**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**.

February 6,2016

**UTO 2016 Grant Information**

**and Report to the ECW Board of Directors**

United Thank Offering Grant applications and instructions are available at **www.episcopalchurch.org/uto** (click on "ministries" and then click on "United Thank Offering"). Please email your grant application to Mary Anne Bryant in the Office of Mission and Outreach by February 19, 2016 (**mabryant@thediocese.net** ).

The 2016 grant applications must address the 5th Mark of Mission of The Episcopal Church: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

This focus is an expansive term. It could address any of God's creation a in the first six days--ground, animals, His children... ."Taking care of God's creation" could be environmentally focused, could address sustainability issues, or issues with God's children; i.e., human trafficking, sustainable gardens, solar panels, etc. Other ideas might be decreasing he carbon footprint, thermal heating, green ideas, doing energy audits in the homes of seniors, how to use extra space on church grounds, awareness raising issues, recycling drives.

I have participated in the Webinars for Diocesan Coordinators and distributed the grant information to all the contacts that I have in the Diocese of Virginia. The information is also available in the *e-Communiqué*  (February issues) and on our ECW Website.

A summary of last year's UTO In-gathering report indicates that, by the end of 2015, I had sent from DOVA $98,691.37 to DFMS to be given in UTO Grants. So far this year, the 2016 Spring In-gathering totals $4,832.18.

If you have questions or if I can help in any way, please contact me.

With thanksgiving,

Cindy Helton

UTO Diocesan Coordinator

505 Fauquier Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**wlhelton@verizon.net**540-373-6382

**2016 Spring 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:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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For further information, please contact Cindy Helton, UTO Coordinator, Diocese of Virginia,

505 Fauquier Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 ph: 540-373-6382 e-mail: wlhelton@verizon.net and www.ecw.thediocese.net All In-gatherings that are received before December 15, 2016 will be granted for the 2017 granting cycle.