

## Information on Pledging at UUCPA

Thank you for your consideration in supporting the UUCPA community. Unitarian Universalist congregations are self-sustaining institutions whose primary source of funding comes from church Members and Friends. With all of us helping provide this fundamental foundation, we look forward to continued healthy relationships, personal growth and socially active outreach.

Although this document speaks most explicitly to Members, most of it also applies to Friends.

**What Is a Pledge?** A pledge is your financial commitment to the church. Members annually pledge to support UUCPA with their financial resources. Friends are also invited to pledge, and many do.

**Why We Pledge:** As a group of people covenanted together in this spiritual community, we believe a financially healthy church is the responsibility of all Members. We also believe that if UUCPA and our liberal religious faith are to live into future generations, we must care for this place and keep it strong. A contribution of record also allows Members to vote in Congregational Meetings.

Every pledge helps UUCPA:

- Sustain our community;
- Grow spiritually and intellectually;
- Provide and sustain our beautiful facilities;
- Enrich our lifelong learning;
- Expand our outreach and social justice efforts;
- Reach out to Members in need with our pastoral care and support services;
- Inspire and support our music program;
- Sponsor forums, events, and speakers that open our minds and hearts;
- Welcome more people and become more richly diverse.

**What We Pledge:** It costs money to support both the structure and activities that sustain our community. This year, it will cost over \$2,200 per Member to sustain the Church, and most of that comes from pledges. We ask each of our Members to consider an annual pledge of 5% of their annual household income or expenses. We understand that we all have varied circumstances. If 5% is not possible, please contribute an amount that is significant for you, representing your commitment to UUCPA, to your personal growth, and to relationships with

the community.

**How We Pledge:** When you become a Member or Friend, you will be asked to fill out a Pledge Card for your financial contribution to UUCPA during the current Church fiscal year of May 1 – April 30. There is no minimum amount required, but please know as soon as you become a Member, the UUCPA pays over \$100 annually to related associations which support our ministry and social justice efforts. The higher your income, the higher we hope you will consider pledging. Your pledge is 100% tax deductible.

**How We Pay Our Pledges:** We pay annually, quarterly, monthly, or weekly. You can drop off or mail a check to the office, or put a check in the Sunday offering basket. Stock donations are also accepted. If you contribute via the Sunday service offering basket, please mark “pledge” in the check memo line. All unmarked checks or cash donations on Sundays are considered gifts to the church’s general operating budget (except when a special collection is taken for a specific cause). Each Sunday, 10% of unmarked contributions are donated to a special cause selected annually by the congregation from recommendations by the UUCPA Action Council. You will get statements in September and March to recap your pledge payments. Please know that you are not held to your pledge amount if your situation changes in a difficult way during the year.

Membership in UUCPA will be most rewarding if you go beyond simply attending Sunday services, and participate in some of the other activities available here. Examples include adult religious education, volunteer work, Choir, small groups such as Chalice Circles, Men's Groups, Women's Groups, Parent Journey, Thespians, and many social justice efforts. We are grateful for your interest in the UUCPA and look forward to welcoming you often, enjoying your company, inspiration, and warmth.