

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



The United Thank Offering

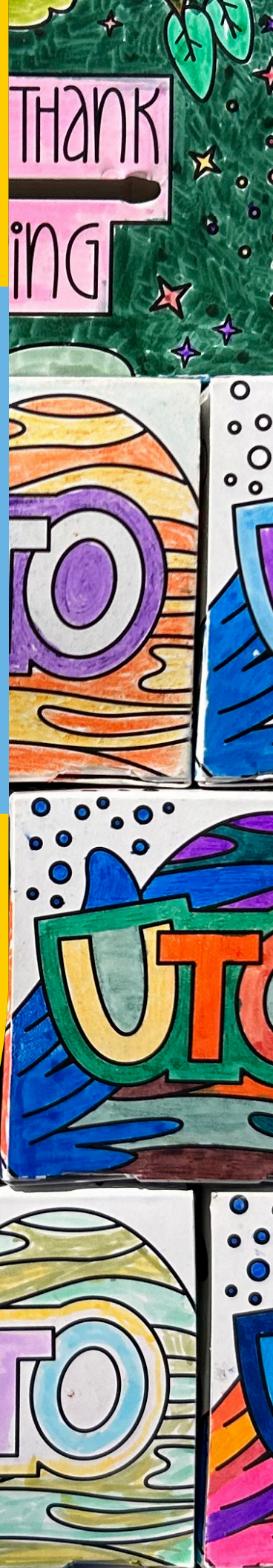


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KARIN ELSSEN

UTO Board President



UTO had an incredible year in 2024! We kicked things off with a Julia Chester Emery celebration in January with hagiographer Kristen Wheeler, followed by an enriching mid-year Virtual Training Day. To top it all off, UTO was present and engaged in many ways at General Convention in June. We wrapped up the last months with a webinar featuring LGBTQ+ ministry leaders and partnered with Episcopal Migration Ministries to fundraise. Throughout the year, UTO provided valuable resources on our website and distributed gratitude materials tailored for churches, individuals, and families.

Looking ahead, UTO will continue our efforts into 2025 and beyond, even as circumstances change and challenges may arise. We are driven by our mission, values, and long-term vision, which provide a sense of purpose and direction. These principles remind us of the original inspiration behind the formation of UTO by the insightful women of the Church.

We are committed to making a positive impact through our gratitude materials, learning opportunities, and grants. We recognize that UTO's initiatives have meaningful consequences in the world, and many look to us as partners in their work. We will continue to foster connections and build our relationships.

Gratitude is at the heart of our faith, health, and happiness. We are inspired to practice it daily and share our joy with others. Let's discover new ways to cultivate gratitude and generosity in the upcoming year. Blessings to all and many thanks for your contributions to UTO!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Leaders



In 2024 I was invited to join the UTO Board and it has had a profound effect on my ministry, reminding me that gratitude is a discipline that spurs creativity! I was also grateful for the executive coaching provided to new Board members, where I learned my leadership style and how better to understand and work with other styles.

I am also grateful to be working on the new liturgy booklet for UTO from an Indigenous perspective, which will be released for the next General Convention in Arizona.

If you're thinking about new ways to share your gifts with others, I hope you'll consider applying to serve on the UTO Board.

Gratitude may seem like a given, but with the changes and chances of life, it can be easy to get discouraged. United Thank Offering continues to celebrate what is worthy of praise rather than focusing on what may be perceived as lacking.

Reading all the different grant applications this year on the theme of water, I am truly humbled by my access to clean water in practically every room of my home. Serving on the UTO Board has helped me foster more gratitude for things I might well be tempted to take for granted.

Please consider giving to the work of United Thank Offering, as well as Episcopal Migration Ministry, as we continue to serve Christ in others, respecting--and rejoicing in--the dignity of every person!

the Rev. Kim Fox
Province Six Representative to the UTO Board

MEET THE 2024-2027 UTO BOARD

At General Convention in June 2024, the new UTO Board began their terms leading this historic ministry. Each member of our Board brings with them an amazing set of skills and experience, which we share here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/leadership/> Below, our Board members share what they're most grateful for from 2024 and how they practice gratitude.



Karin Elsen

I am most grateful for connections made in 2024 and being a part of a supportive community.

My favorite way to practice gratitude is to make a point of expressing my appreciation by saying "thank you" whenever I can.

President

Diocese of Colorado

Chair, Formation & Development Committee



Rowan Larson

I'm most grateful for finally being able to take my long delayed honeymoon with my wife, Kesley, to Ireland and Scotland in 2024. It turned into a 5 year wedding anniversary trip instead of a honeymoon.

My favorite way to practice gratitude is by practicing looking at ordinary things so closely they become extraordinary. Moss and lichen are a favorite subject for this practice.

Vice-President for Grants

Diocese of Montana

Chair, Grants Committee



Maggie Noland

During the year 2024, I was grateful for many things, but two stand out for me. The first is the fact that I have found a happy and spiritual church family. I had been searching for a couple of years, and I am so happy! The second is the health of my granddaughter who experienced preeclampsia, and the health of her baby who was born four weeks early.

I like to show my gratitude by writing in a gratitude journal each night, and by expressing thanks through positive messages sent to friends.

Vice-President for Finance & Archives

Diocese of Alabama

Chair, Finance & Archives Committee



Caroline Carson

I am most grateful for the love and solid companionship of friends. 2024 brought much discernment, a huge job change, and heightened anxiety. My friends keep me real and always lift my spirits!

One of my most favorite ways to practice gratitude is for me to spend some quality time in my rocking chair on my "Magic Porch." What is that, you might ask? Well, a "Magic Porch" is a sacred space outside that I fill with string lights, plants, incense, candles, and sometimes music, snacks, or a fire pit. It's where I spend some time thinking, praying, or simply "being." I now travel with string lights and a candle for places where I might have a balcony or yard!

Province II Representative

Diocese of New Jersey

Formation & Development Committee

MEET THE 2024-2027 UTO BOARD



Mathy Milling Downing

2024 was a very good year and for that, I am eternally grateful. My entire family experienced much health and happiness. I'm grateful that I had the ability to travel and spend time with loved ones both here and abroad.

I practice gratitude in many ways. I talk to God on a daily basis through meditative prayer and quiet thoughts. I appreciate nature and find joy in watching the many animals that consider our yard a safe haven. I like to share my gratitude with others by paying it forward and giving thanks for the small things.

Province III
Representative

Diocese of
Washington

Grant Committee



Linda Kennedy

I am most grateful for loved ones for helping me on my journey and for God's forgiving love.

I try to practice gratitude by being more intentional and loving with those that help me and to remember to Be Kind.

Province IV
Representative

Diocese of Alabama

Formation &
Development
Committee



Cheryl Dobrzynski

In 2024 I was able to attend a John Mellencamp concert, several Milwaukee Brewers games, and a Green Bay Packers game due to the generosity of my family and a dear friend. I am very grateful for them!

My favorite way to practice gratitude is to share simple kindnesses with people I interact with in my day to day activities. This can be, but is not limited to, holding a door for them, a simple smile, saying 'please' and 'thank you', or sharing a greeting with my non-English speaking co-workers in their native language.

Province V
Representative

Diocese of Wisconsin

Finance & Archives
Committee



Kim Fox

I got to visit my son in 2024, when we met up in Las Vegas and in fall of 2024 my husband and I bought a house here in North Dakota! As a poet, in 2024 I had two poetry books accepted for publication and I wrote for Forward Day by Day. Feeling very blessed!

I start every day with my prayers in the Cherokee language, thanking Creator for a new day of life and practicing daily gratitude is very important to me.

Province VI
Representative

Diocese of
North Dakota

Formation &
Development
Committee



Daria Condon

I am thankful that my husband and I have been able to travel to at least 95 percent of our grandchildren's many activities in basketball, volleyball, track, marching/performance band, concert bands, show choir, and various dance performances and competitions.

I keep a daily journal as my way of practicing my gratitude for my many blessings.

Province VII
Representative

Diocese of Kansas

Finance & Archives
Committee

MEET THE 2024-2027 UTO BOARD



Tammy Smecker-Hane

In 2024, I was most grateful for easy ways to travel large distances. My son is in the military stationed in Germany, and my husband, college-aged daughter and I traveled there to visit over Christmas. Airplanes, trains and trolleys were a huge part of our adventure.

My favorite way to practice gratitude is to lead the November UTO Gratitude Calendar with my parish and the Sunday School children. UTO daily meditations on gratitude are truly thought provoking and build a habit that lasts!

Province VIII
Representative

Diocese of Los
Angeles

Grant Committee



Carmen Alvarez

In 2024, after getting my visa, I was grateful to be able to travel to the General Convention and meet many wonderful people.

I show gratitude by sending messages, giving small gifts, letting people know they can count on me and that I'm here for them.

Province IX
Representative

Diocese of Honduras

Formation &
Development
Committee



Erin Kaltenmark

I'm grateful for in 2024 all the traveling I got to do. Between learning about historical sites, to my sister's wedding, I traveled a lot last year and I'm grateful for all the flight crews, gas station attendants, and all other folks that made my traveling possible.

One way I practice gratitude is by sharing what I'm grateful for at dinner with my husband.

Young Adult Board
Member

Diocese of
Indianapolis

Finance & Archives
Committee



Molly Minnerath

In 2024 I was able to spend two weeks exploring Alaska leading up to officiating my very good friend's wedding - I am so grateful for the opportunity to be in such a beautiful place and experience such lovely hospitality.

My favorite way to practice gratitude is to tell my friends, family, and community how grateful I am for them!

Young Adult Board
Member

Diocese of
Massachusetts

Formation &
Development
Committee



Laura Jackson

In 2024 I got to visit my parents for my dad's 85th birthday, for which I am very grateful! We walked around the town square and sampled new ice cream flavors.

My favorite way to practice gratitude is by speaking my appreciation directly to people, naming the ways their gifts convey the image of the Holy.

Appointed Board
Member

Diocese of Texas

Grant Committee

2024 HIGHLIGHTS



Program Development

2024 brought about new ways of resourcing UTO congregations based on feedback that we received from our UTO Parish leaders. What we heard was that you wanted seasonal materials printed (or at least enough to get you started) and that shipping costs were a barrier to using materials. These changes immediately created an increase in materials ordered for use in congregations and by families.

In 2024 we added new materials for Christmas, moved our fall resources to October, and began translating our materials into Spanish or adapting them for use in Spanish-language contexts. We also published our 8th edition of our popular book of prayers, updated our website to make it easier to navigate, and launched our podcast: Good News and Gratitude.

Trainings & Support

in 2024 we continued to develop ways to support our leaders better and made the decision to move the majority of our financial resources into creating and providing resources for our leaders.

This year we hosted our annual virtual training day in addition to workshops in the UTO Office during General Convention. We held trainings in English and in Spanish, trainings for people who wanted to support grant applicants in their diocese. UTO Staff also hosted a workshop on grant writing and finding granting sources.

By the Numbers: Leading UTO

- 155 Parishes Registered in 2024 alone
- 51 Participants in the Virtual Training Day
- 129 Parish Kits Shipped
- 28 Diocesan Convention Kits
- 12 Individual Orders Filled
- 124 Orders for Individual Items Shipped
- 1,385 Thank You Cards Sent

SPOTLIGHT ON: **Generosity**



Since moving to Missouri in 1981, I have been participating in the UTO ingathering. St. Martin's was the first church to introduce me to this ministry. Our mother lived her life in a grateful example and her form of Catholicism was: visit the sick and bury the dead. So when UTO initiated the memorial/tribute cards, I became a frequent user. I still put coins in my coin box but my main way to donate is by sending memorial cards to the families of a deceased loved one. As we age, more and more of our friends are dying. It is important to me that as the children or spouse grieves, they know that I am grateful for their loved ones (my friends') life and friendship. It is a way that I can grieve while practicing gratitude. I also send tribute cards for new babies. Oh yes! to celebrate a new life with gratitude is very satisfying for me. Sympathy and Welcome-to-the-World Hallmark cards cost as much as a donation. I feel UTO not only pays it forward in grants, it is also a most meaningful and respectful way to celebrate a life with thankfulness.

Jeanne Lucas King
St. Martin's Epsicopal Church
Ellisville, Missouri

UTO BOARD FINANCES

Income Overview

2024 marks the final year that UTO would receive funding from the General Convention Budget. The UTO Board and Staff made changes in 2024 to prepare for this decrease in funding. We decreased our full time staff from two people to one, but added consultants who are very limited in hours in order to not decrease the services we are able to offer.

UTO is funded through three trust funds: The Memorial Trust (for which we continue to fundraise), The Bell Trust, and 29% of the Wright Trust. These trust funds are instrumental in our ability to provide resources to congregations without cost. UTO is committed to providing formation and stewardship resources rooted in gratitude to anyone who wants to use them, and we are grateful to those who support the Memorial Trust for helping make that happen each year.

2024 INCOME

Trust Fund Income	\$344,750
General Convention Budget Support	\$92,365

Printed Material Costs

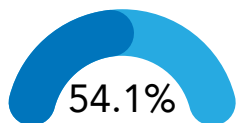
One Full Color Blue Box	\$1.20
One Color Your Own Blue Box	\$0.99
One Prayer Book	\$5.10
One UTO Liturgy Booklet	\$3

Printed Material Costs

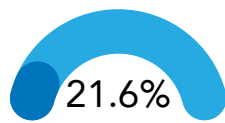
Each year, when we are creating new materials, we have to take into consideration the cost of producing items, and that cost just continues to rise. We currently work with a small business in Albuquerque, New Mexico to produce all of our printed materials. This has helped to decrease the price per item of our printed materials simply because they are no longer being shipped, it also means we're being better stewards of the environment. (In the past, our items were printed in New York, shipped to Arizona and then shipped to congregations.) We try to print non-seasonal items in bulk to lower the cost per item and we only print the exact number of seasonal items ordered by the deadline to keep the cost to a minimum.

2024 EXPENSES

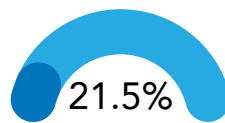
In 2023, the UTO Board budget was \$437,115.
UTO Spent \$421,505.03 in 2023, returning \$15,609.97 to the General Convention Fund.



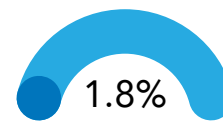
Contributed to staff and consultants costs.



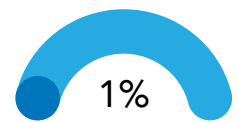
Funded the creation of resources for General Convention and Board and Staff presence in Kentucky. (Note, 21% of this cost was to print Prayer Booklets.)



Distribution of materials: includes printing materials, shipping costs, and storage.



Travel costs for Board and Staff to events.



Office expenses, online tools, interpretation, translation, and phone.



THANK OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Before we can talk about the thank offerings UTO receives, we need to say thank you. Thank you to the countless UTO leaders in congregations and dioceses who are committed to the work of the United Thank Offering. We know that many of you do this work because you've seen your own life changed for the better through practicing gratitude, and want to share that with others. Thank you for your support and ministry.

Thank you to the many people who supported UTO in 2024. We had two special campaigns: during General Convention we had Blue Boxes on the tables in the House of Deputies and House of Bishops, and we sent out a yearend giving letter to help our friends at Episcopal Migration Ministries. In addition to the funds collected for the Ingathering, people also gave to the Memorial Trust Fund to support the ongoing work of UTO.

Below is an overview of our Ingathering Donors in 2024, who through their gratitude will fund our 2025 grants.

Additional Donations Received in 2024

End of Year
Donations to Support
EMM

\$445

Donations at General
Convention

\$654.59

Memorial Trust Fund
Donations

\$2,860

Snapshot of Ingathering Donors in 2024

**354
Individuals**

**523
Parishes**

**59 Dioceses
or Diocesan
ECWs**

**3 Dioceses
from the
Anglican
Communion**

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Thank Offerings



I appreciate UTO because it is a ministry that inspires dreams on every level and is accessible to everyone. Every single person, no matter their age or wealth, can give.

Maybe it's children who collect pennies for their blue box, or seniors on a fixed income that do the same. Maybe it's someone with a large bank account who writes a generous check or simply someone who has enough to share what they can. The amount of the generosity doesn't matter. The opportunity to give to a ministry that gives it all away is what is important.

Another thing I appreciate about UTO is the ability for any church to apply for grants. The application process allows congregations to clarify their ministry desires and even if the grant is not funded, the process the congregation goes through to apply is important as well.

Our church in particular has been given the gift of poverty. This is the best way I can think of to keep us humble and unafraid to ask for help. We understand that our needs, which may be important to us, may not be as great as the needs of other applicants. So not receiving grants has been as much as a gift as receiving one, just in a different way.

A number of years ago I read a quote (although I don't remember who said it), but it has stuck with me. I have changed it up a little, but it summarizes my feelings about money: "Some churches are so poor that all they have is money." Yes, it would be nice to receive a grant from UTO, and maybe someday we will. In the meantime, we'll keep giving because it's the right thing to do and we want to be part of ministry in places we may never visit, but are using our gifts to do God's work right where they are.

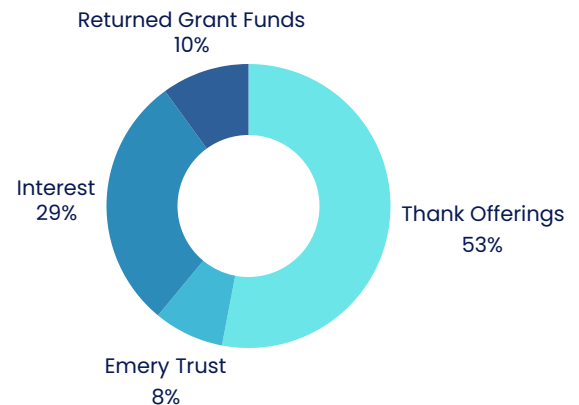
the Rev. Amy Heimerl

Vicar at Ascension; Merrill WI & St. Ambrose; Antigo, WI

2024 INGATHERING

Income Overview

Each year, UTO gives away 100% of the funds we collect to support innovative mission and ministry. The total amount of funds that UTO can award comes from a variety of sources. The chart to the right shows you where the funds come from. (Use the QR code below to see a full accounting of the ingathering since 2000.)

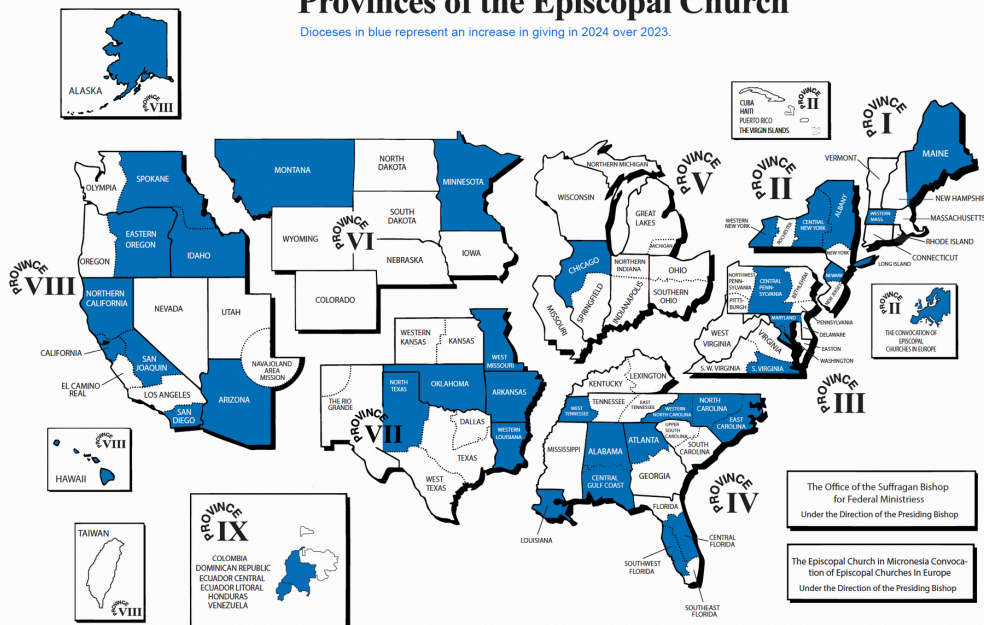


2024 Total Ingathering: \$1,079,748.37

This year the total Ingathering increased 7% over last year! 2024 also represents the first year since the pandemic that the Board has not taken direct action to try and increase the Ingathering, either through adding additional funds from the principal of the Ingathering Trust Fund or through fundraising efforts like the challenge grant for the Church in Jerusalem. We are hopeful that this means the decline in giving that many non-profits experienced during the pandemic has come to an end. With that said, the Board is watching the 2025 Ingathering carefully as we know that giving to national non-profits is projected to decline in 2025 due to economic issues in the United States. With your help, we will continue to do all that we can to raise funds to continue to support innovative mission and ministry projects around the globe.

Provinces of the Episcopal Church

Dioceses in blue represent an increase in giving in 2024 over 2023.



The Office of the Suffragan Bishop
for Federal Ministries
Under the Direction of the Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Church in Micronesia Convoca-
tion of Episcopal Churches in Europe
Under the Direction of the Presiding Bishop

Last updated 3-25-2025

Thank you!

Thank you to the 42 dioceses who increased giving in 2024 over 2023! We love to see places that are growing their gratitude practices with UTO.

To learn more about our Ingathering, use the QR code below, where you find a full report as well as data showing the Ingathering by triennial since the first collection.



SPOTLIGHT ON: Granting



Many times, the smallest grant applications are the ones that have the biggest impact on your community. Last year, UTO awarded a grant to the Diocese of Cuba (\$19,660) to buy "tricycles" with a project called: "Shortening Distances, Mitigating Gaps: Missionary Work Without Barriers." This grant purchased three tricycles (see images below) to help transport people living in rural areas to the city, take them to appointments, facilitate their access to clean water and healthy food, offer basic services to vulnerable and forgotten people living in distant, and gives them both community and pastoral services that the congregation offers.

As you can imagine, simply applying for a grant online was challenging for the Diocese of Cuba, so UTO Board Member (and now our Advisor for Spanish Language Outreach and Support), Lorraine Candelario Moctezuma (Puerto Rico), jumped into action to help them. Sometimes, things get lost in translations, so having Lorraine (pictured above on the left with Ms. Adua García, president of the ECW, Diocese of Cuba) support our Spanish language dioceses is invaluable. This project was completed quickly, but the impact on the community is ongoing and transformative.

With a heart full of gratitude, we believe that this generous grant that the UTO has awarded us will make a difference in the missionary work of our church. Your support is a light of hope in the current Cuban context, where socioeconomic and geographic gaps have left many isolated and in the shadow of inequality. Your help comes at a crucial time, allowing us to strengthen our impact beyond the walls of the church and revitalize the catechetical, recreational and service programs that are vital to our people. With these new means of transportation, we will be able to bring together people of African descent, the elderly, the disabled, and migrants from the east of the country, who have been disproportionately affected by poverty and isolation. This project will not only improve mobility and access to basic services, but will also raise the self-esteem, mental health and resilience of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The economic and social situation of the most vulnerable groups will go from being an obstacle, an isolator, a barrier, to now become new opportunities, better services, fair and equitable treatment, and all this is thanks to the UTO grant and to the work and availability of a team of volunteers who will have new resources to implement concrete actions.

*With deep gratitude and blessings: -Project Management Group -Parish Board
of the Church "San Francisco de Asís" in Cardenas -Rev. Aurelio de la Paz Cot, Rector*



2024 GRANT AWARDS

\$1,003,283.78

was awarded for projects addressing the focus of "the stranger" Jesus mentions in Matthew 25, offering welcome and inclusivity. Specifically, projects that welcome people with differences that cause isolation (culture, life experience, disability, mental health, etcetera) in new ways that are meaningful and deemed necessary by that community or projects that encourage truth telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a pathway towards healing.

\$235,495

was granted to create projects supporting asylum seekers, migrants, refugees



\$290,198

was granted to create projects supporting community building



\$208,150

was granted to create projects supporting the LGBTQIA+ Community



\$81,729.96

was granted to support Missionaries and the Archives through the Emery Trust, and for Episcopal Migration Ministries via the virtual Race.

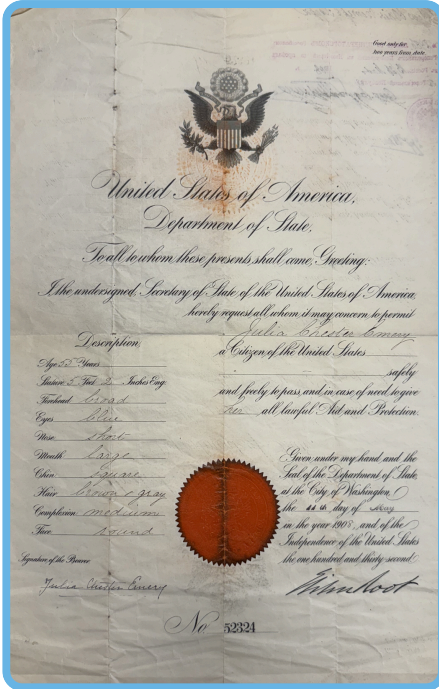


\$187,260.82

was granted through the challenge grant to support the Diocese of Jerusalem.



PRESERVING OUR HISTORY: THE EMERY TRUST



The Emery Trust fund was established in 1923 in honor of Julia Chester Emery and her dedication to women who served as missionaries through the United Thank Offering. The fund was established to do two things: provide funding for missionaries to return home to see their families, rest, and fundraise, or for missionaries who needed funding for continuing education. (Many of the UTO Missionaries were teachers and nurses.) In addition to directly supporting missionaries, the fund was to provide for the care and upkeep of the “UTO Rest Rooms” at the Church Center and all of the artifacts contained within them. As you may know, UTO was established to fund mission and ministry not provided for through the church budget, so when women became eligible to be Episcopal Church missionaries, the need for this fund needed to adapt and change as well. For a time, the fund was used as a way to send Christmas gifts to all Episcopal Church missionaries, and the artifacts in the “UTO Rest Rooms” were lovingly packed up and transported to the Archives of The Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. Then for many years, the interest from this fund simply contributed to building up the principal of the trust. In 2018, the UTO Board worked with Executive Council to update the trust language to reflect the changing missionary landscape of The Episcopal Church while also keeping the original language of the trust active. Since 2018, the interest from the trust has support missionaries sent via Global Partners, Episcopal Service Corps Volunteers, and the preservation of the artifact of the United Thank Offering and the Women’s Auxiliary through the Archives of The Episcopal Church.

The Finance and Archives Committee of the UTO Board traveled to Austin to visit the Archives and learn more about their work in January 2025 (this was delayed from the fall of 2024 but mostly funded out of the 2024 budget). Above you’ll find a photo of the committee meeting with staff in addition to a picture of Julia Chester Emery’s travel documents from 1908. The Emery Trust is an important connection to the roots of our ministry, and we are grateful for the gift of our predecessors in the creation of this trust to continue to support the important work of missionaries and the archives.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Gratitude



It was wonderful to be gathered together with others in Kentucky for General Convention during the summer of 2024. For UTO, it was a chance to share the resources we have for congregations and individuals with a wider audience in addition to connecting with lifelong members of UTO. It was wonderful to give thanks in person with so many of you who weathered so many storms through the pandemic. I was also aware of those no longer able to be with us or who have died since we were together in Texas. Mostly, I ended each day very tired and very grateful.

As many of you know, I had surgery just a few weeks prior to convention starting, and while I was cleared to attend, I was not allowed to lift anything more than ten pounds and I was supposed to not "overdo it". The first meant that I had to depend on everyone else a lot more than I usually do during Convention. Thankfully, my husband, kids, Katelyn Kenney, and the UTO Board all stepped up to carry materials back and forth, set up booths in two different hotels, and admonish me anytime I came near anything heavy. On our way back to New Mexico, I spent a great deal of time thinking about how grateful I was to everyone who helped me, especially those that know I'm not great at asking for help for things like carrying boxes.

I also spent sometime reflecting on was a question I got asked by one of the kids at the Children's Program. One day when I was talking about gratitude, they very sincerely looked at me and asked, "but do you *really* think gratitude makes a difference" to which I said, "I do". Now I wish I could have had time to say something different. I wish I would have thanked that kiddo for the incredible person they are, and for the cool things I watched them do over the span of Convention, because what I'm coming to see is that we start to understand that gratitude makes a difference when we experience it ourselves. It is a truly remarkable thing to be sincerely thanked, and to sincerely thank someone. Through these actions we are acknowledging our love and connection to the other person. At the end of Convention I was struck by the joy that gratitude brings, the connection it creates in an increasingly isolated world, and the need to keep inviting others to join us in this very important work.

Thank you to everyone I got to meet or reconnect with in Kentucky, please know that I am incredibly grateful for you and your work with UTO. Together we are changing the world one "thank you" at a time.

Heather Melton
UTO Staff Officer, Albuquerque, New Mexico

GENERAL CONVENTION

General Convention 2024 was one of the busiest Conventions in recent history for the UTO Board and Staff. We give thanks for all of the things we were invited to participate in, and for the partners we got to work with to promote gratitude and share grant stories with those gathered in Kentucky.



Children's Program

When General Convention met in Austin, Texas, UTO asked if we could help with the Children's Program in Baltimore. This request became the inspiration behind our free Vacation Bible School program: Waves of Gratitude. Not only did we supply the program for the Children's Program, we helped out! UTO Board members stepped up to volunteer to make sure the program met Safe Church standards, read stories, led a Baptismal Renewal, and went on field trips. It was so much fun we've asked to help out again in Arizona.



Exhibits

Perhaps one of the most popular offerings at General Convention is the Exhibit Hall. This year, UTO shared our space with some of our partners who couldn't afford to have their own booth. We loved sharing because it meant we got to introduce UTO to a lot of new people! Our booth featured a photo booth, tons of swag, and opportunities to practice gratitude.

One change we were excited about was the invitation to have an exhibit at the Daughters of the King Triennial Gathering. UTO Board members staffed both booths with joy, humor, and grace throughout both events.



Other Events

In addition to the above, UTO also participated in the following events during Convention:

- **Young Adult Festival:** Board members participated and UTO Staff Presented, UTO also sponsored the shirts for participants.
- **Diocese of Jerusalem reception:** Archbishop Hassan recognized the importance of the UTO Challenge grant.
- **International Visitors Breakfast:** UTO Staff and Board President presented on UTO.
- **UTO Workshops & Spanish Language Material Distribution**
- **Daily Blue Box Collection on the floor of Convention**

UTO was honored to be recognized for our work by the House of Deputies with this Resolution:

House of Deputies Message #172: Express Gratitude for the United Thank Offering

Resolved, That we recognize the generous contributions of the United Thank Offering the past two years, including the \$1,003,283.78 awarded for 2024 projects addressing the focus of "the stranger" Jesus mentions in Matthew 25, offering welcome and inclusivity; and be it further

Resolved, That the UTO, begun in 1883, continues to focus on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe.

GRATITUDE RESOURCES

Good News and Gratitude

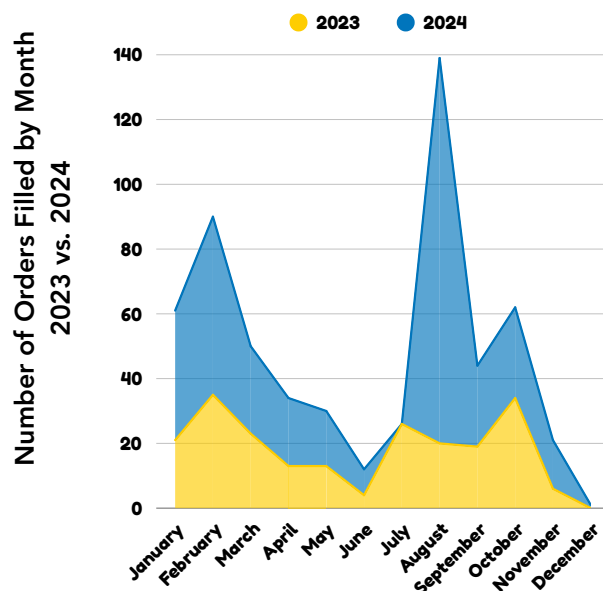
In 2024 UTO launched our first ever podcast! The first season (Fall 2024-Spring 2025) is hosted by the Rev. Erin Jean Warde and features guests from around the church talking about gratitude, the Gospel, and things happening in the world around us. Our podcast is produced by Asma Lee and already has a strong following of over 1,700 listeners (which we're told is great for a first season)! We're so grateful for Erin and Asma for making this podcast for us, and for all of you who have shared your love of the pod with us on social media.

One of our goals in 2024 was to try out new methods of shipping materials and the kinds of materials we create, print and include. We have embraced new forms of technology to share our message of gratitude and make it more accessible for parishes and individuals.



Material Shipment Changes

For years, UTO has created seasonal formation for congregations to use on our website. As we began to reimagine how we send out materials, we asked for feedback from our UTO leaders and found that if we printed the seasonal materials they would get used more by parishes. Hearing this feedback, beginning with the Spring/Summer mailing, we included a gratitude practice for congregations and it was a big hit! While we're planning to refine our ordering system in 2025 after a second round of feedback, we're thrilled with the increase in orders we've seen since we've moved to kits and free shipping. To the right, you can see the growth in orders in 2024 over 2023.



Other Materials

In addition to our podcast and shipment of materials we also created:

- **New Christmas materials for families.**
- **Spanish translations** of all UTO materials that are shipped.
- **Kits for Diocesan Conventions** - including giveaways and QR codes to help parishes sign up or order materials.
- **Updated evergreen materials** - we created new materials (brochures) that mirror the information on our website to help people navigate resources.
- **Updated UTO website** - we've streamlined information based on feedback from members.
- **Seasonal Text Messages** - for those that want to use our resources from their phone, we upgraded our text message program in 2024 to include our fall gratitude calendar.
- **Updated Grant Brochure** - that can fold out to be a poster and can be printed locally.



2025 GOALS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In 2025, the Executive Committee of the UTO Board will continue to seek out new partners and opportunities to share the Spiritual Discipline of Gratitude.

Provinces: In provinces where ECW is not active in a majority of dioceses, we'll work with Province Leaders on creating a transparent, accessible pathway to election on the UTO Board.

Dioceses: We'll work with Dioceses to create a new system for requesting and receiving financial reports in a timely fashion.

Parishes: We'll continue to build our database of UTO parishes and ensure timely and effective communication.

FINANCE & ARCHIVES

In 2025, The Finance and Archives Committee will continue to work on supporting the UTO Board and Staff in utilizing our funding to support growing grateful hearts. We will also continue to work with The Archives to preserve UTO artifacts and ensure the UTO story continues to be told.

Provinces: We'll continue to ensure resources are available to our Province Representatives to travel to province-wide events to promote UTO.

Dioceses: We'll continue to find ways to support the needs of our diocesan leaders through resources and best financial practice trainings.

Parishes: We're working to develop a new seasonal stewardship program for parishes that is rooted in gratitude and has materials for all ages.

GRANTS

In 2025, the Grants Committee is excited to introduce an innovative focus for the 2026 grant cycle and to continue to work to make our granting process easier and clearer for our applicants.

Provinces: We began accepting provincial grants again for the 2025 grant cycle so we hope you will help your dioceses work together on ideas and applications!

Dioceses: The Grants Committee is committed to helping dioceses in their own internal grant selection process if desired--just ask!

Parishes: We thank the many parishes who apply for grants and submit amazing grant updates, pictures, stories, and even songs!

FORMATION & DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, the Formation & Development Committee of the UTO Board will continue to create and distribute accessible and engaging materials and programs for all ages, with the primary goal of inviting others to the Spiritual Discipline of Gratitude.

Provinces: We will collaborate with Provincial Leaders to raise awareness of our resources and ensure they are available in their respective Provinces.

Dioceses: We will work alongside Diocesan Leaders to increase awareness of our resources, and encourage their churches to use our materials and give to UTO.

Parishes: We will consistently provide parishes with our gratitude and generosity materials and trainings, while also gathering feedback to determine what works best for them and identifying the times of year when they find them most useful.

WITH GRATITUDE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the UTO Board would like to thank all of our UTO members and leaders, without whom this work would not be possible.

Our profound thanks to our partners: Episcopal Migration Ministries, Godly Play, The Partners' Path, The Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care Team/Mission Priorities Team, the General Convention Office Meeting Planning Team, the Office of Communications, Global Partners, The Archives, Daughters of the King, Episcopal Church Women, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, and all the parish and diocesan staff who support UTO.

FINANCE & ARCHIVES

The Finance and Archives Committee would like to thank all of the financial people who support UTO, from people who collect and count the offerings in churches, to the folks who help with final grant reports. We are so thankful for all of the people who support and safeguard the Ingathering, parish and diocesan treasurers and financial staff and the Finance Office of The Episcopal Church.

We also want to thank all of our UTO leaders who when rotating out of leadership take the time to either send Heather your materials for the archives, or carefully pass them along to a new leader. With these actions, we are ensuring that the history of UTO is able to be shared.

GRANTS

The Grant Committee wants to thank all of our amazing Grant sites for helping us share the story of how thank offerings change lives through their timely submission of grant reports during their award year. We also want to thank all of you who share the stories of the remarkable grants that UTO funds as a way to encourage others to join UTO.

FORMATION & DEVELOPMENT

The Formation & Development Committee sincerely appreciates all of our content creators and editors, as well as the dioceses, parishes, and individuals who request and use our free materials. Your invaluable contributions, thoughtful feedback, and support are essential to us. Thank you for being a vital part of our community!

