



*Diocese of Western Massachusetts*  
*Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering*  
Report to Diocesan Convention 2018



## **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 the communications chair. I maintain the Province 1 ECW Website:

<https://province1episcopalchurchwomen.wordpress.com> The National ECW website is: [ecwnational.org](http://ecwnational.org)

- 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 11; 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

### **Triennial Meeting Report 2018**

2018 was the year of the General Convention and I represented our diocese at the ECW Triennial Meeting in Austin Texas, July 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. It was wonderful to gathering of over 250 Episcopal Church Women who came to worship, network, and learn how God is working through the church towards becoming the Beloved Community. We joined with the Deputies, Bishops, and others for worship, including the United Thank Offering ingathering service, several joint sessions of General Convention, and other events like the demonstration of Bishops against gun violence, a prayer vigil at the Hutto detention center outside of Austin, and a Revival. Our keynote speakers were the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, retired Bishop of Alaska and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, the Presiding Bishop Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, who in their own unique ways spoke of change, transformation and the power of Love.

At every Triennial Meeting two local outreach opportunities are identified. This year they were:

- The Triennial Unified Gift: Community First! Village/Mobile Loaves & Fishes Ministries. (<https://mlf.org/community-first/>)
- The Community Connection Gift: Trinity Center Shower Ministry, a day program for homeless people in Austin. (<http://trinitycenteraustin.org/our-programs/>)

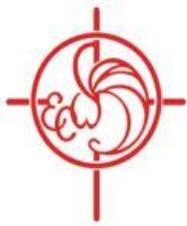
Our diocesan ECW contributed \$100 to each ministry and the total collected for both ministries was \$32,000. Representative from each organization came and spoke to the Triennial Meeting about their inspiring ministries.

All dioceses are invited to submit the name of a women who is recognized at a Distinguished Women's Luncheon. Our distinguished women as a posthumous recognition for Renee Beaujean, a long time president of our diocesan ECW and dedicated Episcopal Church Women. You can read about her here:

<https://province1episcopalchurchwomen.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/renee-a-beaujean.pdf>

There were two resolutions passed at the Triennial Meeting:

1. To raise funds for and create a women's reading room at the Episcopal Church Archives to highlight and display materials related to women's ministries and their history of work in The Episcopal Church.
2. To form an ad hoc task force to study the relationship between ECW and UTO and how they might better engage with each other.



*Diocese of Western Massachusetts*  
**Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering**  
**Report to Diocesan Convention 2018**



## **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](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com) or 508-248-6112 Susan Howland.
- 
- ✘ Our Combined 2017 United Thank Offering was \$10,110.28 with 22 Churches participating.
  - ✘ Our combined 2018 mail-in Spring ingathering was \$ 1,822.53.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **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; every penny collected goes out for a grant!

- The timeline for granting is as follows:
- **First Friday in September:** Young Adult/Seminarian Grant materials and application available.
  - **First Friday in November:** Young Adult and Seminarian Grant application deadline.
  - **First Friday in December:** Annual Grant materials and application available.
  - **First Friday in March:** Annual Grant application deadline.
- Young Adult/Seminarian Grant Recipients announced after the winter Executive Council Meeting.
  - Annual Grant Recipients announced after the summer Executive Council Meeting.

#### **Suggested Ingathering Dates for parishes:**

- Sunday near All Saint's Day
- Sunday near Ascension Day

There are two **diocesan** ingatherings yearly:

- **The Fall ingathering will be during the diocesan convention Eucharist, this year Friday, October 26, 2018, 5:00 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, MA.** Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo; this offering may also be mailed as below.
- **The Spring UTO ingathering will be MAIL-IN.** The UTO Board suggests a Sunday near Ascension Day, this coming Spring, **May 30, 2019.** Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by June 15, 2019 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 or Episcopal Church Women contact Susan Howland at: [ECW.wma@gmail.com](mailto:ECW.wma@gmail.com) or check: [www.diocesewma.org/aboutus/ecw](http://www.diocesewma.org/aboutus/ecw) or call Susan Howland at: 508-248-6112.

In Gratitude, *Susan Howland*, Diocese of Western Massachusetts ECW President and UTO Coordinator  
September 26, 2018