



United Thank Offering 2022 Grant Awards



Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2021 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we have **\$1,051,154.14** available to award in 2022. This year, the focus for applications was "Care of Creation: Turning love into action by caring for God's creation to protect the most vulnerable—who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change through justice, advocacy, environmental reparations, or the development of formational materials." Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,406 grants for a total of \$142,155,879.44. (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.)

For the first time, the UTO Board set a maximum on the allowed grant request of \$55,000, except in the cases of extreme need or larger projects, where the applicant could request up to \$100,000. The UTO Board received almost \$1.8 million in requests from 42 applications and were able to fund 22 grants, including two historical grants (explained below). Four grants supported a diocese that receives block grants from General Convention. Eight grants fund projects in the Anglican Communion. The remaining eight 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. 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 UTO missionaries. Beginning in 2018, with thanks to the Executive Council and the Archives, the UTO Board was able to award the trust to support missionaries sent by The Episcopal Church for the upkeep of archival UTO materials. Currently, missionaries are sent to serve in communities through the Global Partnership Team or through the Episcopal Service Corps, part of the Formation Team. 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. The final historical grant 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 building projects.

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.

Episcopal Church Awards

Diocese of Alabama

Cherokee Heritage Garden:

Church of the Good Shepherd, Decatur

\$54,750

We seek to establish creation justice in acknowledging the first families of the region by returning to the planting manner and seeds of the cultural heritage of the land. Environmental learning and cultural enlightenment will occur through a community classroom/garden. This is anticipated as a model for other parishes.

Diocese of Montana **Reduce Water Usage in** **\$22,180**
18 Rural Montana Episcopal Parishes

This project will implement water usage reduction measures by installing low flow toilets at 18 rural congregations as a first step to lowering our carbon footprint and through environmental education classes available to the whole diocese so next steps can be discerned together.

Diocese of North Dakota **Environmental Reparations:** **\$52,500**
St. Paul's, White Shield

Threefold project: prayer path with medicine plants, traditional garden, elder-led retreats (stories about spiritual aspect of creation care), all of which will bring community into right relation with Creator, neighbor, and earth, while serving as environmental reparation for land lost to Garrison dam. Community outreach will be by sharing of Arikara spirituality.

Diocese of Northern Michigan **Walking Together:** **\$28,500**
Protecting Our Common Ground

Walking Together: Protecting Our Common Ground is a project focused on strengthening relationships by working together with our Indigenous neighbors utilizing compelling formation materials to address the most pressing earth care issues as identified by the five Indigenous-led Networks located throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Diocese of South Dakota **Indoor Riding Arena:** **\$99,541.50**
Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission Camp
at Black Horse Ranch, Eagle Butte

This project seeks to repair our relationship to the earth while also providing reparations for the Lakota people by restoring Lakota Horse Culture through the Equine Programs. We will teach and provide wellness for the Lakota and the earth by providing a place to engage with horses, community, and creation.

Anglican Communion Awards

Covenant Partner: **Episcopal San José, Chorrera** **\$55,000**
IARCA, Diocese of Panama

Install solar panels in the Instituto Episcopal San José, as a part of a multi-pronged approach to using green energy, which will transform a learning space allowing for the development of advocacy programs for clergy, lay ministers, and community leaders, and to teach students skills to deal with disaster preparedness and care of creation to help slow the effects of climate change.

Covenant Partner: **Agriculture & Aquaculture: Adapted to** **\$57,973.90**
Mexico, Western Mexico **Climate Change, Cathedral of St. Paul, Jalisco**

This project intends to use the facilities of the Cathedral such as the land that surrounds it and the roof of the building to generate a self-sustaining project of water harvesting, fish farming, and wastewater use to nourish edible and medicinal plants. A cooperative will be formed with families of the Cathedral and the necessary food will be distributed for each family and the rest will be sold to support the project.

Burundi	Erosion Control through Tree Planting and	\$52,470
Diocese of Buye	Contour Lines, Mwumba County, Ngozi	

Our proposal is to control erosion in Mwumba county. The project will deal with erosion that decreases soil fertility causing food insecurity. It aims to restore soil fertility and prevent contamination of water. The project will focus on planting trees and digging contour lines in church's lands by 2023.

Congo	Improve Access to Water for the Vulnerable in	\$52,025
Diocese of Goma	Nyiragongo, Goma	

The installation of 25 water tanks (3000 l) to improve access to water for the most vulnerable people in Nyiragongo, Goma, and in doing so enable them to improve and better care for their local environment by not overusing and polluting river water.

Southern Africa	Food Justice: Action and Advocacy in	\$32,040
	Southern Africa	

Green Anglicans of Southern Africa (21 Dioceses) will mobilise around food justice. Food security is impacted by COVID and climate change. Home gardening courses will be run, and young climate activists empowered to speak nationally, regionally, and globally. The program is underpinned with principles of eco-theology.

Southern Africa,	Rejuvenating Rivers: Creating Environmental	\$39,850
Diocese of Grahamstown	Change Makers Among Youth for a South	
	Africa River System.	

We want to train, educate, and support a group of high school learners to become environmental change makers in their community by monitoring, adopting, and identifying environmental hotspots along rivers threatened by pollution and droughts. The project will generate media content and make use of indigenous knowledge through intergenerational transmission.

Tanzania,	Reduction of the Impact of Climate Change	\$32,040
Diocese of Lweru	through Wells and Reforestation in Kagera	

The Diocese of Lweru is fighting the injustice felt by rural villages in Tanzania, where impacts of climate change have devastated dependable sources of water. The project aims to construct shallow wells to increase access to safe and sustainable water supplies and plant trees to help with erosion.

Tanzania,	Our Creation, Our Development	\$49,227
Diocese of		
Southwest Tanganyika		

The project seeks to strengthen climate adaptation through community-focused Public Education and Outreach (PEO) and distribution of 310,000 trees to the 20 Anglican parishes with most vulnerable climatic impacts including damaging deep potholes, erosion, and desertification in the Southern highlands regions.

Historical Grant Awards

Presiding Bishop	Sacred Ground & God's Creation: Church-wide	\$89,438.74
	Social and Spiritual Formation for Creation Care	

In response to climate crises threatening our planet and communities, *Loving God, Loving God's Creation* welcomes Episcopalians on a comprehensive journey toward internal and social change. We will create, gather, and share a film-based, small group curriculum as well as a bilingual suite of resources that foster love, justice, and stewardship of creation.

Emery Trust #335 Award

**Missionaries: Exploring History
and Looking to the Future**

\$56,100

We need to re-imagine and rebuild our programs to explore what post-pandemic missionary service will look like. To see the future more clearly, we need to explore where we've been including our UTO missionary beginnings, new program development, the historical connection between mission and colonialism, and our current mutual partnerships.