

# Stewardship 101

## WHAT IS A PLEDGE?

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

## WHAT IS THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN?

Although new members are asked to make a Pledge 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 PLEDGE COVER?

The church's fiscal year begins on the first day of June and runs through the end of May the following year. The Pledge you make in March and April will cover expenses for the upcoming Church Year, June through May.

## 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 Pledge.

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

**Yes, making a responsible financial pledge to the church each year is a requirement of membership!** However, you do not have to be a member to pledge and making a pledge doesn't automatically make you a member. If you are a friend of the church or frequent visitor who would like to make a financial commitment, but are not yet ready to become a member, you can still make a pledge.

## 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. We also understand that life is not static. If circumstances require you to adjust your estimate, please contact the church office or Stewardship Chair.