

Introduction to the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church



The mission of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is to serve the investment needs of Methodist churches and charities. We take a Christian ethical approach to investment.

About the Central Finance Board

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (“the CFB”) was founded through the Methodist Church Funds Act 1960. Serving the investment needs of Methodism is our core objective. Everything we do is tailored to that goal.

As stewards of your money, we carefully select investments using Christian ethical criteria. We have the guidance of the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (“JACEI”), which also reports to the Methodist Conference on the CFB’s compliance with the aims and objectives of the Church.

The CFB manages funds of £613m (31.03.23).

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using Christian ethical criteria.”*

Our investment approach

The CFB is in a privileged position, being integrated with the many parts of Methodism. Our starting point has been to understand all of those parts, which has enabled us to develop investment solutions that meet the needs of the smallest Methodist churches to the largest Methodist charities.

Our ethical approach is unique and designed to fully comply with the teachings of the Methodist Church. When we invest our clients’ money, we start by asking what makes a good company, in every respect, and use Christian ethics as our guide.

We help control risk by investing only in sustainable companies. We take an active approach to investment management, believing this is the best way to add value. We engage with companies’ management to positively influence behaviour and ensure they are acting in a responsible way. Companies that do not meet our ethical requirements are excluded.

Aware that fees can be a significant drag on returns over time, we look to keep our costs fair and competitive.

It is the combination of these factors that we believe provides the foundation to deliver the good long term returns on which Methodist investors depend. We are committed to the UK Stewardship Code, the Principles for Responsible Investment and the Montreal Pledge. We work closely with a number of organisations to improve ethical standards in public companies, most notably the Church Investors Group.

Our clients

We are privileged to manage funds for a large variety of Methodist churches and charities, helping you to deliver your mission. Through our sister company, Epworth Investment Management Limited, we also provide investment management services to non-Methodist charities.

Cornerstone

Christian ethical approach

Founded

1960

Assets under management

£613m

Meeting your investment needs

All of our funds take an investment approach that is guided by Christian ethics and consistent with the teachings of the Methodist Church. We have designed a wide range of low-cost investment options to meet your needs.

These include cash, equity, fixed interest and property investments. Some of our most popular funds are summarised below and full details on all of the CFB's funds can be found at www.cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk.

Cash management

The CFB Deposit Fund provides a competitive rate of interest and a high level of capital security. It is an effective way for Methodist churches and charities to maximise returns on their cash, while retaining daily access to their money. Across the Group we manage over 5,000 cash deposit accounts.

CFB Managed Mixed Fund

The Managed Mixed Fund provides a diversified blend of all our funds, with a bias towards equities. It is used by many Methodist investors who are looking for long term capital appreciation as well as an income, through a diversified portfolio.

CFB UK Equity Fund

The UK Equity Fund looks to provide a good level of income and long-term capital growth by investing in UK public companies.

CFB Global Equity Fund

The Global Equity Fund invests in equities outside of the UK, with a similar aim as its UK counterpart.

CFB Corporate Bond Fund

The Corporate Bond Fund invests in a portfolio of corporate bonds providing a good level of income with lower capital risk than investing in equities.

CFB Property Fund

The Property Fund invests in commercial property through the Property Income Trust for Charities. It seeks to benefit from both capital growth and to provide a high income.

Our senior team

We exist to serve the needs of Methodist churches and charities. We are passionate about what we do. This focus allows us to attract people who are not only experts in their fields but are committed to the rewarding work they are undertaking on behalf of our Methodist investors. Our Funds are managed by an experienced team with a proven track record. If you are interested in good returns that faithfully meet your ethical requirements, we would be delighted to hear from you.



David Palmer
Chief Executive Officer

In January 2017, David became the CFB's Chief Executive Officer. He leads the Executive Committee and has overall responsibility for the CFB.



Roz Amos
Chief Investment Strategist

Roz joined us in June 2021 and is responsible for all matters relating to our investment functions. She has 25 years of investment experience. Prior to joining the CFB, she worked at UBS Asset Management.



Vanessa Meredith
Head of Compliance

Vanessa joined the CFB in September 2017. She has 23 years experience working in the financial services industry.



Miles Askew
Head of Research

Miles has worked at the firm for over 20 years. He has overall responsibility for identifying quality companies that fit our investment philosophy.



Rev Dr Andrew Harper
Head of Ethics

Andrew joined us in April 2021 and is responsible for all matters related to ethical thought leadership and ethical performance.

The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

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The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) is a statutory body established by the Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 and is not considered to be carrying on a regulated activity within the meaning of the Financial Services & Markets Act 2000. CFB investment funds: the CFB Funds are designed for the long term investment needs of all parts of the Methodist Church and its associated charities. The value of units in the funds can fall as well as rise, as the funds reflect the value of the investments held in them. The level of income is also variable. The funds will therefore not be suitable for use if the possibility of capital losses or reduced income cannot be accepted. The CFB does not provide investment advice and nothing in this document should be treated as such. Units are only realisable on the dealing dates which occur three times a month. The CFB Deposit Fund: the CFB will use due skill, care and diligence in carrying out its duties under the Act or as imposed by law. Whilst the CFB will comply with this undertaking in relation to the investment of the fund, it cannot give guarantees regarding repayment of deposits in the Fund. The monthly Deposit Fund interest distribution rate will fluctuate and past performance is no guarantee of future returns. Investors are not eligible for the Statutory Investors Compensation Scheme or the services of Financial Services Ombudsman or other protections provided by the regulatory system.