

## Talking Points and Information in Support of Overture ENV-02

### On Removal of Investments in and Subsidies for Fossil fuels

#### Our Global House Is On Fire

#### Presbyterians Who Care about the Planet and Those Who are Suffering Need to Act . . . NOW!

- The Earth and its inhabitants are screaming in pain from super-sized storms and other disasters that are caused by the burning of fossil fuels which are warming the planet. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres have announced that, *WORLD LEADERS MUST ACT WITHIN THE NEXT EIGHTEEN MONTHS if there is to be any hope of halting the slide into climate chaos.*

#### The Way to Stop the Climate Crisis is to

#### Phase Out Fossil Fuels.

- A majority of world leaders at the last Conference of Parties meeting agreed that the way to stop the climate crisis is to begin “in this decade”, to rapidly phase out the use of fossil fuels and accelerate the implementation of clean renewable energy in this decade. Our 225<sup>th</sup> GA affirmed and agreed to transitioning away from fossil fuels.

#### The Fossil Fuel Industry Will Not Stop Producing Fossil Fuels

- The industry knowing since the 1960s, that its product is causing devastating harm, is doubling down, having spent over a trillion dollars to manipulate the public regarding the reality of climate change, to block the transition to renewable energy, sow confusion about speculative “carbon capture” technology, and influence election campaigns.

#### Overture ENV-02 Addresses the Need to Phase Out Fossil Fuels and Stand With “the least”

#### Who Are Suffering From Climate Change

- ENV-02 calls for removing all Presbyterian investments in and subsidies for the fossil fuel industry as quickly as possible and reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors and fulfill our call to care for the creation.

#### Our Denomination’s Current Implementation of its Social Witness and Divestment Strategy

#### Does Not Address the Need to Phase Out Fossil Fuel Products At All

- Our denomination continues to hold over \$300 million invested in the fossil fuel industry with far more than that in the investments of church related institutions and households.
- Our church’s current focus on company **practices and policies** is inadequate to address the source of this emergency which are fossil fuel **products**.

- Our normal process for developing social witness policy has missed multiple opportunities to speak directly to the issue of how our investments in these products conflict with our charge to care for the planet.

### **Our Fossil Fuel Investments Endanger the Integrity of Our Christian Witness**

- For the sake of the integrity of our church's witness, now is the time to answer the call for a change in direction, a change of heart. Because "God SO loved THE WORLD," we must respond by aligning our investment practices with our proclamation of God's fierce and tender love for creation.

### **Commissioners to This Assembly Must Not Further Delay a Call for**

### **Proscription/Exclusion and Divestment with More Study and Review**

- Commissioners must listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through the earth that is groaning in pain waiting for us to meet Christ in the moment. Now is the time to call for removal of all investments and government subsidies for this planet-destroying industry and investment in renewable energy.