

# What is the Pledge Campaign?

What is the Pledge Campaign? The Pledge Campaign provides the main source of revenue for our FirstU congregation and helps us plan a budget for 2025. This year's campaign, held from September to December, will identify your intended financial commitment throughout 2025 to support FirstU's operations, resources, and programs.



Our Settled 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, **Rooted in Compassion, Growing in Community**, is meant to reflect that we are sowing seeds that will grow into roots, roots that will allow us to grow together. We have come through some difficult times and have emerged better than ever, with Sunday services both live and on YouTube, and renewed programs in both Religious Exploration and Adult Education. We have ended our three-year social justice focus on environmental action and have adopted a new focus, Cultivating Compassionate Community, the steps we can take to build a kinder and better world for everyone. Our affordable housing project is proceeding, as we continue to work to fulfill the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

***We are most grateful to Rev. Eric Meter for his presence and guidance.***

With this campaign, we ask you to pledge your financial support for the year 2025 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 2025 pledge Campaign be post-dated for 2025.*** We encourage donations at any time, and all donations are receipted in the year in which they are received.

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



Music Director Jenn with the Fusion Choir

## How much should I give?

How much to give depends on your personal situation. If you would like some guidance, contact [pledge@FirstUnitarianOttawa.ca](mailto:pledge@FirstUnitarianOttawa.ca)

The budget is affected by inflation. For example, we provide cost of living increases, and staffing is our biggest expense.

### Remember what you get back

Charitable donations result in a tax credit when filing your income taxes. Sample credits for most Ontario taxpayers 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 2025. As of September, the current rate of inflation is 3% An increase of about 3% would be very helpful.

*"Generosity is the flower of justice."  
-Nathaniel Hawthorne*

## How to Pledge

A Pledge Form is included with your mailed package and is also available on the website to either download or fill out online. The "Make a Donation" button, top right on the home page, also fully explains the Pledging & Contribution Method options.

## Who should give?

Members with financial means should support FirstU, but you don't have to be a member to pledge or donate, and you don't have to pledge or donate to become a member. FirstU is a community, and we all benefit from financial stability.

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.

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

## Contact Us

Michelle Jackson, Finance & HR Manager  
613-725-1066 x222  
[fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:fm@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

Pledge Campaign Leader(s) Email:  
[pledge@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:pledge@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

Learn more about our Annual Pledge Campaign, find Guidelines on Giving, and Make your Pledge Online:  
[firstunitarianottawa.ca/fundraising.html](http://firstunitarianottawa.ca/fundraising.html)

ROOTED IN COMPASSION  
GROWING IN COMMUNITY



FIRST UNITARIAN  
CONGREGATION OF OTTAWA

THE ANNUAL  
PLEDGE  
CAMPAIGN  
2025

