



**Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
Episcopal Church Women and United Thank Offering  
Report to Diocesan Convention 2022**



## **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 2022 ECW Triennial Meeting was canceled due to the COVID19 pandemic, but the National ECW has been hosting the workshops on Zoom. As the workshop recordings become available they are posted here: <https://province1episcopalchurchwomen.wordpress.com/>

Our Diocesan ECW was still able to network with other ECW's in the Province through monthly Zoom meeting. The meetings allowed us to pray for one another, share stories, and keep up-to-date on current church and world events.

The Province 1 ECW Annual meeting keynote speaker was The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, who spoke about **The joy in climate justice: How we pray, learn, act, and advocate for God's creation. The recording can be heard here:** <https://youtu.be/q3RLR4Ts5Ng>

Our available funds were used in 2022 to:

- support UTO in the diocese
- support Province I ECW with dues of \$250
- set aside money to send a delegate to Triennial Meeting 2024



**Martha Reyes**

- We continued 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, \$360, was sent to support Martha who is now 15; we have committed to sponsor her until she is 18.

We can email or mail you information about ECW or UTO ...just contact us! [ecw.wma@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ECW.wma@gmail.com) or call Susan Howland at: 508- 612-3198.



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## **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.

**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://shimaofnavajoland.com/collections/United-Thank-Offering>

Along with ordering 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](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com) or 508-612-3198 Susan Howland.

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

**Our Combined 2021 United Thank Offering was \$3,269.80 with 8 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 2023 information can be found here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/apply> **Please let us know if you are interested in submitting an application. The diocesan deadline in 2023 is February 10, 2023. All applications are screened by the diocese and must be signed by the bishop. [ecw.wma@gmail.com](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com)**

**Since 1967 our diocese has received \$376,872.37 in grants!**

In 2021 the UTO Board shifted grants to address the COVID19 pandemic. Over 1 million dollars were awarded.

Here are some dates for UTO Webinars On the next page are the details and Zoom links

- 11/15/2022: Application and Budget Webinar
- 1/10/2023: Grant Timeline and Forms Webinar
- 2/14/2023: Open Forum Grant Webinar

### **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](mailto:ecw.wma@gmail.com) or 508-612-3198

In Gratitude, *Susan Howland*, Diocese of Western Massachusetts ECW President and UTO Coordinator  
October 14, 2022



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UTO webinars to help applicants. Below you will find the dates and times (all times listed are Eastern) along with the topic of the webinar and the registration links.

- November 15th – Topic: Helpful Hints Regarding the Budget and Application
  - Noon Registration:  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcOCsqTwqHNTbM\\_Q3VxCA8c6qJlsQxaHr](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcOCsqTwqHNTbM_Q3VxCA8c6qJlsQxaHr)
  - 7pm Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoc-2vqTksEtLtzC2lgMHv0ZcleGZ5fJLa>
  
- January 10th – Topic: Helpful Hints Regarding the Timeline and a Complete Application
  - Noon Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0oc-2ppzwuGNIHDJvrd8EFQOn7Zg4OIDJy>
  - 7pm Registration:  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMode6prTspGNybTeJrpHnqTXd7YmBk8k1e>
  
- January 14th – Topic: Q&A time – there will not be a presentation; this is just a drop-in opportunity for applicants to get any last-minute questions answered.
  - Noon Registration:  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkcOChrT8qH91J9g59sMqjqBxTGm\\_BOzYV](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAkcOChrT8qH91J9g59sMqjqBxTGm_BOzYV)