



## The United Thank Offering The Diocese of Virginia

**Mission: Put gifts into the Blue Box with thanksgiving, prayer and generosity. Take blessings out of the box for grants to expand the church's faithfulness to God's mission.**

August 20, 2016

### Report to the Episcopal Church Women Board of Directors

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Coordinator for the United Thank Offering and for the support that I have enjoyed throughout my tenure. It has been a great privilege to learn about and to be involved in the larger Episcopal Church.

With the help of Bishop Shannon, the diocesan Office of Mission and Outreach, and the UTO Grants Review Committee, the Diocese of Virginia received funding for three UTO grant requests for this 2016 granting cycle. Grace Aheron received \$2,500 for "Sacred Solidarity: Race Justice at the University of Virginia." This was one of ten Young Adult grants that were awarded. Taylor Poindexter at the Virginia Theological Seminary received \$2,459.99 for expansion of the prayer/meditation gardening project on the seminary grounds. Her request was submitted by Virginia Theological Seminary. In addition, St. Philip's Church in Richmond was granted \$14,315.00 "to level and convert the land of a donated residential home into a garden for food production and education, a safe outdoor play space for children, and a meditation and prayer area near the sixth-oldest historically African American congregation in the Episcopal Church."

Thanks to the support of the ECW Board, the UTO Parish Coordinators, clergy, and participants in the pews throughout the diocese, the UTO Spring In-gathering for 2016 totals \$40,134.08. As you know, "every penny given to the Ingathering is given away the following year to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion." Let us pray that the Fall Ingatherings will increase this amount and that we will have successful UTO Grant Applications for 2017.

#### **Important dates for the 2017 granting cycle:**

- **1st Friday in September 2016** -Young Adult/Seminarian grant application and materials available
- **1st Friday in November 2016**-Young Adult/Seminarian application deadline
- **1st Friday in December 2016**- Annual UTO grant application and materials available (for local and international/partnership grants)
- **1st Friday in March 2017** - Annual UTO grant applications deadline

(To plan for Fall Ingathering and to order materials, please go to [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto))  
**I must receive all ingatherings by December 15, 2016 to ensure inclusion in the 2017 granting cycle.** A copy of the remittance form is included at the end of this report.

**Transition to new United Thank Offering Coordinator:**

**Beginning January 1, 2017, all UTO Ingatherings will be sent to the new UTO Coordinator for the Diocese of Virginia. Please join me in welcoming Connie Brady, a long-time supporter of UTO and ECW. You will be hearing from her in January.**

With thanksgiving,

Cindy Helton  
UTO Diocesan Coordinator  
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[wihelton@verizon.net](mailto:wihelton@verizon.net)  
[www.ecw.thediocese.net](http://www.ecw.thediocese.net)

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**2016 Fall Ingathering**

Please return this form with **One Check** made payable to:

**United Thank Offering, Diocese of Virginia**

**Mail to: Cindy Helton, UTO Diocesan Coordinator**

**505 Fauquier Street**

**Fredericksburg, VA 22401**

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of contributors \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if not known, please estimate)*

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish UTO Coordinator:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:  
\_\_\_\_\_

For further information, please contact Cindy Helton, UTO Coordinator, Diocese of Virginia,  
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[www.ecw.thediocese.net](http://www.ecw.thediocese.net)