



## Grace Church Adoption Scholarship Fund

Adoption scholarships are used to support families within Grace Church that are adopting domestically or internationally. These scholarships directly support our strategic initiative to care for at-risk children. We are called as followers of Christ to “learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; *bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause*” (Isaiah 1:17).

### Criteria

Applicants should meet the following criteria *before* applying for a scholarship:

- Member of Grace Church (completed the membership application which includes personal testimony and agreement with our statement of faith) who is adopting domestically or internationally.
- Active in attending and generosity at Grace Church for a minimum of one year.
- Completed home study.
- An application cannot be submitted post placement.

### Process

Below is an overview of the process involved with allocating adoption scholarships:

- Applicants, who meet the initial criteria as listed above, complete the application form along with referral forms.
- Applications are reviewed by the Adoption Fund team, with a commitment to provide a response within four weeks. During this time, a OneLess staff member will follow-up on questions related to the application or referral forms, have an interview with the couple, and lastly, confirm an agreed upon course of action.
- The average adoption costs \$20,000-\$30,000. Funds allocated from this account would grant up to 25% of the total adoption cost with a maximum allocation of \$5,000 per adoption.\*
- Resources to apply for adoption grants or loans, as well as information about the Federal Adoption Tax Credit, would be provided as well as Grace Church support group opportunities.
- Approved funds would be dispersed directly to the designated adoption agency or legal entity.
- If a family is no longer pursuing an adoption, whether it is their decision or a decision made by the agency or biological mom, then scholarship funds should be returned to Grace Church.

### Next Steps

If you are not a current member at Grace, please visit our website at [grace.church/membership](https://grace.church/membership) and begin the membership process. If you are a current member and meet the criteria, please e-mail Kirsten Bengtson at [kirsten.bengtson@grace.church](mailto:kirsten.bengtson@grace.church) for an application.

\* If the overall adoption cost exceeds \$30,000, families are eligible to request additional scholarship funds, up to another \$2,500. Prior to requesting additional funds, families would need to: complete the original application process and receive their primary scholarship; actively pursue other grant and scholarship funds; and meet one-on-one with OneLess staff to discuss adoption status.