



UNITED THANK OFFERING

2025 Annual Report



2025 Highlights

In 2025, we increased the support offered through:

- quarterly gatherings for Leaders
- Lenten Book Club with Episcopal Migration Ministries
- Large format webinars on gratitude
- Events held in English and Spanish
- Increased support for grant applicants, including open office hours and videos
- Seasonal resources for individuals, families, and parishes for Fall, Lent, and Spring/Summer
- Updated and expanded our social media presence and newsletters
- Developed a new process for acknowledging donations
- Created a new campaign for Giving Tuesday featuring our grant sites
- Increased the number of kits of UTO materials sent by 50.3%

GRATITUDE

Our core values at UTO are: gratitude, transparency, and curiosity. Our annual report is really structured around these values...on this page, you'll find us reflecting and dreaming from a place of curiosity. Our goals are set based on the feedback we receive each Spring and as a response to the participation in events and offerings throughout the year. We get curious about the things we've always done, and about things we hope to accomplish. Next you'll find our financial reports, offered in the spirit of transparency and hopefully easy to read and follow. Finally, we dig into gratitude, with a note from the UTO Board President and some important notes of thanks. With that, thank you for being apart of this ministry. While gratitude appears to be an easy spiritual discipline, we know that it takes work and focus, so thank you for all the ways you participate in UTO, it does make a much needed difference in the world.



Thank you, and reach out with any questions you might have, we're here to help.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Our goals for 2026 look inward and outward as we work to sustain the ministry of the United Thank Offering, while growing our membership, supporting mission and ministry and responding to the needs of our community.

Structural Goals:

- With the Finance Department, review all UTO trust funds, and create an updated budget.
- Continue to work with Provinces on the election process for UTO Board members where applicable.
- Begin the revision of Governing Documents in preparation for General Convention, work on strategic planning.
- Continue to make new partnerships to strengthen the ministry of gratitude throughout the church.
- Continue to build our database of UTO congregations and leaders.

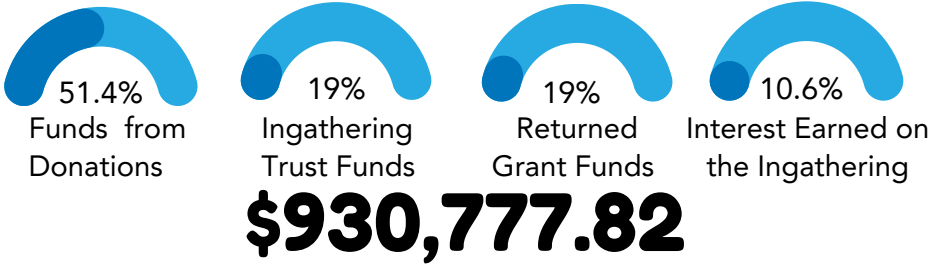
Ministry Goals:

- Complete and pilot Gratitude Rocks! The second edition of the UTO VBS materials.
- Attend events like Forma to present UTO materials to new audiences.
- Continue to create seasonal, relevant, and timely formation materials for congregations and individuals on gratitude.
- Add a Book Group (or Bible Study) and webinar to our Fall program materials.
- Continue to develop a comprehensive history of UTO.
- Begin work on the UTO liturgy booklet and prayer booklet for release at General Convention.

GENEROSITY

2025 Ingathering

Each year, UTO gives away 100% of the funds we collect to support innovative mission and ministry. Use the QR code below to see a full accounting of the 2025 ingathering, but here is a quick overview.



This year the total Ingathering decreased over last year due to two main factors: giving to non-profits is down across the United States, and the offset from trust funds was decreased in 2025 after a change made by Executive Council.

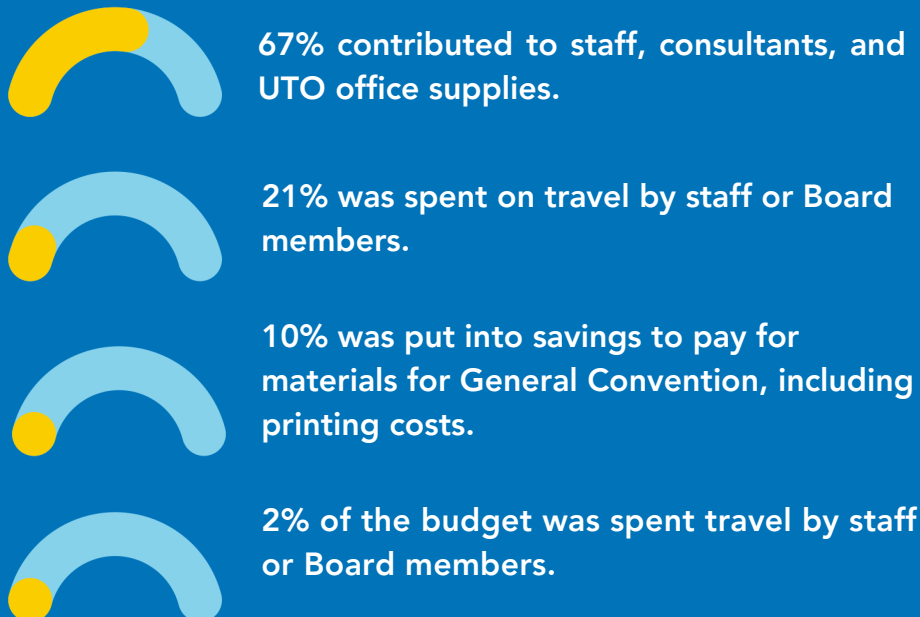
Thank you!

Thank you to the 44 dioceses who increased giving in 2025 over 2024! You can see a complete list on our Ingathering page using the QR code to the right.



UTO Board Expenses

In 2025, the UTO Board budget was \$408,277.01. Our budget was funded by the Memorial Trust, Wright Trust, and Bell Trust, UTO does not receive financial support from the DFMS/General Convention Budget.



2025 Awards:

\$1,079,748.37

was granted to support innovative projects water issues.

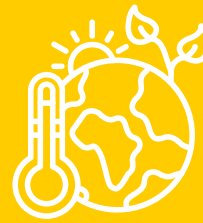
453,101.41

was awarded to projects directly addressing access to potable water through boreholes, reverse osmosis filtration, rehabilitation of springs, and rainwater catchment and filtration.



\$173,624.35

was awarded to projects directly addressing water education or climate change mitigation.



\$362,022.61

was awarded to projects directly addressing access to water for sanitation.



\$91,000



was awarded to support our historical grants including projects with the Archives and Episcopal Service Corps.

GRANTS

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

In a year of change, UTO remained focused on its goals in 2025 and offered creative and meaningful ways for practicing gratitude. We began with a prayer service for Julia Chester Emery Feast Day, followed by the UTO Lenten Book Club reading *The Ungrateful Refugee* in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries. Mid-year, our grant awards were announced and we hosted our annual Virtual Training Day for UTO Leaders, focusing on the topics of Gratitude, Generosity, and Granting. Later, we invited practitioners to a Holy Autumn and children to a thoughtful Christmas with our seasonal materials. To accomplish all this and more, UTO focused on priorities:

First, to ensure accessibility, we continued to provide free kits on our website and by mail to individuals and churches, thereby allowing everyone to participate in UTO's gratitude practice regardless of budget restraints. These materials include reflections and challenges for individuals, children, and families.

Second, UTO remained committed to operating within our income, as we no longer receive General Convention funding. Financial transparency and open communication are core values. As you know, 100% of ingathering donations directly fund UTO grants and the separate Memorial Trust Fund supports UTO materials and Board activities. Everyone can donate to these funds at any time of the year, online or by check.

Third, to empower UTO Leaders, we provided more than just practical training. We encouraged UTO Parish and Diocesan Leaders to lead by example, living in and sharing their gratitude. We know that grateful individuals are generous and inspire generosity in others. In addition, the UTO Board is strengthened by diversity, and we openly invite all to serve, regardless of gender identity.

In 2026, UTO will continue to be guided by its mission, values, and long-term vision, while honoring our 140-plus year legacy.

Let us go forth in gratitude together,

Karin Elsen

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who makes UTO the wonderful organization that it is, especially:

UTO Parish Coordinators/Leaders
UTO Diocesan Coordinators/Leaders
UTO Members
Diocesan & Provincial Staff
Godly Play

Episcopal Migration Ministries
Offices of: Communications, IT, Finance, Mission Program

UTO Board:

Karin Elsen, Rowan Larson, Maggie Noland, Sandra Soto, Caroline Carson, Mathy Milling Downing, Linda Kennedy, Cheryl Dobrzynski, Kim Fox, Daria Condon, Tammy Smecker-Hane, Carmen Alvarez, Molly Minnerath, Erin Kaltenmark, Laura Jackson

UTO Staff & Support:

Heather Melton, Asma Lee, Lorraine Candelario, Erin Jean Warde