



Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fullerton Pledge FAQs

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fullerton (UUCF) is here today because of the commitments and dreams of those who came before us – their hard work, vision, talents, and time. Sustaining a beloved community that nurtures spiritual growth so we can live our values to heal the world requires our generosity. Just as those who made our congregation possible in 1966, we are responsible for ensuring that future members have the resources to love inclusively, grow spiritually, serve gratefully, and work for justice.

Why does UUCF have an annual pledge drive?

Our annual pledge drive offers an opportunity for us to both understand the costs of sustaining our congregation and allow us to recommit to our values.

What is the “pledge cycle?”

Our pledge cycle is a fiscal year, from July 1 – June 30.

What is funded by pledge income?

Your financial commitment supports our worship and music programs, our religious exploration programs, programs for our congregants, community outreach and connections to Unitarian Universalism. Our budget should always reflect our mission, vision, and values. Your generosity also supports Pastoral Care and allows us to do justice work in the larger community through many vital community programs.

How does pledging help to develop the operating budget?

Your pledge enables us to develop a preliminary annual budget based on the total amount pledged for the next year. The final budget is presented to the congregation for approval at our Annual Meeting in June.

Why do we pledge before setting a budget?

In order to know what we can do each year, we need to receive your pledge commitments, which assist UUCF in the development of the budget for the next year. Your annual pledge allows us to plan our commitments to our staff and programs each year.

Who can pledge?

Anyone! Any financial supporters of our congregation may pledge. We gratefully accept all pledges of support.

Do I have to make monthly contributions towards my pledge?

No, your pledge is an annual commitment to the church that can be paid in one lump sum, quarterly, monthly, or weekly. Some choose to contribute at the end of the calendar year; others use their IRA required distributions.



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Is pledging confidential?

Yes, pledging is confidential.

How do I submit my pledge?

We have multiple ways to pledge.

- **Mail:** Complete your pledge card and return it to our UUCF mailing address: PO Box 3847 Fullerton, CA 92834-3847.
- **Online:** Complete the online pledge form to submit your annual pledge at <https://www.uufullerton.org/give>.
- **Email:** Email your pledge amount to administrator@uufullerton.org.
- **Phone:** Contact our Administrator at 714-871-7150 and provide your Annual Pledge Commitment.

A confirmation of your pledge submission will be mailed or emailed to you.

How can I pay my pledge?

You can pay the following ways:

- **MAIL:** Place in the collection basket or mail to: UUCF PO Box 3847 Fullerton, CA 92834-3847
- **VENMO:** Make payments electronically with Venmo@UUC-Fullerton: <https://venmo.com/uuc-fullerton>
- **CREDIT CARD:** Make payments with your debit or credit card via PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/4084199>
- **BILL PAY:** Set up Automatic Payments using Bill Pay: See instructions on our website <https://www.uufullerton.org/give>

How often do I pledge?

Pledges remain active for duration of one fiscal year (July-June). UUCF requests a new pledge commitment annually, even if your pledge remains the same as the prior year. We encourage pledging during the Annual Pledge Drive so we can better construct our Final Budget presented to the congregation in June. However, a pledge can be made at any time during the year.

Will I receive a pledge invoice?

No, rather than invoicing for pledge contributions, you will receive a quarterly contribution statement that itemizes all contributions to our Congregation during the designated period. At the end of the calendar year, you will receive a Year-End contribution statement that captures your contributions for the calendar year. You can contact the office at any time to request a contribution statement. A Pledge Statement is intended to serve as a reminder of the pledge balance that is due at the end of the fiscal year, June 30.



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How much should I pledge?

Each of us will have our own unique circumstances to consider when making a financial commitment. In making your decision, consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation. We are providing our “Giving Guidelines” that includes the consideration of five commitment levels and how they relate to your membership. We expect that those who benefit from our congregation and participate in activities will share in its financial upkeep. Some are able to pledge more, others less, but we can all share in supporting UUCF.

Any financial commitment amount that is meaningful for you is appropriate. Many church members pledge 2-5% of their gross income. Others pledge much more. Others pledge even more because they know that in these challenging times, some of us are unable to make a pledge this year, and they want to pledge extra on our behalf.

What if my circumstances change after I have pledged?

Please contact our Administrator or Rev. Rob. We will work diligently to assist you in adjusting your pledge to a level that is comfortable for you. We value our members and friends and do not want a financial contribution to the congregation to be a hardship.

What if I cannot afford to pledge?

We understand that not all members can make a financial commitment. If this pertains to you, know that your membership status will remain intact, and we will remove you from the pledge contact list for the duration of the Pledge Drive. We encourage all members and friends to contribute to our Congregation through your talents and time.

Is my pledge tax deductible?

Yes, your pledge and many other contributions to the church are tax deductible because you are not receiving a “tangible” item for your pledge. We advise that you consult a financial advisor to ensure you file appropriately.

What if I have additional questions?

If you have additional questions about the pledge drive or pledging in general, you can contact Pledge Team members, our Administrator, Amy, Rev. Rob or send an email to UUCFBoard@uufullerton.org.