



Pledge FAQs

As most of you know, we are in the middle of our 2019 Stewardship Campaign. This is that annual ritual of people doing the "unchurchy" thing of talking about money for a few weeks. Different folks have different levels of understanding on the stewardship Campaign. To help provide a baseline for all, we crafted the following Q&A format.

Questions, I have questions

Q: What are pledges used for?

A: Pledges are used to pay the operating expenses of running the church. In simplest terms, these costs fall into four traditional buckets: people expense, building expense, program expense and administration.

Q: What about Outreach and all the charitable work we do?

A: Our Outreach efforts, including the annual work trip, are not funded by pledges. We do our annual spring fundraiser and receive dedicated gifts to fund the costs of these important efforts. However, without a strong core operation to support the church, these efforts would likely suffer to varying degrees.

Q: I put funds in the offering plate weekly, is that pledging?

A: Technically pledging involves communicating a defined commitment for giving in the next calendar year. This allows the Trustees to plan and finalize budgets. If you pledge and make payments via putting funds in the offering plate, those funds are credited against your pledge balance. If you have not pledged but put funds in the offering plate, those funds are classified as 'Loose plate' and represent an important source of funding our operating costs.

Q: How do pledges compare to loose plate?

A: It varies year to year. In recent years pledges have been in the \$240-\$260K range and loose plate has been in the \$40-\$50K range.



Q: Is there a preference for pledges or loose plate? If so, why?

A: From a planning perspective, Pledges are preferred as it gives our officers a clear vision as to what funds will be coming in during the next year. That said, we know circumstances and preferences vary from family to family and we certainly welcome loose plate donations.

Q: Does everyone pledge?

A: Roughly half our families pledge. Others make material contributions in other ways including loose plate and importantly, volunteering their time and talent. Our operating budget is lean and one reason we are so lean is that we have members that roll up their sleeves and dig in on important efforts ranging from repairs at the church, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, donating and preparing meals for PADS and other hands on efforts in the various charities we support. All are valued and all are needed!

Q: Is it true we get 80% of pledges from 20% of pledgers; the old "80/20" rule?

A: Positively, this is not true for UCLB. While we have a range in pledge amounts, we are not overly reliant on a handful of families. That said, we do have turnover in our membership as different life events take families away from the church. Thus, it is important for us to have newer members and long-term families that have not pledged, to consider pledging going forward.

Q: I have not pledged in the past, but would like to do so going forward. What do I need to do?

A: Three easy options. Contact Scot Butler (cell: [847-420-2922](tel:847-420-2922) or email Scotbutler398@gmail.com). Click on the Survey Monkey link below or put one of the blue pledge cards in the offering plate.

Link to the survey monkey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JMQP5B8>

Q: This was helpful, but I still have a few questions. How can I get answers to my questions.

A: Contact Scot Butler and if Scot can't answer your question, he will consult with a member of the finance committee and get your answer promptly.