

## PCUUC Pledge 2023 FAQ

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

A pledge is a promise to contribute a specific amount of money to PCUUC over a specific period of time (typically, the church year, which runs from July 1 to June 30). Pledges paid by the PCUUC community constitute 100% of our church income. This is how we pay:

- employees and contractors (e.g., musicians, choir director)
- rent for services and events in the Colby Barn and Charter School
- speaker honorariums
- religious education materials
- property and liability insurance

### **Why and when are pledges solicited?**

PCUUC operates under annual budgets, which are prepared by church leadership and take committee requests into account. Budgets are presented to and approved by the congregation at the annual meeting in June.

To support building the annual budget, a pledge drive is launched in March to ask the PCUUC church community to make pledges for the upcoming church year. The results of the pledge drive enable church leadership to project the pledge income for the upcoming church year and to set the budget accordingly.

### **Are PCUUC Members expected to make pledges?**

PCUUC Members and Friends are expected to pledge financially and to offer volunteer time.

### **What are the ways I might pledge?**

Direct debit is the most popular method--60% of PCUUC Members and Friends pledge using this method—pledge payments are automatically withdrawn from their bank accounts around the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Other options:

- Set up recurring payments from your credit card.
- Make a single payment (check or credit card).
- Pay using personal checks every week, every month, or every quarter.

### **Do I need to be a member of the church to make a pledge?**

No; anyone who wants to financially support the church can make a pledge. We understand that membership itself isn't right for everyone for a variety of reasons. We encourage Friends of PCUUC to consider both a financial pledge and a commitment of volunteer time.

### **How many people pledge to PCUUC and how much is pledged?**

For the current 2022-2023 church year, there were 52 pledges for a total of \$70,717. PCUUC does not require a minimum pledge; we just ask that you pledge what you can afford and give as generously as possible.

### **Can I pay in cash at Sunday service?**

Yes; please place cash in the collection basket in an envelope (envelopes are at the front entrance if needed).

**Can I make changes to my pledge?**

Yes; to do so you should contact PCUUC's Church Administrator at [office@prairiecircleuuc.org](mailto:office@prairiecircleuuc.org).

**Does all of the money I give to the church count against my pledge commitment?**

Any payment you identify as pledge is part of your pledge, but money you spend at the silent auction or other church events and money given to support the SJC Shared Plate organizations is not part of your pledge.

**Who knows my pledge amount and who keeps track of my pledge payments?**

Only the church administrator (and, in rare cases, the Treasurer) is aware of your pledge amount. You'll receive an end-of-calendar year statement and (if requested) a statement near the end of the fiscal year.

**What happens to unpaid pledge commitments at the end of the church year?**

Each church year ends on June 30. By the end of June, the church sends out a pledge status to each pledge unit, conducts follow-ups with people who have not fulfilled their pledge, and adjusts pledges per the feedback received.

If no feedback is received, future payments are applied to the unpaid pledge commitment until it is fulfilled.

**Who do I contact if I have questions regarding my pledge?**

You can contact either PCUUC's Treasurer or the office ([office@prairiecircleuuc.org](mailto:office@prairiecircleuuc.org)) with questions about your pledge status.