

Pledge Drive FAQ

What is the Pledge Drive?

UUCR receives no outside funding so it is up to all of us to provide the funds needed to pay the church's expenses so that it can continue to thrive.

The annual Pledge Drive is UUCR's largest source of income and provides the funds for our church's programs, the salaries of our dedicated staff and the upkeep of the buildings on our beautiful campus.

During the Pledge Drive UUCR's members and friends make a financial commitment, a "Pledge", to support the church financially for the coming year. Knowing how much you plan to contribute helps us budget and plan responsibly for the future.

Your generosity will help keep UUCR strong and enable us to work together towards fulfilling our mission.

Who Should Pledge?

We ask that all members and friends of the church make an annual pledge - and almost everyone who regularly comes to UUCR does. If you have found inspiration, support, enrichment, and community at UUCR, please consider making a pledge.

Specifically, UUCR's "Rights & Responsibilities of Membership" states that members have certain responsibilities to the congregation and to one another. They are best fulfilled by:

- Regular attendance at worship.
- Voting at congregational meetings.
- Making a financial contribution i.e., an Annual Pledge
- Contributing time and talent
- Working on your spiritual growth and development

Why should I pledge if I already contribute to the Weekly offering?

Contributions to the weekly offering (in-person or online) are always welcome! But the money received in the collection plate isn't enough to cover our expenses. Plus, we "Share the Plate" and give away half of the money received in the offering each Sunday to a worthy cause as one way of living out our mission statement.

How much should I pledge?

Great question! Pledging is a personal decision that we hope you make after reflecting on the importance of UUCR in your life.

Below is the UUA's "Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide". By giving your Fair Share percentage, you'll know you are making a meaningful contribution regardless of the actual dollar amount.

Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide

| Adjusted Annual Income | Suggested % of Income | Monthly Pledge | Annual Pledge |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| \$30,000 | 2% | \$50 | \$600 |
| \$60,000 | 2% - 3% | \$100 - \$150 | \$1,200 - \$1,800 |
| \$90,000 | 3% - 4% | \$225 - \$300 | \$2,700 - \$3,600 |
| \$120,000 | 3% - 4% | \$300 - \$400 | \$3,600 - \$4,800 |
| \$180,000 | 4% - 5% | \$600 - \$750 | \$7,200 - \$9,000 |
| \$250,000 | 5% - 6% | \$1,000 - \$1,250 | \$12,000 - \$15,000 |

We know that everyone's financial circumstances are different. We recognize and deeply respect the financial diversity of our congregation. So we invite you to participate at whatever level feels right for you. Every pledge – large or small – will be gratefully received.

If you are considering making your first pledge to the church and need some help deciding where to start, one of our team members would be happy to talk with you. Please call the Church Office at (781) 944-0494 to schedule a time.

How do I make a pledge?

Click [SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE ONLINE](#) anytime to submit your pledge.

When do I pay my pledge?

Pledges made in March 2024 should be paid between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

What are my payment options?

Pledges are usually paid periodically throughout the year. (**Automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly payments are strongly preferred!**) Here are your payment options:

Online through your bank's "Bill Pay" feature

- Set up "Bill Pay" to automatically send payment to: UUCR, 239 Woburn St, Reading MA 01867
- Please write "PLEDGE" in the Account Number or Memo field

Online through UUCR's website

- Click [DONATE NOW](#) to donate via your bank account or credit card.

By check

- Please write "PLEDGE" in the memo field
- Mail your check to: UUCR, 239 Woburn St, Reading MA 01867
- Checks can also be put in the collection plate at Church

With appreciated stock.

- Please email our Gift Coordinator at donations.uureading@gmail.com for instructions on how to donate stock.

What if I can't meet my pledge?

The pandemic taught us that anything can happen during the course of the year: job loss, illness, unexpected major expenses, etc. If you find you can't meet your pledge or part of your pledge, please inform the Office to adjust your pledge amount in confidence.

Please also contact the Pastoral Care team if you are in need of care and support.

Don't let financial hardship keep you away from UUCR. You are an important part of our church community. We are all here for each other through good times and bad.