



United Thank Offering 2026 Grant Awards

Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2025 Ingathering. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we have **\$930,777.82** available to award in 2026, which represents a decrease from last year. UTO experiences a decline in giving whenever consumer confidence is down, and this year is no exception. Additionally, the offset for trust funds was decreased this year. When the Board became aware of the decline in the Ingathering, we reached out to applicants who requested over \$40,000 to see if they could decrease the amount they requested. Applicants decreased their requests by almost \$540,000 to help ensure as many grants could be awarded as possible. This shift allowed UTO to fund 55% of the requests this year. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,500 grants for a total of \$146,233,774.95. ([See a complete list of all UTO grants.](#)) Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry the following year, so thank you for your ongoing support of the work of UTO.

The UTO Board continued to have 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 \$2 million in requests from 46 applications and was able to fund 25 grants, including 1 historical grant (explained below), 7 to Anglican Communion dioceses, and 19 went to Episcopal Church organizations. Unfortunately, due to new constraints on international funding, UTO could not award as many grants outside of the United States this year but has developed a pathway to resolve this issue going forward.

Historical grants are awarded each year by the UTO Board for projects that fall outside 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 and history contained there, in addition to supporting the rest, formation, and care of UTO missionaries. Since UTO no longer has space in New York nor do we send missionaries, this fund is used to preserve and tell the history of UTO or support missionaries sent through The Episcopal Church.

Historical Grant Award

UTO History Project:

Emery Trust #335 Award

Preservation and Storytelling Project

\$50,000

This project was assigned to UTO by the study committee many years ago: to complete a narrative history of the United Thank Offering. This comprehensive project will include a timeline of major events, photos and other items from the archives, information about the UTO Missionaries and their work, and a narrative of the ministry of the United Thank Offering over the first 150 years.

Episcopal Church Awards

Province One

Diocese of Massachusetts

La Colaborativa

\$30,000

La Colaborativa brings together three urban, bilingual parishes with Latino immigrant members with largely white, non-immigrant suburban churches called to support migrants. Safety is justice, and in this first phase, we will work to build the sense of safety required to build authentic, transformational relationships.

Province One	Expanding Latino Worship	\$18,522.45
Diocese of Rhode Island		
<p>This project supports a small, English-speaking Episcopal church located in an immigrant community where the main language spoken is Spanish to launch a robust worship service in Spanish to complement our outreach work. 200+ families weekly come to the food pantry and thrift store, and they want to join our spiritual community but deserve to worship in their own language.</p>		
Province Two	Shine Your Light Ministries, Inc.	\$10,000
Diocese of New York	Staten Island, New York	
<p>This project supports Shine Your Light Ministries to partner with Episcopal Churches on Staten Island to offer gatherings that intentionally connect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their caregivers, family and friends, with local faith and community volunteers. This will help, foster belonging, mutual understanding, and shared leadership through worship, service, and social engagement.</p>		
Province Two	Bridges of Faith and Action: Connecting Faith, Youth, and Immigrant Communities in Rural New York	\$53,541
Diocese of Rochester		
<p>This project will provide access to transportation and immigrant youth leadership through Rural & Migrant Ministry's (RMM) Liturgia Worker Education Center and the Diocese of Rochester. It will bridge rural divides, connecting immigrant families and Episcopal congregations in sustained justice work throughout the Diocese.</p>		
Province Three	Sproutsiders: Broadening Access to Nature Engagement	\$49,000
Diocese of Pennsylvania	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Phoenixville	
<p>The <i>Sproutsiders</i> project will build a rare bridge between a downtown-rooted congregation and a premier conservation organization willing to overcome a long-standing hesitancy between these communities. It advances equitable nature engagement by uniting STEAM-based nature journaling with birdwatching, broadening participation in ecological learning across historically divided science and faith communities.</p>		
Province Three	Food Ministry at Lynchburg Grows	\$20,000
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia	St. John's, Lynchburg	
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church and Lynchburg Grows will create a shared food ministry where parishioners, individuals with disabilities, and Fresh Rx participants, community members referred by healthcare providers for fresh food to support chronic health needs, work together to grow, distribute, and prepare nutritious food, while building relationships across socioeconomic differences and differing abilities.</p>		
Province Three	Hearts, Bodies, Minds Together - A Play-Centered Model for Justice, Belonging, and Whole-Child Formation	\$54,400
Diocese of the Susquehanna		
<p>This project will support shared dual-language, trauma-informed experiences, bringing together students from St. Stephen's, Joshua Group, and Hope Academy who are typically separated by race, income, and language. Children, families, and educators will learn and make decisions together, building trust, sharing responsibility, and forming lasting relationships across difference in Harrisburg.</p>		

Province Four	Peace in Place:	
Diocese of Lexington	A Neighborhood-Based Violence Prevention Strategy	\$20,191
	Lexington, Kentucky	

This project expands our pilot program: Community Pop-Ups, which started Spring of 2025, to strengthen family and community engagement. It brings faith communities, schools, residents, and local partners directly into low-income neighborhoods to build trust, reduce violence, and strengthen relationships through food, games and activities, resource agencies, and positive engagement where they live.

Province Five	Neighbor to Neighbor Toledo: A Peace Initiative	
Diocese of Ohio	Toledo, Ohio	\$28,000

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) address the challenges of our increasingly divided society by focusing on kindness and promoting neighborly interaction. Through this project, we will partner with Mom’s House to create a new kindness program focused on engaging children/youth by addressing intergenerational and socioeconomic divides and empowering and investing in young leaders.

Province Six	Interfaith Friends	
Diocese of Colorado	Highlands, Colorado	\$40,000

Holy Companion, a two-year-old Episcopal church plant, will launch Interfaith Friends Camp in partnership with the two-year-old Highlands Ranch Islamic Association. This program will bring children together across faith traditions for interfaith education, STEAM activities, and shared meals, fostering understanding, empathy, and lasting interfaith friendships.

Province Six	Bridges and Leaders	
Diocese of Montana		\$35,000

In partnership with the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative, this Bridges and Leaders project unites five politically and theologically diverse communities to directly address Missoula’s housing crisis by establishing affordable housing units.

Province Six	Change at the Speed of Relationships: Congregational	
Diocese of Nebraska	Deep Canvassing in the Diocese of Nebraska	\$6,848

This project builds relationships among diverse Episcopalians through cultural exchange weekends, volunteering with our community partner RISE, workshops, and a legislative advocacy day. All activities are rooted in the community organizing concept of deep canvassing, or the idea that conversation fosters understanding and change occurs at the pace of relationships.

Province Six	By Indigenous Hands, For Indigenous Healing: Faith-Based Suicide Prevention Across Indian Country	
		\$43,575

This project will work with eight Indigenous faith leaders in Province VI to be trained as trainers in Soul Shop, a culturally grounded, faith-based suicide prevention ministry. These leaders will foster healing in Native communities and bridge cultural divides by training Native and non-Native communities impacted by suicide, offering hope, connection, and restoration.

Province Six	Learning from the Lakota	
Diocese of South Dakota	St. Andrew’s, Rapid City	\$38,180

This project is an attempt to bring together the non-Native and Native communities of Rapid City, where racism and divides historically run deep, asking them to listen to and learn from one another by creating an interactive educational path/garden to teach, inspire, and offer a pathway to healing.

Province Seven
Diocese of Arkansas

Social Justice Outreach:
Housing, Warrants, and Car Repairs
St. Paul's, Fayetteville

\$24,000

St. Paul's Episcopal Church will collaborate with Arkansas Renters United (ARU) and Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition (AJRC) to offer seminars on housing, renters' rights, and home ownership. The seminars will also address how renters/homeowners are impeded by outstanding warrants and the lack of a trustworthy automobile, necessary in the region's economy. The church will also work with individuals and community leaders to provide car repairs to clear warrants.

Province Eight
Diocese of Hawai'i

Keiki to Kūpuna
The Cathedral of St. Andrew, Honolulu

\$37,002

The Cathedral of Saint Andrew and Honolulu Theatre for Youth partner to address social isolation among keiki (children) and kūpuna (elders), populations at heightened health and developmental risk. Through sustained intergenerational creative collaboration, the project builds justice, belonging, and shared agency by transforming isolation into relationship in Hawai'i's local community.

Province Eight
Diocese of San Joaquin

Grandma's Garden

\$36,320

This project is about learning and growing across difference via a multilayered collaboration between churches that belong to different cultures and traditions. We want to work together in church gardens, engage in ecumenical formation, participate in multi-church intergenerational events and form lasting bonds of friendship and purpose.

Anglican Communion Awards

Bilateral Partner: Brazil Diocese of Paraná	Logistics and Welcoming Through Solidarity and Justice	\$36,798
<p>This project brings together Anglicans and Roman Catholics to broaden the reach of social initiatives and strengthen community service to the unhoused through the purchase of a vehicle for the transportation of supplies and the renovation of space to serve as a community center and permanent home for this ministry.</p>		
Burundi, Diocese of Buye	Promoting Collaboration Through Joint Catechists Training and Microloan Program	\$48,000
<p>This project bridges the gender gap shaped by cultural mindsets, limited theological training, and historical precedent by training male and female catechists, promoting the long-term goal of women's ordination, and establishes a microloan and savings program.</p>		
Kenya, Diocese of Mombasa	Justice Bridge: Survivor-Safe Church Response and Referral Pathway	\$36,000
<p>Women and adolescent violence survivors and parish Mothers' Union leaders will co-lead collective action for justice across Mombasa, Kwale, and Kilifi. We will implement survivor-safe church response standards, activate a trusted referral pathway with county services, which rebuilds trust and bridges divides.</p>		
Melanesia, Diocese of Guadalcanal	Building Community Stability through Food, Water, and Dignity in Informal Settlements	\$44,500
<p>This project reduces the drivers of conflict within an informal settlement by strengthening food security and improving access to safe water and sanitation. By reducing household insecurity and the risk of domestic violence, the project supports safer households, stronger cooperation, and greater community stability.</p>		
Middle East, Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf	Ras Morbat Eye Clinic Solar Power Installation	\$23,500
<p>This project will expand the work of the Ras Morbat Eye Clinic, which supports the poor and displaced in Aden and UNHCR refugees by partnering with the community, Ministry of Health, and the doctors at the clinic to expand services provided by creating a stable source of power at Christ Church.</p>		
Middle East, Diocese of Jerusalem	Bridging Silence and Sound: Integrated Education and Vocational Empowerment for Deaf and Hearing Students at Holyland Institute for the Deaf	\$55,000
<p>This project will bring together deaf and hearing young people in shared learning, vocational training, and collaborative leadership. Through integrated classrooms, an inclusive vocational center, and a jointly operated "Sign and Dine" coffee shop, participants bridge historic divides, practice justice in community, and create new pathways of dignity, employment, and belonging.</p>		
Tanzania Dioceses of Morogoro, Kiteto, Mpwapwa, and Dar es Salaam	Maji Kwa Amani (Water for Peace): Building Bridges Between Farmers and Pastoralists through Shared Water and Governance	\$76,885.37
<p>Maji kwa Amani is an inter-diocesan initiative that builds bridges between farmers and pastoralists by transforming shared water resources into platforms for cooperation. Through inclusive water governance, youth peacebuilding, women's collective livelihoods, and faith-rooted reconciliation, the project promotes peaceful co-existence and community resilience in conflict-affected areas.</p>		