

How Much Should I Pledge?

The most straightforward answer to this question is: As much as you feel comfortable giving, consistent with your means and your perceptions of the needs and value of the Fellowship. In making this judgment, we hope you will take into account the priority that UUFRC occupies in your overall charitable giving, placing it among your most favored "good causes."

Another way to frame the question is to reflect on the giving of other Fellowship members and friends. Last year's average pledge was \$1580 per year, or about \$130 per month, and the median pledge was \$1000, or about \$83 per month. If you are pledging for the first time, these numbers may be pertinent guides.

Finally, we know that many who have pledged previously make judgments based on their prior levels of giving. We can meet our overall goal of raising \$200,000 through this Pledge Drive if all who are currently pledging can increase their pledge by just 5%. Since we know that not everyone can afford to give an additional 5% during these times of economic worry, we hope that a number of you who are financially able can raise your pledges by 6% to 7%.

Let's keep up the good works!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City

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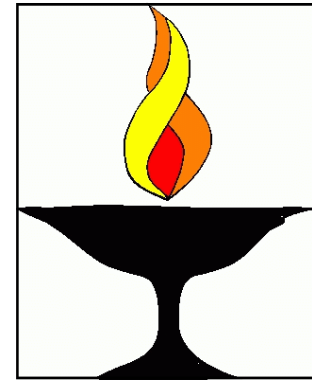
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Keep Up the Good Works!



**Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of
Redwood City**

**Pledge Drive
2008-2009**

Special Funding Needs For 2008–2009

Religious Education: Our religious education programs for youths and adults are growing in participation and quality. There is an immediate need to increase RE staffing, and this has been included in the preliminary budget for next year.

Music: Our music program, including a professional music director and pianists, adds greatly to our services and to the vitality of our fellowship. Increased funding to enhance music is included in the preliminary budget.

Membership: Along with the UUA, our Fellowship has expanded its efforts to welcome newcomers. Funding for a Membership Coordinator is budgeted.

Food: Our after-service “community conversation and coffee custom” has recently taken a quantum leap forward with the addition of organic and sustainably produced food. This is more expensive, and the increase has been budgeted.

Futures and Facility: The Futures Committee has some excellent ideas for modifications to our facility that will let us better accommodate increasing attendance. Some of these ideas are budgeted for next fiscal year, but others are not.

Other Funding Needs: Too numerous to mention, but watch for special messages on this subject during the Pledge Drive!

Essential Message

UUFRC needs increased funding, especially in the areas described in the column to the left, to sustain and expand upon the good works that make our Fellowship a vibrant and thriving community. This year’s Pledge Drive has set an ambitious goal of \$200,000. To achieve it, we need the participation of every member of the community—those who currently pledge and, equally important, those who are not now pledging.

In essence, the message of this year’s Pledge Drive is that every member and friend of the fellowship needs to make UUFRC one of the primary beneficiaries of his or her charitable giving.

If you currently pledge, please consider increasing that pledge by at least 5%. If you don’t, please make a pledge this year. Keep up the good works!

Fiscal Emergency Averted

Earlier this year, we lost the long-term tenant that had rented our building several nights a week, creating a possible fiscal emergency. Fortunately, the Board was able to locate a new tenant. But the experience makes it clear that we will be financially vulnerable as long as a sizable portion of our revenue comes from rental of our facility rather than from our own community. Please take this into account when making your pledge for 2008–2009.

2008–2009 Preliminary Budget

Income

Pledges	\$ 200,000
Open Gate Space Rental	\$ 18,000
Evening Facility Rental	\$ 18,000
Silent Auction	\$ 20,000
Other Fundraising	\$ 25,150
TOTAL INCOME	\$281,150

Expenses

Worship	\$ 96,669
Religious Education	\$ 55,150
Music	\$ 18,460
Administration (office staff, supplies, insurance, payroll taxes)	\$ 53,421
Building Maintenance	\$ 11,200
Outreach (committees, UUA Fair Share, social action)	\$ 19,650
Child Care	\$ 4,600
Reserve Fund	\$ 22,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$281,150

NOTE: UUFRC totally supports itself; there is no money coming to us from an endowment or from the larger church. In fact, we need to pay our Fair Share for the support we get from the Unitarian Universalist Association and Pacific Central District in the amount of approximately \$80 for each member of the Fellowship.