

Summer 2022

Investor Returns

The Official Newsletter of Uniting Church Investment Services

Image by Michelle (unsplash.com)



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Welcome message

Hello,

We have entered a new year, 2022. Though we can ponder what it might bring us, at this point it is full of intrigue and hope. As with every year, 2021 brought thrills and spills, anguish and joy. I hope you can look back on 2021, with happiness.

The width and breadth of the Uniting Church's reach in South Australia is large and important. This edition of Investor Returns has a story on the Uniting Foundation. The Uniting Foundation was established to simplify and to efficiently manage bequests made to the Church from its devoted members many of whom have passed. Bequest funds are managed in line with the intentions of the person making the bequest.

Each year, the Uniting Church Foundation Grants Committee meet and distribute funds from the Uniting Foundation, to an array of worthy projects. Without these funds, some projects will struggle to make a difference, even if their project is very worthwhile. Perhaps you are thinking of making a further difference in the years to come, it doesn't have to be a fortune to make a difference; and you can be comforted in the fact that your intentions will be followed.

On Page 3, we thought a few facts and figures may be interesting to you. (Sorry, I am a numbers geek!)

I hope that 2022 will provide you with inspiration and joy. I am sure Page 4 will give you a hint of what may give the wonderful staff here a bit of joy in 2022.

Paul

Paul Barnett - Manager, Investment Services





Uniting Foundation chooses to fund projects that:

- Work co-operatively to resource congregations for effective mission activity
- Develop capacity for church community growth, new church plants or to strengthen congregations
- Provide opportunities for direct contact with non-church people to move them in their faith journey closer to Christ and to help create a deeper connection with a church community
- Develop leadership skills to assist in growing and/or transitioning congregations
- Have potential to assist/influence other Uniting Church congregations and associated bodies
- Effectively increase capacity to extend mission outcomes
- Aligns with the Synod of South Australia Strategic Plan.

Image by Hannah (unsplash.com)

You need strong foundations

Like houses and relationships, good programs are built on strong foundations. Fifteen years ago Uniting Church SA opened up a fund called 'Uniting Foundation.' It was a vehicle intended to bring bequests for the Church in South Australia together into one spot, where they can be professionally and effectively managed for the best outcomes.

Investment Services has been managing the assets of Uniting Foundation since its inception. Every year the Uniting Church Investment Committee approves asset allocation policies for the 'Foundation,' which takes into consideration the nature of the bequests, and the instructions in regards to the bequests. This process seeks to maximise the long-term benefits of all the bequests.

Many bequests given to the Church have specific instructions in regards to how income or capital may be used. The Church has a legal obligation to ensure these instructions are followed, as it is the wishes of the person(s) who left these funds that they are to be used for certain purposes.

Each year the Uniting Church Foundation Grants Committee is allocated an amount from the Foundation to be granted to programs. In October the Committee met and considered the applications for funding. Congratulations to the applicants who received funding that totalled \$340,000 for an array of exciting projects.

Some of the larger grants went to Encounter Futures \$55,000, Community Youth Outreach Worker for Mitcham Hills \$40,000, and towards youth ministry at the Raukkan Faith Community (UAICC) \$36,000.

Of course there are many congregations and programs that receive benefits from the Foundation. I hope that the many good Uniting Church people that, after their passing, made a deliberate financial contribution to the working of the Church and would be happy and proud that their bequest is being used to further the mission of the Church in South Australia, now and into the future.

If you are considering a gift to the Church, please contact Malcolm Wilson on (08) 8236 4200 or through email mwilson@sa.uca.org.au.

3256

The number of Investor accounts held in UC Invest



The number of staff working in UC Invest



\$2,314,916

2021 Grant made to the Mission & Service Fund



\$275m

The value of investments

\$263,000

Average monthly amount of interest paid to UC Invest clients in 2021

\$78.4m

The amount of personal clients funds invested in UC Invest as at end of November 2021



1.25% pa

UC Invest's current 12 month term investment rate



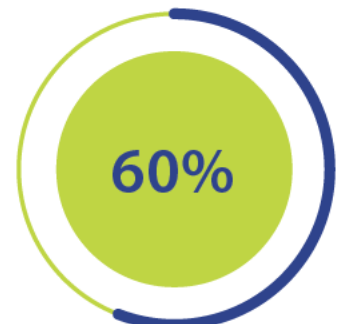
The % at which the average carbon intensity of the Church's Portfolio outperforms the ASX 100



The 12 month total investment return of the Church's Share Portfolio to September 2021



The largest shareholding percentage in the Church's Share Portfolio (Commonwealth Bank)



Positive UN Sustainable Development Goals impact of the Church's Share Portfolio % by weighting

75

Number of Uniting Church congregations using eGive for offering collections

- 2 Average number of UC Invest staff's children
- 7 the number of Committee Members
- 10.6 Average length in years of employment of current employees of UC Invest
- 12 The number of Committee meetings in 2021
- 12.6% Weighting of the Share Portfolio that makes a significant contribution on the UN Sustainable Development Goals
- 88 Number of share holdings in the Church's portfolio

- 100kw The size of the solar panel system on the roof at 212 Pirie Street
- 212 The street number of the Pirie Street building

- Brambles** Has the highest ESG performance score in the Church's portfolio
- Domino's Pizza** Has the lowest ESG performance score in the Church's portfolio
- CSL Ltd** Has the highest positive impact Sustainable Development Goal rating of all shares held by the Church.

Little (and not so little) facts

What UC Invest staff are looking forward to in 2022



Stephanie Simpson

I have a grand-daughter called Zora who lives in Arkansas and is now a one year old and I haven't seen her yet. I look forward to visiting her (and her mum and dad)!



Catherine Beckerdorf

Looking forward to packing the four-wheel drive and travelling to some remote places in the backyard of Australia. Sleeping under the stars, where the air is clean and the phone reception is nil!



Beverly Ong

It has been five years since I visited my family in the USA. Hopefully 2022 will be the year we can all be together once again.



Stacey Page

2022 is a big year in our household. My eldest son Chase is going to high school. It seems like no time has passed since he started primary school.



Paul Barnett

I am looking forward to a few weekends away. Maybe a quiet weekend in Clare, some sightseeing in Hobart and some paddling on the New South Wales central coast.

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.