



Diocese of Missouri 2020 United Thank Offering Report

Diocese of Missouri 181st Convention

The **United Thank Offering** is not a fundraising ministry and there is more to **UTO** than awarding grants. The goal of the **UTO** is support very Episcopalian in adopting a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude- to find ways to stop and notice the good things that are happening, give thanks and to make a small offering to God for the blessings encountered. It has been proven that gratitude makes us all happier and healthier.

In June of 2020, the National **UTO** awarded a grant for Holy Communion's project: ***Grace Gathering, a worship service celebrating diverse abilities.***

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 grant focus has been changed from ACT: turn love into action by caring for God's creation... to **Recovering with Love and Gratitude: An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts**. The **2021 United Thank Offering grant application materials are now available.** www.unitedthankoffering.com Also please note that the deadlines have changed. The deadline for submission of a completed application (and required documents) is 5pm (EST) on Friday, February 26, 2021. Therefore all applications need to be into me (Jeanne King - Diocese of Missouri UTO Coordinator) by 5:00 pm CST February 5, 2021. This will allow ample time to make any (if necessary) changes, etc before our Bishop reviews, sign, and submits the application to the National UTO Granting Committee.

The first webinars on the 2021 grants are scheduled for Tuesday December 1 at 11:00 am CST and 6:00 pm CST. You can register yourself for the webinars at www.unitedthankoffering.org or if you let me know that you are interested in submitting a grant application, I will send the link directly to you. There will be an additional webinar day in January.

From our last convention to this convention our grateful giving is down. To date the Diocese of Missouri has gathered \$1,494.97 for the **UTO** grant award monies. There is still time to contribute. Any monies donated by December 1, 2020 will be applied toward the 2021 grant cycle.

The following I copied from the **UTO** website/ newsletter: **United Thank Offering** too is being affected by this pandemic, and the **UTO** Board and Staff are planning for the long recovery period to come. First, many of you have expressed concern about collecting Ingathering when churches are not meeting in person, but there are many ways to give to **UTO** that do not involve gathering at church. Everyone is encouraged to send their Ingathering using one of the following methods:

- Text to give: INGATHER to 41444
- Give online: unitedthankoffering.org/give
- Mail your check directly to the bank. Simply make the check out to **UTO** with Ingathering Diocese of (name) in the memo line and mail it to: The United Thank Offering – DFMS – Protestant Episcopal Church, PO Box 958983, St. Louis MO 63195-8983

Every donation will be acknowledged with a card and will be recorded. If you want to ensure that your parish/ECW chapter recordkeeping can keep track of the offerings given by parishioners, simply ask them to note their church and diocese on the memo line of their checks or in the comment/memo box at the bottom of the online donation page and it will be recorded appropriately in **UTO's** records. Dioceses can request their donation lists quarterly from the **UTO** staff.

Please remember that **UTO** is about gratitude first, money second. Encourage people to practice gratitude and place monetary offerings into their Blue Boxes if they can, but if they can't give money encourage them to write notes of thanks for their blessings and put those into their Blue Boxes. They can later read all of those notes, remember their blessings, and give thanks again, either with simply a prayer or with a monetary offering. First, practice gratitude, which will help them and their loved ones get through this difficult time. And if we live in gratitude, the giving comes naturally.

I continue to believe that the **United Thank Offering** is a sacramental sign of our inward gratitude for each blessing that we receive, turned outward to a visible mission. When we practice gratitude we make the world a better place.

Interrupt Anxiety with Gratitude

Jeanne Lucas King

Diocese of Missouri UTO Coordinator

"Connecting people to a life-changing relationship with Christ to transform the world"

ECWMissouri@diocesemo.org