



UUCO Financial Pledge FAQs (2009)

How much should I pledge?

Great question. Hopefully the answers to the questions below will help you determine the amount you should pledge. The most important thing is that it be an amount that works for you personally. Pledge amounts are confidential. We encourage you to think about a pledge that reflects both your ability to pledge and how much you value having a Unitarian Universalist Congregation here in Oxford!

Can't I just put my contribution in the collection basket each week?

While we certainly won't turn down money in the collection basket, pledging is essential for the UUCO board to plan for the year. Pledges form the financial backbone of the Congregation.

Can I look at UUCO's annual budget?

Of course. The UUCO budget is a planning document prepared by the UUCO Board during their meeting in March of each year. The Budget is then presented to the whole congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on April 2008. It is available at any time. Please contact Paula Shanks our 2008-2009 Financial Trustee if you have any questions.

What sources of earned income does UUCO have?

The foundation of our income is of course from pledges from members and from friends. However, there is other income. For the next couple of years, we have the benefit of rent income from the UU District Office. On occasion, UU Hall is used by organizations for activities such as dance or Tai Chi Classes. This generates a small amount of revenue for UUCO. Additionally, there are sometimes congregational fundraisers. The youth also earn money by parking cars and selling refreshments at the talent show. That income is then earmarked for youth activities and purchases.

What if my financial situation changes and I can't meet my financial pledge?

Your pledge is based on your individual financial situation and commitment to the congregation. While your commitment to the congregation may remain constant, sometime financial situations do change and we understand that

What do most people pledge?

Annual pledges range from \$100 to \$3000. While we encourage UUCO members to give generously, it is understandable that pledges may vary greatly from person to person and may also vary from year to year for any one individual. All pledges are confidential. The UUA provides some guidelines for pledging and this is available at the church.

How many people pledge?

While there are currently (2009) 59 members of UUCO, for pledge purposes the membership is broken down into “pledging units”. This year there are 40 “pledge units.” Many families or couples pledge as a single unit, although some pledge as individual members. You can pledge whichever way works for your family. If you divide the pledge goal by the number of pledging units, it will give you an idea of each family’s portion of the total – but, some will give more and some will give less. Give what is comfortable for you. We hope to have 100% participation in pledging this year. Both Members and Friends of UUCO make pledges!

What is the UUA and what is UUCO’s financial obligation to that organization?

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is the national association of UU congregations. Membership dues to this organization are based on the number of members in a congregation. Currently, the dues are \$51 per person per year. While this is a significant financial commitment on our part, the UUCO board believes the benefits of membership in UUA are worth it. We have access to many materials and other resources through the UUA. We are also listed on the UUA’s website and in the directory which makes finding us easier for those who may be moving to or visiting Oxford. The UUA supports our district office financially and administratively. Finally, membership in the UUA connects UUCO to the larger UU community. We also pay dues to the UU Mid-South District which currently run \$20 per person. Similar benefits on a more local level are provided by this association.

Can I still be a member if I chose not to pledge?

Yes. According to our bylaws, members are required to make a “contribution of record”. In other words, as long as you make some kind of contribution that can be recorded as being made by you, you have fulfilled your financial obligation to UUCO. But we urge you to pledge. You can make a single payment in an amount that is comfortable for you. One goal of the Finance Committee is to have 100% participation by members of this year’s pledge drive. Please consider filling out your pledge form and contributing.