

First Unitarian Church of Des Moines

Operating Policies – Financial Commitment for Membership

The church bylaws in Article III, Section 2(a): Continuing Membership state: “Membership continues as long as an annual financial payment in excess of the minimum cost of annual membership is made. The cost of membership is equal to the cost of UUA and PSD annual assessments plus the reasonable cost of supporting a member by the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines. The Board prior to each annual pledge campaign will define this cost.”

Each year in January, the Executive will present a recommendation to the Board for the dollar amount of the annual cost of membership for that calendar year. The amount determined by the Board will be utilized as one of the guidelines for the canvass and in culling the membership roles prior to membership certification. This information, as approved by the Board, will be communicated by the DFA to the Director of Congregational Life (for the membership certification process) and to the Canvass Co-Chairs.

It is desirable for members to recognize that a financial commitment accompanies the responsibility of becoming a member and members should make an effort to meet this minimum financial commitment as condition of membership. Any individual wishing to join the church must complete a financial commitment (pledge) to the church prior to signing the membership book.

At times, members may experience a temporary financial situation which prohibits them from making or fulfilling a pledge commitment. In these situations, a financial waiver may be obtained by making a request to the Executive Team through the Director of Finance and Administration. Waivers can be granted to June 30 (when requested during the membership certification process – they will be canvassed for the next budget year) or to Oct. 1 (when requested during the canvass process – they will be contacted during the membership certification process).