

# Congregational Stewardship Q&A

*Why do we pledge?* This church belongs to each of us. We pledge to fund the daily operations and to ensure that the church and its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

*What is the money used for?* Pledge and other revenue sources (rental, investment, fundraising, donations) support our worship and music programs, our religious education program, programs for members and friends, community outreach, and connections to Unitarian Universalism. Our budget reflects our mission and vision.

*What are Visiting Stewards?* Visiting Stewards are other members of the <congregation> who have attended a training session to help them have a meaningful conversation with you about the financial needs of our church. They have volunteered to make personal visits to other members of the congregation to help share information as well as their enthusiasm and commitment to the <congregation>.

*Is pledging a requirement of membership?* We expect that those who benefit from the church and participate in activities will share in its financial upkeep. Some members are able to pledge more, others less, but we can all share in supporting our church.

*Should everyone pledge the same amount?* 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 individual financial levels.

*How much should I pledge?* Plan to contribute a percentage of your annual income. The Fair Share Giving Guidelines (included with the stewardship package) suggest what you might give.

*What about the money I put in the collection plate?* Some people use the Sunday offering to make their pledge payments. As long as the offering can be associated with you, e.g. your personal check, whatever you put in the offering will be counted toward your pledge.

*What if my financial circumstances change during the year, if I lose my job or have a financial emergency?* Lives are not static. Contact the Finance Committee chairperson, <name>, <contact info>, if you need to adjust your pledge.

*What is tithing?* Tithing is giving ten percent of income to support a church. Many UU churches ask their members for a “UU Tithe” — 5% to support the church, and another 5% to charitable organizations.