Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):
Personal Discernment of My Annual Giving Pledge

1. **What is a pledge?**

Each spring, supporters of UUC pledge to make future financial one-time or distributed gifts in support of the church’s programming and operation for the next fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th of the following year). Pledges can be submitted online in UUC Connect or on a paper pledge form delivered to the church office.

2. **Why is annual pledging important?**

The ministries, programming and maintenance of the campus at UUC are funded almost entirely (roughly 75%) by the annual giving pledge donations from its supporters. When UUC leadership is projecting the budget for the year of programming ahead, it’s important to know the plans that UUC’s donors have for giving during that year. A proposed budget can’t make commitments to funding for staff or programming that won’t be supported by the promised gifts received from donors. Pledges are the lifeblood of the church and make the continuous operation of its ministries and programming possible.

   **It is the people of UUC who fund our church. Financial support of UUC reflects a commitment to the church, its ministries and mission.**

3. **What does my pledge support?**

Pledges made each spring for the upcoming fiscal year support the pay and benefits for ministers and church staff, including cost-of-living increases and increases in healthcare benefits; all the programs that are run by our ministers, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers; ongoing business expenses such as UUA dues, insurance, audits, software licenses, and equipment maintenance; utilities and maintenance of the building and grounds; and banking and investment expenses.

4. **How much should I consider pledging?**

There is no minimum amount to participate, and all gifts are important and cherished. Every household must consider multiple factors when deciding what their support for UUC can be, especially when thinking about their resources and opportunities for a full year. Our church does not depend on tithing, but we do encourage you to use the [Aspirational Giving Guide](#) to help discern your pledge to UUC. Every gift, no matter the amount, is important and cherished.
5. **How do I fulfill a pledge?**

The methods of giving gifts in fulfillment of pledges are the same as making a one-time gift. For details, see [Ways To Give](#) on the church website under “Giving.”

A pledge can be fulfilled at any time during the programming year it is intended to support. All gifts toward pledges must be received by June 30 of the year following the start of the pledge. If it makes sense for you to give before December 31 for tax purposes, you may certainly do so. If you prefer to give regular monthly or quarterly gifts that add up to the total of your annual pledge, that is supported as well.

Prepayments made before July 1 can be held in restriction on your behalf. Prepaid gifts are only used in the year the pledge is intended to support. If you wish to make a prepayment, simply indicate on your gift what pledge year you are giving to when you make your gift.

As you make gifts toward your pledge, they are recorded in your giving record in UUC Connect. You can see your progress on your pledge at any time by logging in and looking at your Giving page. In addition, quarterly statements updating you on your progress are sent to all pledging households.

6. **Who can I talk with to learn more or get support for how to make a pledge?**

If you have questions about the Annual Giving Campaign or how to volunteer for the effort, please contact the Stewardship Committee through UUC Connect or email the Chair, Katie Renschler (katierenschler@gmail.com). You may also contact our Annual Giving Campaign Co-Chairs, Sallie Dacey (dacey.sallie@gmail.com) and Michael Linenberger (mlinenberger1956@gmail.com). If you have specific questions about how to make your pledge or if you have issues with the on-line pledge form, please contact Byron Krystad at the church office at 206-454-7723.

**Thank You!**

Thank you for taking the time to consider your opportunities to give your financial support to UUC. These are the most common ways that supporters make donations, but there are certainly other options. If you have an opportunity to give using a means not described here, please contact the church office to discuss and prepare for such a donation.

Each of us also supports UUC and its mission through our myriad volunteer efforts as we work for justice and equity, teach and mentor children and youth, share the inspiration of worship and music, offer our leadership and service, volunteer our time in support of church operations, advocate for those whose voice needs our support, and reach out to one another in care and compassion.

**Thank you for all the forms of your generous and joyous support of UUC!**