

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE

### Membership

Mrs. Joyce Phillips Austin, <i>Chair</i>	New York
Mr. Larry J. Bingham	Kansas
The Rev. Peter T. Elvin	Western Massachusetts
The Rev. Elizabeth McWhorter	Washington
Mr. Paul M. Neuhauser	Iowa
Ms. Lindsey W. Parsons	Massachusetts
The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker Jr.	Long Island
Mr. Warren J. Wong	California
Mr. Richard E. Miller	<i>Council liaison</i>
Mr. Harry Van Buren	<i>Staff Consultant</i>

### WORK SUMMARY

The Social Responsibility in Investments Committee (SRI) is charged by Council to research the social records of companies in DFMS portfolios and recommend action, including filing shareholder resolutions. Since 1971, when the Episcopal Church filed a shareholder resolution with General Motors asking that company to withdraw from South Africa, SRI has sought to identify key issues related to corporate social responsibility and work for changes in corporate behavior. The Episcopal Church is a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of 300 religious institutions engaged in shareholder activism. The Episcopal Church leads about eight shareholder actions annually and supports another half-dozen led by other religious institutions.

There are successes to report for this triennium. SRI engages in dialogue with companies and withdraws shareholder resolutions when an agreement is reached. Several companies with all white-male boards of directors, for example, have adopted policy statements on board diversity. Some have acted to increase their board diversity. SRI has had several successful dialogues about predatory lending. Other concerns are global warming, military contracting activities, equal employment opportunity, and ethical standards for a company's international operations.

Two principles guide SRI: 1) more corporate disclosure about social performance is better than less and 2) ethical minimums exist for all corporate activities. SRI is pleased to report its work with the Church Pension Fund (CPF). DFMS and CPF co-filed several resolutions. SRI and CPF co-sponsored a successful pilot conference in Williamstown with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Diocese of Vermont for its neighboring parishes. Our partnership has much promise for the future.

SRI has done significant research for General Convention resolution D005 on environmental racism. A shareholder resolution on community consultation mechanisms was drafted and will be filed with some companies. A key issue related to environmental justice, namely, the lack of power that poor communities (including communities of color) have in affecting corporate behavior is addressed by asking companies to share their consulting methods with communities when seeking new facility locations.

During its thirty-one years, SRI has furthered the Episcopal Church's social witness. In so doing, the Episcopal Church has impacted societal expectations of corporate behaviors and corporate responses to greater demands for social responsibility.