

Frequently Asked Pledging Questions

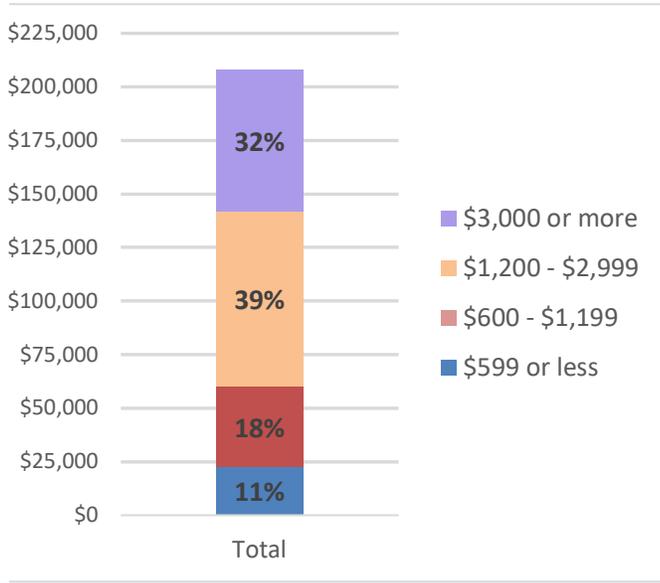
What does it mean to “pledge”? Each spring, we ask members and friends to make a financial pledge to support the First Parish operating budget for the next fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Pledging is a two-step process: Complete the paper or online pledge card by **March 15** and fulfill your pledge by June 30, 2021.

Who should pledge? *Every Member* (someone who has signed the membership book) and *Friend* (someone who is not yet a Member) is strongly encouraged to pledge. No pledge amount is too small; every dollar helps. Even if you are unable to pledge, please complete the card to help the stewardship team with follow-up calls.

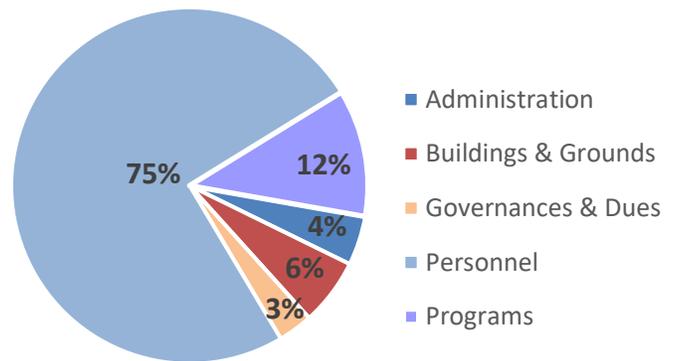
Can I change my pledge amount later if needed? Yes. We understand that financial situations change. You can decrease or increase your pledge at any time. Contact the Finance Committee at finance@firstparishportland.org or the church office, 773-4757. Pledges are never financially binding.

How many people are currently pledging? We currently have 196 households pledging \$207,695 – *more pledging households than ever before*. Pledges account for 54% of this year’s \$383,372 projected income.

**This Church Year, 196 Households
Are Pledging \$207,695**



**Expenses This Church Year
\$383,330**



How can I pay my pledge? There are many options! *The preferred method is through our website, www.firstparishportland.org because it saves many staff and volunteer bookkeeping hours.* Our website can accept one-time or recurring payments using a debit/credit card or a checking account. You can also place a check in the offertory box, mail a check to the church, or sign up for automatic payments through your bank’s bill pay. If you write a check, please write “pledge” in the memo line to help ensure it is not recorded as a donation or plate collection. How frequently you pay is up to you. Some people pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, or all at once.

Can I donate by Stock, Donor Advised Fund, or Charitable IRA? Yes! Please check the box on your pledge card that you would like to give by stock, Donor Advised Fund, or Charitable IRA. When the Stewardship campaign is over, we will send instructions on how to make your gift through the UUA Stewardship & Development office.

How can I find how much I’ve paid toward my pledge? Four times a year, the Finance Committee mails or emails a statement letting you know how much you’ve paid towards your pledge (or by mail if you’ve opt out of emailed statements). *You can also see your contribution history at any time when you login into the online church directory.* To get your directory login name/password, email directory@firstparishportland.org.