

Old North Church and the UCC

Understanding our mutual support

Current ONC Bylaw

“The Church shall provide benevolence funds at the rate of ten percent (10%) of its annual income net of restricted funds. Half of this amount is for Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM).”

[This is in the “Miscellaneous Requirements” section]

Draft Proposal of New ONC Bylaw

“The Church shall live out its mission by giving at least a tenth of its income to share Christ’s love and justice in the world. Of the church’s annual income (excluding restricted funds):

7% shall be distributed by the Outreach Ministry Board to support nonprofit organizations

4% shall be distributed by the Church Treasurer to the Southern New England Conference of the UCC for Our Church’s Wider Mission.”

Rounding our annual unrestricted income in 2025 to \$500,000, this would mean a donation of \$20,000 to the work of the UCC in New England and beyond.

After soliciting feedback at three listening sessions and several one-on-one conversations, the Leadership Board believes this proposal honors our church’s commitment to support the necessary ministry of the wider UCC, while also allowing our Outreach Ministry Board to have a greater impact on our community and world through organizations that are doing good work.

We welcome your feedback about this proposal ahead of the Annual Budget Meeting on Feb 2, 2025!

What Proportion of Income Are Other Churches Giving?

Note: The conference doesn’t make available what the average Proportional Giving rate is among churches, so I asked around!

Small, single clergy church, North Shore MA	2.57%
Large, 2-pastor church Coastal Maine	5.7%
Large, 2-pastor church, MetroWest MA	4.4%
Medium, single clergy church, Metro Boston	5%
Large, 2-pastor church, North Shore MA	2.3%