



FAQs:

What is the Annual Campaign at First Universalist Church?

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Once a year we invite everyone to think about why and how they are connected to First U. Perhaps for connection, community, spiritual growth, religious exploration for kids, opportunities for social justice together, music, deep connection to our principles, because it feels right and good.

What is a Financial Commitment?

During the Annual Campaign we invite everyone to consider offering a financial commitment (or pledge) – an intention of giving to the church for the fiscal year July 1 to June 30. Collectively, this guides the Board in planning a responsible budget for the next church year for the congregation to consider and vote upon at the June annual meeting.

How much & how do people give?

Giving is up to each person's ability, situation, and conscience. We invite you to state an honest intention that suits you and your family, and expresses what First U means to you. Every gift matters! Most annual commitments are in the range of \$500 to \$10,000; the average commitment is \$2400. Refer back to the Giving Guide for guidance.

At uuyarmouth.org find the Engaging and Giving page, and a form where you can state your intention. Many set up automatic monthly payments through their bank's bill-pay feature. Or you can simply email your intention to office@uuyarmouth.org or ask to speak to a member of Stewardship.

What is a Perennial?

Perennials are friends and members who commit to maintain or grow their giving every year. You are welcome to become a Perennial too! Just check the Perennial box when you submit your commitment.

What if I make a commitment and then my circumstances change?

This happens. Your commitment is your intention; sometimes we are hit with 'curve balls', and sometimes we receive unanticipated financial blessings. It's helpful if you let a board member know of changes.

How is my financial giving used?

Our Annual Campaign Giving is 70% of First U's annual expenses, about equal to our salary and benefits expenses. Other expenses include building expenses such as utilities, office and RE supplies, insurance, UUA support and more; these expenses are funded with income from rentals, Hannaford gift cards, endowment income & 'half plate' gifts.

What about Fundraisers & Justice?

Our intention is that our fundraising income (e.g. Maine Farm Supper) be given Joyfully to Justice. We also distribute about \$15,000 from half plates and endowment income to many local organizations, MUUSAN, and our friends in Gyepes Transylvania.

Thank you for your consideration!

