Dear UTO Coordinators/Organizers, Members, and Friends,

With Convention fast approaching, and lots of moving parts, we’ve got some important and exciting updates as events and offerings solidify.

Here’s what’s new:

- We’ve updated the schedule to reflect the change in the Ingathering date and time and added more detail where we could.
- Blue Box App Party Flyer – Be sure to join us to celebrate the launch of the Blue Box App for your smart phone! We look forward to celebrating this new chapter in the life of the mighty Blue Box with you.
- UTO Booth Daily Events Calendar – each day the booth will offer a new giveaway, a gratitude experience, and a grant site will take over to share photos and give a talk at lunchtime. Be sure to check out the full schedule of offerings.

Don’t forget...

- We still need people to sign up to help collect UTO Blue Boxes; please sign up as often as you are able! www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409044EAD722A0FA7-utoblue
- To fill out the Google survey so we know who is coming to represent what diocese for the Ingathering and to update our brand new UTO database! https://goo.gl/forms/zdRjxlCtDYTiiMp2

Thank you for all of your help and support. It’s hard to believe, but we’ll see you in Austin in just a few weeks!
Come join us for the **BLUEBOX APP** Launch Party

Food and Fun
July 8th • 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The **Eleanor**
307 West 5th Street, Unit A
Austin, TX 78701
512.494.4094
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• **UTO Booth Daily Events Calendar** – each day the booth will offer a new giveaway, a gratitude experience, and a grant site will take over to share photos and give a talk at lunchtime. Be sure to check out the full schedule of offerings.
• **Blue Cookie Baking Help needed** - We need volunteers on Sunday morning to come join us to bake cookies for when UTO takes over the Presiding Bishop’s Booth in the afternoon. No experience required, we just need extra hands!

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Thank you for all of your help and support. It’s hard to believe, but we’ll see you in Austin in just a few weeks!
Dear UTO Coordinators/Organizers, Members, and Friends,

This Triennial/Convention, we are trying something new by offering a pre-convention packet with all of the UTO information in one place. We hope that this will help you find your way and help us to keep you updated as the event approaches. We’ll send out a second one in June with the final details and all of the updates.

We’ve created a Google Form [https://goo.gl/forms/zdRxjalcTDYTiiMp2](https://goo.gl/forms/zdRxjalcTDYTiiMp2) so you can update your information and sign up for all of the events you’re interested in attending. **Please be sure to fill out the form by Monday, May 14th at 9a Eastern time** so we can be in contact with you in the month leading up to Convention with important updates including Ingathering Rehearsal time and any location changes of events you’re interested in attending. We’ll also email in June with the information on special events happening during convention, like the Blue Box Smart Phone App Launch Party and The UTO Gratitude Scavenger Hunt! To make it even more enticing to sign up via the Google Form above, we’ll register you to win a prize! One lucky winner will be announced in May.

In this packet you find:

- **UTO Workshop Booklet** - This year, UTO will offer three workshops, with one repeated on Sunday. Three workshops will be held in the UTO Office in Ballroom C and one in another location which has not been announced. Sign up using the Google Form, so we can keep you posted on room assignments and other new information. We’ll also post the location and other information on Facebook and in the e-newsletter.

- **Schedule of UTO Events** - We’ve condensed all of the main UTO events to be held from July 5-8 to accommodate those who only want to attend UTO events. Please note that if you are only coming for UTO events, you will still need to register as a visitor. [https://www.generalconvention.org/attendee-information-gc2018](https://www.generalconvention.org/attendee-information-gc2018) We’ll send out a final schedule in June to everyone who has filled out the Google Form. Each day there will be a different giveaway and gratitude offering at the UTO Booth, and, at lunchtime we’ll offer a brief talk from one of our Grant Recipients on their project, we hope you’ll join us!

One more thing...**Blue Box Collection** - every day during Triennial/Convention, volunteers join Board members in collecting the Boxes from all three houses. This year we’ve created an electronic sign up, so you can receive reminders of when you signed up! Please visit: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409044EADA722A0FA7-utoblue](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409044EADA722A0FA7-utoblue)

We are so excited to reconnect in person with all of you who make UTO so amazing. Thank you for all you do, and we look forward to seeing you in Austin!

UTO Staff and Board
The term UTO Board will be used rather than UTO Committee to reflect the current language in use. The terms UTO Diocesan and Parish Coordinators and the term UTO Organizers will be used interchangeably.

Each triennium brings unique gifts and challenges to the work of the United Thank Offering, this is a summary of those activities.

- **Internship**—Hired the first Julia Chester Emery United Thank Offering Intern based on a position created during the previous triennium—our first intern was Kayla Massey who started in 2015 at General Convention and was based in New York; next Rachel McDaniel based in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Reservation; and now Katelyn Kenney based in Houston serving with Missional Voices. The Julia Chester Emery United Thank Offering Internship is supporting young women in The Episcopal Church, while reconnecting with the roots of UTO of sending women missionaries into the field, and helping to develop a new generation of women leaders.

- **Communication**—We have worked on improving our communication through maintaining a web presence through unitedthankoffering.org with many UTO resources; providing bulletin inserts and monthly newsletter articles, also available on our web site; sharing missives from the President to the Board, and an e-newsletter available to everyone interested in knowing more about UTO; improved mentoring of our Grants Convener and in-coming officers; hosted webinars on a variety of topics and trainings for our in-coming Board members; and held monthly Executive Committee meetings.

- **Grant Work**—Our Grants Conveners, Peg Cooper and Joyce Landers (Province V and IV, respectively), have created a significant system of support and transparency with grant accounting and application processes. We had also added three types of grants between 2015 and 2018 and have continued two. In 2015, in celebration of our 125th Year as an organization in The Episcopal Church, we offered a special Bishop’s grant in each province of $2500 and a Young Adult (YA) grant of $1250. Due to the power of the Young Adult grants, the Board has continued and expanded this grant category. First, we increased the amount of the YA grants to $2500, expanded the ages to include younger adults, now 19-30, and added another category of grants for any age Seminarian, also for $2500. These are a smaller number of grants, but UTO has funded some powerful ministries.

- **History of UTO Grants**—In preparation for the 2015 General Convention the complete list of grants from 1883 to the present was archived and on our web site. This is a valuable tool when determining which grant awards have been made to different dioceses and countries. In 2017, lists of grants by country were used to support the Episcopal delegates to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women when consulting with ambassadors around the world.

- **Support Refugee Work**—Reached out to help raise awareness about refugees through our grants and grant site visits. In 2016, a three-person delegation of staff and Board visited the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center (JNRC), located in the basement of an Episcopal Church in Rome, Italy. A videographer recorded stories of both refugees and staff. The videos are on www.episcopalchurch.org/uto or on the UTO flash drive. Second, the UTO Board issued a special challenge to meet a $30,000 grant to Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) designated for work with refugees. Contributions to UTO more
than met the $30,000 challenge and went on to help support the resettlement efforts of EMM. To learn more about EMM visit: www.episcopalchurch.org/emm

• **Board Meetings**-Met twice a year for face-to-face Board meetings at sites of significance to the work of The Episcopal Church: in North Dakota on the Standing Rock Reservation we saw tiny houses and installed solar panels funded by UTO grants, and visited the water protectors during that time of great strife; in Nashville we visited Thistle Farms and learned about the first Magdalene House; in Puerto Rico we met the in-coming Bishop and visited areas we later saw on the news that had been hard hit by Hurricanes Irma and Maria; we traveled to Washington, D.C. to learn about advocacy from the Presiding Bishop’s Governmental Affairs Office, met and visited offices of our Members of Congress, and toured the National Cathedral. And we look forward to being in Austin for Triennial. We also meet many times throughout the year via Zoom, an internet meeting service which allows us to see each other.

• **Birthday Celebration**-Fall 2017 we celebrated Julia Chester Emery’s 165th birthday and awarded prizes for the most creative celebrations in small and large churches.

• **Jesus Movement and Becoming Beloved Community**-This year we followed the Presiding Bishop’s lead toward being the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement by awarding grants to parishes and dioceses around the concept of Becoming Beloved Communities.

• **Good Book Club**-The UTO Staff Officer and President wrote a scripture study on gratitude for Forward Movement based on the books of Luke and Acts. This study included 14 meditations based on scripture, including discussion questions, and related grant site information.

• **Lenten Calendar**-Our Staff Officer developed a UTO Lenten calendar for giving based on the abundance each of us has in our lives. We got such a great response, we’ll do it again next year, but will have it available in the fall of 2018 for planning purposes.

• **Blue Box App**-One of our most exciting events will be the launch of our UTO App at General Convention 2018. This will be developed by one of our UTO grant sites to Navajoland and will allow people who are accustomed to giving with click of an app rather than by dropping coins in Blue Boxes.

• **Shima’ Navajoland Distribution Center**-We moved our materials distribution from Georgia to Navajoland as a cost reduction measure and to continue to support the self-sustainability work of the Church in Navajoland. You can place orders for UTO materials and pay only postage at www.shimaofnavajoland.com or phone orders: 928-985-0559.

• **Self Study**-We developed a Self Study tool to determine how we can better serve those involved with UTO, especially our UTO organizers and clergy. We will be launching the self-study at our booth at General Convention.

• **UTO Training Materials**-We developed a brochure to recruit UTO volunteers and are working on standardizing some training materials which can be used in person. We hope the results of the Self Study will inform our preparation of future materials.

Submitted by: Sandra K. Squires, Ed. D., President, United Thank Offering Board and The Rev. Canon Heather Melton, Staff Officer, United Thank Offering
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday, July 5</th>
<th>Friday, July 6</th>
<th>Saturday, July 7</th>
<th>Sunday, July 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Day In the UTO Booth</strong></td>
<td>Navajoland &amp; UTO Day in Presiding Bishops Booth 11-5</td>
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<td>Gratitude Offering: Gratitude Graffiti Wall - “Today I give thanks to God for…”</td>
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<td><strong>Noon Featured Booth Talk</strong></td>
<td>Spain - Camino Project and UTO Grant for the First Anglican Presence on the Camino de Santiago</td>
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<td><strong>Gratitude Offering:</strong> Thank you post cards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gratitude Offering:</strong> Thank You Card to someone at Convention/Triennial</td>
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<td>Missional Voices</td>
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<td><strong>Gratitude Offering:</strong> Gratitude Scavenger Hunt &amp; Voices of Gratitude Photo Collage with Missional Voices Navigation - Che’ii Web Development - Young Adult Grant Recipient in PBs Booth, Missional Voices in UTO Booth</td>
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<td><strong>9:00 AM</strong></td>
<td>9:30a Opening Eucharist</td>
<td>UTO Grants announced - Triennial Gathering</td>
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<td><strong>10:00 AM</strong></td>
<td>10:30am Joint Session on Racial Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>11:00 AM</strong></td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
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<td><strong>11:15a-12:45p Workshop:</strong> The Jesus Movement, Gratitude and Leading UTO</td>
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<td><strong>12:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>12:30-2 ECW Share Fair</td>
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<td><strong>1:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>ECW Opening Celebration</td>
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<td><strong>2:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>2:30-4p Workshop: Best Financial Practices: How UTO Can Support Stewardship and Faith Formation</td>
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<td><strong>3:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>2:15pm Joint Session on Evangelism The Jesus Movement, Gratitude and Leading UTO and Share: ABCD &amp; UTO Grants</td>
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<td><strong>4:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>5:30p Exhibit Hall Closes</td>
<td>2:30-4p Workshops: The Jesus Movement, Gratitude and Leading UTO and Share: ABCD &amp; UTO Grants</td>
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<td><strong>5:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>Exhibits Close</td>
<td>Diocese of Texas Night/Revival</td>
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<td><strong>6:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>7:30p Worship</td>
<td>Exhibits Close</td>
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<td><strong>7:00 PM</strong></td>
<td>7:30p UTO Ingathering Eucharist</td>
<td>7-8:30p Blue Box App party</td>
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Note: We know that there will be a rehearsal for the Ingathering, unfortunately, we do not schedule that. So please be sure to sign up on the Google Form so we can email you as soon as we know the time and location.
2018 United Thank Offering Booth Events and Opportunities

The UTO Booth will offer opportunities to practice gratitude, engage with UTO Grant Sites, and pick up a new giveaway. Each day a grant recipient will offer a lunchtime talk in the booth and those who attend will get a special UTO giveaway.

**Tuesday, July 3 Noon - 5pm**
Come join us as we get settled, pick up your UTO pin, and enter our free raffle!

**Wednesday, July 4**
**Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Garland**
Come add your blessing to the garland and we’ll see how our garland grows throughout our time together. Different colors correspond to different areas of blessing. Which will have the most?

**Giveaway: UTO Grocery Bags**
Stop by the booth to pick up your UTO grocery bag so you can carry home all of your UTO materials.

**Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: United Thank Offering**
Join us for an informal Q&A session on UTO…ask questions about UTO grants, gratitude or upcoming UTO events.

**Thursday, July 5: Episcopal Church in Navajoland & UTO in the Presiding Bishop’s Booth**
**Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Graffiti Wall**
Come answer the question: “Today I give thanks to God for…” on our graffiti wall or come over to the Presiding Bishop’s Booth to do the same in a video message.

**Giveaway: Blue Corn Soap**
Pick up a sample of Shima soap made in Navajoland with blue corn from the 2015 UTO grant.

**Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, Bluff, Utah**
2015: *Blue Corn Meal Project, Episcopal Church in Navajoland*, $97,400
Blue corn is a traditional Navajo food item with a lower glycemic index than regular corn. This project created a farm, mill, and production area to teach Navajo how to grow blue corn and use it in cooking. Additional corn meal will be sold to support the continuation of the program. (You can buy blue corn meal at the Shima booth.)

**Friday, July 6**
**Gratitude Opportunity: Thank You Postcards**
Stop by the UTO booth to write (and we’ll mail it for you) a thank you postcard to someone back home.

**Giveaway: “Pocket” UTO Blue Box**
For those who like to have a Blue Box in the car or in their purse or pocket, we’ve got UTO Coin Purses in the booth today. A great reminder to be grateful on the go and at all times.

**Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Church in Spain**
2015: *Ponteverda Pilgrim Center for the Anglican Communion, Spanish Reformed Church*, $60,000
Come learn about the sixteen grants to the Church in Spain from UTO, especially the grant that funded the first permanent Anglican presence on el Camino de Santiago. You can also learn about the plans to build an Anglican Center in Santiago for pilgrims.

**Saturday, July 7**
**Gratitude Opportunity: Thank You Postcards Take Two**
Stop by the UTO booth to send a thank you card to someone you’ve met while in Austin and for whom you are thankful. Fill out the card, let us know if they are a deputy, bishop or triennial delegate and we’ll deliver it for you.

**Giveaway: UTO Pens**
Come get a UTO pen so you can remember to write with gratitude!

**Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Missional Voices**
2017: *United Thank Offering, Julia Chester Emery Internship with Missional Voices*
This year UTO partnered with Missional Voices to sponsor our third Julia Chester Emery Internship. Missional Voices is an annual gathering to have a conversation about innovative ministries and new missional communities in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.
Sunday, July 8

Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

Our UTO Intern, Katelyn, has created a scavenger hunt of opportunities to show gratitude, notice gratitude, and win fabulous prizes! Come by the booth to learn how to download the app to guide you through the hunt.

Gratitude Opportunity: Voices of Gratitude Photo Collage with Missional Voices

Stop by the booth today to take a photo, share a word of gratitude and become a part of our gratitude mural.

Giveaway: UTO Flash Drives
Come pick up a flash drive with all of the current UTO videos to share the story of transformation and gratitude that is at the heart of UTO.

Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Che’ii Web Development
2017 Young Adult Grant: Che’ii’s Web Development: $2,330.07
Come learn about Cheii’s Web Development and their goal to create jobs in the Navajo Nation by teaching Navajo young adults how to code and by connecting those needing internet support and design.

Monday, July 9

Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Journal

Studies show that practicing gratitude is good for your health. If you are interested in how to keep a gratitude journal we invite you to come and try your hand at journaling with different gratitude journal prompts, ideas, and worksheets.

Giveaway: UTO Stickers
We love stickers so much, we made two different kinds! Come pick up some new UTO stickers to decorate wherever you need a reminder to be grateful.

Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Episcopal Friends of Navajoland
Come learn more about Navajoland, the UTO/ECN Pilgrimage, and the long ties between UTO and Navajoland.

Tuesday, July 10

Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Slips

Sometimes it’s easy to overlook all the things happening around us that are opportunities to stop and give thanks to God for the ways that God is blessing us. Come pick up this handy sheet to give you some opportunities to practice gratitude today that you might not have noticed.

Giveaway: UTO Stickers
We love stickers so much, we made two different kinds! Come pick up some new UTO stickers to decorate wherever you need a reminder to be grateful. Raffle winner announced at 2pm.

Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Bellwether Farms, Diocese of Ohio
2017: Bellwether Farm, Equipping Leaders for a Sustainable Future: $53,667
Bellwether Farm Camp, Retreat, and Education 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.

Wednesday, July 11

Gratitude Opportunity: Gratitude Rocks

Today as our booth focuses on Episcopal Migration Ministries, we invite you to come and decorate a rock with a word, image or phrase of what you are grateful for. Leave the rock outside of your doorstep at home as a reminder to be grateful as you come and go from your home each day.

Giveaway: Last Chance!
Come stop by and fill up on anything left that you want to build up UTO in your parish or diocese! Today is the last day to collect UTO materials before the Exhibit Hall closes.

Booth Featured Talk/Takeover Group: Episcopal Migration Ministries
Since the founding of EMM, UTO has funded multiple grants to support a variety of projects.

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) lives the call of welcome by supporting refugees, immigrants, and the communities that embrace them as they walk together in The Episcopal Church’s movement to create loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships rooted in compassion. EMM’s desire to honor the inherent value of human connection brings communities together to love their neighbors as themselves.
The Jesus Movement, Gratitude, and Leading UTO

Thursday, July 5 from 11:15a-12:45p Ballroom C
Sunday, July 8 from 2:30p-4p Ballroom C

This interactive workshop is especially for those who want to learn more about the United Thank Offering (UTO), Parish or Diocesan UTO Coordinators/Organizers. Come learn more from presenters and participants about all aspects of UTO, from how to get started with UTO to how to increase participation in your parish or diocese.

Together we’ll explore:

- how to introduce UTO to someone unfamiliar with the spiritual discipline of gratitude:
  - discussing how gratitude is linked to the Jesus Movement—why gratitude matters, how to teach about gratitude, and leading others into a spiritual discipline of gratitude;
  - providing an overview of the history of UTO and how to share your own UTO history within your diocese or province;
  - and learning about the grassroots structure of UTO.

- best practices for leading UTO in a parish setting:
  - talking points for clergy about starting UTO in your congregation;
  - developing a schedule for UTO Ingatherings,
  - organizing and creating an effective support system for UTO (church treasurer, wardens and vestry, parish council or other parish organization leadership group, priest, Sunday School and Youth Group leaders, etcetera);

- best practices for leading UTO at the diocesan level:
  - how to establish a grant application screening committee;
  - planning for UTO within the life of your diocese;
  - determining the difference between the Ingathering Funds and the Memorial Trust Funds, and how and when to give to each;
  - celebrating and acknowledging UTO supporters;
  - and finding help whenever you need it.
**The Jesus Movement, Gratitude and Leading UTO Workshop Presenters**

**Birdie Blake-Reid**  
UTO Board Secretary and Chair, Education and Training Committee

**Sherri Dietrich**  
In-coming UTO Board President and Chair, Continuing Review Committee

**Sandra K. Squires**  
UTO Board President

**Birdie Blake-Reid (Diocese of Long Island)** is a lifelong member of St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, in Brooklyn, New York. She has served as Warden, President of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), Lector, Chancel Choir member and Superintendent of Sunday School. Through her work in the church, community and professional organizations, Ms. Reid has a proven track record of endorsing change that unifies, heals, educates, reconciles and works toward unity throughout our beloved community. She has organized and presented at numerous leadership conferences at parishes and the wider church. Ms. Reid served as the Brooklyn Archdeaconry ECW President, member of the Diocesan ECW Board, alternate to the Province II Representative National ECW Board, timekeeper at the 2012 General Convention, UTO Province II Board Representative and currently serves as the UTO Board Secretary. Ms. Reid is a retired administrator after thirty-five distinguished years in education in the New York City Public School System.

**Sherri Dietrich (Diocese of Maine)** was born and raised on a farm in Iowa along with 4 sisters and 2 brothers. She was brought up in a small Evangelical church, which gave her a thorough knowledge of the Bible and a strong sense of loving community, but her first encounter with the Episcopal Church immediately rang true in its openness to multiple perspectives, beautiful liturgy, and feeling of communal worship. She received a bachelor’s degree in music performance, and then a master’s degree in library science so she would have a job that actually paid the bills while she pursued a singing career in the Boston area. Since 1990 she has been a freelance indexer, proofreader, and copyeditor for various publishers around the world, which enabled her to take singing gigs as they arose and work from home. In 1995 she retired from professional singing and moved with her wife, Brenda Hamilton, to Midcoast Maine, where they still live with their two cats and 23 chickens (the chickens have their own house!), for which she is grateful every day.

**Sandra Squires (Diocese of Nebraska)** serves as the President of the United Thank Offering Board, the Nebraska UTO Coordinator and assists in a variety of ways in her parish. She has served in leadership roles in Daughter of the King, ECW, UTO, and was a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2017. She has served as a youth coordinator, led 9 mission trips, and served as parish Christian education director. She taught special education students, then teachers and retired from the University of Nebraska at Omaha as a professor in 2008.
This interactive workshop will focus on best financial practices related to UTO for parishes and dioceses. We’ll discuss all of the rules for safeguarding the Ingathering and those that count and collect it. We’ll also share ideas for how to integrate UTO into the life of the parish from an innovative approach to combining UTO with a stewardship campaign, to using UTO as a part of parish meetings and then how to integrate UTO into your parish faith formation programs.

Together we’ll explore:

- best financial practices for counting, reporting, and handling UTO Ingathering funds at the parish or diocesan level;
- how to access annual reports on Ingathering amounts, how to acknowledge donations, and how to update UTO staff on parish participation;
- the difference between giving to the Memorial Trust Fund and giving to Ingathering and what each supports;
- how UTO and annual stewardship campaigns can go hand in hand;
- how teaching gratitude increases generosity and can change the dynamics of your congregational life; and
- ideas for teaching gratitude to different age groups or how UTO can be used for intergenerational gatherings through Faith Formation or annual events.
Best Financial Practices: 
How UTO Can Support Stewardship and Faith Formation 
Workshop Presenters

Kathy Mank (Diocese of Southern Ohio) believes wholeheartedly that the implementation and adherence to internal controls will keep you out of trouble and preserve the assets that you manage. Collecting and counting is more than just math. Kathy holds a CPA, an MBA, a real estate sales license, and is an Ohio notary. She loves The Episcopal Church and has served at all levels in women’s ministries (including ECW and UTO).

Heather Melton (Presiding Bishop’s Staff) is the Staff Officer for the United Thank Offering. Heather has served in this position for over five years and is grateful to work alongside the UTO Board and staff in helping to promote gratitude and generosity through participation in UTO. She holds an MA in Religion and Psychology from the Graduate Theological Union and an M.Div. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific in addition to her BS in Environmental Sciences from Kent State University. She lives with her husband and twin daughters in Farmington, New Mexico.
Go and Share:
Asset Based Community Development and UTO Grants
Sunday, July 8 from 2:30p-4p Location TBD

Join us for this two-part workshop that gives an Introduction to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and overview of the United Thank Offering (UTO) Grant Processes and how UTO supports innovative Mission and Ministry Projects throughout the Church.

First Half: Asset Based Community Development
- Join staff from Episcopal Relief & Development and the Presiding Bishop’s Director for Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care to learn the basic tenets of ABCD, why it matters and how it can change the life of your congregation and community.
- Share ideas, learn about the asset map and how you can sign up to attend an ABCD training weekend.

Second Half: UTO Grants: Funding Innovative Mission and Ministry
- The second half of the session will focus on how to apply for grants from UTO, including:
  o Following the UTO calendar and the different types of grants available;
  o Determining the Focus and Criteria for UTO grants, what these terms mean and why they are important;
  o Learning what support the UTO Staff and Board offer to applicants throughout the process; and
  o Identifying best practices for writing grant applications.

Additionally, this workshop will feature examples of past UTO Grant recipients who utilized ABCD as the foundation for their grant application and project.
Chad Brinkman works to “engage,” educate, and mobilize local communities, affinity groups, and the larger Episcopal Church in the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. Previously he served the organization through the NetsforLife® Inspiration Fund. He is also a regular contributor of pictures and stories to the organization’s website. He is the father of a fat ginger cat and a hilarious baby boy, husband to a beautiful and talented redhead, and an avid cook—skilled in the clandestine art of vegetable butchery.

Caitlyn Darnell (Diocese of North Carolina) is a recent graduate of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. She faithfully serves on the UTO Board as the first Young Adult Appointed member and she oversees the Young Adult and Seminarian grant process. In her spare time, Caitlyn enjoys rock climbing, brewing beer, and knitting very badly.

Joyce Landers (Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast) lives in Troy, Alabama with her husband of 34 years and has two sons ages 26 and 23. She attends St. Marks’ Episcopal Church. She has served in a number of positions in the church at the parish and diocesan level. Currently, she is a Eucharistic minister and chair of the pastoral care committee. She also serves as the diocesan UTO Coordinator, on the Province IV ECW Board, and the Province IV Executive Committee. Joyce enjoys reading books and singing in the choir.

Sean McConnell has served the church as a lay professional since 2000 when he became Program Producer at GraceCom, the media ministry of San Francisco’s Grace Cathedral. In 2006, he was named Canon for Communications in the Diocese of California. He has served on the Board of Directors of Episcopal Communicators; as Chair of the Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communications and Information Technology; and as Technology Coordinator for the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church. In May of 2013, Sean landed his dream job as Director of Engagement for Episcopal Relief & Development.

Melanie Mullen As a member of the Presiding Bishop’s staff, Melanie is charged with bringing the Jesus Movement to the concerns of the world. Previously, she was the Downtown Missioner at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Richmond, leading a historic southern congregation’s missional, civic, and reconciliation ministries. Melanie worked in campaign fundraising and development and she served as Development Associate for the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, with a focus on poverty advocacy. She is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity; and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, with a Bachelors in History.