

## OUR MISSION

We are a Unitarian Universalist community, inspired by our Principles, boldly growing compassion, justice, and joy.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a self-sustaining, growing, vibrant, inclusive community serving as a beacon of religious freedom and expression.

---

# HOW DO I PLEDGE?

1

If you know what you would like to pledge, you can email Carla Allison at [cbm@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cbm@hawaii.rr.com) or reach her at 808 396-1488.

2

If you have questions about pledging and would like to speak with someone about the process you can reach Carla Allison (contact above) or Rev. T. J. at [minister@unitariansofhi.org](mailto:minister@unitariansofhi.org).

3

Every member is asked to make or renew their pledge during the annual pledge drive in May. Our pledge team will call members who don't pledge to discuss their individual giving.

FIRST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF HONOLULU  
2500 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
808 595 4047  
[uuhonolulu.org](http://uuhonolulu.org)

---

# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HONOLULU

---



## STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

Ours is a community founded in a rich liberal religious tradition and dedicated to the free and responsible search for truth and meaning. Our rich diversity of belief, our engaging and innovative approach to learning for all ages, and our work for justice to heal a hurting world all help to unite us in compassion, justice, and joy.



We are all individuals, and we understand our own relationship with money and with giving in distinct and passionate ways. We are also all connected. The collection plate is one place where we unite together for a common purpose. We are here, we exist as a community, because of the generosity our members and friends showed in the past and continue to show year after year.

Some of us come from traditions or families where supporting our faith community was part of the monthly budget. Some of us are totally new at supporting a community of faith. And that is natural and fine.

What matters as a united community is that we continue to grow and expand in ways that meet the needs of us all and of those who will follow us here one day.

## WHAT IS PLEDGING?

Our church works on fiscal years from July 1 - June 30. A pledge is simply a statement letting trusted members of our community know what you or your family are planning to give over the coming fiscal year so that we can budget accordingly. Our dedicated team will make sure you receive regular updates on the progress of your pledge and annual tax forms for timely filing.

### WHY ALL THIS FOCUS ON MONEY?

People at this church do amazing, selfless things with their time and energy on a regular and devoted basis. Their time and talent are hugely important and generous. But for a few weeks in every year we need to talk openly and frankly about money, too. It is a necessary part of supporting a place and a group of people devoted to enriching our lives in many ways.

### CAN'T WE JUST ADD MORE MEMBERS?

Yes, of course. We grew by 10% last year. And with more people, come more resources we gladly and happily provide to them. And second, experience tells us that new members and people new to our tradition tend not to be larger givers. Nurturing and care may well lead to increased support in the future, however.

### WHAT IS EVERYONE ELSE GIVING?

Gifts usually represent 3% - 10% of one's annual income. The first and second most common annual gifts are currently \$1200 and \$300 respectively. The average gift is around \$1600—some members give more than ten times this amount and others give more modestly, according to their means. Ways of giving are as varied as we are.

### WHERE DO PLEDGE DOLLARS GO?

In simple terms, salaries and benefits for those who serve our community and the operation of the church space (maintenance, insurance, office supplies, etc.) are the first and second largest costs. But another way to think about it is to consider that these funds go toward nurturing, serving, and enlivening this community and its beloved members and friends.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS PLEDGING, REALLY?

Extremely. Pledges represent roughly 50% of our annual budget and allow a member to vote in annual and special meetings. Giving every member a voice is at the core of our principles, and so is responding to the needs of our community. Other forms of income like rentals and interest from investments are less reliable and more difficult to grow if the need arises.

### CAN I ONLY GIVE TO SPECIAL PROJECTS?

While the church does have some special projects that members support, when this type of giving becomes a practice, churches find that those with more funds begin to hold more power. The essence of unrestricted annual pledging is trusting a community to decide how best to care for all who share in it and then to share in the amazing results.