



St. James' Cross
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

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Change in Assigned Work Group for United Thank Offering to Mission Priorities

Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation, gave us an update about the re-assignment of United Thank Offering from Global Partnerships to Mission Priorities. The Mission Priorities area, and specifically the Economic, Racial and Environmental Justice Department, will allow the UTO Staff person to have a cohort of colleagues who are engaged in similar work around healing and service ministries, community engagement, and grants. She will also partner regularly with Global Partnerships, and UTO's work will in no way change. This is part of an overall organizational map transition that will allow staff to feel greater team alignment, as well as freedom to collaborate across areas and departments. Heather's title will change from UTO Missioner to Staff Officer for United Thank Offering.

Budget Proposal for 2019-2021

You recently received a copy of the proposed budget to the Finance Department for the next triennium. This document is required by the Finance Department on January 18 in their initial planning for the budget. At the General Convention triennial gathering, deputies and bishops approve a budget for the next triennium. There are opportunities to advocate for UTO, and this is the first step of the process—to dream.

Besides our two staff positions, operation of an office, staff travel, Board meetings and UTO materials, we have requested the following: to preserve a set of historical materials and copy the archived Julia Chester Emery painting to use at meetings; to provide funds to add to existing church meetings—Board meetings, ABCD training, etc. regional conferences for parish and diocesan UTO coordinators; to recognize donors; to develop a course on gratitude; to provide training for seminarians and young adults; develop additional training materials that can be done online; and add an additional day to our existing meetings and replace the meeting which was cut from this triennial budget; this is the dream phase.

Webinars

Our recent grant-related webinars were very successful, and we had about 20-25 people each night. Some people come on for a short period of time, others stay the entire time. Thanks to Peg, Joyce Landers and Heather for the great effort to explain the nuts and bolts of this stage of the granting process.

Additional grant related webinars, especially for grant screening committees, are **February 15 and 16th at 8 p.m.** Eastern time.

If you have ideas about webinars that we should host, please send them to me and I will send them on to others who need the list. Our most popular webinars are grants, financial issues, and overview of UTO.

Help Reduce our Inventory--Materials Order

We have lots of materials, but no prayer books and only vintage blue boxes, so please order all that you can use. Be creative and generous in handing out brochures on UTO, history, and bookmarks, since these materials get dated very quickly. New design boxes will be ordered soon. Consider a brief study of UTO using our history brochure at your parish.

We are assessing amounts of materials needed and we will try to do better in gauging amounts for the next order.

This is the link to the Prayer Book online:

https://uto2014.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/7-episcopal-church-prayer-book_3x5_v2_withpagenos.pdf

UTO Internship Board Discussion

At the end of August 2017, the funding for our Julia Chester Emery Internship comes to an end. This has been a two-year experiment, and we as a Board need to decide about whether we want to continue it. As you may know, it involves a lot of mentoring time primarily from Heather, work assignments, some support to UTO work, and travel.

I am proposing a Zoom meeting to discuss this with the Board. I would like to include the current intern, Rachel McDaniel, and former intern, Kayla Massey, for part of the meeting, to discuss their experiences—positive and negative, then to explore whether we, with Heather's input since the mentoring falls primarily on her shoulders, want to apply for the funds to continue this effort. If we do want to continue, we need to explore how to fund the internship and what, if any changes, we might want to make. For those of you who were teachers, Heather's experience is not unlike having a student year for a full year.

I will be sending you times for a possible meeting in a separate email. Please respond as soon as you can.

Contact with Diocesan Coordinators—Phone Calls and Webinars

I hope that you are calling your diocesan coordinators in each of your provinces. I suggest 1 or 2 calls a month to see how things are going, what they might need, and to see what is going on and what support they might need.

One year, we had province coordinators host a webinar to invite their diocesan coordinators as well as any local coordinators. It was just a quick overview with introductions, and then each of the province coordinators had a couple of questions to get the discussion started. It would be a very effective way to reach out to the coordinators in your area. Other Board members might join to get ideas as well.

Heather will help us to set that up if you want to meet through Zoom.

Recognition of UTO Volunteers

Joyce Haines and Heather have been working on a certificate and ways to recognize UTO volunteers. Please notify Heather if you have people who qualify for recognition and she will create a personalized certificate of recognition for you. Thanks Joyce Haines and Heather.

Committee Work

Heather is contacting committee chairs to facilitate meetings and help with scheduling resulting from our North Dakota meeting. If your committee seems to have done its job and is meeting its deadlines, she may not contact you.

Canon Hunn Nominated for Bishop of North Carolina

I noticed in a recent Episcopal News Service article that Canon Michael Hunn, the one we spoke to on Zoom about the Jesus Movement, was added to the ballot for Bishop of North Carolina.

Plan to Merge North and South Dakota Dioceses

There is a plan to merge the Dakotas into one diocese. Obviously this will take time, and lots of diplomacy.

Chief Operating Officer Named

The new COO is The Rev. Deacon Geoffrey T. Smith. Presiding Bishop Curry said. "Geof is a natural fit for where we are on this journey. He combines in his person highly skilled managerial competency and the experience of a seasoned corporate executive, with a genuinely Christ-centered spirit and the heart of a servant." ENS, December 19, 2016

Board Meeting in Puerto Rico

In Puerto Rico we will plan to make our usual grant site visit, and we also hope to meet with the Bishop of Puerto Rico. If there are other church-related visits outside the Board meeting time we may need to coordinate those visits.

WORD FOR THE DAY

The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament. *Brother Lawrence*