

For Immediate Release: 3/30/21

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ Awarded Two Grants for a Solar Installation

MADISON: Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) has received a Wisconsin UCC “Creation Care” grant and through RENEW Wisconsin\* a “Solar for Good” grant to help fund the installation of solar panels on their church building on Atwood Avenue. Plymouth will also be expending over \$19,000 from their own funds for this creation care ministry.

In their grant application, church members attested that they are *“committed to the need for change to help our environment and our world.”* Plymouth has received a "Solar for Good" award of 48 solar panels that will provide approximately 85% of their electrical needs. The Creation Care grant of \$1,000 will be applied toward the remaining project costs. The congregation recently completed a multi-year project converting all fluorescent lighting to LED bulbs. They also plan to hold several educational events covering solar energy, building changes, better driving strategies, climate change, and a spiritual call for Earth care.

Plymouth Congregational UCC in Madison, WI located at 2401 Atwood Avenue has been in that location since 1915. We are an open and affirming church welcoming all to join us in worship. Our installation of solar panels will be completed by the end of April. We are still attending services virtually and will have an open virtual meeting describing solar panel operation and installation by Burke O’Neal from Full Spectrum Solar on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30AM. If interested find more information at our website [www.pcucc.org](http://www.pcucc.org)

At its annual meeting (held virtually last June) the Wisconsin Conference UCC was the first in the nation to pass a resolution to implement the UCC’s *“Kairos Call to Action”* (issued by the UCC Council for Climate Justice as an urgent plea to help rescue our planet from peril). The Kairos Call to Action invites congregations of the United Church of Christ to commit to a series of climate-saving actions over the next 10 years and empowers churches to take on the crucial work of climate justice.

*“Kairos”* is a Greek word signifying a moment when the time is right and urgent for action. The United Church of Christ believes there is an urgency to take steps to care for our planet, our earthly home. Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister for the UCC in Wisconsin, shared these thoughts:

“National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman, in her 2018 *“Earthrise,”* expands on that historic view of our planet from the Apollo space program. That perspective from the heavens, seeing Earth as both beautiful and fragile, brings creation care into focus:

*“And as threats drew nearer,  
our own urgency became clearer,  
As we realize that we hold nothing dearer  
Than this floating body we call home.”*

We are pleased to invest Catalyst funds, given by UCC congregations and friends across Wisconsin, to enable these projects designed to restore our earthly home. Plymouth Congregational UCC, Madison, WI is among the leaders of our conference that have recognized the urgency of creation care ministries at the local level, and we give thanks to God for them.”

\*Last fall, RENEW Wisconsin's *Solar for Good* program awarded over \$190,000 in cash grants and materials to Wisconsin nonprofits for installing on-site solar energy systems. Through this grant program, RENEW Wisconsin reports that seventeen organizations will install 719 kilowatts of clean, renewable electricity leading to nearly \$1.4 million in renewable energy investments in the state. Plymouth UCC's 48 panels will supply 17 kW of the total 719 kW of clean energy helping Wisconsin to be a clean welcoming place to live and visit.

*For more information on the project, contact the church at:*

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