

**How does the budget process work?**

Every year, the Finance Team, with input from Ministry Team leaders and approval by the Board, creates a Dream Budget, which sets our goal for the Budget Drive.

After the pledge drive, the Finance Team and the Board create a final budget using the pledges that were submitted. The congregation votes on the final budget at the annual congregational meeting in May.

**What about money I give as an offering?**

While all offerings help and are deeply appreciated, if you can possibly make a financial commitment now – even for a smaller amount than you’d like to give – it will make for a better budget. Of course, feel free to use the offering plate to submit your pledge, just make sure you’re identified on it.

***The only money we can put to effective use is the money we can plan on being there.***

**What about fundraisers?**

If you’ve ever worked on a fundraiser – the Yard Sale or the Auction – you know it’s hard work! Some years we don’t have anyone who can step up and lead these events. Also, it has been a long-term goal to use fundraisers for special projects, not to pay the bills, whenever possible.

**What about the Trust?**

We are so fortunate that a few wise members began the UUCP Charitable Trust to ensure the long-term health of our church. At the moment, however, the funds are not sufficient to contribute in a meaningful way to support the church’s ongoing expenses.

**YOUR PLEDGING QUESTIONS... ANSWERED**

**What is the money for?**

Our budget reflects our mission and vision. Pledges fund our daily operations and ensure that the church and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

**How much should I pledge?**

Plan to contribute a percentage of your annual income. The Fair Share Giving Guidelines suggest what you might give.

We place a high value on diversity in our congregation — diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. Included in this diversity is a diversity of economic circumstances. All of us support our church at appropriate individual financial levels.

**Is pledging a requirement of membership?**

Part of the covenant of membership in our community is sharing in its financial upkeep. Per our Bylaws, membership does require a record of financial contribution during the church year, and a pledge is the way to do just that.

**What if my financial circumstances change during the year?**

Lives are not static. Contact the Treasurer if you need to adjust your pledge.

**Will I go to HELL if I don’t pledge a certain amount?**

No.