

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Leveraging our Power for Good

Determining your Fair Share to support FUUSA

What is a Fair Share?

FUUSA depends on the contributions of its members (now 379) and friends for almost all of its operating budget. As in previous guidelines, the Fair Share Giving Guide provides a framework for determining a pledge amount that recognizes differences in discretionary income. In addition, it takes account of a congregant's self-determined level of commitment by adding five fair share giving levels based on one's self assessment as a: "Visionary", "Steward", "Benefactor", "Supporter" or "Affiliate".

This expanded framework reminds each of us that membership involves a significant financial commitment, challenges us to reflect on what FUUSA means to us, and helps us establish a fair and equitable basis for determining an appropriate pledge amount. The Guide is intended to enhance our already strong culture of generosity by encouraging each of us to "raise the bar." As you select your personal level of financial commitment this year, please remember FUUSA depends on your support. Please, be as generous as you can, so that we can continue to be a beacon for everyone in this community.

Fair Share Giving Guide					
Commitment Level		Personal Income Estimate			
		Under \$40K	\$40-\$79K	\$80-119K	\$120K +
Visionary	FUUSA is of utmost importance to me/us. I/we want to ensure that FUUSA remains a vibrant voice for liberal religion in the capital region.	2.5% or more	3% or more	4% or more	5% or more
Steward	FUUSA plays a critical role in my/our life. I/we are committed to ensuring that FUUSA remains a beacon open to all.	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%	4.0%
Benefactor	FUUSA is a central part of my/our life. I/we are committed to supporting its mission and programs	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.0%
Supporter	FUUSA is a significant part of my/our life. I/we are committed to supporting its mission and programs	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	2.5%
Affiliate	I/we are associated with FUUSA and support its mission and programs.	0.5%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%

What it takes to make our goal

As a guide to where our pledge income comes from, the table below shows how many pledges were received this past year by weekly and annual amounts. You will notice that a relatively small number of pledge units account for a disproportionately large percent of the total pledged. 52% of our total pledge income came from just 15% of our 269 pledge units.

Our actual cost of operation, for the portion of our budget supported by pledges, works out to be about \$1057 PER MEMBER. Of course, this means for a two-member household the cost would be twice that. This total is actually slightly less than last year, and it translates to an average cost of about \$20 per week per member. We are deeply grateful to ALL who stretch their ability to give, and especially thankful that so many are able to exceed the average.

Number & Percent of FY 2009-2010 Pledges by Amount Pledged				
Pledge Amount		Number of Pledge Units	Percent of	
Weekly	Annual		Pledge Units	Total Amount Pledged
above \$125	\$6,501 - \$12,500	4	1%	10%
\$100 - \$125	\$5,200 - \$6,500	9	3%	14%
\$90 - \$99	\$4,680 - \$5,199	3	1%	4%
\$80 - \$89	\$4,160 - \$4,679	7	3%	8%
\$70 - \$79	\$3,640 - \$4,159	4	1%	4%
\$60 - \$69	\$3,120 - \$3,639	2	1%	2%
\$50 - \$59	\$2,600 - \$3,119	13	5%	10%
\$40 - \$49	\$2,080 - \$2,599	12	4%	8%
\$30 - \$39	\$1,560 - \$2,079	12	4%	6%
\$20 - \$29	\$1,440 - \$1,559	11	4%	5%
\$10 - \$19	\$520 - \$1,439	81	30%	21%
\$5 - \$9	\$260 - \$519	55	20%	6%
under \$5	under \$259	56	21%	2%
		269	100.00%	100.00%

FUUSA's power for good could certainly benefit from a broader base. Again, we ask that you seriously consider leveraging that part of your income you devote to doing good by investing it with your fellow FUUSAns to promote our mission as a liberal religious community.