

# Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church

Inspire connection • Advocate Love • Nurture Wonder • Serve the World

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## 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Pledge Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Pledge Commitment:

For the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, I/we pledge to support Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church by giving a **total amount** of \$\_\_\_\_\_ which I/we plan to give as follows:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per week       \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per quarter       \$\_\_\_\_\_ single payment

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we covenant to support the Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church Operating budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as specified above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Thank you for your generous support!**

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED PLEDGE FORM BY APRIL 30, 2023**

Georgia Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church  
3155 Morrison Moore Pkwy E  
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

## FAQs for Annual Giving

### **What is a pledge?**

A pledge is a promise to contribute a minimum amount of money to GMUUC during its fiscal year.

### **When is the GMUUC fiscal year?**

The GMUUC fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 the following year. (For example, FY24 begins 7/1/2023 and ends on 6/30/2024.)

### **Why should I pledge?**

From a financial perspective, we pledge because a financially healthy GMUUC is the responsibility of all its members and friends. Pledging lets us know how much income we will have so that we can plan realistically for the coming year.

### **How is my pledge used?**

All the money collected is used to support the congregation in meeting the annual budget. More specifically it provides worship and music, faith development classes for children and adults, many social justice projects, pastoral care, community events and much more. It pays the salaries of our Minister, Children's Faith Development Coordinator, Choir Director, and for the operation and maintenance of the facilities. We are self-sustaining, meaning we receive no support from the UUA or the Southern Region. Without the financial support of members and friends, GMUUC cannot thrive.

### **Is pledging a requirement for Members and Friends of GMUUC?**

Everyone is welcome to attend services at GMUUC, with no financial obligation, regardless of whether you are formally a member or a friend. However, we believe that financial support is one of the responsibilities of membership and friendship, and we strongly encourage members and friends to pledge consistent with their individual circumstances. In addition, a contribution of record is a requirement for *voting* membership.

### **Is it possible to "earmark" my pledge for a specific purpose?**

No. As a democratic community, our budgets are created to serve the whole of our work together. All pledges support the entire church.

### **How do I pay my pledge?**

To fulfill your pledge to GMUUC, you can make weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual payments. You can make payments through your bank's automatic bill-pay system (this is the preferred method) or via check. All payments should include the word "pledge" in the check memo line.

If you must pay your pledge in cash, please enclose it in an envelope and write your name and the word "pledge" on it. Place it in the offering basket or deliver it to the office. Envelopes are available in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Will I receive pledge updates and statements?**

Pledge reminders are sent out periodically throughout the fiscal year. For tax purposes, we provide a statement in early January showing your contributions for the previous calendar year.

### **Why is it necessary to make a formal pledge? Can't I just place whatever extra money I have in the basket each week?**

Without knowing our expected income in the coming year, we cannot budget realistically. We cannot responsibly sign contracts with our staff. We cannot plan our programs and services. In addition, if you only plan to contribute your "left over" money, you're likely not to have any left over to contribute. The idea is to make giving a priority and make it a habit. We don't ask that you put yourself in a position of financial distress. We ask only that you support your faith community at a level that is *meaningful* to you.

### **I contribute to special collections and various fundraising efforts throughout the year. Do those contributions count toward my pledge?**

No. Special collections earmarked for community organizations or special purposes do not support our operating budget. Fundraisers such as the annual service auction are intended to supplement our pledge funds. Your purchases and donations are greatly appreciated but do not count as part of your pledge.