



## Here Comes the Sun: An Update on Trinity's Solar Panel Project

In 2021, the Peacemaking Committee brought forth a proposal to the Trinity Session for the church to install solar panels on the roof of the building. After several years of study, discernment, and prayer, the Trinity Session approved the project at the October 2024 Session Meeting. We are excited to announce that the solar panels should be fully installed by late spring (provided it finally stops snowing)!

The Session understands that there may be questions about the scope, cost, and rationale for the project, so we have provided a list of FAQs. Additional questions can be directed to Bob Fincham, Dan Moseman, and Rev. Meredith.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Trinity Solar Panel Project:

### **1. How do Solar Panels reflect Trinity's Mission and Ministry?**

Trinity embodies a missional culture. Most recently, we became a Matthew 25 Congregation in the PCUSA. Trinity has engaged social justice in the community for years. The session believes that Jesus calls us to environmental stewardship. One of the ways we can care for our neighbors is by pursuing green energy and reducing our carbon footprint.

### **2. What was the Session decision-making process?**

Over the months, the Session received data on the cost, benefits, and scope of the project. The Peacemaking and Property committees researched local solar panel installers and made a recommendation to the Session to work with Wentz Solar, a business based out of Lawrence, Kansas. Hugh Wentz, of Wentz Solar, attended the October 2024 Session and answered questions. The Session decided on a "middle-of-the-road" proposal that would install 100 panels on the roof. The approved project will offset at least half of our electric bill, while, at the same time, leave enough money left over from the sale of the rental house to pursue other high-priority projects (such as replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and upgrading the sanctuary projectors).

### **3. How are we paying for the Solar Panels and what will be the total cost?**

The total cost for the solar panels is \$99,500. Trinity has received 2 grants in the amount of \$5,000 each from the Presbytery of Northern Kansas and the Synod of Mid-America. Upon completion of the project, Trinity will be eligible for a 30% tax credit from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). After the tax credit and grant

monies, Trinity's share would be **\$59,650** (\$99,500 less \$10,000 less \$29,850). It is important to note that there is a possibility that the rebate will not be available if funding for the IRA is discontinued by the Trump Administration and Congress.

**4. What is the current condition of the roof?**

The roof is 11 years old and is guaranteed for 25 years, with the likelihood that that it will last for 30 years.

**5. How many panels are we purchasing and where will the panels be installed?**

We will install 100 panels. The panels will be installed on the roofs over Fellowship Hall, the Parlor, the Sanctuary, and the Daycare.

**6. What is the timeframe for installation and will it interrupt the work and mission of the church?**

The Solar Panels will be installed by the end of March and should not interrupt the mission of the church.

**7. How much will we save from our energy bill from solar energy?**

The savings will vary from winter to summer (more in the summer than the winter, when we need it) but, on average, will save the Church about \$644 per month.

**8. How long will the solar panels last? Will we need to replace them as they age?**

The Solar Panels are guaranteed for 12 years, with the likelihood they will last much longer. Eventually they will need to be replaced.

We are proud to be among the growing number of churches that are leading the way of green energy! Thanks to Bob Ficham, David Shriver, Dennis Williams, Dan Moseman and the members of the Peacemaking Committee for all of their hard work.

–Rev. Meredith and the Trinity Session.