

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse

Giving Guidelines: How much should I pledge?

You may be wondering how much you should pledge. That's a personal decision, based on your values, the meaning of this congregation in your life, your commitment to Unitarian Universalism, and your financial situation. We offer these guidelines to help you in your deliberations.

These guidelines are based on recommendations by the Unitarian Universalist Association. They can help you understand whether the percentage you give helps keep the lights on, or helps do that *plus* move the church ahead on the goals we choose together.

Visionary Giving—You give 7% of your income because you are committed to both the present and future of the congregation. You want to lead the way in ensuring that our congregation is able to reach out to the community and make progress toward achieving our strategic goals.

Supporting Level—You give 5% of your income because you want to have a church that thrives, functions well, and is in line with our dreams.

Lights On Level—You give 3% of your income. The congregation is a significant part of your life, and it promotes your spiritual growth. You want "the lights kept on."

Additional guidance

1. Determine your annual income. Your most recent Form 1040 is a good place to start. Should you use total income? Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)? AGI minus medical, college or other expenses? Choose whichever feels right to you.
2. Calculate 3% to 10% of whatever *you choose* to consider your income. Some people like to think of the UU tithe, giving 5% to the church and 5% to other charities. Some will feel that 3% is a stretch. *Choose the level that feels right to you*, and fill in the pledge form.

(Adapted from Wayne B. Clark, *Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide To Congregational Stewardship*)