

## First Church Berkeley UCC Sustained Giving Fall 2021 Information & Instructions

Here are the ways you can let your church know you'll be making a Sustaining Giving commitment!

### Use Online Tools:

- ❖ **Complete an online commitment form:**  
[firstchurchberkeley.org/commitment](http://firstchurchberkeley.org/commitment)
- ❖ **Email Kit Dunbar, Business Manager** at [kdunbar@fccb.org](mailto:kdunbar@fccb.org) and advise her of your new or renewed commitment.
- ❖ **Use Realm!** Realm is the church's database and automated giving platform. You can also use Realm to set up automated giving, the simplest and best way to give!



**If you are new to church,** Realm is an easy way to show your support and keep your community functioning optimally. If you are logging in to Realm for the first time, or want support in accessing your profile, contact **Louise Halsey** at [lhalsey@fccb.org](mailto:lhalsey@fccb.org).

**For existing Realm users,** here's a refresher on how to provide your electronic giving amount:

1. **Once logged in,** click **"Giving"** (left side of page), then click **"+Pledge"**
2. Enter **pledge amount,** choose the **frequency of your sustaining gift** (dropdown), select the **date range,** click **"Save & Set Up Online Gift"**
3. Choose **Giving** start date, **add** credit, debit card, or bank account info, etc. & if you'd like to offset processing fees. Finally, **scroll down** the page & click the **blue "Give" button** to finish!

### ...Or send or hand-deliver your commitment card this way:

- ❖ **MAIL IT IN:** Mail the enclosed commitment card to the church office to the church office at First Church Berkeley, 2330 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704. You can use the return envelope we have provided.
- ❖ **IN-PERSON CHURCH:** Bring your commitment card to worship on **Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>**. We will either be worshipping in person at 10am that morning, or we will set aside a time in the afternoon for Open Sanctuary as we did last year, for you to come have your offering blessed in person. Stay tuned for details!

**But wait there's more...**

❖ **Visit First Church's [website](http://firstchurchberkeley.org/give/) for more information about sustained giving and planned giving: [firstchurchberkeley.org/give/](http://firstchurchberkeley.org/give/)**

❖ **Did you know that you can make a qualified charitable distribution through your IRA?**

Looking to save on your taxes while making your sustained giving commitment to First Church? If you are 70½ or older and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you are eligible to make a tax-free gift from your IRA or Roth IRA to a qualified organization of your choice, such as First Church Berkeley! These gifts, called Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) can be made whether or not you itemize your deductions on your tax return. QCDs may be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes and can be used to satisfy your required withdrawal. Call your financial advisor/tax accountant for advice.

❖ **General Questions?**

Contact **Kit Dunbar** ([kdunbar@fccb.org](mailto:kdunbar@fccb.org)) or direct office phone 510-225-6814 for support!