PETITION TO INVESTMENT FIRM TIAA-CREF FROM UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

To: Roger W. Ferguson, Jr. President and CEO, TIAA-CREF

cc: Rev. Peter Morales, President, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)
Glenn C. Farley and Vanessa Lowe, Co-chairs, UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing

We, the undersigned Unitarian Universalists (UUs), urge TIAA-CREF to divest from companies directly profiting from Israel's occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.

The first of our seven Unitarian Universalist principles affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, while the second endorses justice, equality and compassion in human relations. However, the Israeli occupation respects neither the worth nor dignity of the Palestinian people and continues to subject them to injustice, inequality and human rights abuses, as it has for several decades. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation involves numerous violations of international law, including those of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

We believe there will be no lasting security or peace for the people of the region, including Israelis, until the occupation ends and justice for Palestinians is achieved. Moreover, maintaining the occupation results in Israel acting in ways that violate the fundamental human values of Judaism itself.

TIAA-CREF prides itself on socially responsible investing and has as its motto, "Financial Services for the Greater Good". **Yet TIAA-CREF invests in companies that profit from the Israeli occupation, even in its socially responsible investing accounts.** The "We Divest" campaign, endorsed by more than 50 peace and justice organizations to-date and administered by Jewish Voice for Peace, Adalah-NY, the American Friends Service Committee, Grassroots International, and the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, therefore calls on TIAA-CREF to divest from companies directly profiting from the Israeli occupation, including Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, Northrop Grumman, Veolia, Elbit, and others.

The staffs of most UU congregations, of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee have their retirement savings invested with TIAA-CREF. We in the UU community wish to see this money invested ethically and justly.

As Unitarian Universalists, we do not wish to be complicit in violations of human rights and international law and thus we join with the WeDivest campaign in calling on TIAA-CREF to uphold justice and human rights by divesting from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and by establishing investment criteria to exclude any such companies in the future.

Sincerely,

Name (print)	Signature	Email Address (optional)	UU Congregation or Organization	City, State	$$ in T-C ?
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Printable versions of this petition may be obtained at www.uujme.org. ***Please mail partially or completely filled forms to UUJME, P.O. Box 380355, Cambridge, MA 02238 on a bi-monthly basis or as you complete any signature drives.*** *Alternatively, this petition may be signed online at http:tinyurl.com/uujme-tiaacref or uujme.org.* (6/8/2012)