




**Why We Pledge Annually
At UUCSR**



The Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock is unique in many ways. Considered a flagship congregation, we are blessed with a beautiful facility, dedicated ministers, a comprehensive Religious Education Program and a remarkable choir. This, plus our rich tapestry of spiritual, cultural and social justice programs helps us live out our UU principles every day.

As member of this congregation, we are asked to make a contribution - an annual pledge - to help support these programs.

This brochure seeks to clarify the pledging process and how pledge dollars are used. Our desire is simple: a well informed congregation and the funding we need to continue to grow and thrive.

The programs your pledge dollars keep alive

Religious Education Promotes life-long spiritual growth and development through an engaging variety of learning experiences for children, youth and adults, while respecting each person's individual differences and beliefs.

Social Justice Keeps our community informed and involved in social, moral, ethical and economic issues - Jobs for Justice, Inter-Faith Alliance, cooking for The Inn, Family Promise and more.

Shelter Rock Forum Presents national speakers and provides a platform for well-informed opinions on current significant social issues.

Adult Programs Offers over 35 programs per year including Drum Circle, Bible Class, UU Spirituality, Yoga, Book Discussion Group, Meditation, UU History, and many more.

Art Committee Mounts 11 exhibits a year, making our gallery a continual source of beauty and interest.

Caring Ministry Recognizes important events in our members' lives and support our members and friends as they experience various life crises and difficulties.

Interweave Provides a welcoming community for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender people and their families through educational programs, workshops, speakers, seminars and worship services.

Music Inspires us with an Adult Choir, a Young People's Choir, special music for worship services, an annual concert series featuring renowned musicians and a yearly Cabaret showcasing talented members of the congregation.

In addition to Green Sanctuary, Small Group Ministry, The Men's Group, The Women's Group and more.

The best part? If there is a program you don't see here, one that you think we are missing, you can dream it up, foster it, and bring it to life.

Does UUCSR really need your money?

UUCSR is a financially healthy institution, largely due to a very generous gift from Caroline Veatch. The royalty income we receive from her donation supports the Veatch Program, the Large Grants Program, and pays for the costs of maintaining our facility and staff.

Unfortunately, royalties are estimated to run out by 2025. With this in mind, the Congregation decided in 2001 that membership pledges would cover the cost of all of the non-administrative programs at UUCSR and that royalty income would only be used for grants and operational expenses.

The perception is that our Congregation has deep pockets. But the reality is that royalties do not pay for any of the programs offered at UUCSR.

The spiritual rationale for giving is that UUCSR helps transform lives and provides us with the opportunity to grow as human beings and make the world a better place. Our vision can only be realized if we meet our pledge goals.

The economic rationale for giving is to support this remarkable engine of membership, providing spiritual and cultural stimulation for 670 members, friends and families. And yes, our financial contribution to the life of this congregation qualifies as a tax deduction.

By pledging to cover the cost of programming we have the ability to leverage our resources so that we may continue to support the work we value.

Pledging Information

Pledging at UUCSR is required to maintain membership privileges unless you receive a ministerial waiver. Members must pledge annually, and make contributions toward their pledge.

We pledge based on the fiscal year from July 1 - June 30. The pledge campaign begins in the spring for the coming year. So while many of us are still making contributions on the current year, we are asked to forecast our pledge for the next year. We need this data to plan the Program Budget for the coming year.

The pledge forms should be submitted by July 1, but we allow a grace period until December 31 for existing members.

At least one payment must be made by December 31 or your membership privileges will lapse and will take 60 days to be reinstated after payment is made.

New members who wish to be counted as members for the current year must sign the book, make a pledge and at least one payment toward that pledge by October 31, so that the 60 day waiting period will be completed by December 31.

Pledging can be done online, by credit card, by check or by cash. Cash should be in an envelope, clearly marked with PLEDGE and your full name before you place it in the weekly collection plate.

As fellow members, we thank you for what you've given in the past and for pledging generously this year.

It's a wonderful opportunity to feel good and do good at the same time.

Thank you,
The 2011/12 Financial Development Committee
Claudia Barbey- Chair, Carla Drezner,
Barbara Grosmark, Jerry Jalazo,
Craig Jennings, Jo Ann Leone,
Michael Majewski, Audrey Murphy,
Monica Schlichting and Sylvia Specht