

Letting in (more) light

The Trustees are delighted to report progress toward proposing the installation of solar panels on the roofs of church buildings.

Solar panels have been on our radar screen since at least the early days of envisioning a Capital Campaign, when we articulated our “Needs and Dreams” for the future. The advantages of producing our own electricity have only increased, as electricity prices continue to rise, and solar panels have become more efficient. The latest catalyst for revisiting an expensive undertaking is provisions of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act that include a 30% (direct-pay) credit available to non-profits.

A solar array on most of the south and east-facing church buildings (including the sanctuary) would provide the current energy needs of both the church and the Manse.

The Trustees propose to finance the approximate anticipated \$98,000 cost through a 4.5% loan from the Endowment Fund, which would be repaid through yearly savings on our electric bill, and through other funds received relating to the project, including the 30% Federal credit. Once we begin producing electricity, the loan is projected to be repaid in approximately six years.

A proposed plan will be part of the discussion at the Annual Budget Q&A session on Sunday, January 19th, immediately after worship, and also at the Annual Budget meeting on February 2nd.

The time feels right for installing solar panels: we would meet all the current electricity needs of both the church and the Manse; the financial implications are compelling; and it is a step in the right direction of better caring for God’s creation, and letting in (more) light.

Feel free to contact Trustees Don Rodgers (rodgersdonjr@comcast.net, 781 258-5929); Patty Strauch (Patricia_Strauch@hotmail.com, 201 788-2636); or Cathy Clark (ceclark@aol.com, 413 528-9949) with any questions or input.

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See full “Solar Proposal” printout if you would like more information. Available in the JE Room.

