

## ***“Our FUTURE is in OUR hands” - Fair Share Giving Guide***

---

*From the First Unitarian Church of Oakland Stewardship Team*

*We'd like you to join us on a Stewardship journey to achieve financial sustainability so that our church community here at 14<sup>th</sup> and Castro can achieve its mission, vision and ends, and finance its church home. We are committed to putting our faith into action, and what that looks like depends on all of us. Our future is in our hands.*

**What is a Giving Guide and Why do We Have One?** A giving guide lets us all support our church community on an equitable basis. A giving guide introduces the concept of financial equality. Our amounts may not be the same, but we are giving in proportion to our own personal levels of financial ability and abundance. How you calculate your giving is up to you. However, we'd like everyone to be working toward a healthy and sustainable gift to keep our church running and where we are “all pitching in to the best of our own personal ability,” and we remember that many hands make light work.

We will ask you to declare your giving at four levels. It is **your** choice.

- 1) Visionary – I designate 10% of my baseline (a full tithe) to the church as a way to live out my spiritual principles.
- 2) Sower – I am committed to both the present and future growth of my church and choose to give 5% of my baseline.
- 3) Sustainer – The church is central to my identity and I am committed to sustaining our programs by giving 3% of my baseline.
- 4) Supporter – I can't commit to a percentage at this time. I am committed to our community and pledge what I am willing and able. As my resources increase, so too will my giving.

**Why Are We Asking You to Declare Your Level of Giving?** – It helps our community to know that our members take giving to our church seriously and it serves as an inspiration and model to others who may be new, or wanting to deepen their own generosity and spirituality.

### **Why Are We Calling It the “Our Future is in Our Hands Guide?”**

We can't let the baggage we attach to money tie our hands for planning our future. We all have financial challenges, worries and anxieties that freak us out – we can still give freely and proudly at whatever level is comfortable. Your gifts of time, talent and treasure make our church's mission possible. Financing our vision should be joyous, spiritual and justice-filled. The joy is in the journey and with those whom we travel on that journey. We are excited to be joining our hands with yours to create our future together.

The Stewardship Team developed a worksheet that will help you identify your extra abundance, what you consider your income, identify the expenses that worry you most and subtract them out of the equation so you don't have guilt or distraction in your generosity.

***Check Out Our Guide Worksheet on the Back!***

## ***“Our FUTURE is in OUR hands” Worksheet***

### ***Starting Point:***

*You get to define your starting place. Start with your income, if you have a reliable one. If not, start with an amount that you can be comfortable with.*

### ***Subtract:***

*Some expenses are stressful, and maybe so stressful that it’s difficult to think about giving because there is worry that these can’t be covered if you do give. This could include things like child or elder care, your mortgage, student loan payments, etc. You get to decide what is out of bounds when calculating your pledge.*

### ***Add:***

*Include special items that increase your abundance if you do have them. These can include stock/bond dividends and income, gifts from wills and family members. You decide if there is anything to add.*

***Starting Point \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your income)***

***Subtract \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your necessary expenses)***

***Add \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your abundance)***

***Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (your baseline)***

***% \_\_\_\_\_ giving level that is my commitment (i.e.; 3%, 5%, 10%)***

***Multiply the percentage that you choose by the total as you define it.***

***This then becomes your GIFT.***

***\$ \_\_\_\_\_ . (We ask you to pledge a year’s worth of giving.)***

***\*What if I can only contribute a few dollars a month? That’s okay!! Every gift is valued, and financial insecurity is a reality for many. Sharing of treasure is just one spiritual practice. If you can’t pledge now or are pledging less than \$100 per adult, speak with a minister about how to become a voting member of our congregation.***