

# Stewardship 101

## WHAT IS AN ESTIMATE OF GIVING?

An Estimate of Giving is a written financial commitment to support First UU's vision, mission, and programs during the coming church year. An Estimate of Giving is not a legally binding contract. If your situation changes and you would like to increase or decrease your estimate, you may do so at any time by calling the office.

## WHAT IS THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

Although new members are asked to make an Estimate of Giving when they join the church, we ask all members to renew their financial commitment every year during the Stewardship Campaign.

## WHAT PERIOD OF TIME DOES MY ESTIMATE OF GIVING COVER?

The church's fiscal year begins on the first day of June and runs through the end of May the following year. During the 2017-2018 Stewardship Campaign in March, we will be asking for estimates of giving that will support the church's programs and operations from June 1, 2017 through May 30, 2018.

## WHY DO I NEED TO MAKE A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR NEXT YEAR?

As part of our Sunday worship service, we dedicate our offering gifts "to the work of the church that lives may be strengthened and the world may be healed." About 92% of First UU's programming and operating funds come from the annual financial contributions of members and friends. By providing a written estimate of how much you intend to contribute to First UU next year – you make it possible for the church to plan responsibly and transform First UU's vision and mission into reality.

## I PUT CASH IN THE SUNDAY COLLECTION PLATE, WHY DO I NEED TO PLEDGE?

Cash contributions that are collected during the Worship services are a welcome gift from visitors and comprise about 3% of our yearly program budget. We depend, however, on our members to make a financial commitment each year to help the church plan responsibly. Some members do fulfill their financial commitment through cash payments, but we ask them to place the cash in a marked envelope so it can be attributed to their Estimate of Giving.

## IS MAKING A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT A REQUIREMENT OF MEMBERSHIP?

**YES** – but you don't have to be a member to return an Estimate of Giving!

## IS EVERYONE EXPECTED TO MAKE THE SAME FINANCIAL COMMITMENT?

First UU celebrates diversity in our congregation - diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. This includes diversity in economic status. Some members can contribute more, others less, but we can all **share** in supporting our church. Your generous giving based on your personal circumstances demonstrates your connection to our spiritual home, and gives tangible expression to your values.

## HOW CAN I MAKE A COMMITMENT WHEN MY INCOME IS VARIABLE? WHAT IF I LOSE MY JOB OR HAVE A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY?

We understand concerns about the economic climate and know that some members who are self-employed or who work on a commission may be afraid to make a financial commitment. We ask all members to make a responsible estimate of giving based upon a reasonable estimate of their expected income during the coming year. Quarterly payments as opposed to weekly or monthly payments may provide more flexibility in these situations. We also understand that life is not static. If circumstances require you to adjust your estimate, please contact the church secretary or Stewardship Chair.