North Shore Unitarians "GIVING GUIDE"

Many members have asked for more specific guidance about pledging. This year, **a new tool** is offered to help each of us reflect on how much to contribute. The amount really depends on our life circumstances and how important NSU is to each of us.

The numbers in the table on the next page are suggested donation ranges based on two questions:

The first question: "How full is my financial cup?"	The second question: "How much does NSU mean to me?"
This question refers to my overall financial health, not just how much money I have every month. • **"Striving/Struggling"** means I'm having difficulty meeting my own basic needs. • **"Surviving"** means I'm in a place where my basic needs are met, but I don't have much left over for niceties. • **"Thriving"** means I can treat myself to vacations, occasional gifts or nice evenings out, and generally feel financially secure about my future. • **"Flourishing"** means I have more than I need for my own needs and am in a place to share my good fortune with the wider community.	This question suggests four levels of meaning: • **Interesting** -- I find occasional enjoyment or contemplative moments, and attend services every so often, but the congregation doesn't make up a big part of my life. • **Important** -- NSU is a part of my weekly routine. I'm a member of a team or other group in the congregation. • **Necessary** -- NSU fulfils my spiritual or other needs that I can't find elsewhere. • **Essential** – NSU is a very important and fulfilling part of my life.

The amounts shown on the Giving Guide are illustrative and are not *required* pledges. **Bear in mind that our community thrives on all its members, and *all* are welcome regardless of circumstances and contributions.**

We hope the Giving Guide will help each of us answer the question: "How much should I pledge?" Last year we had 84 pledges that *spanned* these categories. Our goal this year is $175,000, which is 16% more than last year. This is a big ask, but we can do it!!!

Every pledge sustains this spiritual home where we explore life's big questions, welcome diverse beliefs, sink into our spirituality, nurture connection, enjoy each other's company, and act for love and justice.

Two Questions

My Financial Circumstances

STRIVING / STRUGGLING
I have difficulty meeting my basic needs.

SURVIVING
My basic needs are met, but I have little (or nothing) left over for niceties.

THRIVING
I am able to treat myself to vacations, occasional gifts or nice evenings out, and generally feel financially secure for my future.

FLOURISHING
I have more than I need and am in a place to share my good fortune with the wider community.



What NSU Means to Me

ESSENTIAL
Our spiritual community & its values are central/vital to my life.

NECESSARY
This congregation supports my spiritual life in ways I cannot easily find elsewhere.

IMPORTANT
I regularly share in our spiritual community and its activities.

INTERESTING
I occasionally find inspiration, reflection or connection here.

Guide to Giving

	Striving/ Struggling	Surviving	Thriving	Flourishing
Interesting (after tax*)	$60 - $120/yr ($33-65)	$480 - $1,200/yr ($260-$650)	$2,400 - $4,500/yr ($1301-2439)	$3,600 - $7,500/yr ($1,951-4065)
Important (after tax*)	$120 - $180/yr ($65 -- $98)	$900 - $1,800/yr ($488-$976)	$4,200 - $7,500/yr ($2,276-4065)	$7,200 - $12,000/yr ($3,902-6,504)
Necessary (after tax*)	$180 - $240/yr ($98-$130)	$1,200 - $2,400/yr ($650-1,301)	$5,800 - $9,600/yr ($3,144-5,203)	$9,600 - $13,500/yr ($5,203-$7,317)
Essential (after tax*)	$240 - $360/yr ($130-$195)	$1,320 - $2,700/yr ($715-$1,463)	$7,200 - $12,000/yr ($3,902-$6504)	$12,000 - $20,000/yr ($6,504-$1,0840)

*After-tax donations to registered charities (like NSU) on any amount above $200/year qualify for a tax credit of 45.8% (regardless of your tax bracket). Donating publicly traded shares directly from a non-registered account provides additional tax savings. Talk to your steward about this opportunity.