

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



We are Episcopal Church Women of all ages, ethnic origins and socioeconomic backgrounds who hold a variety of views. However, the common denominator of our members is love of God and the wish to do His work. Centered in congregations, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) empowers women to do Christ's ministry in the world. Our vision for all women of the Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a God spark-shining and sharing the love of Christ.

Continuing Education Scholarship Fund

For fall of 2020 through spring of 2021, three applicants received funding for continued education:

- Krista Heuett, Postulant for Holy Orders, Seminary of the Southwest
- JoAnn Carroll, studies for the Diaconate, Bishop Kemper School of Ministry
- Barbara Wegener, studies for the Diaconate, Bishop Kemper School of Ministry

For the fall of 2021 through the spring of 2022, we have received five applicants seeking continuing education assistance:

- Krista Heuett, Senior year Seminary of the Southwest
- Katherine Mansfield-Graduate, Sewanee of the South
- Brittany Sparrow-Savage-first year, Bishop Kemper School of Ministry
- JoAnn Carroll, 2 year at Bishop Kemper School of Ministry
- Barbara Wegener, 2 year at Bishop Kemper School of Ministry

The Diocese of West Missouri Episcopal Church Women has granted over \$27,250.00 in Continuing Education Funds to women of the diocese over the last fifteen years.

The Province VII Episcopal Church Women sponsored A Gathering on Saturday, September 11 2021 via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (Central Time) with the keynote speaker, The Very Rev. Katie Churchwell, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City on the topic, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." By Helen Keller. Dean Katie spoke on how we experience God during the current times, safe places and seeking solitude in the Lord while being in fellowship with other women.

Church Periodical Club

(Sponsored by National ECW)

www.churchperiodical.com

The [National Books Fund](#) is the older of the two funds within the Church Periodical Club. NBF has limited itself primarily to books and related materials for adults since the advent of the [Miles of Pennies Fund](#). Grant requests come from schools, libraries, individuals, agencies and parishes throughout the Anglican Communion. Funds to cover the requests are donated by individuals, parishes, dioceses and provinces. Receipts from ingatherings conducted in parishes on CPC Sundays are designated for NBF as are returns from an NBF endowment fund. Friends of CPC are encouraged to contribute regularly to the fund or to sponsor specific requests for books.

How does the fund work?

The NATIONAL BOOKS FUND (NBF) holds all money donated specifically for the purchase of books. The money is donated by individuals, parishes, dioceses and provinces. It is the one corporate effort of CPC, and all CPC organizations are urged to make regular contributions or to sponsor specific grant requests. There is a National Books Endowment Fund whose income is fed into the NBF.

What can be covered?

Grants are made for books, magazines, audio and video materials and computer software. The specific materials are determined and purchased by the recipients. Materials may be religious or secular, but must be used within the mission of the Church.

What cannot be covered?

NBF Grants are not given for equipment, (such as projectors, computers or shelves) operating expenses, (such as postage and stationery) or for the production of material (such as translations or printing).

➤ [National Books Fund Guidelines](#)

➤ [NBF Application Form](#)

United Thank Offering

(Sponsored by National ECW)

(UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

To learn more about how to participate in the United Thank Offering or to order materials to start the program in your congregation, please use this link:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering>. We are happy to help you get started.

Every penny given to the United Thank Offering goes to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church.

These grants are in addition to 26 awards given during a first round of COVID-19 project funding. The UTO's 2020 Ingathering, where monies collected in UTO Blue Boxes at Episcopal churches throughout the year are "gathered" as thank offerings, generated \$479,369.53 for the second round of grants.

United Thank Offering grants are awarded each year for projects in The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion. For 2021, the grant focus is *Recovering with Love and Gratitude: An Episcopal Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Local Contexts*.

The UTO Board received 130 applications during two grant cycles this year and was able to fund 53 grants. UTO thanks everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the 2020 Ingathering through August 2020. As a result of this gratitude and generosity, UTO raised **\$450,000** in thank offerings in time for the first round of COVID-19 grants. The COVID-19 grants combine some historic traditions for UTO, namely sustaining previous grant winners to ensure that vital ministries continue in addition to funding innovative responses to the pandemic. Grants that sustain previous sites are indicated in the title. For the first time, the UTO Board offered funding levels to guide requests in the hope of funding as many grant sites as possible due to the extreme need the global pandemic has caused. For the second round of COVID grants, the Board received almost \$1.4 million in requests. The Board offered funding levels to guide requests in order to fund as many as possible.

At its April 2021 meeting, the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church approved United Thank Offering (UTO) grants to support 16 Episcopal Church and eight Anglican Communion missions and ministries, in its second round of COVID-19-related mission and ministry funding. Three historical grants were also awarded for projects that fall outside the regular parameters of the granting process but within the historical practices of UTO.

Since its founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,384 grants for a total of \$141,104,725.30. (For a complete list of all UTO grants, please visit www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO and click on the Resources tab at the bottom of the page.)

Thank you to everyone who, through their personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the 2020 Ingathering. The Diocese of West Missouri contributed \$2,333.57 to the UTO in 2019 and as of December 2020 the amount received was \$1,127.18. As of September 2021 the amount received from congregations in The Diocese of West Missouri was \$2,194.22.

UTO Annual Grant applications and materials are available from the first Friday in December through the first Friday in March at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto

Please make all future checks out to The Diocese of West Missouri and in the memo area on the check please put UTO. You may mail the checks to the Diocesan Office to the Attention of Elaine Gilligan.

We continue to support the Province VII and National Episcopal Church Women with annual donations.

Mrs. Judith Turner,
President

Mrs. Shirley Bolden
Secretary

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