

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. Without your pledge, we cannot plan on having that income in our budget.

How do I pay my pledge?

Your pledge can be paid weekly, monthly, yearly or whatever works for you. The easiest way to pay is to set up an automatic payment using your bank's bill-pay feature. You can also use personal checks, cash or pay online but online payments cost us a processing fee. No matter how you pay, please notate each payment to indicate it is a pledge payment and for which fiscal year, e.g., "24-25 Pledge". This helps our Administrator greatly.

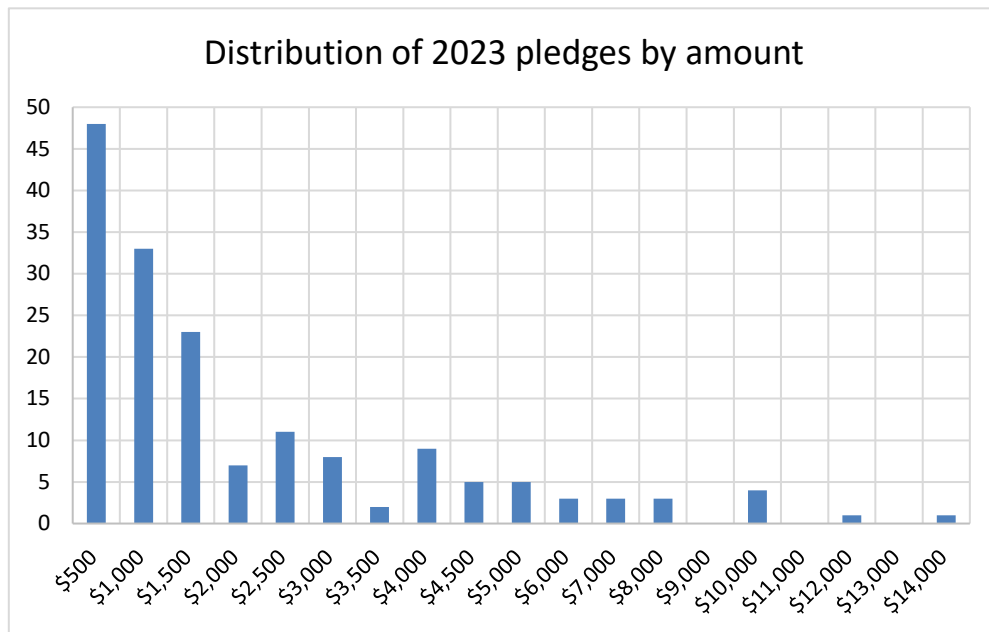
At the end of each calendar year, the Administrator will send you a statement itemizing your donations. If you itemize your taxes, your donations may be tax deductible. If individual circumstances change during the year and you cannot fulfill your pledge, you may request a waiver from the Minister or the Treasurer.

Who knows how much I pledge?

According to policy, only the Minister, Administrator, Treasurer, President and Stewardship Chair may have access to what individuals pledge but practically, only 2 or 3 of these see the amounts linked to names.

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". Below is a plot of data from the 2023-2024 Stewardship Campaign showing amounts pledged for 166 "pledge units". Couples count as one pledge unit unless they specifically register as pledging separately. The average and median pledges were \$2,068 and \$1,200 respectively.



Do pledgers fulfill their pledge obligations?

Yes, almost all pledgers do. However, money received towards pledges typically comes up slightly short. Some of this shortfall is covered by new pledgers added during the year.

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 \$480 or approximately \$9.60 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 full-time Lifespan Faith Development Director, a part-time Administrator, a part-time Choir Director, a part-time Pianist. In the 2024–2025 proposed budget, we are increasing the hours to be worked by our administrator from 25 to 30 hours per week.

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 qualifies as a charity, so a donation to UUC is a charitable donation. To claim a deduction directly requires that you itemize deductions rather than take the standard deduction. Non-itemizers can write off \$300 of cash contributions “above the line”. If you have an IRA and are at least 70½, you are eligible to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), which is not taxed whether you itemize or not. A good source for further information is here. For details on how to do this, contact a representative of the financial institution that holds your IRA.

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 expenditures in our previous fiscal-year's budget. Our “fair share” dues included in the proposed budget are about \$17,000.

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.