

## Summer is Here -- Is Your Pledge Up-to-Date?

With summer upon us here in Florida, now is a good time to take stock of your year-to-date giving to your church.

According to the Florida United Methodist Foundation, many Florida Conference churches experience a marked decline in giving during the summer months. This is due to a number of reasons, including the departure of northern “snowbirds” who swell the ranks of many Florida Conference congregations during the winter months. Many of these seasonal residents are regular and faithful givers to their Florida congregations, but when they depart for points north, their giving often goes with them.

Other year-round Florida residents depart for the cool mountains of North Carolina or other vacation destinations during the summer months. However, church budgets seldom have the luxury of taking the summer off.

While you may be taking a holiday, staff salaries, utility bills, and a host of other obligations continue during the summer. The Foundation urges you to pre-pay your summer pledge or at least keep your pledge current during the summer months while you are away.

There are a number of creative ways you can employ to fulfill your pledge to your local congregation, both in the short and long term. The simplest, of course, is an outright cash gift to keep your pledge up-to-date. You might also consider a gift of appreciated securities (yes, there are still some of them, despite the market downturn). A Charitable Lead Trust can provide current income to your church while preserving the value of an asset for future generations of your family. You might also consider a Charitable Gift Annuity, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or other planned gift to benefit your church’s mission and ministry in the future.

The Florida United Methodist Foundation is available to assist you. For more information, call, click or write us at 800-282-8011, extension 106, [www.fumf.org](http://www.fumf.org), [foundation@fumf.org](mailto:foundation@fumf.org), or Post Office Box 3767, Lakeland, FL 33802-3767.