

Investor Returns

What is a Hardship and what does it mean for our investors?

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Uniting Church SA Investment Fund Ltd
ABN: 46 620 095 472
AFSL: 501022

Registered Office
Level 2, 212 Pirie Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 2145
Adelaide SA 5001

Call: 1300 274 151
Fax: 08 8236 4250

Email: info@ucinvest.com.au

ucinvest.com.au


Securing your future

Recently we have received hardship applications requesting to access funds outside of the investment terms. Below we explain the regulations in regards to 'hardship', and why we cannot circumvent the process.

The Regulations behind the Clause:

When Uniting Church SA Investment Fund Limited (trading as UC Invest) applied for an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) in 2018, we were required to comply with certain conditions in order to have the privilege to operate under an AFSL. Without this license, UC Invest could not have continued offering investment services to the Uniting Church community.

One of our conditions set by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission is that we are not permitted to grant Retail investors access to funds any sooner than a required 31-day waiting period—once an official withdrawal notification has been received.

Any actions that return funds to investors within a shorter timeframe would be considered in violation of the conditions of our AFSL and could lead to our AFSL being revoked.

Hardship. What is it?

The only exception for releasing monies sooner than 31 days is under a condition referred to as Hardship—meaning, on compassionate grounds funds can be released.

In the last year, we have received a number of applications requesting relief from the required 31-day waiting period.

We have been able to approve many of our investors' Hardship applications, as the circumstances outlined fulfilled what Regulators would agree to be 'hardship' issues, such as urgent medical expenses or other emergency-related situations.

There have also been applications that did not fulfil the 'hardship' definition. These reasons included seeking early redemption for discounts on advance holiday bookings, or towards the purchase of a new car. These applications were not approved and funds were not able to be released early.

As you can appreciate, some situations fall into a greyer area and require a thorough review of the information—and in some cases further investigation.

The staff of UC Invest strive to be considerate and helpful with all our Investor's needs. We must however also operate within the regulations handed down from all Government entities. To have our License revoked would not be in the Church community's best interests, and therefore we must continue to review Hardship applications appropriately.

If you have any questions about filing a Hardship application, please contact 1300 274 151.

We thank you for your continued investment with UC Invest.

Welcome to Investor Returns

It has been some time since our last Investor Returns—we've been quite busy and have lots of news to share.

In this edition, you will meet our new team members, Christine Lam and Beverly Ong. They both bring skills and passion to their respective roles, and they have been terrific to work with over the last few months. Christine is an Accountant and spends the bulk of her time working with our systems, reports and numbers. Beverly assists our customers both on the phone and in person on Thursdays and Fridays. I feel confident they will be long term, valuable members of our team.

You will also meet Karen Eley who recently joined Uniting Church SA Investment Fund Limited as a Committee Member. As a Financial Advisor, Karen brings a wealth of knowledge to the Committee from her experience in investment markets and products. She has without a doubt been incredibly helpful for the Committee—and me as well.

Kids Camp Out (KCO) always brings a smile to my face. The story you will read reinforces the importance of this program and our sponsorship. It is imperative that programs like KCO continue to bring kids together in a positive, religious setting. I was fortunate to receive many inspiring pictures, far more than are published here, and I get such joy out of seeing their experiences, and joyful faces.

We have received several requests for early repayments, and wanted to take this opportunity to better explain 'hardship' and what is required to make an early repayment under the hardship provision. It is especially important that we operate within the rules, as any missteps could lead to UC Invest being excluded from providing our investment services.

e-Give, our online giving system, has been growing in leaps and bounds for the last few years. If your Congregation isn't currently using it, maybe it's a good time to start. Read more about the benefits of offering e-Give in the article.

Please feel free to contact me if you have feedback on the topics included in Investor Returns, or about any other areas of our business.

Hope you enjoy this publication.

Regards

Paul

Paul Barnett, Manager



e-Give: Giving made easy

If you've ever been caught at Church searching your wallet or purse only to find spare change or large bills to give when the offering plate is passed around, e-Give could be the solution for you. We all have the best of intentions, but may not always be well prepared in the moment.

What is e-Give? It is an electronic offering service which, once approved by your Congregation's Treasurer, can be set up quickly and result in immediate rewards for your Church.

With e-Give, Congregation members decide how much they want to give, and how frequently – and can choose to give anonymously. UC Invest sets up the Congregation member's giving, based on their specific instructions, and the transaction is then made as requested. 100% of the agreed offerings are paid directly to the Congregation.

Why should my Church choose e-Give?

- There is a simple paper trail – the giving amounts appear on the congregation's statement;

- It is safer than accepting cash offerings – eliminating the opportunity for theft and removing risks involved with transporting cash in personal vehicles, or storing it temporarily in homes;
- If everyone made offerings this way, hand counting cash after services and making bank deposits during business hours would occur less often;
- Congregation members can pay a specific amount regularly, instead of what they may have on them during Church services; and
- Regular scheduled giving allows the Church to plan more accurately for the future.

If you would like information about starting e-Give in your Church, visit our website at ucinvest.com.au or call us on 1300 274 151.

Meet our new board member

Karen Ely **Committee Member**

Karen is an avid foodie who loves cooking for her sons (7 and 9 years-old). Exercise is an important part of her weekly regime, and she is currently training for the City to Bay fun run in September this year. To engage the other side of her brain, Karen likes to paint, focusing on still-life and landscapes in an abstract style. As a financial adviser, Karen is extremely passionate about educating women on financial literacy, helping them to understand and adjust their financial habits so they can effectively manage their money.

Skills and Experience:

With more than 20 years as a Financial Adviser, Karen Ely has considerable experience with investments, portfolio construction and managing money for individuals and not-for-profits. Prior to financial advising she worked as a Risk Management and Compliance Officer for a large Australian Financial Services Licensee.

Formal Qualifications and Memberships:

- Bachelor of Business (Accounting)
- Diploma in Financial Planning
- Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning
- Certified Financial Adviser
- Association of Financial Advisers

Current Directorships not including UC Invest:

Morialta Nominees Pty Ltd

What do you like best about your role with UC Invest?

Working with a dedicated, purpose-driven team and being able to use my skills to contribute to the work of the church.

What is the best advice you have received about life?

A good life is when you assume nothing, do more, need less, smile often, dream big and realise how blessed you are.



New faces at UC Invest

Beverly Ong **Investor Relations Officer**



Beverly migrated to Australia in 2016 from Singapore with her family—she is a proud mother of fraternal twins. She is very process-oriented and continuously thinks of ways to help those around her work more efficiently and effectively. Beverly loves what she does for UC Invest, but when she's not working, she spends her time with family taking road trips, camping and hiking, as well as serving church ministries.

Something to share about my family:

My husband, Satur, works for DXC Technology as an IT Consultant. Our weekend mornings are packed with the twins' sports training. My son, Sam, loves playing soccer while my daughter, Samantha, is into swimming.

A quote I live by:

Start each day with a grateful heart.

Christine Lam **Senior Investment Accountant**



Christine is passionate about her career: she dreamed of being an accountant when she was only 15. Christine is analytical, logical and objective. She loves travelling with her family and visiting Japan is always a top priority. When she wants to de-stress and reduce tension, Christine turns to Karaoke—she can easily sing for four hours by herself. She enjoys working with UC Invest / Uniting Church due to its caring and diverse community.

Something to share about my family:

My husband Albert is a civil and structural engineer, and our son, Sheldon is 8 years old. We started learning karate since last year and we practise it every Saturday.

A quote I live by:

Count your blessings, not your problems.



41st Kids Camp Out welcomes creatures great and small.

This year's Kids Camp Out (KCO) marked the 41st KCO in South Australia!

This year's theme, "Welcome: A Place to Belong", focused on creating a welcoming environment for all attendees and was explored through music, singing, craft, Bible Study and many different camp-out activities! Two extra special highlights for the campers included a visit by Animals Anonymous and a night concert by Dusty Feet Mob from Port Augusta.

Animals Anonymous brought a varied selection of creatures—great and small—to KCO! Some of the favourites were a Mertens' Water Monitor and a Python that took seven campers to hold it! Everyone loved learning more about God's amazing creations, and what a fun, hands on way to experience them first-hand!

After it got dark, Dusty Feet Mob shared stories with the campers and leaders through dance and song. It was a powerful way of celebrating Aboriginal identity, culture and connection to country while at the same time allowing non-Aboriginal people to grow in understanding and empathy.

The Small Group sessions were a time of exploring how God welcomes us into his family and how, out of that welcome, we are called to welcome others. We looked at three different ways in which Jesus shows God's welcome of us – through the stories of Jesus' encounters with Zacchaeus, Mary & Martha and the Samaritan woman at the well.

Matthew (aged 9) said that he loved the band and the songs (especially 'Great Big God') and also learnt that Jesus often did things that were unexpected, like

speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well. Exploring this story he understood that Jesus did things that people asked him to, but through exploring this story understood that Jesus often did the unexpected. Matthew then shared that knowing this now makes the Bible that much more amazing—that God has a bigger plan than we think and we are included in it.

Hannah (aged 11) loved the cultural experience session with Sam Chan, learning about the communal nature of many non-Western cultures and how we can show our welcome to those of a different culture (although she says she still didn't want to eat the chicken feet).

This year's 405 campers and leaders from 30 congregations want to say, "Thank you, UC Invest investors, for helping to make this camp a reality!"

Uniting Church SA Investment Fund Ltd ACN 620 095 472 AFSL 501022 ('the Fund') is a public company, limited by guarantee and registered under the Corporations Act 2001. The Fund exists for the charitable purpose of advancing religion by supporting the mission of the Uniting Church in Australia.

The Fund is not prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. Therefore, an investor in the Fund will not receive the benefit of the financial claims scheme or depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959. Investments in the Fund are intended to be a means for investors to support the charitable purposes of the Fund.

The Fund is required by law to advise investors that investments in it are only intended to attract investors whose primary purpose for making their investment is to support the charitable purposes of the Fund, that investors may be unable to get some or all of their money back when they expect or at all, that investments are not subject to the usual protections for investors

under the Corporations Act 2001 or regulation by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), and that the investment is not comparable to investments with banks, finance companies or fund managers.

The Fund holds an Australian Financial Services licence (AFSL) number 501022 authorising it to deal in, and provide general financial product advice in relation to, securities (which include debentures) and non-cash payment products. It also operates under an instrument made by ASIC the effect of which is to exempt it from the requirement to comply with Parts 6D.2 and 6D.3 of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to offers to issue debentures (ASIC Corporations (Charitable Investment Fundraising) Instrument 2016/813). Our Charitable Investment Fundraiser Identification Statement provides more information and explains how investment funds are used to support the charitable purposes of the Fund.