



UNITED THANK OFFERING

2022 Grant Awards





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 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.)

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 California

Jubilee Church Farm, Brentwood

\$53,888

Jubilee Farm Church will be at the center of an affordable housing community built on diocesan land. It will embody the Church's mission of care for creation and serve as a place where people can reconnect with the land, with their neighbors, and with God through worship, work, and play.



Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Seniors Saving the Earth: St. Francis
of Assisi & Gulf Breeze Senior Center,
Gulf Breeze, Florida

\$18,720

Our proposal is to hire two interns to coordinate volunteer opportunities between Seniors and organizations focused on caring for the earth. We would partner with these environmental groups. The environmental groups would present their program at the Senior Center and interested Seniors would then be matched for volunteer work.

Diocese of Chicago

Climate Justice on the South Side of
Chicago: St. Paul & the Redeemer

\$22,886

To improve our commitment to climate justice, sustainability, and making our building available as a resource on the South Side of Chicago, this project will upgrade St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church's lighting system to use LED bulbs and facilitate our education of our neighborhood about incentives for energy efficiency.



Diocese of Ecuador Litoral

Reforestation and Creation of Nature
Engagement Sites at Adrian Caceres
Retreat Center

\$55,000

This project seeks to reforest, build gazebos and cycling/walking paths, using environmentally friendly materials that guarantee the rights of nature and the population to live in a healthy environment, creating spaces to exercise our bodies and allow a place of spiritual meditation and mental relaxation.

Convocation of Churches in Europe

Embrace Diversity: Refugee
Integration through Care of Creation
at JNRC, Rome

\$54,014

The project combines efforts to care for the Earth with efforts to help refugees rebuild their lives in a new country. Our tangible goals are to have cleaner parks and streets and to strengthen the bonds between people with different backgrounds, residents and migrants, through cooperation and dialogue.

Diocese of Honduras

Access to Water for La Santa Cruz
and the Muchilena Community

\$25,000

We will install a water cistern at La Santa Cruz to address the lack of water for food, personal or sanitary consumption. It currently depends upon the community to provide potable water. This cistern will allow us to no longer impact the available water for the village, while also allowing us to share the resource and the process with others.

Diocese of Kansas

Cultivating Earth Stewards at The
Gardens at Bethany House, Topeka

\$31,150

Cultivating Earth Stewards proposes to develop systems to provide education for, and hands on experience with, caring for creation. A Garden and Sustainability Coordinator, working with three interns, will tend the gardens at Bethany Place and provide educational events for the neighborhood and the diocese, working with the Diocesan Missioner.



Diocese of Montana

Reduce Water Usage in 18 Rural Montana Episcopal Parishes

\$22,180

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: St. Paul's, White Shield

\$52,500

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: Protecting Our Common Ground

\$28,500

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: Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission Camp at Black Horse Ranch, Eagle Butte

\$99,541.50

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: IARCA, Diocese of Panama

Episcopal San José, Chorrera

\$55,000

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: Mexico, Western Mexico

Agriculture & Aquaculture: Adapted to Climate Change, Cathedral of St. Paul, Jalisco

\$57,973.90

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.



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.

Burundi Diocese of Buye

Erosion Control through Tree Planting and Contour Lines, Mwumba County, Ngozi

\$52,470

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 Diocese of Goma

Improve Access to Water for the Vulnerable in Nyiragongo, Goma

\$52,025

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 Southern Africa

\$32,040

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, Diocese of Grahamstown

Rejuvenating Rivers: Creating Environmental Change Makers Among Youth for a South Africa River System.

\$39,850

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, Diocese of Lweru

Reduction of the Impact of Climate Change through Wells and Reforestation in Kagera

\$32,040

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, Diocese of Southwest Tanganyika

Our Creation, Our Development

\$49,227

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 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.



HISTORICAL GRANT AWARDS

Presiding Bishop

Sacred Ground & God's Creation: Church-wide Social and Spiritual Formation for Creation Care

\$89,438.74

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.

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

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