St. Paul SPECC and Church
Solar Fund
Fundraising Campaign Questions & Answers

Q1. What is the financial goal of this campaign? For the School the upfront cost is approximately $175,000. Our fundraising goal is $65,000.

Q2. What will this cover? The hardware and installation of a 91.9kW grid-tied solar system including 227 solar panels; an inverter to convert direct current into alternating current; ballasted racking system; costs of a structural engineer; and other electrical equipment.

Q3. What is the purpose of this project? The environmental benefits can be expressed in various ways, one of which is 4,261,971 pounds of carbon eliminated over 25 years. These solar panels will generate electricity and reduce the amount of electricity we need to buy from ComEd.

Q4. How do solar panels help the environment? Solar panels generate electricity from the sun's rays. The more solar electricity we make, the less electricity we need to purchase from ComEd. Approximately 24% of the electricity that ComEd generates comes from burning coal, which emits carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This contributes to global warming and climate change. If we as individuals and as a congregation reduce our "carbon footprint," there will be less of an impact of climate change on our children, grandchildren and people around the world. It will also lessen the impact on wildlife and the natural world.

Q5. Who will benefit from the installation of solar panels? Everyone! St. Paul will benefit by having to buy less electricity. People and animals around the world will benefit by reduced emissions of greenhouse gases. It is the poor who are harmed the most by climate change.

Q6. Who will install this solar system? Ailey Solar, 1965 W. Pershing, Chicago. All of the work performed by Ailey Solar Electric, Inc. ("ASE") is warranted for ten years. ASE was founded in 2007 and began solar electric installation work in 2012. Since then ASE has installed over 240 residential installations and a number of commercial projects. ASE is a union shop organized with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America.

Q7. When will these solar panels be installed? We hope that this solar system will be installed during the summer of 2021. Much of the timing is dependent on approvals from ComEd and Cook County.

Q8. Will this project reduce our electric bill? Yes. Assuming a 3% annual average utility electricity rate increase, electricity bill savings over 30 years will be $545,065. (These savings take into account the panel's loss of efficiency over time).

Q9. Where will the solar panels be installed? Why that location? School roof. As it is a flat surface, the roof does not have a specific directional orientation but it is well suited to support solar panels that are mounted at a tilt / angle for optimal southern-oriented exposure. This roof offers a continuous surface to support the panels with minimal shading. Structural engineers will determine that the roof is structurally sound for such a system.

Q10. Will the solar panels be visible from the street? No. We do not expect them to be visible, or at most, very minimally.

Q11. Will they cause the roof to leak? No. The installation will utilize a ballast anchoring system that does not penetrate the roof surface.

Q12. How long will it take to install the solar panels? The installation is expected to take about two weeks after all approvals are obtained and the materials are on-site.

Q13. How long will the solar panels last? The solar panels are warranted for 30 years. Over this time they will very gradually become less efficient. Many solar systems installed in the 1970s – about 40 years ago – are still producing electricity. And the technologies have improved greatly since that time.

Q14. Did St. Paul get other bids? Yes, bids were obtained from a total of 3 companies, all of which were ILSFA Approved Vendors (Illinois Solar For All).

Q15. Has this been approved by Leadership at the church? Yes. The Green Team examined the bids and made a recommendation which was then approved by the Board of Directors.

Q16. Will the church be covered for potential damage and liability while solar panel installation is underway? Yes. ASE is fully insured.

Q17. What are the maintenance requirements of the system? With 'no moving parts', solar systems require minimal maintenance. A few times a year, the panels should be inspected for any dirt or debris that may collect on them. Snow generally melts or slides off shortly after snowfalls. The system comes with a monitoring service where one can login with credentials and monitor the production and performance either from a laptop or phone, allowing tracking of system performance and early identification of problems.

Q18. How can I contribute? You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 5650 N. Canfield, Chicago, IL 60631. Write "Solar Fund" on the check. Donations can also be made by donating through the website (www.stpaulcanfield.org). Commitments can also be gifts of stock/appreciated securities. There will also be occasional fundraisers. We hope that everyone joins in this activity! We suggest that you check with your tax professional regarding tax ramifications of your choice of commitment/gift.

Q19. Where will the upfront money come from? The Board of Directors has authorized borrowing from the Endowment Fund for the initial expense, which the congregation has

approved at a Special Voters Meeting.

Q20. What happens if the campaign raises more than needed? Any additional contributions will go into a Solar Fund for solar panels to offset Church electricity production.

Q21. Where can I get more information? See members of the Green Team: Ray Bennett, Cindy Budek, Jim Link, Bruce Holmberg, Jeff Boberg, Jennifer Boberg, or John Stuebe.

Draft 07.11.21