

UNITED THANK OFFERING 2017 Grant Awards



UNITED THANK OFFERING 2017 GRANTS

The first priority of The United Thank Offering is to encourage the spiritual practice of gratitude and then to give grants from the abundant collection of coins and bills given each year to our Blue Boxes.

In 2017 the United Thank Offering annual grant recipients, seminarian and young adult grant recipients are working towards evangelism and reconciliation as a part of the Jesus Movement. The United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church awarded 47 grants for a total of \$1,169,969.55 for the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican

Diocese of Alaska Fairbanks, AK

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, \$5,000

To support and participate in the work of the start-up program Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition with grassroots advocacy to facilitate climate and environmental protection efforts and action by Interior Natives and residents.

Diocese of Alaska Companion with Diocese of Navajoland Farmington, NM

Building Out the Jesus Movement in Navajoland, \$29,000

To renovate and equip a LEED-certified space at the San Juan Mission for the Navajo coders that is specific to their needs and will allow them to launch their business, meet with clients, demonstrate their abilities, and help train additional young adults in coding and expand this important ministry.

Communion. The 2017 grants were awarded to 34 Episcopal Church Dioceses, 8 Companion Relationships, 4 International Dioceses/Provinces and 1 to continue our tradition of supporting Episcopal Church missionaries.

Each year UTO grants are given from the amazing collection of those coins and bills from the Blue Boxes. Remember that each donation is given in gratitude for a blessing, and UTO simply passes that blessing along through its grants. If you need additional information or to start a UTO program in your parish, visit www.UnitedThankOffering.org or www.EpiscopalChurch.org/UTO.

Diocese of Alaska Companion with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Fairbanks, AK

Translating the Book of Common Prayer into Modern Gwich'in (Athabaskan), \$40,000

To create a contemporary translation of the Book of Common Prayer in modern Gwich'in (Takudh), the language of one of the largest Alaska Native populations, which honors the integrity of a truly indigenous understanding of the Gospel and the meaning and expression of corporate worship.

Diocese of Albany St. Paul's Episcopal Church Bloomville, NY

St. Paul's Community and Ministry Center, \$49,121

To build a community and ministry center in Bloomville, a rural, poverty-stricken communi-

ty in eastern Delaware County, New York. The grant will offer the community new ministries: a food pantry; a free clothing shop; a veterans information center; and space for a Nar-Anon Support group, Scouting, Red Cross, free health screenings and classes, and when needed, a disaster relief center.

Diocese of Arizona Companion Diocese of Jerusalem Zarka, Jordan

Renovating a School Facility at Savior School in Jordan, \$69,916

To renovate the school building to improve the quality of curricular and extracurricular education for students to insure that the children receive a quality education.

Diocese of Arkansas St. Luke's Episcopal Church Hot Springs, AR

Wash Day Ministry, \$21,250

To provide the homeless and marginalized in the Hot Springs area with a sheltered place to shower and do laundry with safety and dignity, in a town renowned for its bath houses.

Diocese of Colorado St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Denver, CO

St. Andrew's Tiny House Village \$30,000

To build a temporary Tiny House Village of eight houses to provide housing for eight women in transition from homelessness to low-income housing. The intent is to provide the women with a safe, secure community where they can restore their dignity and be empowered on their journey toward rejoining society.

Diocese of Connecticut St. Paul's Episcopal Church Southington, CT

St. Paul's Common Good Garden \$10,500

To provide organic, locally grown vegetables to two local feeding programs that currently use mostly canned vegetables. The garden will also provide education to people young and old about where our food comes from and how to grow food in a way that is environmentally friendly.





**Diocese of Gitega
Province of Burundi, Africa**

Community Center for Sustainable Reconciliation, \$45,924

To build and equip a community reconciliation center where returnees from the refugee camps will meet with those who remained in their villages during the ongoing conflict. The community reconciliation center also will be a place where community members can gather to discuss any issues affecting their lives.

**Diocese of Georgia
Savannah, GA**

Epiphany Community Organizing and New Evangelism in the Diocese of Georgia, \$37,500

To develop Epiphany, a new worshipping community in Savannah that collaborates with

grassroots organizers as a means of community-building, mission development, and development of new evangelistic methods. This new ministry will benefit the broader Episcopal Church and local grassroots organizing partners who do nonpartisan Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD).

**Diocese of Kansas
Trinity Episcopal Church
Lawrence, KS**

Sending Out the 70: Equipping Lay Evangelists, \$20,450

To develop, test, and evaluate curricula, materials, and a website to provide high-quality, congregation-based training of prospective licensed lay evangelists. A part-time coordinator will be hired, as well as an individual knowledgeable in website development and distance learning.

**Diocese of Kurunagala
Church of Ceylon, Sri Lanka**

**Igniting the Flame of Hope
\$35,548**

To help to build a mission center in Polonnaruwa that will be an evangelical center for counseling, reconciliation, and evangelism. Also, to purchase seven motorcycles to be used by evangelists who serve the area.

**Diocese of Michigan
Detroit, MI**

**Iglesia Santa Teresa y San Juan
\$50,000**

To hire a mission developer to reach out to second- and later-generation bilingual and bicultural Latinos (ages 14-31) in Southwest Detroit. Serious problems in the area include significant poverty, inadequate access to housing and education, air pollution, high unemployment, violence, crime, and threat of deportation.

**Diocese of Navajoland
Farmington, NM**

Rides for Navajoland, \$60,410

To purchase two sturdy vehicles – one for St. Christopher’s Episcopal Mission in Utah and one for San Juan Mission in New Mexico. They will be used to gather the missions’ far flung people for new ministry work both in their communities and throughout the region

**Diocese of Nevada
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
Nixon, NV**

**A Van for St. Mary’s
\$16,251.88**

To provide a van for transportation for a variety of activities within the boundaries of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. This includes getting people to Sunday services and Sunday School, to Women’s Guild activities, and to Province VIII Indigenous Ministry

gatherings. The ultimate goal is to bring spiritual life back to the church through community outreach.

**Diocese of Newark
Hoboken, NJ
All Saints Episcopal Church/All Saints Community Service and Development Corporation**

**Parent Education Workshops
\$27,029**

To fund a portion of the salary of the program director, accountant, and teachers who will present parent-education workshops to low-income families at three locations in Hoboken and Union City. The workshops will cover topics that include parenting techniques, budgeting and finance, and health-related issues.

**Diocese of New York
Companion with Diocese of Haiti
Mantel, Haiti**

New York Haiti Project, \$59,038

To build a grain mill, school, and church for the small village of 3,000 people. Mantel has donated the land to the diocese. The mill will support the school and will be the sanctuary on Sundays. The new parish will be called St. Luke’s.

**Diocese of New Hampshire
Church of the Woods Episcopal Church
Canterbury, NH**

Establish an Eco-Curacy at Church of the Woods, \$24,221

To establish an eco-curacy at Church of the Woods and to hire a new half-time eco-curate to create new programs and offer retreats. An “eco-curate” will help members of Church of the Woods connect with people who love nature but are not at home in church, as well as to support the “wild Jesus” movement nationwide.

**Diocese of Northern Indiana
South Bend, IN**

**EDNIN Community Engagement
Project, \$50,000**

To fund a Community Engagement Missioner who will provide Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) promotion and training throughout the Diocese of Northern Indiana.

**Diocese of Ohio
Bellwether Farm Camp,
Retreat and Education Center
Wakeman, OH**

**Bellwether Farm, Equipping Leaders
for a Sustainable Future, \$53,667**

To fund two staff positions: one for program curriculum development and one for farm management. The Center offers a model for sustainable living that promotes physical and spiritual wellness, fidelity to the environment, and social justice by incorporating farming, food production, and environmental stewardship into land-based educational programs for people of all ages and backgrounds.



**Diocese of Olympia
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Seattle, WA**

Edible Hope Kitchen, \$21,864.19

To expand an existing soup kitchen to begin serving breakfast. The funds will be used to purchase additional dishes, a refrigerator, and small appliances, as well as a portion of the salary of a volunteer coordinator.

**Diocese of Pittsburgh
Companion with Diocese of Uganda
Buwologoma, Uganda**

**St. Andrew's Secondary School Physical
Plant Development, \$72,920**

To provide a permanent classroom building and administrative offices at St. Andrew's Secondary School, which provides education for blind, disabled, and non-disabled students. A latrine and a borehole to spare the students walking miles each day for water will also be built.

**Diocese of San Diego
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
San Diego, CA**

MAKE Garden Cafe Project, \$35,000

To partially fund the kitchen, which is providing job skills for 40 refugees each year through innovative urban food and farming activities in the kitchen and on the adjacent vacant lot owned by St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

**Diocese of San Diego
Companion with Diocese of
Western Mexico
San Luis Potosi, Mexico**

**Indigenous Ministry Project
\$17,783**

To purchase a truck with cargo space, and to build a worship and community center, which will include clergy living space, a medical office, and a pharmacy. The Indigenous Pame people live in a very poor, politically marginalized, rural area in the mountains of central



Mexico. This grant will provide transportation to and from the communal space for worship and medical care for this forgotten and neglected community.

**Diocese of San Joaquin
Stockton, Fresno, Bakersfield, Taft,
and Ridgecrest, CA**

**Food Ministries of the Episcopal Dio-
cese of San Joaquin, \$6,048**

To support the development of food pantries and meal ministries in six congregations to aid those who are the most vulnerable in their communities. Each congregation is located in a community that has experienced division due to schism and is working to rebuild relationships in their communities.

**Diocese of Southern Ohio
Columbus, OH**

CRIS Refugee Speakers Bureau, \$1,525

To provide materials that expand the autonomy and flexibility of the team of refugee speakers so they are able to respond to speaking requests from the community groups and targeted audiences. CRIS is a member of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM).

**Diocese of the Southern Philippines
Cotabato City, Philippines**

**Construction of the Diocesan
Peace Center
\$59,078.85**

To construct a one-story multipurpose building dubbed the "Diocesan Peace Center." The Diocesan Peace Center will seat 100 persons and will serve primarily as a venue for interfaith and intercultural dialogues on peace building – a priority for the diocese.

**Diocese of Southern Virginia
Newport News, VA**

**Inner City Improvement
\$23,400**

To provide housing for AmeriCorps interns in Newport News, VA, and for homeless men from the inner-city area. AmeriCorps members save lives and improve health through education and outreach, prevention training, and connecting families to services.

**Diocese of Spain
Pamplona, Spain**

Emmaus House: Pamplona Youth Center for Reconciliation & Evangelism, \$75,000

To purchase and renovate Emmaus House, a safe place for young people in the region of Navarra. The center will provide a safe place for the youth who are frequently subjected to violence, unemployment, and alcoholism

**Diocese of Upper South Carolina
Greenville, SC**

**Jasmine Road
\$40,500**

To adapt the nationally recognized Thistle Farms model to the Greenville community. Through a three-month process, Upstate South Carolina will be provided with an intensive, voluntary, and transformative program that assists women who have been the victims of sexual exploitation and addiction to achieve economic independence.

**Diocese of Utah
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
West Valley City, UT**

New Gas Stoves to Improve the Family Promise Experience, \$1,500

To purchase two gas stoves for families to use to prepare meals in a safe and welcoming temporary home for families with children. These families have recently become homeless.

**Diocese of Virginia
St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Richmond, VA**

St. Peter's, the Warm and Welcoming Church: A New Ministry, a New Reality, \$32,000

To install an elevator, accessible bathroom, and walkway between the worship space and the parish hall in historic St. Peter's Church, which is located in an area with a high concentration of poverty. Many in this aging church community can no longer navigate the many steps necessary to enter the sanctuary. With a majority of the church community facing mobility challenges, participation in church and related activities is no longer possible without accessibility improvements.

**Diocese of West Missouri
Carthage, MO**

**St. Luke's Nursing Center Quality of Life Initiative
\$22,500**

To add a beauty salon to a nursing home facility that will serve the residents as well as homeless people in the area. The project will provide salon services to approximately 100 residents of the St. Luke's nursing home, as well as the occupants of a nearby homeless shelter.



**Diocese of Western Michigan
St. James' Episcopal Church
Albion, MI**

**Albion Community Gardens Inc.
\$20,744**

To develop community gardens to supply produce for low-income families and to provide information on the preparation and importance of healthy eating. The grant also will fund a small tractor with attachments.

**United Thank Offering
Diocese of Texas**

**Julia Chester Emery Internship:
Missional Voices
\$39,840**

To continue and expand the Julia Chester Emery United Thank Offering Internship. This project seeks to aid in the personal and professional development of a young woman interested in lay ministry, by providing intentional mentoring and leadership experience through Missional Voices and UTO, particularly in the areas of church marketing and development.

Global Partnerships

**Gifts for Missionaries
\$9,918.59**

Each year the United Thank Offering provides funding as a gift for our missionaries serving overseas as a reminder of our historic commitment to women missionaries.

2017 UNITED THANK OFFERING

SEMINARIAN & YOUNG ADULT GRANT AWARDS

SEMINARIAN GRANT AWARDS

A Good and Joyful Thing: Meaningful Eucharistic Liturgies for Children and Families

Emily J. Garcia
Diocese of Massachusetts

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
\$1,210

The goal of A Good and Joyful Thing is to facilitate young children's involvement in Episcopal Church worship in a way that also teaches them about God. This project aims to:

1. Produce two full liturgies for Holy Eucharist with musical selections and new Eucharistic prayers that are:
 - fully in accord with the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer;
 - informed by developmental psychology, so they are meaningful and accessible for ages 3-10; and
 - informed by liturgical theology, so they are meaningful and accessible for teen and adult family members.
2. Produce complementary practical suggestions/visual aids. These will each have

adaptations so that they could be fitted to different spaces, skill-sets, and sensibilities.

3. Create a guide for priests with theological reflection on word and song choices.
4. Create materials for parents to enrich their experience of the liturgy, with simple suggestions for how to "go deeper" in a family setting through reflection, Bible reading, prayer for parents, and developmentally appropriate plans for children.

The Episcopal Church Resource Center on Second Life

Cheryl McFaddin
Diocese of East Carolina

Berkeley Divinity School at Yale
\$2,500

This grant would fund the creation a virtual Episcopal Church Resource Center for the popular online world Second Life. Second Life is a vast, evolving community in which users connect and interact with people and organizations unique to Second Life, as well as with avatars of real-world entities. Many companies, brands, and other real-world organizations have an established presence in Second Life. The community currently features a virtual Anglican Cathedral but lacks many other resources

for learning about The Episcopal Church and Anglicanism. This project would create a virtual welcome center/library of resources for people to discover and explore topics related to The Episcopal Church.

Journey Together at the Abundant Table Farm (JT@theAT)

Lisa Devine
Diocese of Los Angeles

Episcopal Divinity School
\$2,500

JT@theAT will be a farm-based community for children of all ages at the Abundant Table Farm in Camarillo, California. It is meant to reach out to those without a church affiliation and to meet the need of small churches needing a "critical mass" of young people for their youth groups and Sunday schools. Through joyful connection on the farm with land, food, neighbor, and God, young people will be supported in becoming grateful, compassionate, and justice-oriented. A typical session will be structured in the following way: Youth arrive and begin weeding a row together. They then glean their snack from the field and come together in gratitude for the food they are eating, which started as a tiny seed. The community then divides into age groups for presentation, reflection, and activities based on a foundational scripture story. Each person harvests produce for his or her family dinner and then returns to the large group for a harvest blessing.

Shared Struggles; Collective Liberation: A Holy Land Pilgrimage

Kevin-Antonio Smallwood
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The School of Theology at the University of the South
\$1,997.97

This pilgrimage for seminarians with Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the Palestine-Israel Network will provide a first-hand experience of understanding of the pursuit of peace between

Israelis and Palestinians, and the reconciliation that is vital to the process. We are not striving to bring radical change to this area in the 10 days we journey about; rather, we hope to gain a holistic understanding of the history, current state, and future of a peaceful Holy Land. This knowledge will not only affect our future work for peace with Israelis and Palestinians, but will also be extended to opportunities for peace and reconciliation within our current communities and nation. Educational offerings on what we learned will be shared when we return.

Equipping Episcopal Seminarians to Nourish Children Spiritually through Godly Play

Reagan Gonzalez
Diocese of Montana

Seminary of the Southwest
\$2,400

Godly Play is a Montessori-based children's theological program developed over four decades by the Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman. Godly Play uses an imaginative and creative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. While modeling the Christian worship life, it provides the language for participants to make deep personal theological understandings. Godly Play focuses on the use of sacred story, silence, wonder, and play as means for worship and spiritual reflection. This project would include the purchase of a variety of Godly Play stories, the organizing of a dedicated space, and the training of seminarians in the curriculum. Seminarians will be invited to participate, and after being trained, they will be put on a children's chaplain rotation to facilitate sessions during our weekly Thursday community Eucharist. This project will both equip future clergy with tools to engage the young Christians in their congregations and provide quality Christian formation to the children and families of the seminary community.

**Capturing the Beauty Way, Hozho
Leon Sampson
Navajoland Area Mission**

**Virginia Theological Seminary
\$2,500**

The grant will provide for the necessary documentation equipment to take high-quality photos and video footage of environmental programs that currently impact both Virginia Theological Seminary and the Navajoland Area Mission. Our goal is to create videos to support seminarians as they take what they have learned from our garden/farm project here at VTS into their communities once they graduate. I also plan to take the equipment home to start creating photo and video footage of programs like the Blue Corn Program, the sustainable Bee Programs, and the Shima' Navajo Land Soap Programs in order to better share those stories, inspire participation, and encourage others to work on self-sustainability and environmental stewardship opportunities in their communities.



**If You Really Knew Me: A Series of
Conversations Tilted Towards
Reconciliation**

**Kathleen Walker
Diocese of Southeast Florida**

**Virginia Theological Seminary
\$2,500**

For the last several months, the administration and students of VTS have been exploring opportunities for racial reconciliation after concerns were raised during the prior academic year. After many meetings and much discussion, there is now a commitment on all sides to move towards peace and reconciliation. This grant will keep the momentum going and will permit the newly organized Seminarians of Color Union to sponsor a series of conversations with leaders from the presiding bishop's staff and other organizations who could be formidable and informative sources about race and race relations to the VTS community. There is an urgent need to add diverse voices to the conversation on campus, where there are a few minority faculty members and even fewer minorities in the administration. A series of conversations would permit the community to participate in dialogues repeatedly, which will prove beneficial. As a follow-up, a social media vehicle would be established to keep the lines of communication open.



**YOUNG ADULT GRANT
AWARDS**

**Evangelism Intern to the
University of Arkansas
Samantha Haycock**

**Diocese of Arkansas
\$2,500**

This grant will allow St. Martin's Episcopal University Center at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to hire a student intern to improve evangelism to the university population. This intern would be able to expand our reach, offerings, and impact. As we raise our visibility on campus, our hope is to be able to draw more students, faculty, and alumni into community, with an increased presence on campus, in Fayetteville, and online. As we grow our ministry, we will also be able to expand the social justice initiatives that the ministry is able to sponsor and partner with.



**Cheii's Web Development
Ryan Sam**

**Navajoland Area Mission
\$2,330.07**

Cheii's Web Development seeks to provide a valuable resource to The Episcopal Church as well as the Navajo people in several ways. The word Cheii comes from the Navajo word meaning grandfather. Through the teaching and storytelling of our Navajo grandfathers, we learn how to be respectful toward others as well as toward nature. This grant will allow us to start a website design business to help tell the story of local Navajo businesses and congregations in The Episcopal Church. Cheii's Web Development consists of four highly motivated and trained web developers; we are all Navajo and want to bring additional jobs to our community. The unemployment rate on the Navajo Nation is 44%. We intend to help bring unemployment down by teaching web development to Navajo individuals who otherwise have no chance of learning web-based skills on the reservation. The demand for individuals who know how to read, write, and develop code is high, and opportunities abound.

The Episcopal Church Stands with Standing Rock
Patrick Kelly

Diocese of North Dakota
\$2,500

The project is to create and sell shirts that will show support for the Standing Rock Reservation from The Episcopal Church in order to provide long-term financial support for the Tiny House Community at St. James' Episcopal Church in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. These shirts will show The Episcopal Church's support of Standing Rock, demonstrate that social justice movements also belong in the Church, and assist in the young adult formation for several college-age men. The money raised will go toward providing the finances for creating and strengthening the fellowship within the Tiny House Community (2015 UTO Grant), which houses young men from the Standing Rock Reservation while they attend college. These funds will be used for intentional mentoring of the young men who will be living in the Tiny Houses, and will include meals cooked and eaten together, educational visits to historic sights that underscore the importance of the history of the young men's ancestors, meetings with influential people in the students' fields of study to learn what their futures could hold, and other aspects of fellowship building and mentoring during the young men's time in the Tiny House Community.

Young Adult Leadership Development – Union of Black Episcopalians
Darius Jenkins

Diocese of Southern Ohio
\$2,500

The goal of this program is to host a leadership retreat to nourish and enhance the faith of young adults of color as well as to magnify the young adult voice in The Episcopal Church during this digital age. We believe this is done in many ways, but most importantly through activism and faith. The individual development of our voices is critical. Having the ability to draw from resources presented in a retreat setting and geared toward current issues in the Church and society will allow us that growth. Part of the vision is to raise awareness within young adults of African descent about the discernment process for ordination; to be a community of vigilance and action regarding matters of injustice, especially the effects of racism in the Church and society; and to create a systematic approach of ensuring that Black congregations are sustainable and viable within their communities.



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

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