

Q&A - Stewardship and Pledging

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow. When we become stewards, we take responsibility and contribute our time, talent and treasure to support Albany UU.

Why do we pledge?

Albany UU belongs to each of us. We pledge to fund its daily operations and to ensure that its resources are here for us and for others now and in the future.

What is the money used for?

Income from pledges pays for 85% of our annual budget. It pays for our staff, our worship and music programs, our religious education program, programs for members and friends, community outreach, and connections to Unitarian Universalism. Our budget reflects our mission and vision.

Is pledging a requirement of membership?

Those who love this community and participate in activities should share in its financial upkeep. Some members are able to pledge more, others less, but we can all share in supporting Albany UU.

Should everyone pledge the same amount?

We place a high value on diversity in our congregation--diverse views, backgrounds, and experiences. Included in this diversity is a diversity of economic circumstances. All of us support Albany UU at individual financial levels.

How much should I pledge?

Plan to contribute a percentage of your annual income. The Fair Share Giving Guide suggests what you might give.

What time period is the pledge for?

The church fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends on June 30. The goal is to complete paying a pledge by June 30.

What if my financial circumstances change during the year, if I lose my job or have a financial emergency?

Lives are not static: you can revisit your pledge if need be. Contact our Assistant Treasurer at assistant-treasurer@albanyuu.org to adjust your pledge.

How can I pay my pledge?

There are a number of options:

- (a) By check--put in collection plate or mail;
- (b) By cash--put in envelopes found in Community Hall Lobby and put in collection plate or in mail slot in Administration office door;

- (c) Set up automatic bill pay through your bank;
- (d) Pay online at AlbanyUU.org—your choice of electronic funds transfer or credit card; or set it up the same way via text
- (e) Transfer stock or mutual funds directly to the Albany UU account and save yourself some tax dollars. Contact the office for transfer instructions.

No matter which way you pay, be sure to identify what your payment is for, e.g. Pledge 22-23.

What has been my pledge history?

You can check your pledges and payments online at ChurchDB. Find the login at AlbanyUU.org and retrieve your password to get started. Find Stewardship on the left menu in ChurchDB, and then click Treasure.

Or you can contact Church Administrator, Tammy Goddard Hathaway at 518-463-7135 or admin@albanyuu.org; she will help you with your request.