

Spring 2021



Investor Returns

The Official Newsletter of Uniting Church Investment Services



1300 274 151

info@ucinvest.com.au

ucinvest.com.au

Uniting Church SA
Investment Fund Ltd

ABN 46 620 095 472

AFSL 501022

GPO Box 2145 Adelaide SA 5001

Lvl 2, 212 Pirie Street Adelaide SA 5000

In this issue:

p1 Welcome message

p2 & p3
What is Ethical Investing?

p4 Bloom

p4 Did you know?

Welcome message

Hello

I hope this *Investor Returns* newsletter finds you in good health and spirit.

Our home planet, Earth, is a one off. It is a magnificent home to an indescribable and complicated ecosystem, where everything is related, and there are a lot of inter-dependencies. As humans, we have an obligation to ensure our planet is sustainable, for future generations to enjoy.

Our investment choices can have an effect on our planet, as can our consumption choices. The Church has a policy to guide our investment choices, to ensure we consider our investments within an ethical filter. There has been an evolution in regards to responsible/ethical/environmental investing and analysis over recent decades, in line with changes to expectations. Hopefully you will find the story on pages 2 and 3 interesting and thought-provoking.

As any good gardener knows, young and developing plants need careful tending to ensure they grow up to be strong and high yielding mature plants. Of course our youngest community members need nurturing and love also to ensure they are resilient to the ups and downs of life, and have the capacity to reach their potential.

Young women and the women that are important in their lives, recently attended an event called Bloom. At Bloom they heard from a number of inspiring speakers. They were also given reference materials and journals to help them to consider the many questions that young women might encounter in their overall development. UC Invest is proud to have sponsored this important event.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Paul

Paul Barnett - Manager, Investment Services



01

NO POVERTY

02

ZERO HUNGER

03

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

09

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

08

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

10

REDUCE INEQUALITIES

What is Ethical Investing?

Although this might sound like an easy question to answer, there are more layers to it than first appear.

‘Ethical’ is a subjective word. What one person would consider ethical, may not be considered ethical to another, and over time what someone might consider ethical may also change, especially as community ideals change.

Uniting Church SA has an *Ethical Investment Policy* which frames what it will consider investing in under its current ethical framework. The Church has defined particular products or industries that it does not want to invest

in. This type of investment filter is called a ‘negative filter’ as it states what cannot be invested in.

Over the past decade or so, there has been an increase in the number of investors using Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria in their investment decisions. This is a different scenario to an ethical filter, as investors seek to assist their investment decisions by rating (normally by independent organisations) companies on their performance of environmental, social and governance criteria.




**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

Investors are seeking to have reliable ESG data to inform them on their non-financial investment selection criteria. This form of investing has led many companies to review their own actions, especially with the increasing attention and the amount of money that many investors are placing on this form of analysis.

Many analysts believe that attention to other than financial data can also drive longer term financial returns.

In 2015 all United Nations Member States adopted an *Agenda for Sustainable Development*, as a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health

and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all the while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The Uniting Church’s values are aligned with the principles of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In future, these goals would appear to be a good platform for reference as to whether companies and industry practices adhere to the general ambition of the Church’s non-financial investment goals.

If you are interested in finding out more about the UN Sustainable Development Goals, there is plenty of information readily available on the Internet, and if you want to research specifically what is happening in Australia, a good website is **sdgs.org.au**.

**17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE
GOALS**

Left to right: Jodie, Lauren and Senja, enjoying Bloom

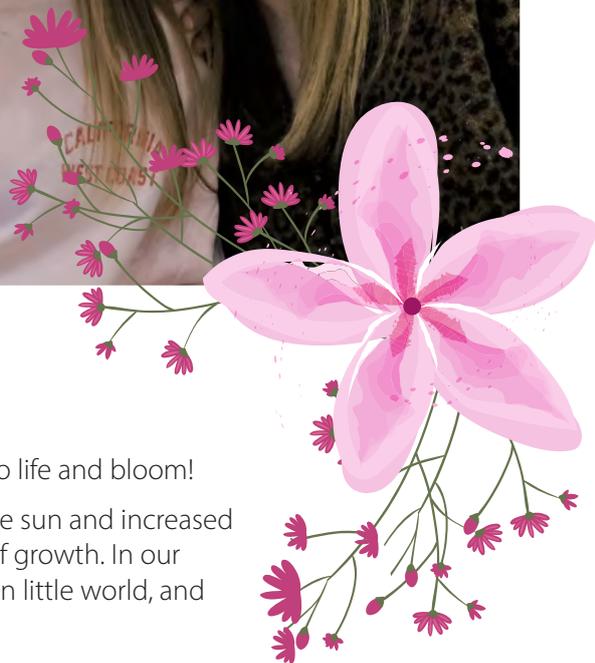
bloom

Bloom ... It's spring, when many of our plants come to life and bloom!

Of course they were already alive, but the warmth of the sun and increased biological activity creates a scene for all different types of growth. In our magnificent God-created world every ecosystem is its own little world, and every animal, plant and cell has an important role.

In the early days of spring, another Bloom was also happening. An event for Girls and their Mothers that explored the connection of teenagers and their carers. Anyone who has been a teenager (yes all of us!) or anyone who has relationships with teenagers knows it is an exciting and maybe frightening time.

This event looked at questions of identity, purpose, spirituality, belonging and life and UC Invest was proud to sponsor this great event. We look forward to further activities of this type into the future.



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.