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What can I donate to the auction?

The mission of the Unity Temple Member Auction is to build warm connections among our members while raising funds for Unity Temple's programs. We encourage you to donate events or items that reflect who you are and what you love to do and to share with others. Popular donations include dinner parties (from very simple to very elegant), events (tours, hands-on classes, tickets to outings, game nights, film discussions, wine/beer tastings, etc.), and services (knitting lessons, resume/college application editing, handyman help, pet sitting, gardening, etc.). We also encourage members to donate items made by hand, such as food, photography, jewelry, hand knitted or sewn garments, original art, etc. As of the 2019 auction, we will not be displaying physical items at our table during coffee hour, so donors of hand-made items are encouraged to provide photographs of their offerings. Member donors and bidders will be asked to make individual arrangements for viewing and delivering donated items.

How do I value my item for tax purposes?

Fair market value is the best guide for tangible items. When determining the value of events or dinners, consider all aspects (appetizer, entree, dessert, drinks, etc.) and all costs associated with the offering (food, drink, entertainment, etc.).

How do I determine the minimum bid?

Donors are responsible for determining the value of their items. In most cases the value and the minimum bid are the same. In some instances, donors may feel a lower amount may be appropriate to make the item affordable to many members, and price their item accordingly. The auction committee will review all donations and may suggest a change in a minimum bid amount if they feel it is warranted. The auction committee also sets Win It Now (WIN) bid values.

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How many offerings/seats should I offer?

We suggest you offer the number of seats you feel most comfortable hosting, keeping in mind that we may request additional seats if your item is oversold. We have found that a conservative number works best in order to enable donors to extend more offerings without stretching beyond their limits.

How do I set up co-hosts or co-donors for my offering?

As of the 2019 auction, the system will handle co-donors much more easily than in the past. The donor whose address will be used for the event should enter the item. Below your name on the donation page, you have the option to enter as many co-donors as you like by using the Co-Donor input field. Start typing a person's name and the database will start returning close matches. The more of the name you provide, the more the list will narrow down. Click on the name of a co-donor to add him/her to the listing. To add more co-donors, put the cursor back into the white box, and repeat those steps. If needed, you can remove co-donors using the X in front of their name. All donors' names will appear on your statements, in the catalog listing, and on the event calendar. The "email all" link now will include the donor and co-donor emails along with the other guests, and automatic reminder emails will be sent to all donors as well.

Why do I need to specify a date for my event?

We have found that events or dinners that do not have a specified date are often overlooked by bidders. In addition, once bidders have won an event, it is extremely difficult to determine a date that is convenient for all. Also, items with dates appear in the auction calendar, making it easier for all members to plan their bidding strategy.

What happens if a winning bidder cannot attend my event - is the seat transferrable?

As a host you may allow other members of the congregation to attend in the winning bidder's place. It is important for your guest to discuss any changes with you, so you can make appropriate arrangements (such as inquiring about allergies, etc.). If you have any questions about whether someone is a member of the congregation, please contact the Auction Committee Chair at auction@unitytemple.org.

Will members be allowed to bring a friend who is not a member to my event?

Our policy is that non-member guests are welcome to events and dinners when accompanied by a member.