation**. We have a bus stop at our front door and we are about 3 blocks from a Green Line Metro Station (Columbia Heights).

If you are **driving**, there is a large, covered public parking facility nearby at the corner of Park Road and 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

### Accommodations:

If you are travelling from out of town, consider taking advantage of low-cost, friendly All Souls' hospitality. ASC members offer B&B style accommodations, with proceeds benefiting the social justice ministry of our church. Stay overnight and worship with us on Sunday!