

# Cleveland Park Congregational UCC

## - Stewardship FAQs –

### **What is stewardship?**

In the Christian tradition, stewardship is our responsibility to care for our world by utilizing the many gifts we have received from God – including financial gifts.

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

A pledge is our promise of financial support to the church in the coming year. Each fall, our congregation runs a stewardship campaign which culminates in the collection of financial pledges. This is a voluntary commitment, and you can change your pledge if circumstances dictate. But, to create our annual operating budget, we must know how much each person or household plans to contribute.

### **Do I need to be a member to pledge?**

No. We welcome pledges from friends, associate members, and regular members of our church. If you are not an official member but give regularly, please consider formalizing your giving as a pledge. If you would like to become a member, please contact Pastor Ellen, [pastor@cpcchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cpcchurch.org).

### **Why do I need to pledge – can't I just give each Sunday?**

We encourage you to do both! Pledging provides you with an opportunity to more effectively manage your giving by planning ahead and receiving financial summaries along the way. It also lets our church know how much annual income to expect, so we can make responsible budget decisions and accurately allocate funds toward our programs, pastor, building, and staff.

### **How much of our church's income is from pledges?**

About 75% of our income is typically derived from pledges, so yours is critically important. The other 25% of our budget comes from rental income and general contributions.

### **Does our church receive money from our denomination, the United Church of Christ (UCC)?**

No. UCC congregations do not receive operating monies from our local/regional association, conference, or UCC national office. In fact, we pay dues to the Potomac Association and Central Atlantic Conference in support of various programs at the local and regional levels.

### **How much should I pledge?**

People in our congregation pledge from \$250 to well over \$10,000 a year, depending on their personal financial situation. Traditionally, people tithed (gave 10% of) their income to the church. These days a church pledge is often one of many donations people make, and we hope you appreciate how important pledges are to our church mission and operations. We have a much smaller giving base than most other

organizations to which you may contribute, and we depend on congregants making larger gifts to our church than they make elsewhere. As a reminder, we are committed to volunteering for and tithing (giving 10% of) all church income to organizations that further our mission of nurturing love of God and neighbor in the world. We encourage you to consider what our congregation means to you and give accordingly.

### **What is a COLA?**

Our budget refers to COLAs for salaried staff. A COLA, or cost of living adjustment, is a percentage increase based on the inflation rate. We provide our staff with COLAs each year, because otherwise their salaries would decrease in real dollars.

### **What if I can't pledge much financially?**

There are many opportunities to become involved in the life of our church. The purpose of the stewardship campaign is to encourage you to consider a financial commitment in the coming year. If you can pledge just a small amount, we encourage you to do so.

### **Can I pledge online?**

Yes! You can go to the Donate section of our website, [www.cpcchurch.org](http://www.cpcchurch.org) to access a pledge form. It will be confidentially recorded. We hope to receive everyone's pledge between November 6-November 27, 2022. However, you can submit an online pledge any time.

### **Can I make pledge payments online?**

Yes. Just click the Donate link on the homepage of our church website, [www.cpcchurch.org](http://www.cpcchurch.org), and you can make a one-time payment or set up regular payments.

### **Who runs the stewardship campaign?**

Our stewardship team consists of the Moderator, Past Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Pastor with assistance from the Church Administrator. For more information, please contact this year's Vice Moderator, Heidi Moon, [moonheids@gmail.com](mailto:moonheids@gmail.com).

### **What happens after I pledge?**

First of all, Thank You! Upon submitting a pledge, you will receive acknowledgement from the Stewardship Team. Your pledge amount will be confidentially recorded by our Financial Secretary as estimated income for the upcoming fiscal year. Your pledge will go into effect **January 1, 2023** and run through **December 31, 2023**. You will receive regular statements outlining your giving to-date and documenting it for tax purposes.