

UTO

& Me



Sharing Blessings

*with Thanksgiving
and Love*

What is the United Thank Offering (UTO)?

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church.

Through the United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings.

Those who participate in the United Thank Offering have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity.

A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the United Thank Offering box. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways.

How do I become a part of the United Thank Offering?

- Offer thanks and prayers as a part of your life in Christ.
- Take the opportunity to put an offering in your United Thank Offering box.
- Bring your offering box, envelope, or check to your local Episcopal Church on Ingathering Day.
- Join your offering with others to support mission projects at home and around the world.



How is the United Thank Offering received?

From its inception as the United Offering in 1889 until the 1920s, the thank offering was gathered at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church every three years.

During the 1920s, the United Offering became the United Thank Offering and the first offering boxes were designed.

Today congregations are encouraged to hold an ingathering twice a year during the spring and fall when people can bring their thank offering to be collected and joined with others' offerings, boxes, envelopes, or checks.

How is my offering joined with others?

Your parish forwards the local ingathering offering to its respective Diocesan Coordinator. The Diocesan Coordinator records your local offering and forwards it to the national UTO office in New York.

In New York, these monies are immediately put to work earning interest. They are kept in an interest-bearing account until granted. The interest from the account also is granted.

By combining the offerings, it is possible to fund significant projects that make real difference in the work of the Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion and a real difference in people's lives.



How does my offering become a part of the mission outreach of the Episcopal Church?

- The UTO Committee makes grant awards in the spring of each year.
- Applications that address compelling human need and/or expansion of mission and ministry are welcomed.
- UTO Committee members research each grant in their respective Provinces; they present the grant proposals to the committee as a whole.
- Grants that meet criteria are funded in whole or in part as far as the monies will stretch. Not all grants can be funded, as requests often exceed the money available.

How much of my offering will go to meeting human needs and expanding mission and ministry?

*E*ach year, 100 percent of the collected offering is granted.

UTO Committee expenses are supported entirely through earned income from dedicated trust funds. The National Church supports a staff of two people in the UTO office located in the Episcopal Church Center in New York City.

What kinds of things does UTO fund?

- Kitchen equipment for a homeless shelter
- Playground for a child-care center
- Handicap access in church and service buildings
- A school in the Dominican Republic
- Family counseling
- A dental clinic for the poor
- Half-way houses
- After-school programs
- Vans and other vehicles
- A library for a seminary in Africa
- A Bishop's house in a new overseas diocese



How did UTO get started?



1871

The Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Mission was authorized by General Convention.



1886

Julia Emery, secretary to the Women's Auxiliary and Ida Soule, who counted the missionary offering, inspired women to pray and give coins with the idea of building a new church in Anvik, Alaska, as well as supporting Miss Lisa Lowell as a missionary to Japan. The offerings reached \$2,188.64.



1889

The first Missionary offering was collected.



1967

The Triennial voted to grant the offering annually rather than every three years.



1970

The United Thank Offering Committee was formed.



1982

Memorial and Gift Trust Fund established.



1989

UTO celebrated their Centennial Anniversary and funds available for granting topped three million for the first time.



2001

UTO began the new millennium by granting over \$3 million and by offering face-to-face training to diocesan coordinators.



The mission of the *United Thank Offering* is to expand the circle of thankful people. To achieve this mission we encourage daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of *God's blessings*.



UTO Prayer

Gracious God, source of all creation,
all love, all true joy: accept, we pray,
these outward signs of our profound and
continuing thankfulness for all of life.
Bless those who will benefit from these
gifts through the outreach of the
United Thank Offering;
and keep each of us ever thankful for all the
blessings of joy and challenge that come our
way; through Him who is the
greatest gift and blessing of all,
Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen



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To order UTO materials, visit our website at
www.episcopalchurch.org/uto

Please remember the United Thank Offering
Memorial Gift Trust Fund in your will.