

Frequently Asked Questions about UU Santa Fe Pledges and Finances

March 2026

What are the financial resources of UU Santa Fe and how does it prepare a budget?

The 2026-2027 annual budget of UU Santa Fe will be about \$490,000. This amount funds our staffing and covers most, if not all, of our basic operating requirements, including worship activities, facilities maintenance and programs. Pledges cover 75%-80% of that amount. The remainder is paid through facility usage fees, fundraisers, offertory, and sometimes grants.

We have a Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) invested with the UUA common endowment fund that is valued at about \$592,000. Depending on performance, the PEF may contribute up to 8% of its balance each year to social justice (25%), capital needs (35%) and board designated use (40%). For 2026-2027 the fund will be contributing \$30,000: \$7,500 for Justice Council activities, \$10,500 for facility needs, and \$12,000 to be allocated at the Board's discretion.

The largest asset that UU Santa Fe holds is the building and land. Fortunately, we do not carry any debt on the building; however, maintenance and capital improvements are necessary on a regular basis. Our cash assets and funds held for specific projects are invested in bank cash savings accounts and short-term money market funds. Our cash operating reserve and liquidity is sufficient to meet our current needs.

Can I make an automatic payment each month directly from my bank account?

Yes, the best way to pay automatically is through your bank's "bill payer" program. You can set up the transaction by making UU Santa Fe a "payee." If you choose to make the payment "recurring," you will be able to set the amount of each payment, the number of equal payments, the date you want the bank to send the money and a memo indicating the purpose of the payment (e.g., 2026-2027 pledge). While you will want to monitor your account and check your statements, the process of "automatic payment" will require about 10 minutes of your time once a year. If you do not have an on-line banking account and want one for its convenience, speak with customer service at your banking institution. The bank will help you with set up and you don't need to be a tech guru to use this application. *There is no charge to you or UU Santa Fe for using this option.*

Can I make automatic payments with my credit card?

Yes, UU Santa Fe will accept payments made through our website (see the donate button at the top right of the home page). You may make a payment for the Sunday offering/livestream service, your annual pledge (one-time or recurring payments), the Permanent Endowment Fund (endowment), the Minister's Emergency Fund (crisis support) or a general, undesignated gift. *You have the option to add an amount to your online payment to cover the credit card processing fee of approximately 3%.*

I must make a minimum withdrawal from my IRA; can I donate the required withdrawal and not pay the deferred tax?

If you are age 73 or greater and have a classic, qualifying tax deferred IRA, and must take a required minimum distribution, you may donate that distribution (or a portion thereof) to UU Santa Fe or other charity without paying income tax on that distribution. You may not do this with 401K and 403B accounts where employer monies are comingled. Always make sure to alert the UU Santa Fe office, bookkeeper@uusantafe.org, of any transaction coming from a broker to ensure that we know to whom to credit the donation...and what pledge year.

Can I donate a car, real estate, stocks or other personal property to UU Santa Fe?

Appreciated assets or assets that no longer have value to you can be a tax-efficient way to make contributions. UU Santa Fe's policy is to sell stock as soon as received (and reinvest per policy). Other assets require board approval before being accepted to ensure that UU Santa Fe can manage/sell the asset without undue burden or risk. If you wish to donate stock, please ask the office for the most recent instructions. It is critical for both UUA and UU Santa Fe to know that a stock transfer is coming, otherwise it is unattributed and may be returned.

What is "planned giving"?

Generally, it refers to the plans we can make in our wills and/or beneficiary designations in IRAs, insurance policies and other related assets. There is no minimum amount (or maximum) and usually the amount distributed is dependent upon what remains in an estate. In other words, if health care or living expenses deplete the expected assets, there is less to give. Consult your tax advisor or attorney to discuss your options. Contact the Permanent Endowment Committee at UU Santa Fe for more information.

When will I get information on my giving?

Pledge status statements are sent in April, June and December; a statement of tax-deductible giving for the previous calendar year is sent in late January to assist in tax preparation.

Questions? financeteam@uusantafe.org or call.

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