

Common Misconceptions Around Giving

I come to church most Sundays and put money in the plate

- What we currently raise from the Sunday offering would keep the church doors open for only about 13 days out of the year
- For years TUCW has had a calling to give away the whole plate to deserving charities in our area. We cannot, due to short falls in our operating

budget

My household income isn't what I would like it to be and I already give to other causes

- There are only ~300 households responsible for supporting our entire budget
- 20% of Households give 54%
- We have not met our pledge goal for 3 years in spite of some very generous giving. We can do even better.

Fair Share Giving Guide⁷

Deciding your fair share requires deep thought about the role of the church (congregation) in your life and your family's, your financial resources, your commitment to the congregation's health and your concern and support for the future of Unitarian Universalism here and in the wider community. The chart below is a tool you can use to decide what a serious and equitable membership pledge might be for you and your family.

Adjusted Annual HH Income	Fair Share
Less than \$50,000	3% (\$750)
\$50,000-\$74,999	4% (\$2,000-3,000)
\$75,000 - \$99,999	4.5% (\$3,375-4,500)
\$100,000-\$199,999	5% (\$5,000-10,000)
\$200,000 & Over	5.5% (\$15,000 +)

IT'S [Y]OUR
CHURCH

"...there is no one but us, there never has been."

Annie Dillard

Pledge Drive
2015 -2016

Why do we pledge?

For

Wonderful Worship Services that lift our souls.

Compassionate **Ministry** to turn to as we face life's joys and sorrows.

a **beautiful building** that merges Nature with Spirituality

inspiring Music which comforts, entertains and motivates us,

good **Fellowship** with friends who share our values

a **Religious Education** program which gives our children Spiritual Values for the rest of their lives.

the chance to do so much good through Advocating Gun Control, the Beardsley School Project, Environmental Action, KIVA Microfinance, Mercy Learning Center, Racial Justice Committee, Rainbow Task Force, Supporting the work of the UU Untied Nations Office and on and on.

Let's think of these things as we think of how much to give.

What is our responsibility?

We know.....

- ✓ The budget we democratically approve at our Annual Meeting each year is almost entirely dependent on us, the congregation, for funding
- ✓ Running our ministries and programs have fixed costs that are laid out in the operating budget and if not met require severe measures like the possibility of staff lay-offs
- ✓ The folks sitting next to/behind/in front of us in the sanctuary count on us to shoulder our share of the financial responsibility, just as we count on them
- ✓ We should help our new minister bring their ministry here on a strong financial footing
- ✓ We should express our gratitude for The Unitarian Church in Westport and all it means to us by digging deep and, yes, giving sacrificially

And there is no one but us....

What does it cost?

We understand that...

Cost per Adult HH	\$2,300
Cost per Child in RE	\$790
Cost for Music per HH	\$730
Cost of Ministry per HH	\$1,100
Cost per Family of 4	\$3,600
Cost Social Justice/HH	\$200

Total Needed From Pledges

(Not Including Fund Raisers or Bequests):

\$775,000

The Blended Average: \$2,800

This is the average household pledge needed to meet the Annual Operating Budget.

We all derive so much from this wonderful institution: spiritual solace, friendship, a feeling of belonging, ritual, education not to mention pot luck dinners