

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why do we need a pledge drive?

UU congregations are self-funded. There is no central authority that provides money for our Fellowship. Pledges are our primary source of income making up about 80% of the operating budget of the Fellowship.

### 2. When does the pledge drive take place?

This year's drive officially began on January 8, 2012, and will end on February 26, 2012. This time is chosen so that we know how much money we will have when we plan the next year's budget which begins on July 1.

### 3. Who pledges?

All members and pledging friends pledge in support of our Fellowship.

### 4. Does my being committed to the Fellowship mean that I must pledge?

When you sign the membership book, you commit to support the Fellowship in several ways, including providing a financial contribution. After all, WE are the Fellowship.

### 5. What is the minimum pledge?

The minimum annual pledge is currently \$150.00. In cases of financial hardship upon request, the Minister can waive or lower the minimum.

### 6. What are others pledging?

Pledges range from the minimum to five-figure commitments. The average pledge last year was more than \$1,500.

### 7. Don't Sunday offerings and other fund raisers cover the operational needs of the Fellowship?

No. The Sunday offerings and fund raisers do not go very far in paying our expenses. Sunday offerings are important, though, and allow us to support external causes as well as our internal needs. In order to operate the Fellowship, we need to create an annual budget. Before we can set the budget, we need to know how much money we have and this requires a formal annual financial commitment, which is our pledge.

### 8. I volunteer. Isn't that enough?

Our volunteers are a critically important part of sustaining our Fellowship and saving us money. All of the work done by the Buildings and Grounds committee, those who help in the kitchen every Sunday and provide food for our luncheons, the RE volunteers, and so many more, give freely of their time to provide what would otherwise cost a great deal of money. But other costs, such as salaries of the minister and congregational staff, maintenance of our facility, water, lights, etc, go beyond what volunteers can provide. Therefore, members also need to pledge their fair share to help cover these costs.

### 9. How do I calculate the amount I should pledge?

This year we are providing a table showing what our pledges would be if we all pledged the minimum percentage suggested by the UUA. Begin with your Adjusted Gross Income reported to the IRS on your tax return. Add other income and subtract educational, medical, parental and child care costs. Then select a percent to pledge based on the Fair Share Chart in this brochure. For more information go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and search for the Fair Share Giving Guide.

### 10. How is my pledge collected?

You can pay your pledge as a lump sum, by automatic monthly withdrawals from your bank account, or by check. You may also pay by credit or debit card which will incur a fee for the Fellowship. If you pay by check, please be sure to write "pledge" in the memo line so we can account for it properly.

### 11. When is my pledge card due?

Mail or bring your pledge card on or before February 26, 2012, Celebration Sunday. Remember – this is your statement of intent. Payments for 2012-2013 pledges do not begin until July 1, 2012.

### 12. Who do I talk to if I have more questions?

During the month of February there will be a pledge table in the core area every Sunday after the service, where someone can answer your questions.

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