



UUCO Financial Pledge FAQs

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 is comfortable for you personally. Pledge amounts are confidential. Our total pledge goal for this year is \$20,000.

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 helps the UUCO board and committees plan for the year. We try to base the programming and activities schedules on real financial numbers so we can be sure that we maintain our strong financial health.

Can I look at UUCO's annual budget?

Of course. The UUCO budget is a planning document prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the UUCO Board. It will be available to all members at the UUCO annual meeting, or upon request at any time. Here's snapshot of the 2006-2007 budget. Our estimated income is just over \$28,000. This comes from projected pledges, cash contributions collected at services, general earned income, and youth income. Our estimated expenses are just over \$27,000. This includes both building expenses and operational expenses.

What sources of earned income does UUCO have?

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 meditation workshops. This generates a small amount of revenue for UUCO. Additionally, congregational fundraisers, such as an auction and rummage sale, have generated income for UUCO. 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 you would certainly not be bound to contribute an amount that is not comfortable should that situation arise

What do most people pledge?

Annual pledges range from \$5 to \$3000. The median pledge is \$600 annually. While we encourage UUCO members to give generously, it is understandable that pledges may vary greatly from person to person. All pledges are confidential. Only the Financial Trustee has access to individual pledge information

How many people pledge?

While there are currently around 50 members of UUCO, for pledge purposes the membership is broken down into “pledging 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. Currently, there are approximately 40 “pledging units” in UUCO. 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.

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. 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 \$18 per person. Similar benefits on a more local level are provided by this association.

In what other ways can I contribute financially to UUCO?

Plan and organize a fundraising event. Contribute items to the annual auction. Contribute items to the rummage sale. Donate materials such as cleaning supplies or office supplies. Pursue grant opportunities. Sponsor a “home improvement” such as a new front door or paint for the RE room.

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

Yes. You’re 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 I 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.