

# UUCWC Pledge Drive 2025-2026



Dear UUCWC Members and Friends,

On these cold days, we invite you to be warmed by Rev. Kim's reminder – "it matters that we do something; and it matters that we do something together."

This pledging season, we're focused on the togetherness and inclusion that makes this congregation what it is – a home, a landing spot for the soul in a world that often feels like it's rushing away from love. We use the word sanctuary for where we gather, and that's truly what it is.

We ask you to strengthen this home by pledging your financial support. The church budget isn't so different from a home budget, and knowing the congregation's pledges is a bit like knowing your annual salary. It allows for planning and stability.

While we request that you make your pledge by March 9, 2025, you can fulfill it any time in the 2025-2026 budget year, which begins on July 1, 2025, little by little or all at once. Whatever your decision, we hope that when you reflect on the ways you have felt a part of something at UUCWC, you are filled with warmth and generosity.

With deepest gratitude,

UUCWC Stewardship Committee

(Jane Root, David Schumann, Ron Iannacone, Anne Godlasky, Denny Rodgers, Klaus Zechner, Rab Bell)

There are years that ask questions, writes Zora Neale Hurston, and years that answer.

Dear UUCWC, we have been living in a time of questions for longer than I wished. From covid isolation to building construction; from stabilizing our staff team to multiplatform congregational life. This year to come though, has answers.

We have become important voices in the larger communities; hospitable, progressive and bold. Our children and youth program, gutted during the pandemic, has joyfully grown across ages, and is serving as a haven for our tweens and teens in this aggressive and violent world. Our music program is unmatched. Our building is gorgeous, but more important, accessible. There is sorrow and challenge, but we also actively create joy.

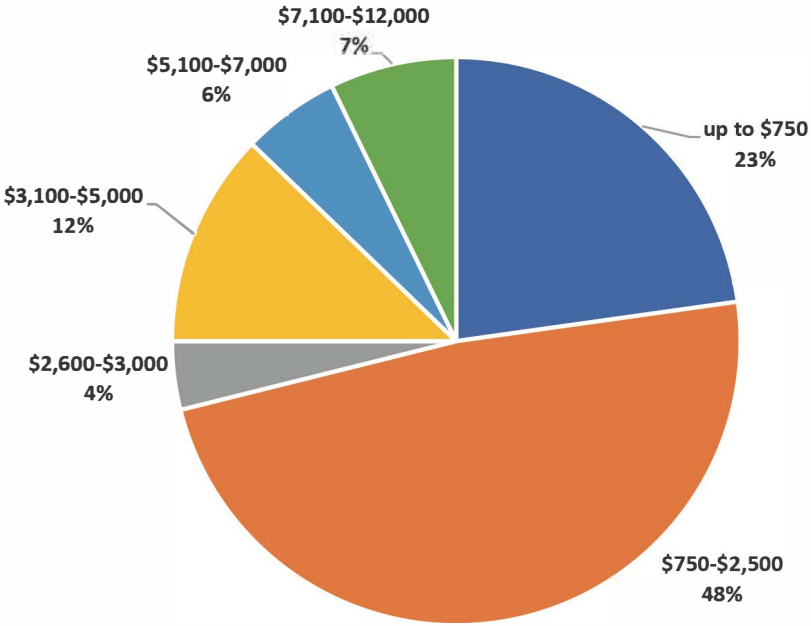
I have been hesitant in recent stewardship seasons; grateful for what you could give and how, given all that we have held, given all the questions. But these years to come have answers – if we make it so. Let's not just ride this wave of possibility. Let us be participants in ensuring that this is only the beginning of the power and purpose of our community.

With thanks for all you give and how,

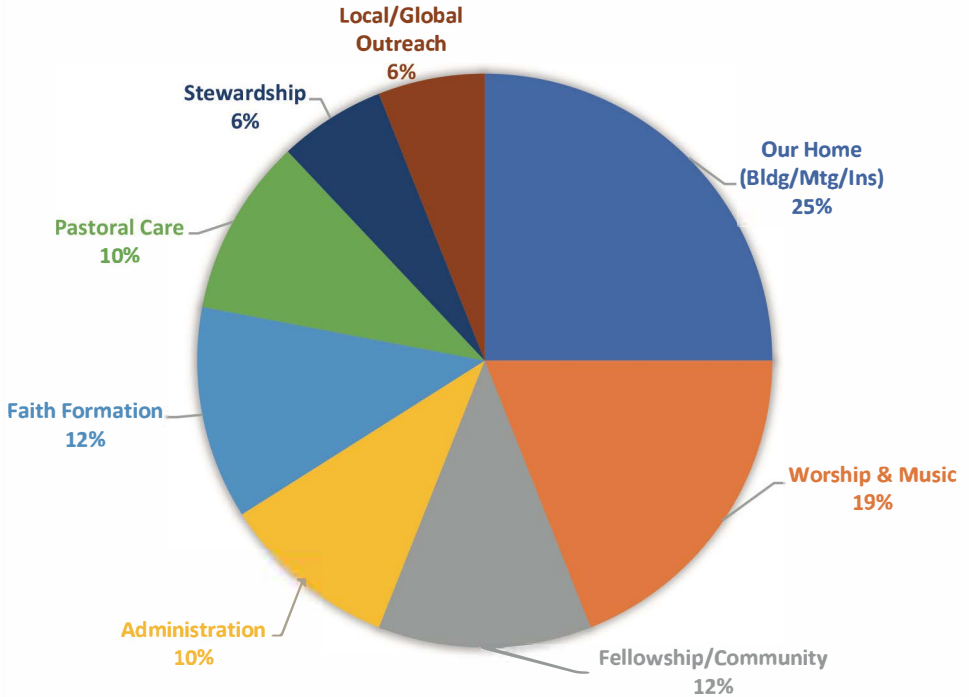
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim".

Rev. Kim

# Household Pledges Percentages



## OUR STORY IN NUMBERS



## Is it time to increase your pledge?

UUCWC is for everyone, always. A person's ability to give is not a factor in their membership or status in the congregation, nor should it ever be a hindrance to participation with their full selves. In fact, UUCWC accounts for financial hardship. While the church's expenses average out to \$3,000 per member household annually, for some, that is unreachable; for some, it is doable; for some it is comfortable. If you find yourself in the last two categories, we hope you will consider increasing your pledge this year. Some considerations:

- When was the last time you increased your pledge? Have you received a raise or shed an expense since then (perhaps a child moved from daycare to public school or college to the working world)? Are you living more simply and able to give more freely? Keep in mind that pledges can be adjusted temporarily or permanently if your circumstances change.
- The addition of an assistant minister to embolden our justice ministries, deepen community engagement and assist with the growing pastoral needs of our community.
- UUCWC and its dedicated staff must contend with climbing energy costs, utilities and other cost-of-living increases, just like everyone else!
- Pledges not only go toward the church building but enable robust online participation in Sunday worship and congregational ministries thanks to our tech team and the tools and equipment UUCWC maintains.
- UUCWC is growing in size and reach into the world – we want to foster community and change the world, and it's happening! But it doesn't happen by accident. Pledging is an important way that you can help.

If you're curious about giving, the church budget, or strategic planning for UUCWC, we invite you to attend a no-pressure meeting to discuss with Rev. Kim and other members. These meetings are an opportunity for Q&A and connection. The dates are:

- Feb. 16, directly following the church service, online and in person
- Feb. 18, 1-2 p.m., online only
- Feb. 19, 7:30-9 p.m., Committee and Ministry Leadership Cottage Meeting at UUCWC and online
- Feb. 23, directly following the church service, online and in person
- Feb. 27, 7-8 p.m., online only
- March 5, 7:30-8:30 p.m., online only

You can also send questions or comments any time to [stewardship@uucwc.org](mailto:stewardship@uucwc.org).

# Payment Methods for Financial Gifts to UUCWC

There are a variety of ways to give to UUCWC, many of which incur no additional cost to you or to our church. Here are some of the most common ways you can donate.

- **Check** – Mail your check, put it in the Sunday offering plate or in the office's lockbox.
- **E-check** – Set up a one-time or recurring payment from your bank account.
- **Electronic Funds Transfer** – Set up an EFT with your bank \*
- **PayPal** – Donations incur a fee of 1.99% + \$0.49 per transaction for UUCWC. You do not need to have a PayPal account.
- **Venmo** – Use @uucwc to make a donation using the app; note that we have a cost of 1.9% +\$.0.10 per transaction.
- **IRA Distribution** – Work with your financial institution to make a donation to UUCWC from your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)
- **Qualified Charitable Distribution QCD** – You may also be able to make a QCD, potentially reducing your taxable income. Distributions must be payable directly to UUCWC to take advantage of this method.
- **Stock or Mutual Funds Transfer** \*
- **Additional methods** – Your bank or financial institution may suggest additional methods.

In all cases, please indicate how your financial gift should be applied: annual pledge, year-end gift, Capital Campaign contribution or other specific donation. Your accountant or financial advisor can help you determine any tax advantages you might obtain from your charitable contribution.

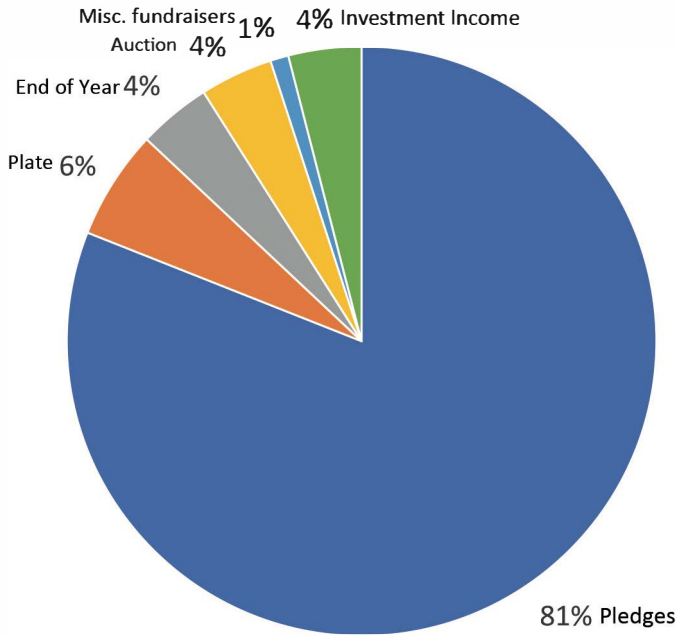
If you have additional questions or need instructions, please contact our Controller, Lynne Quinto at [lquinto@uucwc.org](mailto:lquinto@uucwc.org).

\*Contact us for the necessary account numbers / instructions

**We ask that you return the enclosed pledge form by March 9th or pledge online at <https://www.uucwc.org/giving/annual-giving/> or use this QR code**



## Our Funding Sources



We're grateful for all the ways you give to the church – time, talent and treasure; weekly plate, auction and pledge.

However, pledging holds a special place in any church treasurer's heart because it provides some predictability in an uncertain world. Pledges make up roughly three-quarters of UUCWC's budget. It allows UUCWC to act our values, to put our money where our mouth is.

Thank you for pledging generously this year.

“It matters that we do something; and it matters that we do something together.”

*Km*

