

WHAT DOES THE UNITED THANK OFFERING BOARD DO?

The United Thank Offering Board is comprised of 16 volunteer members – four officers, one representative from each of the Church's nine provinces, two young adult members, two appointed members, and an Executive Council liaison. The Board is governed by its own bylaws, policies and procedures, and a Memorandum of Understanding, all approved by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. The UTO Board works with a vast committed volunteer network and with staff to promote the spiritual discipline of gratitude and to award grants. Board members communicate with diocesan and local parish coordinators, along with staff, to develop educational and promotional materials for UTO. Additionally, the Board and staff members travel to speak at church events, host webinars, and through an extensive review process, award United Thank Offering grants.

WHAT DOES THE UNITED THANK OFFERING COORDINATOR / ORGANIZER DO?

United Thank Offering Coordinators/Organizers are primarily lay leaders within a parish or diocese. Each leader is unique, and his/her commitment will vary based on availability, skills, and talents. Coordinator/Organizers work with their parish priests

to organize up to two Ingatherings per year at the parish level. Diocesan Coordinator/Organizers need to have good communication skills, including use of technology, and will most likely dedicate a portion of each week to building relationships with clergy and other leaders in the diocese by telling the UTO story, encouraging active parish and diocesan participation in UTO, and teaching how to celebrate an Ingathering service of gratitude. We encourage participation in training sessions offered at the diocesan and Churchwide levels in person or via webinars.

HOW DO I BECOME A UNITED THANK OFFERING COORDINATOR/ ORGANIZER?

If you are interested in becoming a Coordinator/Organizer, please contact the Rev. Canon Heather Melton at the Office of the United Thank Offering by emailing hmelton@episcopalchurch.org or calling (212) 922-5130 and providing your name, contact information, parish name, and location. Please leave a message, if necessary, and you will be provided information and directed to others who can offer additional information. To obtain more information about the United Thank Offering, visit our website at www.unitedthankoffering.org or www.episcopalchurch.org/uto.



UNITED THANK OFFERING

**JOIN THE UNITED THANK OFFERING
A MINISTRY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Connecting people to a life-changing relationship
with Christ to transform the world



WHAT IS THE UNITED THANK OFFERING?

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church created to fund innovative mission and ministry projects. From its initial collection in 1889 led by Ida Soule and Julia Chester Emery, the ministry has focused on gratitude and the importance of making a thank offering to remember that all good things come from God. Since its inception, the ministry has grown exponentially through the grassroots efforts of dedicated coordinators/organizers and faithful participation by all Episcopalians. Thank offerings are collected in parishes, dioceses, and provinces, as well as at The Triennial meeting and General Convention. These funds are then awarded by the UTO Board annually as grants for loving, liberating, and life-giving work through innovative parish and diocesan ministries that help people live more fully in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. The United Thank Offering has become synonymous with the Blue Box, a tangible reminder that encourages individuals to pray daily, give thanks to God, and make a thank offerings into the Blue Box.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED THANK OFFERING?

The purpose of the United Thank Offering is twofold: First, it is meant to foster a personal spiritual discipline of thankfulness through individual intentional prayer and gratitude for all that God has done and continues to do by placing coins in the Blue

Box. Then, through the combined collection of United Thank Offering Blue Box coins, bills, and checks at parish, diocesan, and Churchwide Ingatherings, the UTO Board awards grants to young adults, seminarians, parishes, and dioceses (and their companions) in The Episcopal Church, as well as to provinces in the Anglican Communion. The grants are for one-year projects designed to support transforming and innovative ministries.

WHO DOES THE UNITED THANK OFFERING IMPACT?

The historical work of the United Thank Offering continues to evolve to meet the ever-changing global needs of The Church and to grant funds for innovative mission and ministry projects throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In recent years, grants have been awarded to support refugees; women and children; garden projects; intercultural growth and outreach; congregations in their offering of social services, ministries, and support for their communities. Ultimately, UTO impacts everyone who participates in it. Practicing a discipline of gratitude changes the lives of all participants and those with whom they share their gratitude.

APPLICATION OF INTEREST TO BECOME A UNITED THANK OFFERING COORDINATOR/ ORGANIZER

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Mobile Number _____

Email _____

Parish Name & City _____

Province (if known) _____

I am interested in becoming a:

- Parish UTO Coordinator/Organizer
- Diocesan UTO Coordinator/Organizer
- UTO Board Member

Mail to:

United Thank Offering
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10017

2015-18 UNITED THANK OFFERING BOARD:
SANDRA SQUIRES, PRESIDENT
MARCIE CHERAU, VICE PRESIDENT
BIRDIE BLAKE-REID, SECRETARY
KATHY MANK, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES:
PROVINCE I – SHERRI DIETRICH
PROVINCE II – VERNESE SMITH
PROVINCE III – JOYCE E. HAINES
PROVINCE IV – JOYCE LANDERS
PROVINCE V – PEG COOPER
PROVINCE VI – ELIZABETH CAMPBELL

PROVINCE VII – VALINDA JACKSON
PROVINCE VIII – BARBARA SCHAFFER
PROVINCE IX – REINA ISABEL LOPEZ

APPOINTED MEMBERS:
CAITLYN DARNELL, SARAH CARVER
MARION LUCKEY, EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL LIAISON

UNITED THANK OFFERING STAFF:
HEATHER MELTON, STAFF OFFICER
KAYLA MASSEY, ASSOCIATE STAFF
OFFICER

