

Building Firm and Faithful Foundations

Building Green is Doing Justice

“I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock;”
– Luke 6: 47-48

By investing in our businesses and houses of worship to help them become energy efficient, and utilizing clean energy technology and preserve God’s creation, we can work to reduce air pollution, greenhouse gases which are the leading cause of climate change, and water and soil contamination that disproportionately impact our most vulnerable neighbors and God’s Creation.

Bright Ideas



- The estimated 100 million exit signs in the US consume between 30 and 35 billion kWh of energy each year are spewing about 50 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually, the equivalent of over 4 million cars. Replacing just 10 old incandescent signs with LED exit signs will reduce carbon emissions by more than 5,000 pounds and save \$720.00 annually.
- Replacing just one incandescent bulb with a CFL will prevent 262 lbs of carbon dioxide pollution from entering the atmosphere.
- Installing occupancy sensors can reduce energy by 30-90% in restrooms, 30-80% in hallways, 45-80% in storage areas, 40-46% in classrooms and 13-50% in offices.

The Bottom Line: Saving Energy Saves Money

- By utilizing energy efficient and clean energy technologies, congregations can cut utility cost by 25 – 30%
- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that \$17 billion can be saved by U.S. building owners and tenants each year with lighting upgrades
- If each of the nation’s congregational buildings cut its energy use and costs by 25% they would save nearly \$500 million while preventing more than five million tons of carbon emissions.
- The average congregation can save \$8,000- \$17,500 annually by using energy efficient products.
- Rebates and tax credits could reduce the price of the upfront investment for installing solar panels by 50% or more



Building Firm and Faithful Foundations

Firm and Faithful Foundations in our Communities

Central Baptist Church: Wayne, PA

CBC invested in clean, renewable energy and installed 48 solar panel arrays on the church roof. These 48 supply approximately 30 percent of the 40,000 kWh of electricity that the church uses per year. If their solar panels generate 11,600 KWh of electricity per year they will save approximately \$1,740 annually at current electric rates.

The church will receive 1 credit for every 1000 KWh generated, approximately 12 credits per year. They expect to sell each credit for \$200 or \$2,400 per year for all 12 credits generated.

At this rate, the solar system is expected to pay for itself in only 4.8 years.

CBC funded their solar project largely through state grants. Without these grants or others like them the solar systems payback period would jump from approximately 5 years to 20.



Faith United Methodist Church: Champaign, IL

Faith UMC was given the LEED silver certification in 2006.

They were able to double the size of their structure sustainably; becoming the first LEED certified church in Illinois and the first LEED certified building in Champaign-Urbana. Some of their Green Features include, materials with high recycled content, low flow water saving technology, energy efficient lighting and a pervious parking lot which prevents runoff and

allows water to flow back into the aquifer. According to Doug Abbot, Director of Church Administration, “the congregation decided to build a LEED certified building because they wanted to serve as a model for other churches and organizations in the community.”

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School: Plainview, NY

Good Shepherd invested \$20,000 to reduce their energy consumption by 25 percent, saving about \$18,000 per year. This means they made the total amount invested back in just over one year. They started simply with small projects including, adding insulation to 5 buildings, and installing 4 programmable thermostats. Installing 100 compact fluorescent light bulbs alone helped the church reduce their carbon footprint by about 26,200 pounds of CO₂ per year.

