

What is pledging, why, and how?

A monthly or annual pledge is your statement of *yes*, I want this congregation to run effectively and be there when I need and want it to be. While we very much welcome donations, a pledge symbolizes your commitment to the future of the UCG. Many find that paying on a monthly basis is the easiest way, especially if it can be done online.

You've heard the difference between Catholics and Unitarians? Catholics can talk about money but not sex, while Unitarians can talk about sex but can't about money. Well, we break that taboo one month every year, for our Pledge Drive and talk about money!

You are welcome to pledge any time of the year, but we focus on November because it helps the UCG board to prepare a realistic budget for the AGM in February. It is a simple fact – we, the UCG, have bills to pay, a building to maintain, just like your household. Beyond the basics though, we have dreams of how we might invest more in our youth, and hire a developmental minister. We depend on your contributions to pay those bills and plan for our dreams over the next 12 months, and beyond (Our budget year is January to December.)

- **When do I pledge?**

November is our pledge month. But you can pledge anytime if you miss the campaign. All of the money that you donate to UCG is tax deductible. And you don't have to be a member to pledge.

- **How much?**

We all have different financial situations. Some people have little money, but do volunteer work. But money is needed to keep our ship afloat. If you realize that UCG is your beloved community, and you want to feel like you are invested and "all in," then please pledge. The Canadian Unitarian Council guidelines suggest a pledge of 3%-5% of your annual income.

For example, if you have an annual income of \$50,000, 3% = \$1500 or \$125 per month.

- **How do I pledge?**

- *In person.* Walk into the Sunshine Room to the Welcome table, fill out the one-page pledge form on the table, and put it in the Pledge Box.

- *On our website.* Go to the Donations page, click on the *Donate now* button and fill out the easy online form.

- **How do I pay?**

You can pay by Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) from your bank account, or by credit card with *Canada Helps*, or by cheque or cash in the offering on Sunday morning.

If you are doing a PAD, you need to fill out a form we provide. (this form can be downloaded from the Donations tab.) We will follow up with you if you mark this as how you want to pay. Feel free to reach out for more information: treasurer@guelph-unitarians.com