

Board of Pensions Assistance Program — Adoption

Adopting a child is often an emotionally trying journey, one punctuated by long periods of uncertainty and waiting. That was the experience of the Lind family — until a 4 a.m. phone call from their adoption agency awakened the Reverend Kevin Lind and his wife Alisa to tell them the news: A birth mother three states away had selected them to adopt her baby girl, born just hours before. Later that same day, the wait, the uncertainty, and their home state of Washington were behind them as they arrived in Arizona to embrace the future — their new daughter Elisabeth, whom they call Ellie.

Until that moment, the Linds, who have two other daughters, ages 8 and 5, had worked with a national adoption agency for two-and-a-half years without a match. “We always felt called to adopt a child, and it was a long journey. But when it happened, it happened really fast. It was an answer to our prayers,” said Kevin, who is pastor of Coulee Dam Community Presbyterian Church, Coulee Dam, Washington.

Adoption is costly, with agency and legal fees and sometimes other expenses to be paid. “We had planned for the adoption, and we knew that the financial part would be the hardest part,” he added. Although he and Alisa had put away the funds to cover the agency and legal expenses, they now had significant unexpected expenses, including the cost of same-day flights from Washington state to Arizona and for their nine-day stay in Arizona until the interstate adoption office released Ellie to their care.

“The Adoption Assistance Grant was just great,” said Kevin. “Because of all the additional expenses involved in an interstate adoption, the grant, which covered most of them, was a huge relief.” The adoption of Ellie was finalized the day after Christmas, 2012.

Funded by gifts, legacies, endowment income, and half the Christmas Joy Offering, [the Assistance Program](#) provides critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and their families with urgent financial needs, and income and housing supplements to qualifying retired church workers and their families. It also sponsors grants for vocational training of clergy. The Assistance Program does not receive Benefits Plan dues.

If wish to support the ministry of the Assistance Program or you need its help, call the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).