

# Pledging FAQ

*Generosity is a spiritual practice and an essential aspect of the life of this church.*

Each of us has an opportunity to experience a generous heart as we make a financial contribution to this religious community that enriches our lives.

## **1. What is the Annual Pledge Campaign?**

The Pledge Campaign is the church-wide stewardship campaign during which we ask members and friends of First Universalist to fill out a pledge card indicating their intention to contribute a specified amount to the church during the coming church year. The information is needed in order to create plans and budgets for the upcoming year, so timely notification of your intentions is important and greatly appreciated.

## **2. When is the Annual Pledge Campaign?**

The campaign will kick off on Sunday, February 23 during the worship service and will conclude on Sunday, March 23. Before the kickoff, approximately 100 people (or pledging couples) will be invited to meet with a canvasser to talk about giving to the church. If you would like to be included in the personal canvass, please contact a member of the pledge team in January.

## **3. Do I need to do a new pledge every year?**

Pledges are made annually and are the basis for the church budget, which runs from July - June. To continue your pledge for each church year, you need to communicate your commitment by submitting a pledge card, filling out your pledge online, or contacting the church office.

## **4. How do I decide how much to pledge?**

In general, a pledge of 2% to 10% of adjusted annual income is appropriate. See the "Our Message: What Are We Asking of You?" link on the Pledge Team Web Page to help you discern your "fair share" pledge. The first step is to assess your level of connection and commitment to the church and then to review your financial situation. While you may not be able to give at the suggested amount at the beginning, we hope you will aspire to deepen your connection to the church and increase your giving over time.

**5. I have not joined the church as a member. Do I still need to make a pledge?**

Once a year in late winter we conduct our annual pledge drive with all members and friends. We ask newcomers and those who attend services or programs to pledge or contribute to the church. We have few resources of income other than our members and friends; therefore we truly need and expect the support of newcomers as well as our regular congregation. Making a pledge helps the church plan for the coming year.

**6. I put money in the plate during the Offertory on Sundays. Isn't that enough to pay for the church's expenses?**

Sunday offerings represent just 2% of church income. Because of the generous annual pledges made by our members and friends, we are able to give away 70% of the Sunday offering to organizations whose work aligns with our mission.

**7. How does my pledge benefit the church?**

Annual pledges account for 80% of the annual budget, which pays for worship, music, our social justice Faith in Action programs, pastoral care, education for all ages and spiritual development. All of the wonderful offerings of this church are made possible through the generosity of those who find their spiritual home here.

**8. How do I pay my pledge?**

You can make your pledge online and make payments online. Most congregants contribute once each month or quarter by having their pledge amount automatically deducted from their checking or savings account. You just need to attach a voided check to your annual fund drive pledge form or send one to the church's Accounting Office.

You can mail your pledge form and payments to the church or drop them off at the church office. You may also place your pledge in the offertory basket during any Sunday service. If you are putting a contribution in the offering basket toward your pledge, be sure to mark it as a pledge payment.

**9. What if I make a pledge and my situation changes?**

Should a change occur in your financial status and you are unable to meet your pledge, it is possible to adjust your pledge during the fiscal year. We care about your situation, and will work with people who are having financial needs, which affect their pledge.