



THE EPISCOPAL  
NETWORK FOR  
STEWARDSHIP

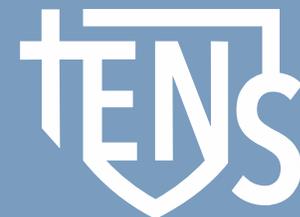
# Creating a Culture of Generosity

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The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

# Learning Objectives

- ▶ Recap on Gratitude Practices
- ▶ Money is not the root of all evil, it's **a tool for societal and institutional change**
- ▶ How do the choices I make impact the world?
- ▶ How do the choices I make impact my church and my capacity to be generous
  - ▶ Time
  - ▶ Talent
  - ▶ Treasure

*The Power of our Money*



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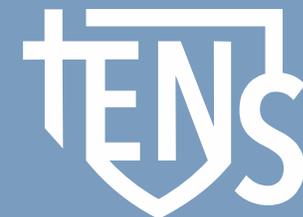
# Choices Matter – A Theological Statement

The decisions we make around how we spend our money, time, and emotional investments are informed by our values, and they inform our actions.

Some choices limit our capacity for future action, or set us on a path we may not like or admire.



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# Choices Matter in Money – Our purchasing

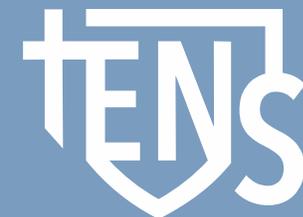
There is no right “right” answer when it comes to making decisions about ethical money.

But our choices do have impact:

- ▶ Who made it?
  - ▶ Working conditions, wages, access
  - ▶ Worker rights / human rights / organizing
- ▶ What is it made from?
  - ▶ Recycling / reusing? Use of petroleum, heavy metals
  - ▶ Where did those raw materials come from?
- ▶ Where does it come from?
  - ▶ Foreign policy implications
  - ▶ Carbon miles



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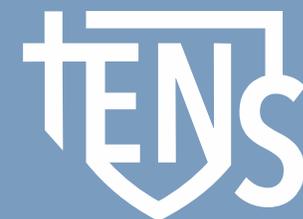
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# Choices Matter in Money – Our Investing

- ▶ What are the policies of my bank when it comes to my money
  - ▶ Equality in mortgage practices
  - ▶ Predatory lending
  - ▶ Redlining and other racist legacies
- ▶ What are the policies of my mutual fund
  - ▶ Weapons / Military Industry
  - ▶ Foreign investment – where and how?
  - ▶ Do the companies and funds represent my values?
    - ▶ Tobacco, alcohol, firearms
    - ▶ Healthcare
    - ▶ Technology
    - ▶ Prisons / Correctional Industrial Complex



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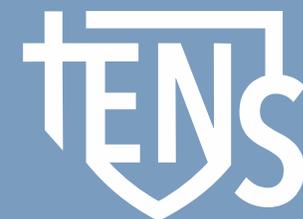
# Choices Matter in Money – Our Giving

When we make the decision to give to charitable organizations ...

- ▶ What are the policies of the nonprofit?
  - ▶ Advocacy
  - ▶ Endowment management
  - ▶ Ratio of overhead to program expenses
  - ▶ Ratio of development to program expenses
- ▶ Who serves on the board?
  - ▶ Do they represent the constituents
- ▶ "Once you make a lot of money, it's incredibly enjoyable to give it away. It's a way to satisfy the soul." – Stanley Druckenmiller, U.S. hedge fund manager



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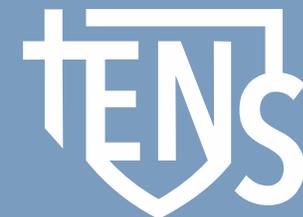
# The Questions we need to be asking about our consumer power

- ▶ **Positive or negative?**

- ▶ Do you want to avoid companies or products that you don't support or be more proactive?
- ▶ Do you want to and spend money with those you think are particularly ethical?



*From [www.yourfaithyourfinance.org](http://www.yourfaithyourfinance.org)*

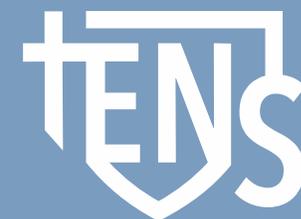


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# The Questions we need to be asking about our consumer power

## ► Company or product?

- Do you want to choose an ethical product or look more broadly at the company behind it?
- Fair Trade Certified, for example, is based on rigorous criteria, but it takes account only of an individual product; the ethics of the company as a whole are not assessed.
- Some argue that purchasing such products encourages companies to develop their ethical strands. Others say that unethical companies should not be supported.



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# The Questions we need to be asking about our consumer power

## ▶ Local or global?

- ▶ Do you want to buy locally, for environmental or economic reasons? Or do you believe you have a duty to support producers in the global south?
- ▶ Do the two need to be in tension? Could you decide to buy locally where this is an option but choose products designated Fair Trade where possible for products that are not grown or produced locally?



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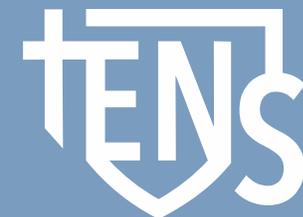
# The Questions we need to be asking about our consumer power

## ▶ Avoid or engage?

- ▶ Should you avoid companies with which you disagree or is engaging with them more likely to lead to a change?
- ▶ Boycotts can put economic pressure on companies, but how do you decide what's likely to be effective?



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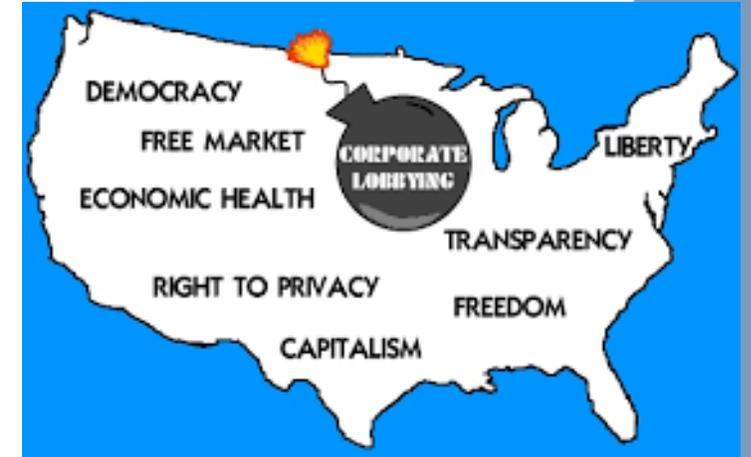


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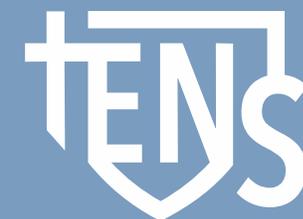
# The Questions we need to be asking about our consumer power

## ► Consumerism or politics?

- How central are your shopping decisions to your attempts to achieve change? **Some argue that shopping is more important than voting**, as it can have more impact on the economy. Others see ethical consumerism as a distraction from more traditional forms of activism.
- Are you buying ethically because of the impact it has, because you don't want to be complicit in immorality or as a part of a wider campaign? And how does it relate to ethical investment



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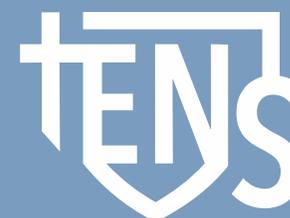
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# How do I know what I don't know?

## ► Research

- *Caveat Emptor!* Today's shopper has a variety of tools to learn about the sustainability and values of companies. **We risk being complicit with unfair, unsustainable, or unreasonable policies if we do not inform ourselves.**
- One for One shopping
  - Tom's, Warby Parker, Bombas
- Messaging? Or Mission?
  - What informs me more, the messages I receive or the mission I believe in?

*Ethical Choices and our Money*



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# How do I know what I don't know?

## ▶ Deep Listening

- ▶ *How does your faith inform your spending, saving, and investing practices?*
- ▶ In addition to research, we learn what we do not already know by listening deeply to other people's stories and experiences
  - ▶ Develop empathy
  - ▶ Learn from others' struggle and pain
  - ▶ Know why a person makes the choices they do
- ▶ *What is your call as a steward of God's Creation to recognize the negative*



# How do I know what I don't know?

## ▶ Holy Sharing

- ▶ When we tell our own stories of breaking free from unethical systems, we inspire others. Some examples:
  - ▶ Sumit left his bank because it participated in the predatory lending that precipitated the mortgage crisis. It was difficult to find an institution that matched his values, but he did
  - ▶ Meghan can't eat dairy, but they recognize almond milk is destructive to the land, water, and workers that produce it. They want to make a better choice for them and the planet.

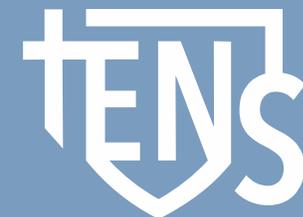




# Links for more decision-making

- ▶ Overall Ethical Shopping
  - ▶ <https://thegoodshoppingguide.com/>
  - ▶ <https://theartofsimple.net/>
- ▶ Animal Welfare
  - ▶ <https://www.aspca.org/shopwithyourheart>
- ▶ Seafood Sustainability
  - ▶ <https://www.seafoodwatch.org/>
- ▶ Fair Trade
  - ▶ <https://www.fairtradecertified.org/>
- ▶ Living Wage
  - ▶ <https://www.nelp.org/campaign/raising-the-minimum-wage/>
- ▶ Charitable Gifts
  - ▶ <https://www.charitynavigator.org/>

*Links and Articles about Money & Ethics*



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# Thank you!

For more information, ideas, and continuing the conversation, please visit [www.tens.org](http://www.tens.org) or post on our Facebook page!

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