



Money Follows Values

by Rev. Mary W. Nelson

We put our money behind the things we value. We don't say that enough, and I don't understand why. We put our money behind the things we value. And what we value more, we're willing to spend more to support.

This is why my pledge to my local church is my largest financial gift. For my household budget, I have selected four organizations that are important to me, to whom I make a significant and intentional gift each year:

- *My local UCC congregation*
- *The UCC seminary where I am a Trustee*
- *A UCC summer camp*
- *My undergraduate school (also UCC, incidentally)*

Other groups get a small, unplanned gift—a friend running a 5k for charity, a kiddo selling something for their scout troop, or the symphony whose concerts I attend.

My local church is the recipient of my largest financial gift because it's the most important. I know that my pledge is likely to be more impactful to my church and the community we serve than the smaller gifts I give to other organizations with larger budgets. I also know that a significant financial gift to my local church will impact other settings of the United Church of Christ when the church passes on my generosity (pooled with others' contributions) to the Conference and National settings of the UCC. I value the work of my local church and the work of the wider church as well. Even more reason to give them more!

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
16,000	1,333	27	40	53	67	133
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	62	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.