



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Stewardship Campaign? The First Unitarian Society's Stewardship Campaign is made up of hundreds of individuals' pledges to give unrestricted gifts in the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2020. These gifts enable us to fulfill our mission and are among the most important and valuable contributions to FUS.

What is a pledge? A pledge is your commitment of financial support for the First Unitarian Society of Madison in the upcoming fiscal year. A pledge is your families' future contribution to the mission of this community.

Why do we pledge? FUS belongs to all of us. We pledge to provide the financial means for its daily operations and to ensure that the Society and its resources are available to us, and others, now and in the future. Just like other families, FUS needs to know how much income to expect in order to successfully prepare our budget for the upcoming year. Your pledge commitment allows us to plan for our fiscal year which runs July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Is pledging a requirement of membership? We expect that those who benefit from this community and participate in its activities will share in its financial upkeep. Some members and affiliates can afford to pledge more, some less, but we believe that everyone is capable of making a meaningful contribution.

What is a Sustaining Steward? This option allows your gift to continue year after year and lets FUS know that we can count on your continued support. Simply check the box on your pledge form and fill in the number of years we can count on your pledge. We also know that circumstances change and you're able to change your dollar amount and duration anytime. Simply contact Cheryll Mellenthin at 608-233-9774 ext. 130 or email her at cheryllm@fusmadison.org to request a change.

How much should I pledge? Pledges vary based on income, expenses, and personal circumstance. The UUA's Fair Share Giving Guidelines (available on our website at www.fusmadison.org/stewardship) is a helpful resource that provides tried and true recommendations for levels of giving based on your income and taking into account the needs of our Society. Each year our FUS expenses naturally increase and therefore we strongly encourage you to contemplate a notable increase from your last year's pledge.

How do I make a pledge? Pledging online is our preferred method. We also have a pledge form you can pick up or download and drop it off at FUS or mail it to the First Unitarian Society c/o Cheryll Mellenthin. We will add your pledge to our expected income for the next year. Please visit www.fusmadison.org/stewardship to pledge.

How do I pay my pledge? The pledged amount is for the upcoming fiscal period, July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. When pledging, you will be asked to select if you intend to pay one time, monthly, or weekly. You will also select if you prefer to pay by credit card, EFT, stock, mutual fund, bond transfer, a qualified charitable donation (IRA, donor advised fund, or 3rd party), or with a check(s).

What is the money used for? Pledges and other revenue sources (donations, rentals, investment, fundraising, etc.) have long supported our diverse array of programming. Take a look at our campaign materials available on our website at www.fusmadison.org/stewardship to read more about how your dollars support the community.