

Because of 'U'....

...this is a place for everyone! Our Church is sustained by the generosity of all, both spiritually and financially. While the church is not a business, there is a real business to running the Church. Which is why we ask members and supporters to pledge 5% or more of their income as circumstances allow. If you are a new member, you may want to work up to this goal.

You are the one who makes the decision about what is generous within your means!

We invite you to make this a spiritual journey. We're a dynamic church with a bright future. We need 'U' to be invested in it so we can continue to help make this a better world. In the coming years, our expenses will grow as we make changes to our ministry. We will have capital expenses to maintain our beautiful facilities. We are a large congregation with large responsibilities which can only be fulfilled by responsible giving. Your pledge funds much more than what you may know.

A Common Understanding:

Most of us come from other religious backgrounds so we don't have a uniform understanding of responsible giving. Of course, you must first be responsible for your own financial well being but there's a cost to providing a spiritual haven for yourself and others. Whether income is tight or not, reprioritizing your charitable contributions, can help with your pledge as the Church also supports many other causes you may be supporting too.

Pledging Guidelines:

PILLAR:

A Pillar is a benefactor who gives \$10,000+ regardless of % of income

VISIONARY: 5% of your Annual Income

"The Church has transformed me and I believe a liberal tithe will allow the church to transform others"

Annual Income	Monthly Pledge	Annual Total
\$20,000	\$83	\$1,000
\$40,000	\$167	\$2,000
\$60,000	\$250	\$3,000
\$80,000	\$333	\$4,000
\$100,000	\$417	\$5,000
\$125,000	\$521	\$6,250

SUSTAINER: 3%-4% of Annual Income

"I'm committed to the present and future needs of the church"

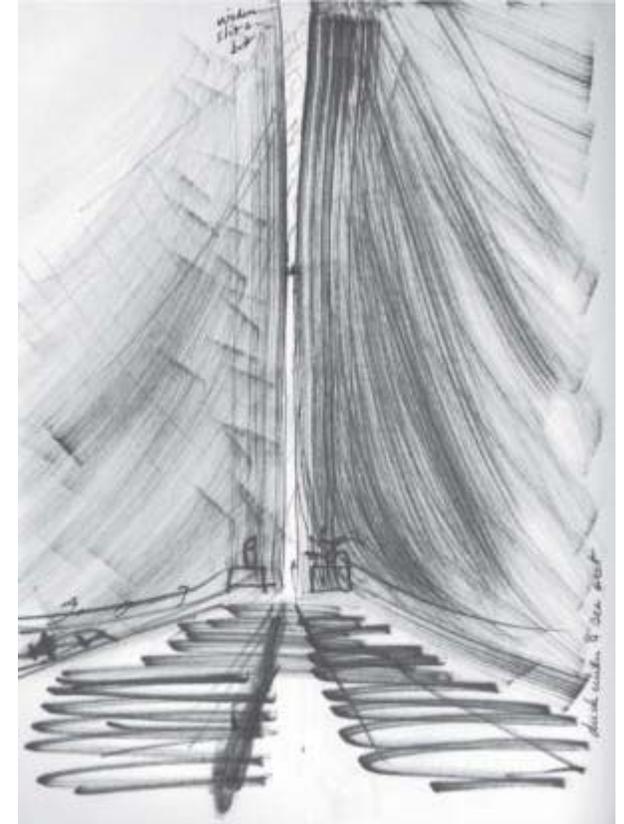
Annual Income	Monthly Pledge	Annual Total
\$20,000	\$50-\$67	\$600-\$800
\$40,000	\$100-\$133	\$1,200-\$1,600
\$60,000	\$150-200	\$1,800-\$2,400
\$80,000	\$200-\$267	\$2,400-\$3,200
\$100,000	\$250-\$333	\$3,000-\$4,000
\$125,000	\$312-\$416	\$3,750-\$5,000

CONTRIBUTOR: 2% of Annual Income

"The Church is a significant part of my life and promotes my spiritual growth"

Annual Income	Monthly Pledge	Annual Total
\$20,000	\$33	\$400
\$40,000	\$67	\$800
\$60,000	\$100	\$1,200
\$80,000	\$133	\$1,600
\$100,000	\$167	\$2,000
\$125,000	\$208	\$2,500

The Unitarian Church in Wesport ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE 2010/11



"We make a living by what we do;
we make a life by what we give."
- Sir Winston Churchill

A Guide to Responsible Giving

**Pledge deadline:
Celebration Sunday
May 16, 2010**

Because of 'U'....

...is the theme for the 2010/11 Annual Pledge Drive. Why? Because of 'U' we're not only the church we are, but the church we will be! It's a recognition of all the wonderful things your contributions have made possible as well as a call to action for generosity. Because of 'U', we can continue to be a liberal voice for truth and justice, provide programs and services to those within our congregation and within the larger community.

Because of 'U', we're a large congregation than can accomplish great things - things that smaller congregations only dream of doing!

A Pledge to 'U'

This year's drive will outline the needs of the congregation for the next several years, including staffing, Sheila Lane, membership and our ministry. Our church is moving toward an exciting future and we can't get there without U understanding how.

A Pledge to US

Our minimum goal this year is to raise at least \$700,000 in pledges which is approximately \$65,000 more than last year. This will sustain the Church for one more year at the current level but have no doubt that the current level is not where this church needs to be.

To make a pledge, please go on-line at www.uuwestport.org, mail in your pledge form or call our office at 203-227-7205 ext 16.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Annual Pledge Drive

Q: What is the Annual Pledge Drive?

A: The 2010/2011 pledge drive begins April 11, 2010 and concludes on Appreciation Sunday May 16th. During this time, congregants make their pledges for the upcoming fiscal year (7/1/10 - 6/30/11) Pledge income funds almost 75% of the operating budget - the UUA does not fund any part of this church.

Q: What are other people pledging?

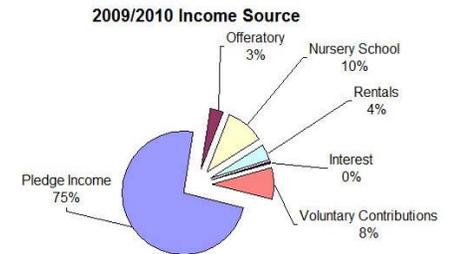
A: Not as much as you may think. Did you know that 50% of our pledges account for only 20% of what we need? If this 50% were able to pledge \$100 a month each, we would more than make our goal. Thankfully, we have 21 individuals whose pledges account for over 50% of what we need but what if that were to change? We need everyone to pledge their responsible share (see suggested guideline on other side).

Q: I put money in the offeratory plate each Sunday. Isn't that enough?

A: Oh, how we wish it were so! Sunday offerings represent only 3% of our income.

Q: I have a limited income. What do you recommend?

A: Please pledge as you are able. Know that you are always welcome at the Unitarian Church in Westport. We invite you to call the church office to find out how we may be able to help you.



Q: What is the Financial status of the Church?

A: We're weathering the storm. 2008/09 was a bad year and we ran a deficit. 2009/10 we were able to balance the books but not without sacrifices unseen by many such as reducing our UUA fair share, deferring staff raises for a 4th year, cutting back on RE supplies and more.

Q: I heard we might lose staff. What about Sheila Lane? What about our future ministerial needs?

A: Whoa! That's a lot to answer in a short brochure and this will all be addressed in the coming weeks or you can go on-line now to get some of the answers. But the bottom line is if we meet our pledge goal - our wonderful staff stays intact. Sheila Lane is an astute investment for the future and will soon be funded accordingly. Our future ministerial needs are being addressed and as you can imagine, we will certainly have additional expenses for a future ministerial search and subsequent salary.

Q: Will I be called about my pledge?

A: Not if you get your pledge in on time but if you have questions about pledging, you can call us at 227-7205 x16 and ask for John.