



Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Annual Fund Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

What Is the Annual Fund Campaign?

Each winter, Cedar Lane asks members and friends to make a promise of financial support (a pledge) for the coming congregational year, which begins July 1.

This is an opportunity for you to think deeply about the role of Cedar Lane in your life. As congregants we count on this community to be here for us in intensely personal ways—for solace, support, and hope. This personal connection is only possible through your generous support, through your pledge.

What Is a Pledge?

A pledge is a promise to donate a certain amount of money to Cedar Lane during the coming congregational year, which begins July 1. It's a statement of intent; it's not a legally binding obligation.

Who Should Pledge?

Members who sign the membership book, as well as friends of the church, are ALL asked to pledge.

Do I Have to Pledge?

Although not mandatory, Cedar Lane relies on the financial support of members and friends to operate.

When Should I Make My Pledge?

During the Annual Fund Campaign, which is active late February through early April. This allows staff and Board to prepare an accurate budget for the upcoming church year.

New members and friends who join us at other times of the year are invited to make a financial pledge for the remainder of the current church year.

How Much Does It Cost to Run Cedar Lane?

Our annual budget is \$1.4 million — pledges account for the majority of that budget.

How Much Should I Pledge?

Everyone's circumstances are different. We recognize and deeply embrace the financial diversity of our congregation. Some will be able to give a lot; some will not be able to give.

To make Cedar Lane a place for all, we ask those who are able to to make a greater financial commitment to our community. Or, as one congregant describes it, *"Give until it feels good."*

As reference points, it might help to know that it costs \$3,800 per day to run Cedar Lane and, for the 2023 - 2024 congregational year Cedar Lane needs an average pledge of \$3,105 from each household to operate.

Some also find this Fair Share Giving Guide a helpful tool as you reflect on your capacity and commitment. A pledge commitment in the UU faith tradition ranges from 3% to 7% of household income. And some are working toward a 10% tithe. We ask that individuals and families give generously within their means.

Giving Guide							
Annual Income	Beginner		Supporter		Deepening		Visionary
	2%	5%	6%	7%	8%	10%	12%
\$10,000	\$200	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
\$20,000	\$400	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600
\$40,000	\$800	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,800	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$60,000	\$1,200	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$4,200	\$4,800	\$6,000	\$7,200
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,750	\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$14,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000

Can I Pledge to a Specific Program or Fund Instead of to the Operating Fund?

The Annual Fund Campaign is designed to raise the monies necessary for the ongoing operations of the church. These monies are critical to ensuring that all of what you appreciate about Cedar Lane can continue – and grow.

That being said, if you feel compelled to make a designated gift, please contact Cedar Lane's Executive Director, Jen Morley (jmorley@cedarlane.org / 301-493-8300 ext. 209) prior to making your gift.

What Are My Payment Options?

Pledge payments can be made on a weekly, semi-monthly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis using any of the following payment methods:

- **Secure Online Pledge Payments with a Credit or Debit Card, or from your Bank Account**

You can use a credit or debit card (Mastercard, VISA, Discover, American Express) to make a one-time pledge payment or to set up a recurring payment. You can also set up a one-time or recurring withdrawal from your bank account (called ACH transfer).

Cedar Lane especially appreciates recurring payments.

To pay your pledge, please visit <https://bit.ly/CedarLaneGiveNow>.

All online payment processors charge a minimal fee, and the one we use is no different. Like many organizations, Cedar Lane will also begin offering you the opportunity to cover these fees.

- **Bank Bill Pay**

You can request that your bank send a check to the church, either as a one-time payment or as a recurring payment. If you choose this method, you need to set it up using your bank's online bill pay feature.

- **Check**

You may choose to mail a check or drop a check in our Sunday plate. Just make sure your name is on the check, and that you write "pledge" in the memo line. Sunday checks that do not say "pledge" are counted as part of the gift plate.

Checks can be sent to the office at: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Attn: Clare Jacocks, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

- **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution**

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a tax-free direct transfer gift from your IRA to Cedar Lane. Contact your financial institution for specific details and instructions.

- **Stock or Mutual Fund Donation**

You may also pay your pledge via a transfer of stock or mutual funds. Please contact Clare Jacocks (cjacocks@cedarlane.org / 301-493-8300 ext. 310) for an instruction sheet that you can pass along to your broker.

Help! I'm Having Trouble Making a Recurring Payment

In order to make a recurring payment, you need to have set up an account in Realm, Cedar Lane's database and communications tool. If you don't yet have an account, email Clare Jacocks (cjacocks@cedarlane.org). She'll get you set up.

Having an account in our database allows you to do quite a lot. Track your pledge amounts as well as pledge payments and other gifts. Look up contact information for other Cedar Lane members – and more!

What If I Cannot Pay My Pledge?

Financial hardship should never be an obstacle to your participation in Cedar Lane. Through good times and bad, we are all in this together! If you are unable to pay all or part of your pledge, please contact our Executive Director, Jen Morley (jmorley@cedarlane.org / 301-493-8300 ext. 209) or one of the ministers.

Is My Pledge Tax Deductible?

Because Cedar Lane is a 501(c)3 non-profit religious organization, your contributions are tax deductible. Our office provides end-of-the-year statements showing total contributions made to

Cedar Lane that you can use for tax purposes. So, if you donated anything to us you will get a statement at the end of January.

Can Plate Offerings Take the Place of Pledging?

While gifts of all kinds and amounts are appreciated, money put into the plate on Sundays isn't enough to pay for our expenses.

What About the Time I Spend Volunteering?

Members and friends are encouraged to give regularly of time and talent on lay ministry teams. Without our volunteers doing much of the congregation's important work, our paid staff budget would be much higher. That said, Cedar Lane also requires financial support in order to fund our many programs and pay our bills.

I Still Have Questions, Who Can Answer Them?

For additional questions please contact Jen Morley, Executive Director (jmorley@cedarlane.org / 301-493-8300 ext. 209).