



Sample Elevator Speeches About UTO Or Quick Ways to Explain UTO to Someone New

Option One:

The United Thank Offering was started by women over 130 years ago to support new ministries in the Episcopal Church. We encourage everyone to live a gratitude filled life remembering not only the big things but also the small things. Living out of gratitude makes us happier and prevents us from taking what we have for granted and it is vitally important to our spiritual life. We also ask that people make a small thank offering into a blue box, that we provide, when you offer your prayers of thanksgiving to God. These gifts are then given out in the form of grants to support new ministries throughout the world. In this way, our prayers of thanksgiving become a reason for others to experience gratitude.

Option Two:

You know that feeling when you are able to help others even in a small way and you can't stop smiling or feeling that warmth in your heart? Well, that is the feeling I get when I give to the United Thank Offering, knowing that my small contribution is **UNITED** with the offerings of others who also want to give thanks for their many blessings.

The little blue box that I put my coins in representing my many blessings is a simple way to say **THANK** you. That blue box has evolved into donating through a text, online or the mail. It is still my outward display of expressing my gratitude—it has become my spiritual practice of gratitude. It is a practice that can be started in childhood and nourished throughout your life.

I know my gift is combined with the gifts of others to provide an **OFFERING** that allows for grants to be awarded for projects in the Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican community. Millions of dollars are granted to worthy causes and I know that I had a little part in making that happen through my donation to the United Thank Offering. Join me in living a life of gratitude.

Option Three:

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is an Episcopal program through which grants are awarded throughout the church. UTO was begun in the late 1800's by Julia Chester Emery and has become a focal point of giving in The Episcopal Church. One's giving is based on gratitude for one's many blessings in this life. These blessings may be great or small. Once one begins to notice small moments of gratitude, they start popping up everywhere!

Traditionally, coins have been collected in Blue Boxes designed specifically for this purpose. Then, the total amount collected was mailed in to be added to the dollars of thousands of others for the purpose of awarding grants to worthwhile projects in the domestic Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

More recently, one can donate to UTO online, by text, by QR code, or by mailing in as it has been done for over one hundred years. Lest you think that your small donation will not help, please be aware that over a million dollars of life-changing grants are awarded every year through thousands of small gifts of gratitude!

The website unitedthankoffering.org has all the information you could possibly need for individual or parish involvement as well as the information needed for the granting process. There are resources focusing on gratitude and a myriad of children's activities also focusing on gratitude. Please check it out!

Your donations help many, and you will also find yourself developing a constant "attitude of gratitude." Not only will your life change and become happier, but your overall health will greatly improve! Try it! You will like it!

Option Four:

Gratitude. That one word embodies the spirit of the **United Thank Offering**, a vessel for sharing our blessings with others in need. Founded in 1889 by a woman named Julia Chester Emery, it was formed as an outreach mission of The Episcopal Church to raise funds for grants. The first projects to receive grants from the United Offering were the funding of the construction of a mission church in Alaska and to pay the yearly salary of a missionary in Japan.

In 1919, the United Offering became what is presently known as the **United Thank Offering**, following the end of World War I. Funds collected from UTO not only support compelling human needs, but also help to establish social justice as well as programs of racial and gender equality.

To date, money raised equaling more than \$4,150,000.00 has been awarded to those in need, both in the United States and abroad, through numerous grants. Every cent collected contributes to the welfare of others through the distribution of grants for specific and life altering projects. To give is to receive. The positive work brought about by our contributions is far reaching and rewarding.

The **United Thanks Offering** has created many ways in which to share your personal blessings. No contribution is ever too big or too small. **UTO** thanks you for your willingness to support this very important mission of the Episcopal church through gratitude, prayer and giving. Each time a coin is placed in a Blue Box, a check is written, cash is placed in a UTO envelope, or you donate online, you are setting a wonderful example for others, reminding them that **sharing is caring**.

Option Five:

A Blue Box. Contribute in such an immense way by giving to the United Thank Offering! United Thank Offering is giving back to communities with your contribution. Millions of dollars have been raised to support Anglican communities globally. I personally am a part of the United Thank Offering and we do such amazing work every year. Check out our website: unitedthankoffering.org where you can donate online. These projects we are able to fund schools, gardens, women's centers, food pantries, community buildings, etc... every coin counts when you place it in the Blue Box!

Option Six:

For almost 125 years, the United Thank Offering has been a ministry of The Episcopal Church. Founded by Julia Chester Emery and the Women's Auxiliary (now the Episcopal Church Women), With a focus on gratitude, UTO encourages Episcopalians of all ages to notice what God is doing in their lives and to give thanks to God by making a financial (or "thank") offering in response to the good things God has done. At the end of each year, UTO uses the gathered thank offerings from across The Episcopal Church to bless others by granting 100% of the year's donations to innovative ministries across the world.

To join the work of UTO, turn your heart towards gratitude and pass the blessings God has given you onto others.

Option Seven:

The United Thank Offering is a ministry focused on giving thanks to God every day. And it really is very simple.

When we were children, we were always reminded to say our "Please and Thank You's. As adults, much of the time we do it without really thinking. We thank the stranger who holds a door for us and the waiter who pours us another cup of coffee. You might say "Thank GOD!" when you were able to stop in time for the driver who ran a light as it changed. Or "Thank you God" when you got home in time to close the windows just before it started to pour rain.

The United Thank Offering Blue Box is a visual reminder to always prayerfully thank God every day for the ordinary and extraordinary in our daily life and work. Keeping a daily thanksgiving journal noting two or three things about the day is one way. Sometimes when it's been a really rough day, it might be something as simple as "Thank you God for getting me through this day."

The UTO Blue Box was and continues to be designed as a bank to receive our cash offerings; however, in this age when many of us don't carry cash, some people fill it with little Post It notes of thanksgiving. (I really liked this method, but now I have a lot of boxes full of post its I don't want to throw away.) Once or twice a year, they open the box, read all the Thank You notes, and make an offering - either when their church holds their UTO Ingathering or by mailing your offering directly to the United Thank Offering at the address on your box. If you want to make it really easy, you can even Text to Give. You'll receive a Thank You note from the UTO Board. Your Thank Offering will be combined with others to become a blessing by funding annual UTO grant requests for new and innovative ministries in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. "

Option Eight:

Times when I can see the endless stars, the scent of honeysuckle, well-deserved sleep, enthusiasm, hope, times of grace when I don't deserve it, the sound of crickets and frogs as night falls...

These are things for which I am intensely grateful. I like to share my gratitude as a way of pointing to God's presence in my life and in our world. The UTO (United Thank Offering), is a long-standing and

hope-bound organization in The Episcopal Church that provides a focus on gratitude, grateful living, and giving that builds up hope.

It teaches a way. A way to learn to be aware of our gifts and to channel our gratitude into good works through grateful giving. Gratitude is part of stewardship, mission, ministry, fellowship, prayer, and liturgy.

The UTO was founded in the 1800's and stood the test of time. Do you fear change? Ha! Then **share** your change with the UTO as it creates and renews ministries of the church that further the work of God's kingdom. Every cent collected, whether by blue box or QR code, is given away with blessings. Take a moment to **be** a change in your own life by practicing gratitude daily!

Option Nine:

Do you want to be a good global citizen? I know you're thinking one person can't *really* make a difference in the world. But when a person joins with others in practicing gratitude - a practice that connects giving thanks with giving an offering to the United Thank Offering - it's transformational for all. Here's how: Over \$140 million has been collected and given by UTO for life-giving projects throughout the Anglican Communion that celebrate the gifts and talents of those who directly benefit from the grant.

Our Presiding Bishop says it best: "Gratitude is an attitude that can change your life and our lives and that can change the world." Here's a QR code that takes you to a jam-packed UTO website - take a look!

Option Ten:

Most of us want to serve God, live a happy life, leave a lasting impression on someone, and make the world a better place. It can seem like too much to accomplish for the average person, but UTO (the United Thank Offering) supports everyone in doing just that through practicing gratitude daily. Becoming mindful of the good things in your life every day makes you happier. Being a happier and more grateful person allows you to be more generous with others, which will leave a lasting impression on them and often make them happier too. And acting on your gratitude by giving to others through donations to your UTO Blue Box makes the world a better place because UTO combines all of those gratitude gifts and disperses them around the world in grants for projects that change peoples' lives every day. You **can** change the world, and it starts with gratitude for God's gifts every day.