

## **FAQs**

### **Q. Why do we pledge?**

*A. We pledge every spring so our Board and staff can create a budget for next year. Your pledge is vital to planning the great work we can do in the coming year! We vote on the budget at our annual meeting in June. Your input is valued. Your pledge is private, but the Society's needs are public and important.*

### **Q. When and how do I pledge?**

*A. You may pledge at any time, but for your pledge to be considered for our 2024/2025 budgeting process, we will need your pledge by March 12. The best way to pledge is by looking for the acorns on the home of our [website](#). Clicking on the acorns will take you to our [Stewardship Page](#) which has a button to click on to Complete A Pledge Card.*

### **Q. How do I decide how much to pledge?**

*A. Deciding on the amount to pledge is important business. We encourage you to use the "[Contribution Guide](#)" available on our website. When using this guide, begin on the side with all the writing. This side will help you adjust your income level appropriately before using the chart on side two to find your suggested level of giving. We encourage members to look at this chart every year as their circumstances may have changed. You may also want to use our Giving Pyramid to see where your pledge falls in the overall giving of our membership and to see if you might be able to bring your pledge up to the next level.*

### **Q. I'm not a member. Do I need to pledge?**

*A. We have many people in our congregation who are not (yet) members and who pledge, as a reflection of the value this Society holds in their lives. We encourage you to pledge and also to join as a member to deepen your connection to First UU.*

### **Q. Is cash in the basket on Sunday OK?**

*A. Cash in the basket does not take the place of a pledge. We split the cash 50/50 between our FUUSB general fund and a local nonprofit each week. For your 'cash in the basket' to count towards your pledge, you must put it in an envelope (from your pew) with your name on it. Checks put into the basket on Sunday will be considered a pledge payment unless otherwise noted.*

### **Q. I volunteer a lot. Do I still need to pledge?**

*A. Our Society values your contribution of volunteer time immensely. However, your contribution of financial resources helps us provide staffing, programs, and resources to fulfill our mission and help you do work you're passionate about at First UU.*

**Q. Doesn't most of my pledge go toward taking care of this historic building?**

*A. Actually, income from renting our parking lot, the Clarke Street building, the Elmwood Ave. buildings, and our own Meeting House space nearly cover the cost of maintenance on our properties. Income from the Meeting House Fund and the Nims Fund cover the costs of other capital maintenance expenses.*

**Q: When does this pledge take effect, and when do I start paying toward my pledge?**

*A: You will start paying toward your pledge on July 1, and have until June 30, the following year to fulfill your pledge. If you begin paying next year's pledge prior to July 1, please note the pledge year in the memo line on your check.*

**Q: How do I pay my pledge?**

*A: You may pay your pledge by putting a check in the basket on Sunday morning or mailing a check to the Society office. You may also pay your pledge by setting up an automatic payment from your bank account, debit card, or credit card. You may set this up easily from your Realm account. You may also pay your pledge with a donation of appreciated securities, from a donor-advised fund, or a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA. You may also text your pledge payment by texting Steeple to 73256.*

**Q. What if my financial situation changes after I pledge?**

*A. If your financial situation changes significantly - either increasing in resources or decreasing - your pledge might need to change. If this is the case, please contact Christina in the First UU office to adjust your pledge amount.*

**Q. How do I activate my Realm Account?**

*A. If you are currently in our database, you should have received an invitation to activate your Realm Account. If you did not receive your invitation, please email Mary at [mary@uusociety.org](mailto:mary@uusociety.org) and ask that an invitation be sent. Once you receive your invitation, it is quite easy to activate your account, but if you need help you can find a [step by step guide on our website](#).*