



First Religious Society of Carlisle, MA

Fulfilling Your Pledge to FRS

Thank you for your pledge to FRS. Annual pledges are the means by which we keep the church operating. Just as important as your pledge, of course, is fulfilling your pledge. Our budget is based on our pledges, and fulfilling the pledges allows us to carry out our planned programs.

Here are some ways you can fulfill your pledge. The pledge drive generally winds up in the summer and members and friends begin fulfilling their pledges at the beginning of the fall season. If you want your pledge to apply to a year other than the current fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), be sure to indicate it when you pay (e.g. pledge-'17).

1. You may pay a portion of it **each week** (or each time you come to church). Be sure to write 'pledge' on the memo line to keep it from being mixed in with the 'share the plate' offerings.
2. You may set up a **regular payment to the church through your bank**. Go to the 'bill pay' area on the bank's webpage and set up a regular payment to the church. You will need the church's address (P.O. Box 817, Carlisle MA 01741). They will mail a check monthly (or whatever interval you choose) directly to the church in the amount you specify.
3. You may pay with a **credit card via PayPal**. Go into the FRS webpage (ucarlise.org) and click on 'Stewardship and Giving.' Click on the PayPal button where you may register or select your credit card. Follow their instructions. We encourage you to add 3 percent to your gift to cover PayPal's fees.
4. You may pay it in **one lump sum**. You may put a check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. This gets it out of the way so you don't have to worry about it during the rest of the year. Be sure to write 'pledge' on the memo line.
5. If you have **appreciated assets** (stocks, mutual funds, etc.), you may donate them directly to FRS; and, if you itemize deductions, you may take a deduction on IRS Schedule A for the current market value of the assets. Ask your broker or financial advisor to transfer the assets in the name of the church to our professional investment management company, Seaward Management. You will need a form from FRS. *Contact John James (jjames3@mac.com) for a copy of the form.* Contributing the assets directly avoids having to liquidate the assets and paying capital gains taxes. This can be an attractive option when the markets are rising.
6. If you are 70½ years old or older and have an IRA, you may direct whoever is managing your IRA to contribute part of your **RMD (required minimum distribution)** to the church. This requires you to complete a simple form with the name and address of FRS. The manager of your IRA will mail a check directly to the church. This is for IRAs only, not other types of retirement accounts. The advantage of doing it this way is that your contribution is excluded from your adjusted gross income (as opposed to being an itemized deduction). This may help you stay below various thresholds such as the excess investment income surtax for Obamacare, or the income brackets for Medicare premiums. Be sure to consult your financial advisor about the eligibility of your account for this contribution, and leave time for it to be completed before the end of the calendar year.

Of course, you may use **any combination of the above**. If you itemize your deductions on your income taxes, all contributions to FRS are eligible. You will get a statement from the church for your tax records.