

Frequently-Asked Questions

Do I need to pledge?

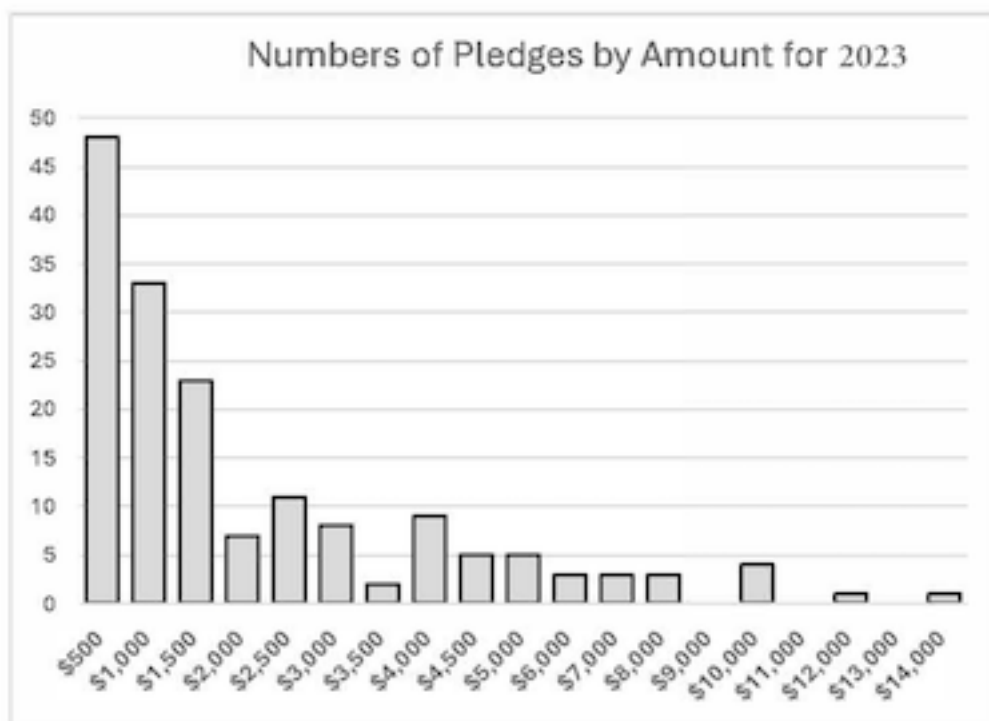
Active participation (members & friends) in the life of the congregation brings benefits and obligations. While we welcome donations in the Sunday collection, our annual budget is based on pledge commitments made during our Spring pledge drive.

How do I pay my pledge?

Your pledge can be paid weekly, monthly, yearly or whatever works for you. You can use personal checks, pay online, or set up an automatic withdrawal from a bank account. 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 Minister or the Treasurer.

Revenue Questions

How much do members pledge? Unitarian Universalist congregations do not expect congregants to “tithe”; the UUC Bylaws simply state members “make a financial contribution to the UUC”. The [Fair Share Contribution Guide](#), adapted by the UUA, provides recommendations and a table with suggested amounts. As of May 21, for the 2023–2024 Stewardship Campaign, so far there are 166 “pledge units”.— couples count as one pledge unit unless they specifically register as pledging separately. The total pledged is \$343,212. Our average and median pledges were \$2,068 and \$1,200 respectively. Below is a breakdown of pledge income for FY 24 (July 2023 to June 2024):



What is the proposed budget and what is in it?

This year's budget proposal includes significant raises for our employees as we try to keep pace with both inflation and the UUA's salary guidance. This is by far the largest part of our budget and, of course, the most important part to keeping our Congregation operating. The increase in salaries and wages represents almost two-thirds of the total increase in the proposed budget. Also included in this is the reestablishment of the LFD Assistant position.

- The replacement of our aging soundboard to continue support for our online presence,
- The purchase of an electric garden cart to help our grounds crew haul materials throughout our grounds and,
- Continued energy-efficient upgrades to our building,
- Support for the newly-created action teams created in response to our strategic planning and our UU Young Adult group.

The overall increase in pledges necessary to fund our proposed budget over last year's pledge total is \$43,340, which represents a 13% increase.

Who are our full- and part-time employees?

We have a full-time Minister, a full-time Lifespan Faith Development Director, a part-time Administrator, a part-time Choir Director, a part-time Pianist. In the 2023–2024 proposed budget, we are reestablishing the part-time LFD Assistant position.

Does the congregation require a balanced proposed budget?

There is no statutory requirement to have a balanced budget. At the May Board meeting, the Board will compare the Pledge Drive total with the Proposed Budget. If the Pledge Drive total is less than the Proposed Budget, the Board will have to cut from the proposed budget to arrive at a budget to present to the congregation during our Annual Congregational 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.

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

UUC guidelines 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 were at least 70½ in 2021, [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.

Raising money for UUC through your Kroger purchases

If you register with *Kroger*, a percentage of your purchase price will go to UUC. See [Support > Fundraising](#) from the homepage for details.

Don't we receive money from the national Unitarian Universalist Association?

We receive no money from the UUA. As a matter of fact, the congregation pays dues each year to the UUA based on the amount of expenditures in our previous fiscal-year's budget. Our "fair share" dues included in the proposed budget are \$19,000.

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.

Expenditure Question***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 \$450 or approximately \$9 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.