

1 **Action Request #13**

2
3 **2021 OREGON-IDAHO**
4 **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

5
6 **TITLE: Join the Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign**

7 **SPONSORING GROUP: John Pitney**

8 **SPOKESPERSON: John Pitney**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 640 SE Pelton Place, Bend OR 97702**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S EMAIL: pitneycompost@gmail.com**

11 **SPOKESPERSON'S PHONE: 541-337-8459**

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ACTION: Recommend for approval 18-0-1.**

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14 **I petition the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference to take the following action:**

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16 The Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference will join the Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign to encourage at
17 least 100 Oregon congregations of many faiths to either install their own solar + storage systems or
18 support low-income, rural, BIPOC communities to install theirs. Bishop Stanovsky may endorse the
19 Campaign and encourage our District Superintendents to discuss it through district outreach, colloquies,
20 charge conferences and wherever appropriate, with the goal of leaders from every Oregon congregation
21 attending one of several Zoom information sessions the Oregon Clean Power Co-op and EMO will offer
22 in the Fall of 2021.

23
24 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

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26 **What will this action accomplish?**

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28 **(I submit this petition with great apology to Idaho churches!** I spent half my ministry in Idaho and wish
29 there was a comparable entity like the Co-op there. This cooperative investing approach is one of the
30 only ways churches and non-profits in marginalized communities can afford solar...when we do it
31 together. Oregon, in fact, is the only state in the U.S. that has established such to do this work).

32
33 **So what will this accomplish?** Leaders from every Oregon UMC will learn about the Campaign and the
34 unique "crowd-vesting" strategy the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative offers to make solar (+ battery
35 storage) affordable for Oregon churches and non-profits. Any Oregon individual, church, foundation,
36 church extension society fund (etc.) can make a socially responsible, fossil free investment (10-year
37 term) in solar installations across the State for a modest 2-4% return. These investments can go to fund
38 solar on your own roof or the roofs of others who can least afford it. At the end of 10 years, investors
39 get their returns and the church or non-profit owns the solar system and the free power generated in
40 God's elegant, productive Creation. Congregations and non-profits will save money, gain from
41 socially/environmentally just investments, model for others a pro-active response to climate injustice,
42 help empower BIPOC and other marginalized communities and, with battery storage, be better
43 prepared to serve in times of disaster and catastrophic power outages. Finally, our endorsement will list
44 Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference on the webpage of Oregon Interfaith Solar Campaign as a co-sponsor
45 (info@oregoncleanpower.coop).

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47 **Why is it important?**

1 Climate chaos is serious, real and human-caused...the impacts worst for those already most vulnerable,
2 the ones Jesus calls us to make our priority. Our's is a treacherous and wondrous time: treacherous
3 because the devastation could be just beginning; wondrous because this may be the best chance
4 humanity has ever had to become the Beloved Community we are created in God's image to
5 be! Scientists warn we have 9 years to repent, about-face and live in ways that not only do no harm but
6 do good. This is a timely chance for the Body of Christ to use our transformative power to repair God's
7 Creation by reducing our pollution, embrace equity for those who can most benefit but least afford
8 renewable energy and, (with battery storage capacity) prepare our churches to better serve their
9 communities in times of disaster and catastrophic power outages.

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11 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

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13 Bishop Stanovsky and the program cabinet will decide how best to endorse the Solar Campaign and get
14 the word out to our congregations and institutions about how to register for the Zoom Informational
15 Sessions this fall. The Oregon Clean Power Cooperative will provide messaging and descriptions of the
16 Campaign for the Conference to use to create our own communications. EMO and the Clean Power Co-
17 op will schedule the Zoom sessions in consultation with the Cabinet, lead the sessions and follow-up
18 with interested churches to take the actions upon which the churches decide.

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20 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

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22 Costs should be minimal with communications sent through all the regular channels, discussions
23 handled through already-existing gatherings and EMO and the Oregon Clean Power Co-op providing
24 Zoom sessions and leading the follow through. Funding packages for each congregational situation will
25 be worked out between Clean Power Co-op staff and each congregation's leaders.

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