

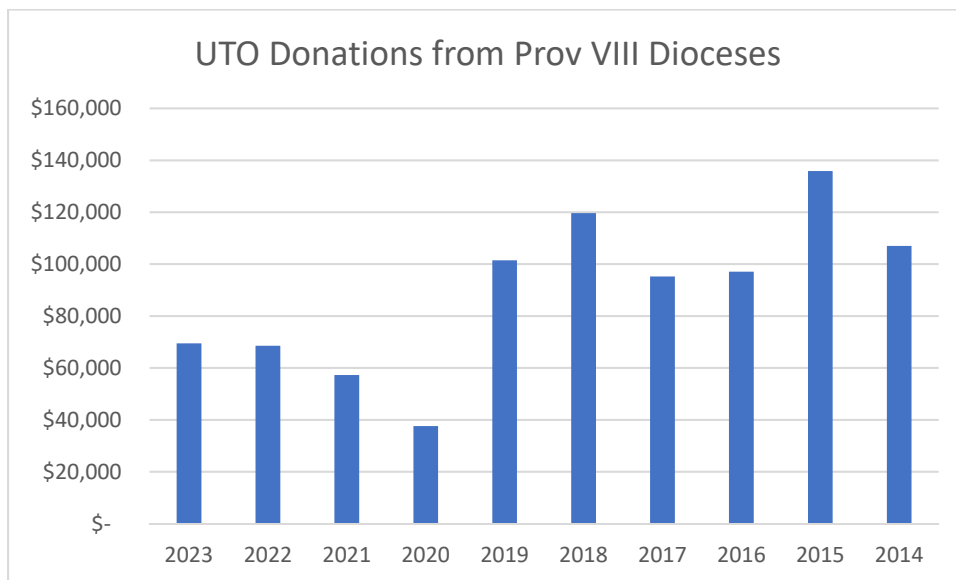
ECW Province VIII – UTO Report at Triennial/General Convention

Date: June 27, 2024

Location: Louisville, KY

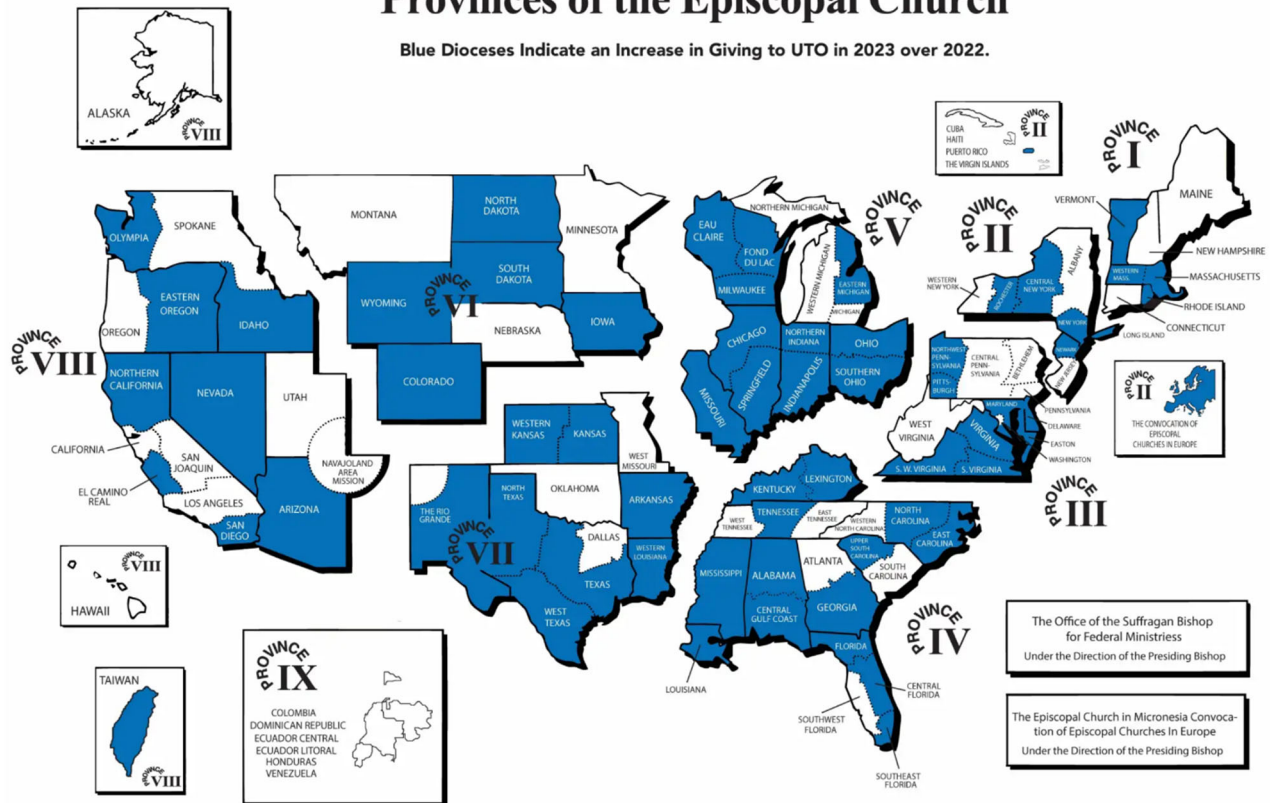
Submitted By: UTO Board Members from Prov VIII – Sedona Jacobson (sedonaj1@gmail.com) and Tammy Smecker-Hane (tsmecker@cox.net)

- United Thank Offering (UTO; <https://unitedthankoffering.com>) invites every Episcopalian to **NOTICE** the good things that happen to them every day, **GIVE** thanks to God for these blessing, **MAKE** an offering by dropping coins in UTO box, and every penny donated becomes **BLESSINGS** for others through UTO grants. For over 130 years, UTO grants have empowered people to solve vexing community problems in the USA and wider world through the Anglican Communion.
- **UTO grants** in 2023 had the theme of “welcoming the stranger” and included grants that supported migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, the LGBTQIA+ community, and fostered community building, in general. The upcoming grants in 2024 will focus on water problems. To apply for a grant, see <https://unitedthankoffering.com/apply> and contact your UTO diocesan coordinator early to get their help. Each diocese can recommend only one UTO grant proposal, and it may be smart to work with others in your diocese to craft a combined proposal that addresses multiple water problems in your communities.
- In 2023, UTO donations totaled \$1.00 million, a **decrease of 7.0%** compared to 2022.
- In 2023, UTO donations from dioceses in Prov VIII totaled \$69,428, a **increase of 1.3%** compared to 2022. Below is a chart showing UTO donations from Prov VIII dioceses over the last 10 years. Notice that donations are slowly coming back to pre-covid levels, but have not fully recovered yet. On the following page is a map showing the Provinces and the dioceses colored in blue are those that increased their contributions from 2022 to 2023, and a table showing the amounts donated by Prov VIII dioceses in 2023 and the change (in percent) from 2022.



Provinces of the Episcopal Church

Blue Dioceses Indicate an Increase in Giving to UTO in 2023 over 2022.



DIOCESE	2023 UTO Donations (\$)	Change (%)
Alaska	1,060.95	-79.3
Arizona	4,329.02	607.4
California	576.27	-87.2
Eastern Oregon	3,324.49	12.6
El Camino Real	4,983.92	138.6
Hawaii	961.25	-47.2
Idaho	2,024.81	95.1
Los Angeles	11,634.00	-9.2
Micronesia	0.00	0.0
Navajoland	0.00	0.0
Nevada	7,106.40	22.1
Northern California	443.00	42.1
Olympia	13,424.91	34.6
Oregon	3,302.02	-29.9
San Diego	1,578.58	158.2
San Joaquin	625.00	-58.7
Spokane	10,174.25	-6.1
Taiwan	2,680.89	14.2
Utah	1,198.85	-15.7
Province VIII Total	69,428.61	1.3

- Many extremely worthwhile UTO grant applications are NOT funded solely due to lack of funds! More work is needed to **inspire more UTO Ingatherings** in parishes in all Prov VIII dioceses. That is one of the jobs of a **UTO diocesan coordinator**. Please contact Tammy Smecker-Hane (tsmecker@cox.net) if your diocese does not have a UTO diocesan coordinator, and she can give you all the information you need to recruit one. Remember that it only takes a single person in a parish to make an UTO Ingathering happen because UTO makes it EASY by providing all the materials you need and giving you step-by-step instructions and creative ideas. For information about holding an Ingathering, see <https://unitedthankoffering.com/ingathering>.
- Parishes who do a yearly UTO Ingathering have the benefits of knowing their **donations serve some of the least among us**, as Jesus showed by example, and **cultivating gratitude in individual parishioners** can positively change their outlook on life. For examples of the many UTO gratitude resources available to you, see the November Gratitude Calendar or the Lenten 40 days of daily texts or the Gratitude Coloring Pages (excellent for Sunday School children!) under the Gratitude tab on the UTO web page. The new **color-your-own UTO boxes** are a huge hit, although the traditional blue boxes are available, too. Placing color-your-own UTO boxes on tables with some colored markers at a church function is a great addition a meeting or luncheon and is an excellent conversation starter. We use them at last year's Prov VIII annual meeting, let our artistic spirits soar, all while raising funds for UTO.



- Please note that this year UTO changed the way they mail out UTO Ingathering supplies (boxes, envelopes, etc.). See <https://unitedthankoffering.com/resources> to order UTO material. You will want to **order materials earlier than usual** because packages will be mailed out only once per month rather than continuously.
- UTO makes donating easy by providing multiple ways to give:
 - Place your donations in the **UTO boxes** on the tables in the House of Bishops or House of Deputies during General Convention,
 - **Text** INGATHERING to 41444, or
 - Donating **on-line** at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/give> .
- Note that UTO recently changed its **bylaws** so now the default method of choosing UTO Board members from each Province will be through elections held by the Provincial Synod, rather than ECW Provincial Boards. This will open UTO board membership to a wider audience, including men, trans- and non-binary persons, and not limit board membership solely to women. Each ECW Provincial and Synod Boards must consider the subsequent changes needed to their own bylaws by the next Triennial. In addition, UTO Board members will no longer be required to serve on ECW Provincial Boards.