



Worship Beyond Walls
Connection, Community, and Service

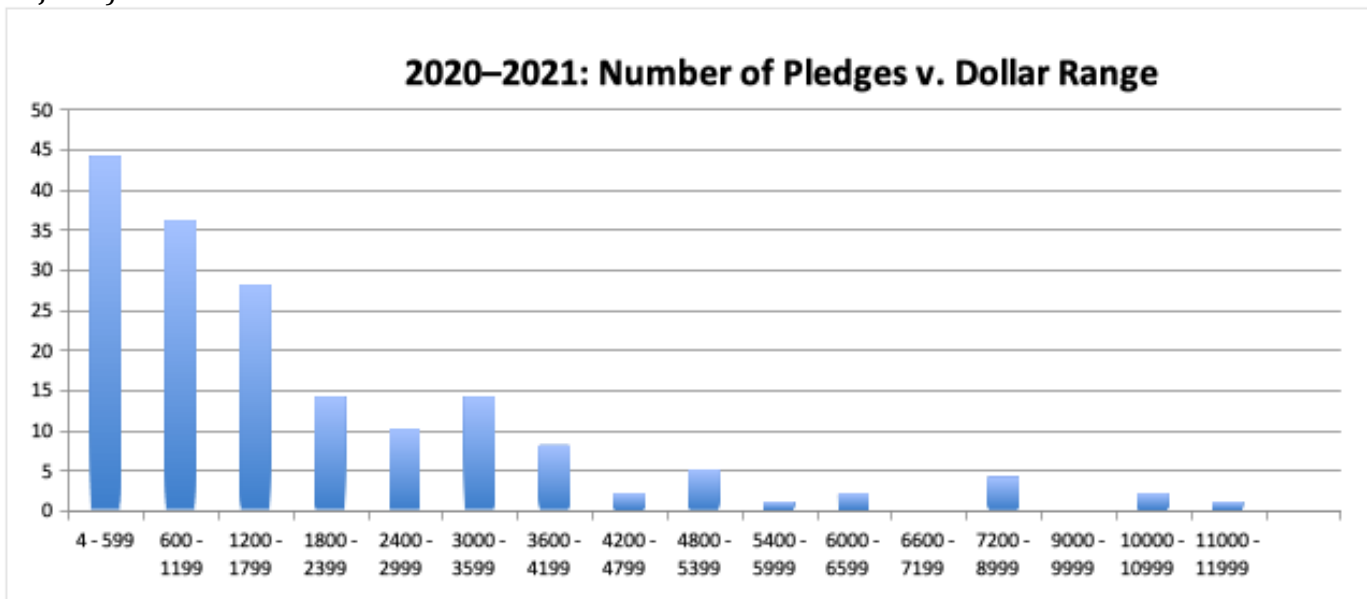
Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to pledge?

Active participation (members & friends) in the life of the congregation brings benefits and obligations. While we welcome donations in the Sunday collection, our annual budget of what we hope to accomplish is based on pledge commitments made during our Spring pledge drive. Your pledge can be paid weekly, monthly, yearly or whatever works for you. You can pay online or use a personal check, credit card or automatic withdrawal. At the end of each calendar year, the Administrator will send you a statement itemizing your donations. If you itemize your taxes, your donations are tax deductible. If individual circumstances change during the year and you cannot fulfill your pledge, you may request a waiver from the Treasurer.

Revenue Question

How much do members pledge? Unitarian Universalist congregations do not “tithe” congregants; the UUC Bylaws simply state members “make a financial contribution to the UUC.” The [Fair Share Contribution Guide](#), adapted by the UUA outlines the UU recommendations and provides a table with suggested amounts. For our 2020–2021 fiscal year, we had 171 “pledge units” (couples count as one pledge unit unless they specifically register as pledging separately.). The total number of pledged dollars is \$320,010, our average pledge \$1,871, and our median pledge \$1,200. Below is a breakdown of (promised) pledge income for fiscal-year 2020–21. (The UUC fiscal year is from July to June.)



What is the proposed budget and what is in it?

The UUC Finance Committee and Board have prepared a pre-pledge-drive [proposed budget for FY 2021-2022](#). In it, the total for pledges needed is \$345,000. Last year it was \$357,000. The pandemic started in March last year—in the middle of the pledge drive, and the actual pledge budget at the time of the Annual Meeting was \$318,070. The income from pledges is over 90% of the UUC total annual incomes, so because of the shortfall we had to we had to eliminate the Minister's Sabbatical Fund, the Building Maintenance Escrow and all raises. The proposed budget for next year includes \$2500 for the Minister's Sabbatical Fund, \$6000 for the Building Maintenance Escrow and \$7000 for a 3.5% pay raise for all staff. (The Facilities Maintenance Fund provides savings needed to replace big-ticket items like the HVAC system and the roof. Our last major facility expenditure was during the building expansion completed in 2008.) The proposed budget also includes \$5000 for expenses related to technology that we will need in order to implement hybrid in-person and online services as we transition out of the COVID pandemic in the coming year. The brochure has charts showing the distribution of both income and expenses.

Does the congregation require a balanced proposed budget?

There is no statutory requirement to have a balanced budget—in fact we presented a deficit budget last year. At this time, we are deciding on the amount we will be trying to raise during our stewardship campaign. After we get the results of that campaign and know what to expect in pledges, we will set a final budget. It would be nice if we can get pledges for all we shoot for but that usually isn't the case. We then have to cut from the proposed budget to arrive at a budget we present to the congregation during our annual meeting. If that process results in a deficit budget, we are effectively saying that we will be drawing from reserves to cover that deficit if it indeed materializes. (Wayne Neu, 1/13/21)

Can I get a tax deduction for my donations to UUC?

UUC qualifies as a charity, so a donation to UUC can qualify as a charitable donation. To claim a deduction directly requires that you must itemize deductions rather than take the standard deduction. Non-itemizers can write off \$300 of cash contributions “above the line”. If you do not itemize deductions but have an IRA or a Roth IRA and are at least 70½, [here is information about a potential tax break](#).

Do pledgers fulfill their pledge obligations?

Yes, almost all pledgers do; However, money received towards pledges typically comes up short. Some of this shortfall is covered by new pledgers added during the year. Over the past several years the percentage of pledge monies received — including from new pledgers — has ranged from 96% to 98%.

Raising money for UUC through your Amazon or Kroger purchases

If you register with Amazon and/or Kroger, a percentage of your purchase price will go to UUC. For Amazon it is up to 10% of your purchase total, and for Kroger it is 5%. See [Support > Fundraising](#) from the home page for details.

Don't we receive money from the national UU Association?

We receive no money from the UU Association. As a matter of fact, the congregation pays dues each year to the national UUA based on the amount of expenditures in our previous fiscal-year's budget. Our "fair share" dues included in the proposed budget are \$18,000.

Don't we receive money from any external source?

Typically we do not receive money from outside sources and we do not anticipate any this coming fiscal year. In April 2020, we did receive a Paycheck Protection Loan as part of a federal program to help us through a lull in pledge income at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

Expenditure Questions

What is the cost for a student in our Lifespan Faith Development program?

When one considers staff time, supplies, program materials, etc., the average yearly cost per student is \$250 or approximately \$5 per week. We have opted not to charge a fee to families with children as it is up to the whole congregation to support our children.

Who are our full- and part-time employees ?

We have a full-time Minister, a part-time Lifespan Faith Development Director, a part-time Administrator, a part-time Choir Director, a part-time Pianist, and a part-time LFD Assistant. The total payroll expense is 60% of the total budget. total payroll expense (in the current proposed FY22 budget) is 60% of the total budget.

02/19/21