

Christ Episcopal Church
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Rector: The Rev. John Paddock

United Nations Global Compact Communication on Engagement

From: 2015 To: 2017

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio, USA

Christ Episcopal Church of Dayton, Ohio, USA, confirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement (COE) with the United Nations Global Compact. We are proud to be the first church organization to join the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing our actions and information with other churches in our denomination and in our local community.

Sincerely yours,

The Reverend John S. Paddock, D.Min.

Rector, Christ Episcopal Church

Part II. Description of Actions

Christ Episcopal Church is a church of faith, openness, prayer, action and acceptance. Our mission statement is clear about our commitment to the values and practices shared with the UN Global Compact:

We are called to love and serve God, giving of ourselves as we worship, wrestle with questions of faith and nurture the Christ in all people: the friend and the stranger, the satisfied and the needy, the believer and the unbeliever.

Christ Church engages in a variety of actions which support the UN Global Compact. The activities are listed below as they relate to the four core categories of the Ten Principles: Human Rights; Labour; Environment; and Anti-Corruption.

Human Rights

1. Our primary external ministry is through a non-profit organization called CityHeart, a place of hospitality and acceptance, which assists the poor, marginalized and displaced people of our region to connect to necessary services, to regain self-respect and to gain control of their lives.
2. Several members of our congregation are also Rotary members and share in the Global Compact activities of their local club.
3. The Rector is the President of the Coalition for the Homeless in the city of Dayton. Our members regularly participate in Rebuilding Dayton, the local food and clothing pantries, and preparing and serving meals for the homeless at several local shelters.
4. We host a quarterly meeting of the Society of the Blind.
5. We participate in KIVA loans, an investment opportunity to help people in countries struggling to own businesses and provide employment.
6. We display a large banner in front of our church which welcomes immigrants and refugees.
7. We are members of MVERN, a group which has built relationships with an Orthodox church in Russia and has helped the people to start small businesses.
8. We support and participate in activities of the Peace Museum, located in Dayton.
9. Christ Church has hosted a Deaf Ministry for at least thirty years.
10. We engage in numerous educational activities which promote and support the UN Global Compact:
 - Weekly sermons
 - Information in *Broadcast*, our weekly newsletter, and in the weekly church bulletin
 - Inclusion in our Annual Report
11. We also engage in other educational programs which represent the Ten Principles:
 - Adult education programs and joint services with other congregations: Baptist, Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran, and others
 - Godly Play classes for children
 - Active relationships with the LGBTQ community
 - Speakers from the Muslim community and meetings at local mosques

Labour

12. Christ Church has a clear Non-Discrimination policy.
13. Christ Church promotes justice and equality without reservation in all of its business transactions.

Environment

14. We promote sustainability by using 100% electric power.
15. We are the first Fair Trade church in Ohio and use only Fair Trade products in our Coffee Hour and other events.
16. Christ Church participates in local activities to raise awareness and promote care of the earth and the world.

Anti-Corruption

17. We work to avoid corruption within our church and to maintain standards of compliance and accountability.

Part 111. Measurement of Outcomes

About 80% of the congregation participates in one or more of the activities outlined above.

Our immigrant/refugee banner has incited some objections from within our congregation and from the public. In each case, we have tried to initiate some discussion about the values and principles involved. We have also had about 10 people walk through our doors because they admire and support the message of our banner.

The rector and other members have been leaders in the city in areas of social justice principles and activities. Because of this, Christ Episcopal Church is known throughout the area.

Through our members and our location in downtown Dayton, Christ Church is establishing more relationships with the business community and is working on committees and projects to renew the downtown core.

Attached to this COE is the statement we published in our Annual Report of 2016 which was presented to the parish at our Annual Parish Meeting on February 5, 2017.

United Nations Global Compact

In 2015, Christ Episcopal Church of Dayton, Ohio, became the first faith community to join the United Nations Global Compact. The UN Global Compact started soliciting CEO and corporate commitments “to unite all global stakeholders to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and protect our planet.” Global Compact members join “a voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments” and align their operations around Ten Principles of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Participants agree that “responsible business and investment – rooted in universal principles – will be essential to achieving transformational change through the SDGs. For companies, successful implementation will strengthen the enabling environment for doing business and building markets around the world.” Christ Church is a non-business participant.

In November 2016, Jason Hillard was Christ Church’s representative and guest of Rotary International at Rotary Day at the United Nations. Jason was also invited as our representative to RI’s Responsible Business Awards Banquet and was seated next to the former Rotary representative to the United Nations. Rotary Day at the UN commemorates Rotary’s involvement in the charter of the UN. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, passed by the UN, was based on Rotary International’s 1940 Resolution on Human Rights.

Jason was accompanied by Christ Church member, Chuck Watts, president and co-founder, Empathy Surplus Project, UN Global Compact participant since March 2014. Empathy Surplus Project focuses on partnering with Rotary and Rotarians. ESP is currently negotiating with the Rotarian Action Group for Peace, headquartered in Portland, OR, as a Global Compact partner.

As an aside, another Christ Church member, Lonnie Franks, is a board member of the 21st Century Peace Literacy Foundation, which is also working with the Rotarian Action Group for Peace.

Christ Episcopal Church remains supportive of the UN Global Compact as articulated in the Ten Principles and commits to the following activities as a non-business participant:

1. To promote community through encouraging churches to form greater ties to their local communities through service activities, providing space and support for civic events, and hosting forums on topical and local concerns

2. To host and promote events and speakers on issues of diversity, economics, justice, peace, and other global, regional, and local events
3. To initiate, encourage, and support interfaith activities
4. To partner with other local participants in the UN Global Compact
5. To challenge churches and civic communities to engage in global issues and concerns through public forums
6. To build global issues into the educational programs of CEC
7. To model the principles of diversity in our congregational website, publications, services, and public face

If you are interested in activities related to our involvement in the UN Global Compact, please talk to Jason Hillard or email him at jasonalanhillard@icloud.com.