

For Immediate Release



Amherst, MA- South Congregational Church, UCC is pleased to announce that on Sunday, June 10, 2012, the congregation joyfully and unanimously voted to install a 50 kW photovoltaic array on the roof of the sanctuary and church school. In addition, the congregation also voted to install an energy efficient HVAC system. South Church will have the second largest PV system of any faith-based group in the Commonwealth and

will join Mount Vernon Unitarian (Virginia) as one of the few net-zero churches in the United States. Pioneer Valley Photovoltaic of Greenfield will perform the installation.

“This solar project is just one expression of this faith community’s deep care for God’s creation.” said Pastor Caroline Meyers, “In addition to the financial and environmental benefits, I was deeply moved by the congregation’s concern that we move toward a more socially just form of energy generation, and away from fossil fuels and all the attendant risks to our global brothers and sisters.”

Steve Jones, Co-Chair of the South Church Trustees, said the projects will cost \$360k and will be completed this fall. “We spent a year exploring different systems, financing and ownership structures. We feel that this project is a bold, public statement of our values, and our stewardship of this historic building, our finances and our children’s future”.

South Congregational Church was incorporated in 1824 and counts 250 singles, couples and families as members. South Church has an active church school, youth group, adult education and mission program. South Church is an Open and Affirming Church and welcomes all people as they journey in faith.

A solar dedication will be celebrated in summer 2013.

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