



First Parish in Bedford  
**Capital Campaign News**  
It's our turn

*Vol. 7 - January 28, 2026*

Welcome to the First Parish in Bedford Capital Campaign Newsletter! This newsletter will keep the congregation informed about what the Capital Campaign Committee is doing and the current progress of the Campaign.

## **Tax Incentives and The Capital Campaign**

As you undoubtedly know by now, we're planning on a Capital Campaign to take care of our beloved home. **February 8th is the go/no-go vote.**

The spark that got this Capital Campaign started was the need to replace the heating system in the new part of the church, (Common Room, offices, classrooms etc.). The heating systems consisting of 4 roof top units (RTU's) are in need of replacement. One already failed and had to be replaced. The other three are also at their end of life stage. The need to replace those units and how to pay for them led to discussions on what other things in the church might be at the end of their life stage or need to be addressed.

What to replace the RTU's with presents many choices. We could just replace it with what we have, or we could live our values and embrace the idea of being even greener.

As we looked at greener solutions, one option we considered but ultimately had to discard was geothermal. Since we know there is interest in geothermal, we wanted to give you a little more insight into how we came to that conclusion.

Thanks to the Biden Administration, there were lots of incentives encouraging green technology. Although the Trump Administration has destroyed numerous green initiatives, the tax credits that would apply to our project are still currently in place.

Specifically, a 30% credit for geothermal with an added 10% for materials that are American made. The way tax credits work for non profits who don't pay income tax is an actual check for the government equal to the 40% of the project will be issued when the project is complete.

A 40% rebate is enough to make the greenest alternative, geothermal, expensive, but possible.

We've had many discussions with consultants, tax advisors, and others who have assured us that those incentives are, in fact, still available, for now.

As a sign of the times, just because there is an available tax incentive available for exactly the project we're planning, do we dare apply for it?

The current Administration has shown nothing but contempt for green energy, and seems to have no trouble at all changing the rules midstream.

The risk of relying on those tax incentives is significant. Several hundreds of thousands of dollars are at stake. If the Administration suddenly eliminates those incentives and those several hundreds dollars of incentives never materialize, what happens? How will we make up for the shortfall? Do we have another Capital Campaign?

Another serious threat would be the Administration attaching strings to that type of money. Until a year ago this wasn't even considered. But watching the Trump Administration make congressionally approved money contingent on a brand new set of criteria has become commonplace. Think about the restrictions they've placed on organizations, strong arming them into abandoning DEI initiatives (many companies have literally erased "DEI" from their websites attestation of their core principles!). If that were to happen to us, what might that look like? We can have the money if we no longer support LGBTQ rights? Let's face it, our UU core principles are what motivates these people to go after "liberal agendas". Is this something we want to risk?

So what to do? Rest assured we are not planning on caving to the whims of this Administration. We are working hard to come up with solutions that do not risk our financial security and our UU principles while still living our values as being good stewards both of our church as well as the planet.

Leading the way when the government is absent is truly one of our principles. Whether immigration, LGBTQ rights, environmental justice, or inclusion, these are at our core.

We have a plan, but just want to share our thoughts on some of the recommendations we will be making.

Capital Campaign Committee: *Peter Cho, Jennifer McClain, Gene Kalb, Tom Flannery, Bob Dorer, Joan Bowen, Rev. Jamie Hinson-Rieger*