



Dear St. Stephen's Family

Earlier this year the Long Range Planning committee, a group including members of the Vestry and parish, began considering an updated vision for the future of St. Stephen's campus.

After careful consideration the committee has recommended to the Vestry a plan to replace our main roof while at the same time installing solar panels. The Vestry has approved the plan. The goal is to complete the project before the rainy season this year.

As many of you may know, the committee has been updating the 2002 Master Plan for our campus as an "organic" document with guiding principles for site improvements, recognition of past accomplishments, and specific projects that can be accomplished and altered over time.

It quickly became apparent that the committee had to face a short-term challenge: our aging roof. For a number of years, we have known that the roof over the main church needed replacement as we have had several small leaks and repairs. We concluded that given this deferred maintenance the roof is the next most important capital project for our church.

We worked closely with the Caring for Creation committee to determine whether the replacement of our roof provided an opportunity to "go green." Members of that committee have for several years explored the advantages of installing solar panels in a church context. The current Vestry has endorsed a church priority of responsible ecological stewardship. So, after careful research and comparison of various bids and options, we collectively decided that we could not miss this opportunity to install solar panels.

The recommendation has been made with the understanding that, while adding solar to the roof project will increase over the short term, it will be less expensive than adding solar at a later date. Moreover, cost savings from solar will start immediately with reduced monthly energy bills.

The Finance Committee has considered several short-term funding options to enable us to complete the roof and solar project prior to the rainy season, a critical consideration in everyone's thinking. However, like we have done for other capital projects, such as the elevator and fellowship plaza, we ultimately will need to pay for this project through donations from members of our parish family.

You will hear more about this project via email and at church. In the meantime you are welcome to follow the deliberations of the Long Range Planning committee on the church website under the Vestry tab: <http://www.ststephensorinda.org/about-us/vestry/long-range-planning/>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry +".

Fr. Larry Hunter, Rector

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Bob Thompson, Sr. Warden

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott".

Scott Rhoades, Finance Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason".

Jason Kaune, Long Range Planning Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clark".

Clark Bisel, Caring for Creation Committee