

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SHARON

GIVING RANGE GUIDE

2025-2026

Actual 2024-25 Pledge Statistics by Household
\$321,728 Pledged
from 70 households
 Average Pledge: \$4,596

2025-2026 Targets

Our church community is mostly dependent on annual pledges to pay for professional staff (including benefits), programs, and our historic building infrastructure, which includes maintenance, insurance, utilities, technology, and our beautiful grounds. Your generosity is vital if we want to thrive as a religious community.



EASTERN HEMLOCK
Tsuga canadensis

Hemlock

If you are in the Hemlock range, your income exceeds your expenses. You have a good income from your salary, pensions, social security, or investment accounts (stocks, bonds, or real estate). You are comfortable and confident about your financial future even if you experience unexpected expenses. You may be retired, and your children are independent. Hemlock contributors pledged about 29% of the total to the UCS for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Hemlock

4 Households pledged \$94,000
 (6% of total households)
 Range: \$20,000 to \$30,000
 Average Pledge: \$23,500
 (\$1,958 per month)

Hemlock

If Hemlock contributors can increase their already generous pledge by inflation or more, this will help our budget keep up with the ever-increasing costs of everything.



SUGAR MAPLE
Acer saccharum

Maple

Maple contributors have plenty of resources (salary, investments, pensions, etc.). They are slightly more conservative than Hemlock contributors and may have less cash flow. They may be younger and have other financial obligations like kids and debt. Maple contributions make up about 25% of total pledges.

Maple

8 Households pledged \$80,100
 (11% of total households)
 Range: \$7,000 to \$16,000
 Average Pledge: \$10,013 (\$834 per month)

Maple

If two more Maple households join the Hemlock group, those who make the most significant pledge, we'll take a large step toward building a budget that pays fair compensation to our valued professional staff.



AMERICAN ELM
Ulmus americana

Elm

The Elm contributors may have a steady income, but expenses are currently high relative to salary or retirement income. Maybe education expenses have become a priority, or a spouse is not working. You are confident that your future income will increase or your current living expenses will reduce. You may still be aggressively saving so you can meet your retirement objectives. Elm contributions make up about 25% of total pledges

Elm

16 Households pledged \$79,578
 (23% of total households)
 Range: \$3,960 to \$6,600
 Average Pledge: \$4,974 (\$415 per month)

Elm

Increasing your pledge by at least inflation will help, but if 5 Elm contributors move up to Maple, offering an experienced Religious Education Director a competitive salary will help make our already wonderful RE program even stronger. Our future depends on this next generation of children and families that can make a difference in our world!



AMERICAN WHITE BIRCH
Betula papyrifera

Birch

Birch contributors are most prevalent at the Unitarian Church of Sharon. They make financial contributions even though their financial situation feels precarious at times. We live in an expensive community and other financial obligations may have priority. If you are in the Birch range, maybe you try to make non-monetary gifts to our community. Your time and talent are valued and appreciated. Birch contributions make up about 21% of total pledge income.

Birch

42 Households pledged \$68,050
 (60% of total households)
 Range: \$100 to \$3,600
 Average Pledge \$1,620 (\$135 per month)

Birch

Birch contributors are the foundation of our community. We struggle to be a vibrant religious force without your participation and financial generosity. We appreciate and value all that you do. Many of us started our giving in the Birch category and have moved up to Hemlock, Maple, and Elm. Others stay in the category and do their best year in and year out. We hope you give until you feel generous.

Endowment Gifts

We have thoughtful and generous members who support our future by donating to the UCS Endowment Fund. These gifts, made during a lifetime or at death, are meant to provide a perpetual income to the UCS community, providing for generations of Unitarian Universalists. Hemlock, Maple, Elm, and Birch contributors can all participate in legacy donations.

Endowment Gifts

The Endowment's current value as of December 31, 2024, is \$160,000. 8 UCS Members have informed the Endowment Committee they will make a planned donation in the future.

Endowment Fund

Consider speaking to your estate planning attorney, accountant, or financial advisor to determine if a gift to the UCS Endowment Fund is appropriate. The UCS Endowment Fund Committee might be able to answer your questions and steer you in the right direction.

