



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING

### **What is a “pledge?”**

Basically, it’s a commitment. You’re saying, “This is what I think I can give every month to help make this place that I love continue to bear Christ’s light.” On November 1<sup>st</sup> we will bless our pledges during worship, asking God to help us uphold our commitment and to use the gifts we give for the betterment of the world.

### **How much should I pledge?**

Many people find it helpful to think in terms of giving a percentage of their income. Historically, Christians have tried to work up to giving away 10% of their income, but you may not be able to begin there. Many people find it helpful to start with something that feels like it’s a bit of a stretch and then work to increase their giving over time once they see how good it feels.

### **I like to give when I feel like it. I don’t want to make a commitment.**

We understand. Believe us, we get it. We also know that giving is a spiritual discipline, and when you pledge, you feel more ownership and empowerment to be part of the church. We get the hesitation, but our experience is that when we give regularly, it changes US (for the better!).

### **How much does it cost to run a church, anyway?**

Budgeted expenses for our church in 2020 are about \$296,000. We have about \$218,000 pledged as gifts and have budgeted for another \$63,575 in income from our invested funds and other gifts that were not pledged. This means we have a \$14,749 deficit in the 2020 budget. If you visit [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving), you’ll be able to see a pie chart that shows how we budget our financial resources in order to support our mission.

### **How does pledging help the church?**

Pledges help your church leaders make a plan for our ministry together in the coming year. We can act with more confidence if we know what’s likely to come in. Giving by automatic withdrawal helps even more, because we know it will be regular and dependable.

### **Can I give if I don’t use cash or checks?**

Absolutely! We can do electronic check withdrawals just like you pay your phone bill. You fill out a one-time form, and we’ll do the rest of the work for you. We also have a PayPal link on our website where you can give using a credit/debit card. Visit [uccmanhattan.org/giving](http://uccmanhattan.org/giving) to learn more about options for automated or electronic giving.