



Washington Ethical Society

A vibrant humanistic congregation

WES Pledging FAQ

What is a pledge?

A pledge is a promise to contribute a specific amount of money to WES over a specific period of time (typically our fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30). Collectively, pledges paid by the WES community constitute about two-thirds of the money needed to fund our programming, operations and building maintenance.

What is a pledge unit?

An individual or family who makes a pledge is referred to as a pledge unit.

Why and when are pledges solicited?

WES operates under annual budgets, which are prepared by WES leadership and approved by our membership. To support building the budget, a pledge drive is held in the spring to ask the WES community to make their pledges for the coming fiscal year. The results of the pledge drive enable WES leadership to project income and budget for the coming fiscal year accordingly.

Are WES members expected to make pledges?

Yes. If a WES member doesn't make a pledge for the coming fiscal year, WES leadership will assume their pledge for that year will be the same as for the current one. In cases of financial stress, members may obtain a waiver from the Senior Leader.

Do I need to be a member of WES to make a pledge?

No. Anyone who wants to financially support WES can make a pledge.

How many people pledge to WES and how much is pledged?

For the 2017/2018 fiscal year, there are 216 pledges for a total of about \$468,000. Those numbers can change over the course of the fiscal year.

How much should I pledge?

Here at WES, rather than saying "give until it hurts," we like to say you should "give until it feels good." We mean that two ways. First, it should feel good because it fits with your financial circumstances. Second, we want you to feel proud of the gift you're giving – to know that whatever the amount, it represents a significant commitment to WES within your abilities.





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How do I pay my pledge?

You can pay your WES pledge several ways: You can make a request to your bank to set up a bill-pay service; You can make credit or debit card payments by setting up an account at my.simplegive.com/wes. This will also allow you to set up texting donations; or You can send us a check, or put it in the Congregational Administrator's mailbox in the office or in the Sunday collection plate. Whatever method you choose, please note that the payment is for your pledge.



Can I make changes to my pledge?

Yes. We absolutely understand that people's financial circumstances sometimes change in the middle of the fiscal year. To make a change to your pledge please contact our Congregational Administrator, Tom Hutton, at tomh@ethicalosociety.org or (202) 882-6650 x2.

Does all the money I give to WES count toward my pledge?

No. Only pledge payments are applied to your pledge commitment. Other money given for educational registrations, the auction or other WES events, the collection plate, share the plate donations, etc. does not. Notes for credit card charges or on the check memo line should be used to indicate payments you desire to apply to your pledge. If you believe a payment has been incorrectly applied, please contact our Congregational Administrator, Tom Hutton, at tomh@ethicalosociety.org or (202) 882-6650 x2.



What happens to unpaid pledge commitments at the end of the fiscal year?

Each fiscal year ends on June 30. Around that time, WES sends out a pledge status report to each pledge unit and follows up with those who haven't fully paid their pledge. If someone states that some or all of the amount owed won't be paid, their pledge is adjusted accordingly. If no feedback is received, future payments are applied to the unpaid pledge commitment until it's fully paid off.

Who do I contact if I have questions regarding my pledge?

Please contact our Congregational Administrator, Tom Hutton, at tomh@ethicalosociety.org or (202) 882-6650 x2.

