

## What is the Pledge Campaign?

The Pledge Campaign predicts the **main source of operating revenue** for our “FirstU” congregation and helps us in our budgeting. This year’s campaign, held through September to December, will identify your intended financial commitment throughout 2024 to support FirstU’s operations, resources, and programs.



Our Minister Eric Meter with his partner Ann de Leon

## Why do we give?

The FirstU community shows its generosity in many ways: with its time, with its compassion, with its ideas, and with its spirit. But we also need to follow through with financial generosity to allow FirstU to achieve its aspirations: liberal religious exploration, working toward reconciliation, social justice and building community.

The title of this year’s campaign, **Renewing Our Commitment**, is meant to recognize that we have come through a few difficult years. We have shown our resilience and determination by maintaining a healthy faith community. Social distancing is now an unpleasant memory. We have continued our Sunday services, now both live in Worship Hall and on YouTube. Fellowship hours are back. We have ended our three-year social justice focus on environmental action and are in the process of identifying a new focus for the next few years. We have approved an affordable housing development on our campus, and continue to work with our Indigenous partners to fulfill the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

**With this campaign, we ask you to pledge your financial support for the year 2024 so that we may continue to live our Principles by:**

- ✚ Welcoming newcomers regardless of age, faith, ethnicity, orientation, or identity
- ✚ Demonstrating our commitment to Embracing Diversity in all its wonderful forms
- ✚ Developing a thriving, growing community that meets the spiritual needs of existing members and newcomers
- ✚ Supporting our music and ministries that inspire us week after week and feed our souls

## When and how do I give?

### How to donate...

For your own budgeting, you may prefer regular monthly donations. We encourage this as it helps with maintaining FirstU’s budget too!

Regular monthly donations can be made via Pre-Authorized Automatic Debit, by Credit Card or monthly post-dated cheques.

Alternatively, we also accept donations through e-transfers, identified envelopes at Sunday services, and publicly traded shares.

### When to donate...

However you choose to financially support FirstU, **it is required that cheques for the 2024 pledge Campaign be post-dated for 2024**. We encourage donations at any time, and all donations are received in the year in which they are received.

Contact Michelle Jackson by email at [fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



## How much should I give?

### Renewing Our Commitment

How much to give depends on your personal situation. If you would like some guidance, contact

[renewal@FirstUnitarianOttawa.ca](mailto:renewal@FirstUnitarianOttawa.ca)

### Remember what you get back

Charitable donations result in a tax credit when filing your income taxes. Sample credits for a taxable \$40K income in Ontario are shown below.

#### CRA Charitable donations Calculator

Monthly	Annually	Tax credit
\$50	\$600	+\$200.74
\$100	\$1200	+\$441.74
\$200	\$2400	+\$923.62
\$300	\$3600	+\$1405.54

### Consider increasing your PAC

If you are already donating by PAC – Pre-authorized chequing – we thank you for your steadfast commitment. This campaign is an ideal time to consider increasing your monthly donation for the start of 2024.

A Pledge Form is included with your mailed package and is also available at the 2024 PC Publications link that fully explains the Pledging & Contribution Method options.

“Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness.”

-The Dalai Lama XIV

## Who should give?

To all of us who benefit from FirstU, we are a community. Those who pledge contribute to our financial sustainability. Anyone can pledge and we receive pledges from members and non-members. If you are interested in becoming a member please contact the Welcome and Membership team to find out more about the benefits of the stronger connection that membership brings.

### Contact Us

Michelle Jackson, Finance & HR Manager  
343-987-8560

[fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

### Pledge Campaign Leader(s) Email:

[Renewal@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:Renewal@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

Learn more about our Annual Pledge Campaign, find Guidelines on Giving, and Make your Pledge Online:

<https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/fundraising.html>



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## Renewing Our Commitment



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**THE ANNUAL  
PLEDGE  
CAMPAIGN  
2024**

