

GENERAL SYNOD 2017

Motion No.11: Climate Change & Fossil Fuels Seconder: Mr Kevin Bowers

**Embargoed Against Delivery
Check Against Delivery**

Your Grace,

I am pleased to second the motion proposed as Chairperson of the Investment Committee. The RCB continues to support the transition to a low carbon economy and will continue to evolve its investment strategy alongside other faith-based investors. The impact of climate change impacts the most vulnerable members of society the most and each one of us has the power to contribute to this transition in our everyday lives (travel, food, heating, shopping, home improvements etc.).

The RCB and its investment team took its initial steps last year at drafting a climate change policy and has worked hard to develop this over the past 12 months in light of the Paris Agreement and in recognition of the need to keep global temperatures from reaching more than 2% above pre-industrial levels.

The RCB's climate change strategy, from an investment perspective, is now based around four principles:

1. Divest from the worst

In 2016 Coal was excluded and now in 2017 that restriction has been extended to tar sands producers. These are the most carbon intensive forms of energy. Exposure to fossil fuels producers has been significantly reduced from over 10% in 2011 to approx. 4% in 2017.

2. Engage with companies

This is largely done through the Church Investors Group (CIG) and has included measures such as the Carbon Disclosure Project and the Aiming for A initiative. Under this initiative the RCB supported the co-filing of successful shareholder resolutions on climate change issues at UK listed oil and gas companies requiring them to stress test their portfolios against the International Energy Agency's scenarios (including 2 degree alignment) and to improve disclosure around greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Engage with policy-makers

Done largely via Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). For example, the RCB was a co-signatory to a collaborative group letter to the G20 on climate change in August 2016 calling for their continued support and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

4. Invest in clean energy solutions

As Henry already referred to in his speech a number of sustainable investments have been identified and investments made in or funds committed to wind, solar, energy efficiency and forestry.

Significant progress has been made on this topic and this is also reflected in the revised Climate Change Policy on page 102-103 (Appendix E to report of the Representative Church Body) . This motion will help progress to continue as the energy transition takes shape. I would encourage each individual to also play their part.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to second this motion and I reserve the right to respond/reply.