



CHRISTIAN

BAPTIST LOTT CAREY BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

The Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society was started in 1897 by African-American Baptists who wanted more international Christian missions, especially to Africa. It was named after Rev. Lott Carey, who was born as a slave in Virginia in 1780, bought his freedom, and in 1821 led the first Baptist missionaries to Africa from the United States where they settled in Liberia. Today the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Society is a multicultural, ecumenical, global Christian missional community born of African-American Baptist heritage. It has a network of more than 2,500 churches exceeding one million members. It manages US\$900,000, invested in a combination of stocks and bonds, in collaboration with an investment advisor. Around 60% of the portfolio could possibly be available for FCI products.

Principles

In our investment principles we are committed to stewardship of the earth: caring for the earth for the earth to care for humanity. In addition we are committed to ending predatory lending practices that exploit the poor, and to supporting innovations that help poor people to have constructive relationships with financial institutions.

We follow principles of community and neighbourliness as found in the Old Testament. American Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann has described the notion “that imagination is the capacity to image a world beyond what is obviously given... I think that’s why people show up at church. They want to know whether there is any other world available than the one that we can see,

which we can hardly bear.” That “other world available” can refer, in Christianity, to life after death or beyond this life; but it can also relate to a good world that we can imagine into being in the future. It is this that financial investments, and faith, can join together to help come into being.

Screening

There is already negative screening to avoid investing in companies producing alcohol, gaming, arms manufacturing and distribution, and private companies that manage military or prison industrial complexes.

However investment guidelines are currently under construction for review and approval or amendment by the Board of Directors to include positive faith-consistent investment according to our community. Our inclination is towards investing in transformation and sustainable agricultural and technological solutions in the Two-Thirds world, with particular interest in Africa and the Caribbean.

In the Future

In order to direct financial investments to faith-consistent ends Lott Carey would like to create, and have access to, web-accessible written materials and podcasts etc that make the connection between biblical/ theological principles, investment guidelines, and the implication of faithful investment strategies for creation and humanity.

The Board of Directors Investment Committee Task Force is currently creating guidelines from these principles for review and approval or amendment by the Board of Directors