

Some numbers

MAKING A PLEDGE TO GIVE MONEY to Old Ship is one way to express the desire to help and care for – to love – each person in it. Each of us does this for our own reasons. But making a pledge is making a commitment to give money to this community in a way that we can count on.

Old Ship is self-supporting. The costs of operating it – salaries, heat, lights, maintenance, materials – are paid with the pledges that members make each year. Old Ship does have additional sources of income. An endowment, currently worth about \$770,000, this year will contribute approximately \$22,000. Special gifts and non-pledge contributions will add another \$17,000. Other sources of income – fund-raisers, religious education fees, rentals – also help pay the bills. But most of our budget is paid for by our pledges.

Here is a high-level overview of the budget for the 2009-2010 church year:

\$333,000	what we need to operate Old Ship next year
75,000	what we receive from other sources of income – endowment, special gifts, fund raisers, etc.
258,000	what we must contribute ourselves
180	the number of households currently pledging to Old Ship
1,400	the amount of one “share” – total expenses divided by the number of pledging households

This per-household “share” of what it takes to keep Old Ship open is not meant to be a suggested pledge. In fact, many households in our community pledge less than this, and many pledge more. Instead, the “share” is designed to show Old Ship’s financial needs from a different perspective. Instead of presenting the budget as a single large number, we want to show it in a way that relates it to other items in your own household budget.

Most importantly, we want to encourage you to pledge what you are able – less than or more than this share. We believe that your pledge is a very personal expression of who you are. We want to give you as much information as we can, but we know that this decision is yours.

About giving

SO NOW THE QUESTION IS HOW? How do you give? You've decided that you want to give, from a place of abundance, of generosity, of gratitude, and that you want to do so in a regular and intentional way. Here is information about how to do that for the coming church year, which begins on July 1, 2009, and ends on June 30, 2010. This will help you determine how much you want to pledge, how to make your pledge, and how to fulfill it during the year.

On the next pages are tables from the Unitarian Universalist Association's *Fair Share Giving Guide*. This guide starts with a financial commitment of two percent of adjusted gross income – total income less deductions on IRS tax forms – for givers with incomes up to \$10,000, and ranges upward from there.

The guide offers four categories of giving, differentiated by the degree of commitment to the church a giver feels. Within each category, a range of annual incomes appear, with suggested percentages of incomes expressed as weekly, monthly and yearly contributions.

You may not be able to increase your pledge at once to reach these recommendations. Instead, we encourage you, if you are able, to make a commitment to move towards the guidelines, perhaps over a period of years.

Please remember that this guide is a *guide*, offered to help you with a decision. It is not a requirement. You may use anything you wish to reach a very personal decision—how much to give. Also, remember that your pledge is based on what you know today. If your financial circumstances change during the year, it is OK to change your pledge.

Once you've made your decision, please use the card enclosed with this booklet to tell us what you wish to pledge. The card has a space where you can enter the amount of your gift, and check boxes indicating the frequency with which you wish to fulfill your pledge. Please sign the card, place it in the accompanying return envelope, and return it to Old Ship by April 26. Then, make your gift, and enjoy the giving.

Thank you!

Supporter

You see yourself as a **Supporter** because Old Ship is a significant part of your life and promotes your spiritual growth. In this category, if your income is \$50,000, your fair-share gift is three percent of that – \$29 a week, or \$125 a month. Your gift grows to \$1,500 by the end of the year.

Annual income	Percent of income	Contribution each week	Contribution paid monthly	Annual contribution
\$ 10,000	2.0%	\$3.85	\$16.67	\$200
25,000	2.0%	9.62	41.67	500
30,000	2.0%	11.54	50.00	600
40,000	2.5%	19.23	83.33	1,000
50,000	3.0%	28.85	125.00	1,500
60,000	3.0%	34.62	150.00	1,800
75,000	3.0%	43.27	187.50	2,250
100,000	3.5%	67.31	291.67	3,500

Sustainer

You see yourself as a **Sustainer** because Old Ship is central to your identity, and you are committed to sustaining its programs and ministries. In this category, your fair-share gift is four percent of your \$50,000 income – \$38.50 a week, or \$167 a month. Your gift grows to \$2,000 by the end of the year.

Annual income	Percent of income	Contribution each week	Contribution paid monthly	Annual contribution
10,000	3.0%	\$5.77	\$25.00	\$300
25,000	3.0%	14.42	62.50	750
30,000	3.0%	17.31	75.00	900
40,000	3.5%	26.92	116.67	1,400
50,000	4.0%	38.46	166.67	2,000
60,000	4.0%	46.15	200.00	2,400
75,000	4.5%	64.90	281.25	3,375
100,000	5.0%	96.15	416.67	5,000

Visionary

You see yourself as a **Visionary** because you are committed to the growth of Old Ship. Your fair-share gift in this category is five percent of your income of \$50,000 – \$53 a week, or \$208 per month. Your gift grows to \$2,500 by the end of the year.

Annual income	Percent of income	Contribution each week	Contribution paid monthly	Annual contribution
10,000	5.0%	\$9.62	\$41.67	\$500
25,000	5.0%	24.04	104.17	1,250
30,000	5.0%	28.85	125.00	1,500
40,000	5.0%	38.46	166.67	2,000
50,000	5.5%	52.88	229.17	2,750
60,000	5.5%	48.08	208.33	2,500
75,000	6.0%	86.54	375.00	4,500
100,000	6.5%	125.00	541.67	6,500

Tithe

You choose to **tithe** because you wish to express your commitment to your Old Ship community, and your expression of yourself as a part of it, through the ancient practice of the tithe. Your tithe for your income of \$50,000 is \$96 a week, or \$417 a month. Your gift grows to \$5,000 by the end of the year.

Annual income	Percent of income	Contribution each week	Contribution paid monthly	Annual contribution
10,000	10.0%	\$19.23	\$83.33	\$1,000
25,000	10.0%	48.08	208.33	2,500
30,000	10.0%	57.69	250.00	3,000
40,000	10.0%	76.92	333.33	4,000
50,000	10.0%	96.15	416.67	5,000
60,000	10.0%	115.38	500.00	6,000
75,000	10.0%	144.23	625.00	7,500
100,000	10.0%	192.31	833.33	10,000