

**Mission:** To provide people of faith with tools for implementing their values as consumers, investors, employees, employers, and citizens.

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## *[CSR]<sup>2</sup> Review's Commentary*

The first feature article in this issue of the Review provides an update on the status of socially responsible investing (SRI). Commissioned by the Social Investment Forum (SIF), a 2005 trends study provides a glimpse of the relative strength of the SRI concept, compared to mainstream investing.

SRI shows real growth, according to the study. SRI has experienced larger growth rates than total investment has. Part of the strength of this growth is based on the diversity of investment options under the SRI umbrella. Put simply, SRI does not mean the same thing to everyone and the investment vehicles available in the marketplace reflect this reality.

The second feature highlights this fact in another way. Tobacco, alcohol, and gambling are three easy issues to identify as traditional SRI screens. Many more mutual funds screen out tobacco and alcohol than screen out gambling, according to the SIF trends study..

The strength of SRI is in the diversity of opinion brought to the concept –the diversity of the values reflected. It is through this diversity that the democracy of the marketplace grasps certain overwhelming concepts and begins to affect change.

## **Express Your Values through Action**

1. **Vote your proxies.** The 2006 proxy season is getting underway and proxies will soon arrive in larger quantities. Review the Upcoming Shareholder Proposals (p. 9) and think through your approach to the issues on which you will be asked to vote. The climate disclosure article on p. 7 may help you formulate your voting stances for climate change proposals at energy companies.
2. **Check your portfolio.** Use the article on "sin" stocks (p. 4) and the article on climate disclosure (p. 7) as the basis for checking your investment profile. Discuss these issues and your values related to them with your investment advisor. Also review the article on alternative energy investments and consider whether these are of interest to you based on your values and your investment needs.