



First Unitarian Church  
of Victoria

*Growing in Spirit,  
Living with Compassion,  
Inspired to Serve*

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GUIDE

### What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the act of taking care of something of value. It is an essential aspect of the life of this church.

Whether old timers or newcomers, all members and friends act as stewards. We share the privilege and responsibility of sustaining and growing our ministry through our volunteer and financial contributions.

We call on each other to be generous stewards. Each of us determines for ourselves what it means to be generous in the context of our own circumstances.

### How can I financially support the congregation and its work?

Every fall we hold a Generosity Campaign. We ask each member and friend for a financial contribution of record by making a “pledge” to support our church operations in the upcoming year. The financial pledge is each person’s proposed contribution. All of our pledges make it possible to prepare the Annual Budget.

The total amount pledged by all of us substantially determines what we, as a congregation, are able to do each year.

A pledge is a promise—a commitment to share your own financial resources in support of our mission. The commitment is rooted in your personal estimation of the congregation’s value in your own life and in the wider world. When you make a pledge you decide the amount that feels generous to you.

As we often say on Sundays, “What is given in love is received in gratitude”.

### I’ve never pledged to a church before and haven’t a clue how much is appropriate. What guidance can you offer?

We value economic diversity. Thus, in order to esteem the gift of one who makes a small amount equally with the gift of one who makes a large amount we talk about pledging in terms of percentage of income (gross or net, doesn’t matter, you decide). See the Pledge Guide for examples.

Many religions advocate “tithing” – giving 10% to the congregation. As Unitarian Universalists, we support many good causes. A “Unitarian tithe” has become known as giving 5% to the congregation and 5% to other charitable causes.

### How do I pay my pledge?

Most pledges are paid monthly by pre-authorized chequing account withdrawals, by post-dated cheques or by placing cheques or cash (in envelopes identifying the donor and with the word

“pledge”) in the offering baskets at Sunday services. Some members elect to make lump-sum payments either in advance or during the pledge year. A few of our members opt for the tax advantages of donating securities.

### Are my contributions tax deductible?

Yes. If you are fortunate enough to have a taxable income the donations you make to the First Unitarian Church of Victoria will be deducted from the income on which you pay taxes. When this tax savings is figured in your actual cost of making a \$1,000 donation to the church is between \$550 and \$650, depending on your tax bracket.

### I’ve just joined. If I’ve missed the fall Generosity Campaign, when do I pledge?

Everyone joining our congregation is asked to make a pledge at the time they join for the remainder of the current year. (If you join in November or December, we ask you to make a pledge for the next year.)

## What if my financial situation changes during the year and I can't fulfill my pledge?

No problem. We care about you and your well-being. If at any time you decide you must revise or withdraw your pledge you need only contact our Treasurer or one of our ministers.

## What is the congregation's Annual Budget, and how does it work?

The Annual Budget of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria is around \$430,000. Three-quarters of this amount must come from the financial contributions of members and friends. The remainder comes mainly from rentals and fundraising.

The budget is spent on the many programs of the church and, of course, on the staff and infrastructure that allow these programs to exist.

The annual cost of operating the church and its programs works out to about \$1,500 per member. We have close to 300 members. Each year our pledges range from under

\$100 to more than \$9,000. In recent years our pledge average has been about \$1,400 and our median pledge has been about \$900.

## Does the congregation get financial support from the denomination?

No. We are entirely self-supporting. In fact, the Canadian Unitarian Council receives \$93 from us for each of our members, which goes towards advocacy and resource work on behalf of all Canadian congregations.

## What is the Sunday collection?

Our Sunday collection is shared with a different charitable organization each month. Half of the collection goes to the charity, and half is 'open plate' income to support the ministries of our congregation.

**First Unitarian Church of Victoria**  
5575 West Saanich Road  
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1  
Phone 250-744-2665  
Email: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca  
[www.victoriaunitarian.ca](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca)



First Unitarian Church of Victoria

## Pledge Form

*Please complete this form and leave it at the church office or mail it to...*

Treasurer,  
First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
5575 West Saanich Road  
Victoria BC V9E 2G1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My pledge for fiscal year \_\_\_\_\_ will be

\$

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pledge Details

My cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (full or partial payment) is attached.

My method of payment will be:

- a. Post-dated cheques.** My post-dated cheques are enclosed , or will follow .
- b. Cheque or cash in offering basket.** I will put personalized cheques or cash in the offering basket on Sunday mornings. I will label the offering so the Treasurer will know it applies to my pledge.
- c. Automatic withdrawal from my chequing account. Please ATTACH A VOID CHEQUE; and provide information and sign on the signature line in the following box.**

### AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

**My voided cheque is attached.** I hereby authorize the Treasurer or the Office Administrator to withdraw \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month from the bank account indicated thereon to meet my pledge. The maximum amount that may be withdrawn in this pledge year is \$\_\_\_\_\_. The withdrawal shall occur on or about a) the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month , or b) the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month .

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_