

**United Thank Offering Announces Second Round of Matthew 25 Awards**  
*Diocese of Eau Claire / Province V to receive UTO Grant to respond to call to welcome the stranger and serve those who society has left out or left behind.*

**Province V— June 15, 2024** — United Thank Offering announced the grant recipients for the 2024 granting cycle, and we are excited to share that the Diocese of Eau Claire / Province V will receive funding for *Engaging Gender Complexity*. The focus of the granting process this year was "on welcoming the stranger and serving those who society has left out and left behind."

***Engaging Gender Complexity***

The *Engaging Gender Complexity* (EGC) initiative will help individuals and worshipping communities create welcoming space for *all* people. EGC will equip participants to welcome gender-diverse individuals into their community without causing harm to or undue emotional and psychological labor for them. Episcopalians are called by our baptismal vows to promote the dignity of every human being, counteracting historical and current traumas perpetuated on gender-diverse communities. Guided by trained facilitators, in-person gatherings will be a laboratory to learn more about gender-diversity and practice radical hospitality towards individuals and communities. Faith communities informed about gender-diversity have the potential to be places of refuge, modeling this radical welcome to the wider world.

"Everyone has felt left out at some point in their life, but Jesus' words in Matthew 25 are all about people who are regularly left out or underserved in mainstream societies. This year's UTO grants will support some really thoughtful projects that specifically focus on including these people, projects that will change the lives of people around the world and could become models for other churches and groups to use in projects of their own. Connecting with others and feeling included create and spread gratitude in all involved, creating a more grateful community and world," shared Sherri Dietrich, UTO Board President.

The UTO Funds will be used to train and equip facilitators to work with local ministry contexts around gender complexity and how to create safe spaces in their buildings and communities.

**United Thank Offering Funding**

Every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away the following year to support innovative missions and ministries in the Episcopal Church. Through the gratitude and generosity of those who contributed through Blue Box donations and online, UTO awarded over one million dollars in grants to address the focus area.

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The United Thank Offering (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 or online. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

**For more information on UTO:**

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