

# STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 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, 2023. 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 for the upcoming fiscal year. A pledge is your family's 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 families and individuals, 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, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

**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 can make a meaningful contribution. We believe financial support should never be a barrier to full participation in our community life and invite you to contact one of our ministers if you are experiencing financial hardship.

**WHAT IS THE MONEY USED FOR?** Pledges and other revenue sources (donations, rentals, investment, fundraising, etc.) have long supported our diverse array of programming. Look at our campaign materials available on our website at [www.fusmadison.org/stewardship](http://www.fusmadison.org/stewardship) to read more about how your dollars support the community.

**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 or on our online pledge option and select 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.

**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 [fusmadison.org/stewardship](http://fusmadison.org/stewardship)) is a helpful resource that provides 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 we strongly encourage you to consider a notable increase from your last year's pledge.

**HOW DO I MAKE A PLEDGE?** Pledging online is our preferred method and we've introduced a new, easier online giving platform. We also have a pledge card you can download and mail to First Unitarian Society / Attn. Cheryll Mellenthin / 900 University Bay Dr. / Madison, WI 53705. Please visit [www.fusmadison.org/my-pledge](http://www.fusmadison.org/my-pledge) to pledge online.

**HOW DO I PAY MY PLEDGE?** The pledged amount is for the upcoming fiscal period: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party), or with a check(s).