



*Diocese of Western Massachusetts*  
**Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering**  
Report to Diocesan Convention 2020



## **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: <https://province1episcopalchurchwomen.wordpress.com/> The National ECW website is: <https://ecwnational.org/>

- The ongoing focus of the diocesan ECW is the United Thank Offering, supporting parishes and parish coordinators around the diocese and organizing the spring and fall gatherings. Due to the pandemic we put on hold plans for in-person gathering in 2020.
- ECW normally has a display at the diocesan convention. We can email or mail you information about ECW or UTO ...just contact us! [ecw.wma@gmail.com](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com)



**Martha**

- We continue our commitment to adopt Martha at *Our Little Roses Orphanage* in Honduras, collaboration with the Diocese of Massachusetts ECW. Our outreach funds this year, \$320, were sent to support, Martha who is now 13; 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,
  - support UTO in the diocese.

If you have questions or need information/advice about the Episcopal Church Women contact Susan Howland at [ECW.wma@gmail.com](mailto: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 gather them in gratitude for God's blessings.
- I am available to help [ecw.wma@gmail.com](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com) or 508-612-3198 Susan Howland.
- More UTO information Here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

**Our Combined 2019 United Thank Offering was \$6,260.13 with 17 Churches participating.**

**Every penny collected goes out for a grant!**

**Thanks be to God!**



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On January 1, 2020, Diane Nichols from Holy Trinity Church, Southbridge became the new Diocesan UTO Coordinator. Unfortunately her health started to deteriorate in March and she made the difficult decision to step down over the summer. We wish her well as she traverses this journey.

**Grant awarded in our Diocese for 2020**

Our diocese applied for and was given a \$36,948 grant for the Big Blue Drop-In Center; Christ Church Cathedral. The Big Blue Drop-In Center provides a comfortable place where the unhoused and disenfranchised gather for rest, physical and spiritual nourishment, and strength during the day.

**Grant application information:**

Each year the UTO Board invites every diocese to submit a grant application. Because of the pandemic the UTO Board made changes to the 2021 application and criteria. To read about the granting process visit: <https://episcopalchurch.org/2021-uto-grants>

There are two **diocesan** ingatherings yearly:

**The fall ingathering will be during the virtual diocesan convention this year from November 1-7.**

Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by December 1, 2020 to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, ATTN: Kristina Cincotta, 37 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01103.

**There may be online giving opportunities TBD.**

**The 2020 Spring UTO ingathering will be MAIL-IN.** The UTO Board suggests a Sunday near Ascension Day, this coming spring, **May 16, 2021**. Make check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by June 15, 2021 to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, ATTN: Kristina Cincotta, 37 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01103.

If you have questions or need information/advice about the United Thank Offering contact Susan Howland: [ecw.wma@gmail.com](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com) or 508-612-3198

In Gratitude, *Susan Howland*, Diocese of Western Massachusetts ECW President and UTO Coordinator  
October 14, 2020