

## Deciding How Much To Pledge

Like so many decisions in our lives, we must weigh many variables when determining the value of our gift to our religious community. How much do I have? How much do I save? How much do I spend on myself and my family? And, finally, how generous can I be to others?

Many Unitarian Universalists strive to gift others with as much as 10% of our bounty, with at least some portion of that going to their congregation. Since every person has different resources, and different priorities, we give differently.

Before you make your decision, be sure to discuss your situation with the others who share your budget, including your children (time for a valuable teaching moment about generosity).

Since our fellowship has no history of fundraising, the best guidance this year might be to look at the chart provided below, remembering this is just a guide. Take the time to determine where you think you would be comfortable on the chart below: as a Fair Share giver or as a Benefactor.

Adjusted Gross Income	Fair Share Percentage	Typical Monthly Pledge	Total Annual Pledge	Benefactor Percentage	Typical Monthly Pledge	Total Annual Pledge
<i>Below \$20,000</i>	0.5%	Up to \$8	Up to \$100	0.75%	Up to \$13	Up to \$150
<i>Up to \$30,000</i>	1.5%	\$37	\$450	2.25%	\$56	\$675
<i>\$40,000</i>	2.0%	\$67	\$800	3.0%	\$100	\$1,200
<i>\$55,000</i>	2.5%	\$115	\$1,375	3.75%	\$172	\$2,063
<b>\$70,000</b>	3.0%	\$175	\$2,100	4.5%	\$263	\$3,150
<i>\$85,000</i>	3.5%	\$248	\$2,975	5.25%	\$372	\$4,463
<i>\$100,000</i>	4.0%	\$333	\$4,000	6.0%	\$500	\$6,000
<i>\$125,000</i>	4.5%	\$469	\$5,625	6.75%	\$703	\$8,438
<i>\$150,000</i>	5.0%	\$625	\$7,500	7.5%	\$938	\$11,250
<i>Greater than \$150,000</i>	5.5%	>\$687	>\$8,250	>8.25%	>\$1,032	>\$12,375

**Remember that this is just a guide.** It is meant to be a decision-making help, not a prescription. A consultant once said it is important to give until it feels good. Give until it brings you joy. Give with pride so if you were to accidently drop your pledge card and others saw it, you would be proud of yourself and your gift.