Climate Emergency Statement

In response to World Conference Resolution 1325 Climate Emergency adopted April 25, 2023, Community of Christ declares a climate emergency joining with 2,329 jurisdictions in forty countries who have made climate emergency declarations as of May 5, 2023.

This declaration upholds Doctrine and Covenants Section 163:4b, which states: “The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation’s natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences.”

In response to this declaration, Community of Christ will act by:

- Encouraging administrative representatives at every jurisdictional level (world, mission center, campground, and congregation) to:
  
  a. Take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions resulting from Church activities and encourage individuals to do the same.
  
  b. Consider the impact of climate change on the environment when reviewing policies and strategies.
  
  c. Support those organizations and community groups that peaceably raise awareness of climate change and/or peaceably take action to limit global warming.

- Developing and/or identifying resources in coordination with the Earth Stewardship Team and others to assist leaders and individuals in identifying ways to reduce carbon emissions.

- Challenging individuals to use their personal power to change their consumption habits, share their desires for a more sustainable world in our communities, with their employers, and those who represent them politically.
Actions at International Headquarters
(as of July 11, 2023)

Solar Power
In 2016, the Presiding Bishopric leased forty-seven acres of land in eastern Jackson County, Missouri to the Solar Power farm. International Headquarters (IHQ) is a major participant in the solar power program committing to 900 kilowatts of solar energy units. These 900 units represent about 50 percent of the annual electricity needed at the Temple Complex. This arrangement also provided future rate change protection or a “freeze” on 50 percent of the Temple complex’s electric rates in the future.

Increased Virtual Meetings and Remote Work to Limit Travel Impact
- IHQ has moved to a hybrid work schedule allowing employees to work three days without commuting to the office.
- The World Church Finance Board and Investment Committee have moved to 100 percent virtual meetings to allow global participation with no travel requirements.
- The World Church Leadership Council (WCLC) now meets virtually one or two times a year and in person one or two times. Similarly, the Council of Twelve Apostles and Council of Presidents of Seventy meet virtually when WCLC is meeting virtually and in person only when WCLC is in person.

Investments
The World Church uses guidelines for Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) investing. These guidelines are consistent with the World Church Financial Policy stated in World Conference Resolution 1264 (Reference Appendix A of this Policy). The Presiding Bishopric of Community of Christ, and its Investment Committee that advises on investment strategy and approach, use ESG guidelines to help guide investment Consultants and Investment Managers selected by the church toward decisions that reflect World Conference action, as well as reflect the Enduring Principles of the church. The Investment Consultants and Investment Managers also use the policy when guiding the Asset Class Managers who directly manage church investments.

The current policy is available on OurMinistryTools at Finances > Investment Policies

Hybrid and Electric Vehicles
In recent years, the World Church has added hybrid vehicles to the fleet managed in the USA. Research with the fleet manager is ongoing related to increased options for hybrid and electric vehicles.

Water Stations
In coordination with the World Church Earth Stewardship team, three water stations were installed at the Temple Complex (two at the Temple and one at the Auditorium) to encourage use of refillable water bottles.

Recycling
At the Temple Complex, blue trash bins are provided throughout the complex next to black garbage cans. Paper, cardboard, and plastics are picked up periodically by a local contractor that recycles the material.

Lighting
More efficient LED bulbs are being phased in throughout the Temple Complex.
Increased Use of Electronic Documents
Work accomplished at International Headquarters is increasingly supported by electronic documents in place of paper. As an example, all World Church Finance Board and Leadership Council reports are developed and provided electronically. Additionally, there is intentional increase in maintaining and storing files electronically as much as possible.

Support of Other Quality Actions
In addition to eight hours annually of paid volunteer hours of the employee’s choice, IHQ employees can take up to an additional five days (or forty hours) of paid leave from work to support volunteerism with organizations aligned with Community of Christ identity, mission, message, and beliefs.