

UUCB Pledge FAQs (1/28/23)

What is a Pledge?

A pledge is a promise to contribute a specific amount of money to UUCB over a specific period of time (typically a church year, which runs from July 1 to June 30). Collectively, pledges paid by the UUCB church community constitute over 44% of the income received by the church to fund salaries, operations and programs.

What is a Pledge Unit?

An individual or family who makes a pledge is referred to as a pledge unit.

Why and when are Pledges solicited?

UUCB operates under an annual budget prepared by church leadership and presented and approved by the congregation at the annual meeting in May. To support building the budget, a pledge drive is held in March to canvass the UUCB church community to make their pledges for the upcoming church year. The results of the pledge drive enable church leadership to project the pledge income for the upcoming church year and to set the budget accordingly.

Are church members expected to make pledges?

UUCB Bylaws state that a requirement of membership is an annual “contribution of record.” This can be done by pledging and paying off the pledge over time. Or, contributions can be made when possible at any point in the church year. Be sure to mark the contribution with your name and as a contribution to UUCB.

If financial constraints preclude doing either of these things, a waiver can be obtained from the minister.

Do I need to be a member of the church to make a pledge?

No; anyone who wants to financially support the church can make a pledge.

How many people pledge to UUCB and how much is pledged?

For the 2022-23 church year, there were 148 pledges totaling \$433,158. The median pledge was \$1,500.

Can I set up automatic pledge payments?

Yes; go to the UUCB website (uucb.org) and click on the “Give” button at the top menu on the home page. You can set up monthly payments directly through your bank (no fee to UUCB), from the Breeze system (which will draw *from* your bank or card) or through PayPal.

Can I make changes to my pledge?

Yes; you can make a change to your pledge at any time. You may advise the Deposit Team by emailing DepositTeam@uucb.org or calling the main UUCB number of 510-525-0302.

Does all of the money I give to the church count against my pledge commitment?

No; only pledge payments are applied to a pledge commitment. Other money given for a Good Neighbor organization, an auction item, church events, etc., do not. Please be sure to note “pledge payment” on the memo line of your check, or write “pledge payment” in the Notes section of PayPal.

(with bank account or credit card). If you pay in cash, please be sure to fill out a pew envelope (also available in the office to the left of the Office Administrator's door) so it will be applied as a pledge payment to your account.

What happens to unpaid pledge commitments at the end of the church year?

Each church year ends on June 30. The church sends out monthly pledge statements, so you may keep track of your balance. We include reminders in April, and ask you to notify us if you have a change in your circumstances. If no feedback is received, future payments are applied to the unpaid pledge commitment until it is fully paid off.

Who do I contact if I have questions regarding my pledge or my statement?

Anne Greenwood, depositteam@uucb.org or leave a message at 510-215-6620.