United Thank Offering Report for 2019

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for men, women, and children to give daily thanks to God.

The mission of UTO is to “expand the circle of thankful people.” When we embrace the tradition of daily prayers, offerings, and thanksgiving for God’s abundant blessings, we make that mission a reality.

Each person who offers thanks and prayers while dropping coins or bills in the familiar “blue box” is participating in the world-wide ministry of UTO. Every coin that is collected is given away in grants because UTO has an endowment to cover administrative expenses. The surplus from the endowment is also used for grants.

The Diocese of Lexington has been blessed with many grants over the years. This year we received a grant of $24,925 for Calling a Community Evangelist. This grant will allow Trinity, Covington, to nurture relationships with individuals, businesses, non-profits, and local officials. Trinity will also use their new public-facing courtyard to engage and welcome the larger community through evangelism and community programming and events.

In addition, we have recently received a special COVID-19 relief grant of $20,800 for A Caring Place: Feeding the Soul and Body with Love and Gratitude. In response to the pandemic, St. Martha’s Episcopal Church/Word of Hope Lutheran Church transitioned their in-person relationship ministry to a much-needed food ministry. They are now providing nutritious, home-delivered meals Monday through Friday to the disabled and elderly of their community. The UTO grant will enable them to expand their valuable ministry to include more participants as needed.

A second round of COVID-19 relief grants will be awarded in April 2021. Applications are due February 12, 2021 to the diocesan office. All applications must be submitted electronically.

The following parishes participated in spring and/or fall in-gatherings in 2019:

St. Andrew’s, Ft. Thomas  St. Philip’s, Harrodsburg
St. Peter’s, Paris  Church of the Nativity, Maysville
St. Andrew’s, Lexington  Trinity, Covington
St. Hubert’s, Clarke County  Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

For all who have supported UTO in 2019, please know that your thankful giving is helping to further God’s mission in the world.

If your parish is not presently participating in UTO, I encourage you to join us in this uniquely Episcopal mission. I hope you will feel free to contact me at dianegabbard@gmail.com with any questions.

The UTO Prayer:

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering. This we ask through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Diane Gabbard
Diocesan UTO Coordinator