

Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church

Inspire connection • Advocate Love • Nurture Wonder • Serve the World

Stewardship in a Unitarian Universalist community or ministry is not about payment for services rendered or buying your way into personal reward, in this life or another. It is about investing...to create the world you always hoped for, so that it will be there for future generations.

2017-2018 Fiscal Year Pledge Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pledge Amount:

For the upcoming fiscal year which begins in July 2017, I/we pledge to support Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church by giving \$ _____

- Every week Every quarter
 Every month Single payment
 Other: _____

My/Our Total Annual Pledge is:

\$

I/we covenant to support Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church for the 2017-2018 fiscal year as specified above.

Signature

Signature

Date

Thank you for your generous support!

- Please send me information about how I can include our Church in my estate planning. I would like an opportunity to speak with someone from the Stewardship Committee.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED PLEDGE FORM BY APRIL 16, 2017

Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church
PO Box 630
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

FAQs for Annual Giving

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a promise to contribute a minimum amount of money to GMUUC during its fiscal year.

When is the GMUUC fiscal year?

The GMUUC fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 the following year. (For example, FY18 begins 7/1/2017 and ends on 6/30/2018.)

Why should I pledge?

Pledging lets us know how much income we will have so that we can plan realistically for the coming year. We pledge because a financially healthy GMUUC is the responsibility of all its members and friends.

How is my pledge used?

All the money collected supports the congregation. It provides worship services and music, children and adult faith development classes, and pastoral care. It pays the salaries of our Minister, Children's Faith Development Coordinator, and Choir Director, and for the operation and maintenance of our property and building. It supports social justice projects like Heart in the Park and the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and community events such as the Tomato Sandwich Supper and First Night Dahlonega.

We are self-sustaining; we receive no support from the Unitarian Universalist Association or the Southern Region. Without the financial support of members and friends, GMUUC cannot thrive.

Must I pledge in order to be a GMUUC member or friend?

Everyone is welcome to attend services at GMUUC, with no financial obligation, regardless of whether you are a formal member or friend. However, we believe that monetary support is one of the responsibilities of membership and friendship. We encourage all members and friends to pledge consistent with their individual circumstances. To be a voting member you need to make a contribution of record.

Is it possible to " earmark " my pledge for a specific purpose?

No. As a democratic community, our budgets are created to serve the whole of our work together. All pledges support the entire church.

How do I pay my pledge?

To fulfill your pledge to GMUUC, you can make weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments. You can make payments through your bank's automatic bill-pay system (this is the preferred method) or via check. All payments should include the word "pledge" in the check memo line.

If you must pay your pledge in cash, please enclose it in an envelope and write your name and the word "pledge" on it. Place it in the offering basket or deliver it to the office. Envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary for this purpose.

If your bank offers online bill-paying, we strongly encourage you to consider setting up a monthly automation donation. Many of our members already take advantage of this convenience. Contact your bank for more information.

Will I receive pledge updates and statements?

Pledge reminders are sent out periodically throughout the fiscal year. For tax purposes, we provide a statement in early January showing your contributions for the previous calendar year.

Why is it necessary to make a formal pledge? Can't I just place whatever extra money I have in the basket each week?

Without knowing our expected income in the coming year, we cannot really have a budget. We cannot responsibly sign contracts with our staff. We cannot plan our programs and services. In addition, if you only plan to contribute your "left over" money, you're likely not to have any left over to contribute. The idea is to make giving a priority and make it a habit. We don't ask that you put yourself in a position of financial distress. We ask only that you support your faith community at a level that is *meaningful* to you.

I contribute to special collections and various fundraising efforts throughout the year. Do those contributions count toward my pledge?

No. Special collections earmarked for community organizations or special purposes do not support our operating budget. Fundraisers such as the annual service auction are intended to supplement our pledge funds. Your purchases and donations are greatly appreciated but do not count as part of your pledge.