

Motion brought by the Congregation Council (does not require a second):

To authorize congregation leadership to enter into agreements to install a solar array on the campus of Prince of Peace as proposed and to authorize up to \$20,000 in expenditures from existing building/property-related dedicated accounts to cover expenses related to the preferred siting of this installation and related amenities.

Proposal Summary: In partnership with local contractors, we plan to construct a carport-style structure in our parking lot to support a solar array, sized to generate electricity comparable to the average annual amount consumed by the existing PoP facilities. In concept, though we remain connected to the power grid, this would make our church 100% solar-powered.

Two examples of comparable nearby installations:



University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis



Edison Apartments, Hwy 8, Roseville

Proposal: Upon congregational approval, PoP will sign a Letter of Intent with Apadana Solar Technologies (AST) to “negotiate in good faith toward implementation of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)” under which a third-party investor will purchase, own, and operate a solar PV system on PoP property for 25 years. PoP will purchase the electricity generated by the solar system at a discount (approx. 10%) from standard rates during the 25 years. After 25 years, PoP will own the system and all the power it will continue to generate.

Project Cost: \$0 (\$160,000+ investment by 3rd party)

Total Projected Electricity Savings for years 1-25: \$26,500 (average \$1,060/yr)

Total Projected Electricity Savings years 26-30: \$85,250 (average \$17,050/yr)

Proposed System Specifications:

Size: 74.1 kW, 136 PV panels, approx. 45'x90'

Hardware: Monocrystalline 545 Watt Bi-Facial ZNShine Tier 1 Panels or equivalent, SolarEdge Inverters and Power Optimizers, Custom Carport Racking

Warranties: Panels - 30yrs, Inverters - 20yrs, Optimizer - 25yrs, Racking - 5yrs

Maintenance & repair remains responsibility of AST & the 3rd party owner for 25yrs.

Location, Amenities & Additional Costs: AST Engineers will consider a design that places the structure over the center two rows of parking in the main/south parking lot, opposite the entryways. The supporting columns would be in a line, east to west, along the center line of the parking rows, maintaining all existing parking spaces. The carport would provide a shaded area over the space we have been using for outdoor worship and events for the last 4 years. This location would also provide opportunity to collocate new lighting for the most used area of the parking lot during the darker afternoons and evenings of the winter months. It is also possible that we could collocate permanently mounted outdoor speakers on the structure for use during worship and events.

A suitable design for the south lot might incur costs beyond the scope of the solar development. The added costs for this location, along with the other amenities will not exceed \$20K. If feasibility and costs demand, a second possible location would be located along the eastern edge of the west parking lot. This location would likely not include the lighting or sound amenities.

History: Over the course of the past 7+ years, James Ericksen and other interested congregants, have explored how PoP might add a PV solar array to generate electricity from the sun. Much of these explorations focused on roof-top installation. We found a supportive partner with Interfaith Power & Light (IPL), an NGO that specializes in connecting faith communities with solar contractors.

Once the new roofing was installed over the flat portions of the building in 2022, we returned to IPL to explore possible next steps. IPL returned with two options, incorporating the latest technologies and available funding mechanisms. Both options involved working with Apadana Solar Technologies (AST), a local solar design and construction firm. One proposal utilizes a rooftop installation design, while the other incorporated a carport-style installation. Two financing options were also proposed, one where PoP funds the \$160,000+ project with an 8.24% rate of return after a 12.5-year payback. The second option is a proposed here, using a 3rd party to fund the development and maintenance costs for 25 years and with a discounted annual rate.

The Campus Planning Task Force reviewed both proposals on June 5 and made a recommendation to the Congregation Council that we bring forward this proposal to the full congregation for an authorization to proceed. The council reviewed the proposal on June 13 and voted to bring this proposal to the June 25 Semi-Annual Meeting.