

## Doing the Math . . .

**But I don't like math. In fact, I hate math. Half the time I can't even balance my checkbook.**

Step 1: Write down your monthly take-home pay Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: Multiply by 12 to estimate your annual income. Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 3: Write down your fair share percentage. Note that 6% is really 0.06 when you write it here (big stretch, but you can do it!). Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 4: Multiply Line 2 x Line 3. That is your annual pledge amount. Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### CONSIDERATIONS:

\*\*\* **Before or After Tax?** UUA's fair shares are calculated on before-tax income. We recommend that you do that as well. So instead of your take-home pay, you have to use the amount on your pay stub before taxes.

NOTE: You can also get the figure from Line 31 on your income tax form. It's in the file where you stuck it last April. Although if you have tax-free income, be sure to add that in.

\*\*\* **Unusual expenses considerations:** When you think about giving a percent of your income, it's reasonable to take into account expenses like caring for children or elderly parents, or the sometimes stunning costs of education. This chart allows you to consider those expenses when considering your "fair share."

\*\*\* **What about retirement savings?** If you have capital gains in your retirement savings account(s) that you have to pay taxes on, DO NOT include those in your income. That will provide the funds for you to pledge after you retire, so it's OK.

### THE SLIGHTLY MORE COMPLICATED VERSION

Step 1: Write down your monthly pay, before or after taxes as you decide. Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 2: Multiply by 12 to estimate your annual income. Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 3: Estimate the unusual expenses that you need to deduct from your income. Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 4: Subtract line 3 from line 2. This is your adjusted annual income. Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 5: Write down your fair share percentage. Line 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Step 6: Multiply Line 4 x Line 5. That is your annual pledge amount. Line 6 \_\_\_\_\_