



UNITED THANK OFFERING

2020 Grant Awards





UNITED THANK OFFERING *2020 Grant Awards*

Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2019 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we raised \$1,548,013.66 in thank offerings.

Of this, \$30,600 went to support 6 Young Adult and Seminarian grants within the focus of Holy Gifts: bringing together our blessings and gifts to breathe love, liberation, and life into our communities. Additionally, UTO awarded 27 grants as a part of the annual grant process that utilizes the remainder of the 2019 Ingathering funds, or \$1,484,693.66. This year, the focus of our granting process

was Bless: Share faith, practice generosity and compassion, and proclaim the Good News of God in Christ with hope and humility. The UTO Board received almost \$3.4 million in requests in 2020. With your help and the encouragement that you give to others to join the United Thank Offering, we hope to raise additional funds in the coming year to support even more of our wonderful applicants next year. Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away the following year to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,331 grants for a total of \$140,177,924.73. (For a complete list of all UTO grants, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO and click on the Resources tab at the bottom of the page.)

The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to:

Notice the good things that happen each day.

Give thanks to God for your blessings.

Make an offering for each blessing. Through UTO, your *Blessings* become blessings for others.

YAS! GRANTS

Young Adult and Seminarian Grants

YOUNG ADULT AWARDS

Seth Stradling

Diocese of Central Florida, Young Adult Christian Development

\$5,000

This project has inductive biblical study (Observation/Interpretation/Application) and relationship building at its foundation to intentionally raise up new generations of leaders. This creates a new formation pathway for mentoring, discipleship, and training of college students and young adults, enabling them to mentor within our growing youth group ministry.

Rowan Larson

Diocese of Massachusetts, We Are All Wonderfully Made

\$5,000

To create a website that includes a digital picture book that can be viewed by scrolling through it on a computer or tablet, a parent guide, and a guide to available religious and secular resources about gender identity and expression. This free resource will help share God's expansive love.

Evangeline Warren

Diocese of Ohio, Increasing Young Adult Involvement in the Diocese of Ohio

\$5,000

Following a year of reflection and research, the Young Adult Outreach Task force seeks to implement interventions and recommendations to boost young adult involvement in the Diocese of Ohio. This grant will help fund pilot projects for young adult outreach, making new undertakings more feasible across the diocese.



SEMINARIAN (PEOPLE IN PROCESS FOR ORDINATION) AWARDS

Kevin Neil

Diocese of Massachusetts, MANNA, Housing Recovery Group

\$2,800

We are seeking to reduce loss of housing amongst those who are newly housed and have experienced chronic homelessness. We will do this by creating spaces of practical education on housing skills, finding emotional resonance for the struggles, and celebrating housing milestones along the way.

Cynthia Moore

Diocese of Northern Indiana, Dove Faith Café

\$5,000

The Dove Faith Café is a storytelling event. Speakers share their faith stories on stage with a diverse audience. This powerful platform illustrates how God has moved in their lives while stirring up embers of God's work in listeners' own lives. It's an invitation to connect with God's own family.

Charlotte Dalwood

Diocese of South Dakota Pine Ridge Commons

\$5,000

Combining evangelism with community development, "Pine Ridge Commons" will transform the seven churches of The Episcopal Church's Pine Ridge Mission into public spaces at which young adults can gather, form constructive relationships with one another and older mentors, and cultivate practices of Native and Episcopal piety to infuse their daily lives with hope and meaning.

Meghan Mazur

Diocese of Texas Prison Choir

\$2,800

This project will provide a way for prisoners to connect with Christ, one another, and experience community through choral music. Starting a choir with incarcerated persons provides inmates with a chance to experience a way to share their God-given gifts in any circumstances.



UTO GRANTS

Regular Cycle Grants



This year the UTO Board received 59 applications and were able to fund 27 grants, including four historical grants (explained below). One grant supports a diocese that receives block grants from General Convention. Four grants (including one historical grant and one to a Covenant partner) fund projects in the Anglican Communion. Four grants are companion projects, meaning two dioceses that have a relationship with one another, working together on a grant project. The remaining 15 grants are to projects within The Episcopal Church.

Historical grants are awarded each year by the UTO Board for projects that fall outside of the regular parameters of our granting process but within the historical practices of UTO. When UTO was founded, the Ingathering Funds were used to send and support UTO Missionaries. In 1923, the Emery Trust (335) was created to care for the Emery Lounge and Rooms and the items contained there, in addition to supporting the rest, formation, and care of the UTO missionaries. The Emery Trust funded the Gifts to Missionary grant until 2006 when it stopped being utilized. Beginning in 2018, with thanks to the Executive Council, Archives and Global Partnerships team, the UTO Board was able to award the trust to

support missionaries or the upkeep of archival UTO materials. We will always list this grant along with the annual awards, just as was done in the past, however, we will demarcate the award as being from the trust. Additionally, in the spirit of the early UTO missionaries, the UTO Board continues to support young women through our internship program. This internship gives young women an opportunity to experience intentional mentoring and opportunities to learn, grow, and discern where God is calling them next in their life adventures. It also helps them share the ministry and work of UTO with others. The final grant listed below is part of a practice the UTO Board created years ago to support and partner with the Presiding

Bishop. Historically, UTO has funded grants to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to support new work that the church budget had not yet expanded to fund. These awards have supported everything from staff positions, conferences, creation of educational resources, to contributing to building projects. A few years ago, UTO offered a challenge grant to raise funds for a project of particular need and interest. This year, UTO offered a second challenge as well as a pilgrimage to Spain to support the establishment of a permanent Anglican presence in Santiago due to the significant spiritual importance of the Camino de Santiago to Christians everywhere.

HISTORICAL GRANTS

Presiding Bishop

Rooted in Love: A Way of Love Small Group Experience for an Evangelistic, Discipling, Relational Church

\$96,900

Through “Rooted in Love,” Episcopalians will gather with neighbors and friends to share a meal and grateful prayer; explore a short film and questions about God, belonging and living a meaningful, wonder-filled life through Jesus’ Way of Love; and grow a more evangelistic, discipling and relational culture across the Church.

UTO

Companion with Massachusetts Julia Chester Emery Internship

\$39,852.11

The Julia Chester Emery Internship works to empower young women through a year-long program of formation, mentoring, and support. As a partnership between the United Thank Offering and the Diocese of Massachusetts, the Intern will work on personal and professional development in Boston.

Camino Challenge Grant

La Iglesia Española Reformada Episcopal

The Anglican Pilgrim Centre in Santiago de Compostela

\$114,232.80

The Anglican Welcome Centre project will establish an ecumenical Anglican presence in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, for pilgrims completing the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. The Center will be a place of worship and rest, where all Anglican/Episcopal clergy will be welcome to celebrate the Eucharist. This grant will support the purchase of the building.

Global Partnerships

Emery Trust #335 Award: Values & Tools for Mission Engagement

\$63,320

We will create online materials—audio, video, and written—to help prepare and support missionaries during the application, discernment, training, service and re-entry process. We see these materials as a way to bolster our in-person offerings and promote global mission engagement among parishes and dioceses.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH AWARDS

Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Beloved Community Outreach Center of Mobile

\$50,000

The Beloved Community Outreach Center of Mobile proclaims the Jubilee year Good News of God’s peace and blessing through story-sharing meals, arts, wellness, formation, and worship among those racial, cultural and ethnic groups our church historically excluded and 10 existing Episcopal congregations in a 9-mile radius of the Midtown Neighborhood.

Diocese of Chicago

St. Paul’s Sustainable Food Project

\$62,000

St. Paul’s wants to make our successful feeding ministries more sustainable by creating community garden space for people to grow their own food, having a nutritionist teach them how to prepare that food, and doing it in a way where our members work alongside the community sharing our lives together.



Diocese of Delaware

The Pain and Prayer Scale Project: a prayer tool for drug- free pain control

\$47,975

Prayer as a tool for pain management joins faith and medicine to offer a drug-free alternative for pain management. As an ordained priest and medical doctor, I am well positioned to develop and validate a “Pain and Prayer Scale” which will connect church and academia in an unprecedented way to alleviate pain and suffering.

Diocese of Lexington

Calling a Community Evangelist

\$24,925

Trinity Episcopal Church in Covington, Kentucky, will call a Community Evangelist to do two things: to nurture relationships with individuals, businesses, non-profits, and local officials to build the beloved community outside our walls, and to activate Trinity’s public-facing courtyard through evangelism and community programming to welcome the larger community in.

Diocese of Minnesota

Companion with Belize Water to Bless and Build Upon

\$101,000

As generous and compassionate neighbors, this grant will construct a 34,000-gallon concrete cistern at Holy Cross Anglican School collecting and storing critically needed water for daily use and provide the structural foundation of a community building providing worship space, classrooms, hurricane shelter, and water to the school and neighborhood in times of crisis.

Diocese of Missouri

Grace Gathering: a worship service celebrating diverse abilities

\$11,320

Grace Gathering builds a Eucharistic community celebrating people with mental and physical disabilities, their families, and caregivers through a weekly worship service. Our service employs sensory and tactile liturgical elements that comfort participants, makes room for them to express themselves with wiggles and shouts, and builds the People of God.

Diocese of New York

Companion with Asaba, Nigeria St. Luke's Idumuje-Unor:

Anglican Children's Ministry & Young Widows Program

\$45,000

Renovation of the severely dilapidated buildings will create a safe and inspiring space for a new Anglican Children's Ministry and the Young Widows program, committed to do the work of Christ in proclaiming the Good News with hope and humility, and create a safe space to share stories and grow together.

Diocese of North Carolina

Flying Lion Transition to Employment

\$72,777

This grant allows us to purchase equipment for a commercial kitchen, which meets state and local safety regulations, to support the Flying Lion Transition to Employment Ministry. The Ministry will prepare women experiencing poverty, domestic violence, and homelessness for work in the food service industry.



Diocese of Northern California

The Playground

\$145,000

The Playground will be a place where community is gathered and formed at a playground-café-garden, where neighbors from a wide variety of spiritual backgrounds come together to play, to be nourished, to have deep conversations, share their journeys, and, in the midst of their diversity, journey deeper together.

Diocese of Northern Indiana

Elkhart Ministry Partnership

\$26,625

We propose to create an innovative half-time position overseeing the nurture and development of an ecumenical county-wide youth and young adult ministry with a focus on local evangelism in shared partnership between four Episcopal and ELCA parishes. Evangelism to youth and young adults is needed in Elkhart County.

Diocese of San Joaquin

Community Mission Centers of San Joaquin

\$82,361.01

Community Mission Centers (CMCs) are located in three communities in the diocese with vulnerable populations seeking assistance, welcome, and hospitality. It is our goal to provide places of sanctuary, respite, and support to those on the margins and to express Christ's love and generosity through the sharing of resources.



Diocese of Southeast Florida

Companion with Haiti

Water and Sanitation for Bondeau, Haiti

\$75,541.54

This grant will provide clean drinking water to the Bondeau community by piping water from a spring 2 km away (community has no direct access to potable water) and it will construct a school bathroom (children only have access to costly-to-maintain latrines with no washing facilities). These are immediate, related, primary health needs.

Diocese of South Dakota

Earth & Altar Magazine

\$20,700

Rooted in the tradition of The Episcopal Church, Earth & Altar is a publication that fosters conversation for the life of the church among Christians committed to inclusive orthodoxy. In particular, it invites those historically marginalized in the church to share their faith stories in order to welcome and encourage others in their faith growth as well.

Diocese of Southern Ohio

Sharing Stories of Blessing in Southern Ohio

\$33,800

We will launch a Beloved Community Story Sharing Campaign to inspire faith communities and individuals to share their "God stories" of faith, race, and difference and become more effective healers, reconcilers, and ambassadors of Christ. We will hire a Coordinator to facilitate the collection of stories and create pathways for connection.

Diocese of Tennessee

Healthy Roots

\$21,159.07

Healthy Roots uses a holistic approach to address the physical, mental, and spiritual health of individuals living in Tennessee's South Cumberland Plateau region. Through this program, DuBose Conference Center will leverage our community garden as a tool for broadening access to produce and engaging our neighbors in holistic wellness programming.

Diocese of Upper South Carolina

The Church Street Choral Academy
\$53,000

The Church Street Choral Academy brings students from diverse socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds together for tutoring, mentoring, leadership, and music training with an Episcopal foundation. Through arts enrichment and academic support, this program will change the trajectory of a student's life and will change our Christ Church family.

Diocese of Washington

Companion with Masai, Tanzania
St. Catherine's Secondary School for Girls
\$66,868

St. Catherine's Secondary School for Girls is the first ever boarding school for girls in Tunduru district, Tanzania. Funding is needed to obtain operational status and open enrollment. Critical projects include: finishing dormitories and classrooms, building of a laboratory, water tank, solar power, toilets, and a matron house.

Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Big Blue Drop-In Center
\$36,948

The Big Blue Drop-In Center provides a comfortable place where the unhoused and disenfranchised gather for rest, physical and spiritual nourishment, and strength during the day. We seek to increase the hours of this new ministry from one day per week to three.



Diocese of Wyoming

And a Little Child Shall Lead Them!
\$70,000

This grant will allow St. Mark's, Casper, Wyoming, to create a third floor Children's Chapel Program for visiting children and parents in our Diaper Outreach Program, by installing a larger elevator and handicap accessibility to all floors for our preschool, most who are not members, so they can go to Children's Chapel during the week.

ANGLICAN COMMUNION AWARDS

Covenant Partner: Philippines, Diocese of Davao

Blingkong Center for Sharing, Peace and Development
\$23,306.60

This project will establish a center for promotion and practice of peace, solidarity, and development as well as a refuge from disasters for people of various faiths. It is intended to enable them to work together to be a blessing not only for their community but also for others.

Bangladesh, Diocese of Dhaka

Building Blessings: Two New and Needed Churches
\$80,000

To contribute to create worship and education space for vibrant communities living in Christ, promoting a complete code of life for the underprivileged ethnic community at Sridampara (Tangail district) and East Baromari (Netrokona District), the centers of biblical and faith-based life for newer Christians.

Burundi, Diocese of Muyinga

Muyinga Hope Center

\$51,980 This project intends to build a community center where people from different backgrounds will meet for Bible study, people living in difficult conditions can gather to have their hearts relieved by the good news of God, and to teach them to care for one another and offer mutual aid.



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

**The Episcopal Church
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017**

**Contact: Heather Melton
hmelton@episcopalchurch.org
212.922.5130**

