



**Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering
Report to Diocesan Convention 2019**



Episcopal Church Women

ECW in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts acts a liaison between parishes, the diocese and Province 1 ECW. As president I am a Province 1 ECW board member and currently the President of Province 1 ECW. I maintain the Province 1 ECW Website: [HERE](#) The National ECW website is: [HERE](#)

- The major focus of the diocesan ECW is the United Thank Offering, supporting parishes and parish coordinators around the diocese and organizing the spring and fall ingatherings.
- ECW has a display table at the diocesan convention where both ECW and UTO information and materials are available; individual requests are answered as needed.



- We continue our commitment to adopt Martha at *Our Little Roses Orphanage* in Honduras, a collaboration with the Diocese of Massachusetts ECW. Our outreach funds this year, \$320, were sent to support, Martha who is now 12; we have committed to sponsor her until she is 18.

- Other available funds are used to pay our annual Province I ECW dues of \$250, set aside money to send a delegate to Triennial Meeting, and support UTO in the diocese.

Martha

- This year our Diocesan ECW supported a workshop in Connecticut called, “**Faith in Action**”, led by Yawande Austin a dynamic speaker with a great message. To read more about the event see the Province 1 ECW Newsletter: [Newsletter](#)
- We will be designating a ministry to receive the Bishop Brooks Fund income in the near future.
- A small team of women met by Zoom (Electronic meeting platform) to discuss future plans for ECW in our diocese.

If you have questions or need information/advice about the Episcopal Church Women contact Susan Howland a ECW.wma@gmail.com or call Susan Howland at: 508- 612-3198.

United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church to nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God and offering coins in a “Blue Box.” Tangible offerings are then shared with people all over the world in the form of grants for grass-roots, self-determined need.

The Heart of the ministry is Thanking God ♥ the Action is Giving.

If you don't already have a United Thank Offering Ministry in your church starting one is easy!

- Order some blue boxes (They are free.) <https://shimaofnavajoland.com/collections/United-Thank-Offering>
- Talk about offering tangible thanksgivings by dropping coins in the box, and saying a little prayer.
- Share stories about how these coins are joined with others around the world and sent out as grants.
- Ask people to count up their coins twice a year and ingather them in gratitude for God's blessings.
- I am available to help ecw.wma@gmail.com or 508-248-6112 Susan Howland.

Our Combined 2018 United Thank Offering was \$ **\$8,370.52** with 20 Churches participating.

Thanks be to God!



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Special News: Diane Nichols from Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge will be the new Diocesan UTO Coordinator in 2020. You can contact her at: dianenicusa@charter.net or 774-230-0113

Grant application information:

Each year the UTO Board invites every diocese to submit a grant application and an additional application on behalf of their companion diocese in addition to a Young Adult and Seminarian Grant Annual Grant information here:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto-grants>

Young Adult and Seminarian Grant Application Here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto-young-adult-and-seminarian-grants>

Every penny collected goes out for a grant!

There are two **diocesan** ingatherings yearly:

The fall ingathering will be during the diocesan convention Eucharist, this year Saturday, November 9, 2019 during the convention Eucharist Tower Square/Marriott Hotel, Springfield. Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo; this offering may also be mailed as below.

- **The 2020 Spring UTO ingathering will be MAIL-IN.** The UTO Board suggests a Sunday near Ascension Day, this coming spring, **May 21, 2020**. Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by June 15, 2020 to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, ATTN: Esther Barker, Diocesan Accounting Manager, 37 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01103.

If you have questions or need information/advice about the United Thank Offering contact our new Diocesan UTO Coordinator, Diane Nichols at: dianenicusa@charter.net or 774-230-0113

In Gratitude, *Susan Howland*, Diocese of Western Massachusetts ECW President and UTO Coordinator
October 21, 2019