

2015 United Thank Offering Grant Focus and Criteria

The 2015 United Thank Offering Grants session will focus on the **Fourth Mark of Mission**, *to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*. In celebration of the 125th anniversary of the United Thank Offering, the annual grants focus is working towards God's vision for His people and is seeking to change lives in a new way by a variety of actions.

Join us!

The United Thank Offering will accept:

- grant applications which are for start-up costs for a new ministry, not for the continuation of an ongoing ministry unless there is a definite new direction added to the existing program;
 - seed money for start-up positions, either full or part time for a new ministry (see above);
 - **one** grant application per diocese within The Episcopal Church and one per invited province of the Anglican Communion;
 - **one** additional application from a diocese of The Episcopal Church for a Companion Diocese or a formalized relationship/partnership between two bishops with jurisdiction:
 - this relationship may be with a diocese from The Episcopal Church and a diocese of The Anglican Communion, or
 - this relationship may be with a diocese of The Episcopal Church and one of the aided dioceses of The Episcopal Church (*for a full list of aided dioceses, please look at the Application Process Form*);
 - the Board will only accept one additional application per aided diocese or overseas diocese;
 - the sponsoring diocese will be responsible for the final accounting of the grant.
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A United Thank Offering grant application must:

- use grant money and return accounting for the funds within one year of receipt of the grant;
 - show a connection with the Episcopal Church or Anglican Communion;
 - show that any property, land or structure, is owned by an Episcopal Church or diocese.
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The United Thank Offering will NOT fund:

- project site/programs for two consecutive years;
- capital campaigns or debt reductions;
- deferred maintenance (repairs or upgrades to the physical plant or facility must be tied to the specific ministry or project of the current application);
- operational budgets (meaning the proposed budget and program is the same as the year before);
- debts obligated or incurred before the date of the grant award;
- stipends or honoraria;
- employment benefits or social security costs;
- purchase of consumable items (e.g., food, medicine, paper goods, toiletries, fuel, school supplies, anything that is given to those attending a program, travel, mileage, overnight accommodations, etc.);
- maintenance or printing of marketing materials, or a website, however the initial development/creation of materials, videos or a website **can** be funded;
- fees of architects or engineers; insurance of any kind; shipping costs; background checks and fingerprinting;
- contingency funds or overhead costs;
- rent or leasing of any kind;
- modifications or construction on property NOT owned by an Episcopal entity;
- scholarships, tuition, camp fees, and attendance incentives;
- previously funded requests;

- programs regarded to be diocesan operating budgets;
 - emergency response requests. *(These should be submitted to Episcopal Relief and Development.)*
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In Episcopal dioceses within the United States, the United Thank Offering WILL NOT fund:

- a vehicle with a 12 or 15 passenger chassis (due to stability and insurance matters);
- any vehicles that are not the property of a church or diocese of The Episcopal Church.

Additionally, the United Thank Offering:

- will only fund one-half of the amount of the cost of the vehicle requested in the United States;
- a proposed bill of sale is required and must accompany **all** applications (both United States and overseas) requesting a vehicle.

Please note – any grant application submitted that is not within the criteria guidelines will not be considered.

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