

# Investment Screens for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

July 2005

Based on the social policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the church has in place investment screens for the following:

**Weapons of Mass Destruction:** No investment will be allowed in companies which produce nuclear weapons, bombs, or their components, nor biological or chemical weapons and their components. This restriction does not apply to U.S. government securities; launch, guidance, delivery and deployment systems; command and control, communications or intelligence systems; or systems for the “strategic defense initiative”.

**Harmful Products:** No investment will be allowed in corporations which manufacture products or engage in activities which are harmful to health, family or society, having to do with tobacco products, distilled liquor, pornographic materials, nor gambling.

**Labor Practices:** Investments will be sought which promote just labor practices. Investments will not be made in corporations which conspicuously flaunt such practices. Special attention will be given to employee participation in determining the just return and conditions of labor.

**Community Economic Development:** Investments will be sought which promote the economic development of urban and rural communities characterized by a high proportion of poor people and/or people of color. Special attention will be given to investments in low-income housing, job training and creation, social services, public health, food and agriculture, an entrepreneurial business development.

**Energy and Environment:** Investments will be sought in corporations which contribute to an environmentally sustainable society through their technologies and practices. Investment will not be made in corporations that do not. This screen would eliminate companies meeting the following tests:

1. Penalties assessed for violation of environmental regulations of at least \$1 million within the prior 2 years,
2. On the Environmental Protection Service Top Ten list of companies responsible for release of toxic waste into the environment,
3. Current liabilities for hazardous waste sites of \$150 million or more,
4. Major manufacturers or producers of agricultural chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers),
5. Major manufacturers or producers of ozone depleting chemicals, and
6. Notable history of environmental problems.