



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/>

Like most other ministries the COVID19 pandemic impacted ECW in a variety of ways. The Triennial Meeting, which was to be held at the same time of General Convention, has been postponed until July 2022, and other in-person gathering were canceled. Our Diocesan ECW was still able to network with other ECW's in the Province through monthly Zoom meeting. The meetings allowed us to share stories and keep up-to-date on current church and world events. Province 1 ECW hosted two video series:

- One on Deacons, with thanks to The Rev. Valerie Baily Fischer, here: <https://www.province1ecw.org/> Deacons Tab
- One on Creation Care, with thanks to The Rev.'s Lise Hildebrandt and Rachel Field, here: <https://www.province1ecw.org/> Annual Meeting 2021 Tab

Our available funds were used in 2021to:

- support UTO in the diocese
- support Walking Together with a \$500.00 donation
- support Province I ECW with dues of \$250
- set aside money to send a delegate to Triennial Meeting,



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 14; we have committed to sponsor her until she is 18.

Martha

We can email or mail you information about ECW or UTO ...just contact us! ecw.wma@gmail.com

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



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



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 COVID 19 pandemic has impacted the United Thank Offering in many ways. Ingathering funds are down, but the ministry reacted swiftly to offer grants for COVID 19 relief.

If you don't already have a United Thank Offering Ministry in your church starting one is easy! Even with the pandemic disruption we can still focus on gratitude.

Order some blue boxes (Boxes are free with a small shipping charge)

<https://shimafnavajoland.com/collections/United-Thank-Offering>

Along with new materials printed this year. Talk about offering tangible thanksgivings by dropping coins in the box, and saying a short 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 508-612-3198 Susan Howland.

More UTO information Here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

**Our Combined 2020 United Thank Offering was \$4,869 with 15 Churches participating.
Every penny collected goes out for a grant!
Thanks be to God!**

Grant application information:

Each year the UTO Board invites every diocese to submit a grant application. All 2022 information can be found here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/apply> **Please let us know if you are interested in submitting an application as it will need to go through the diocese and signed by the bishop.** ecw.wma@gmail.com

In 2020 a \$36,948 UTO Grant was awarded in our Diocese for the Big Blue Drop-In Center: 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. They were seeking to increase the hours of this new ministry from one day per week to three.

Ingathering Information

After your parish ingathering: suggest Spring (planting) and Fall (harvest), make a check to: The Episcopal Diocese of WMA, with UTO in the memo, and mail by June 15 for the Spring and November 30th, for the fall 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 or 508-612-3198

In Gratitude, *Susan Howland*, Diocese of Western Massachusetts ECW President and UTO Coordinator
October 12, 2021