



## ADOPTION SERVICES

*Hope for the future,  
power in the present.*



**BOARD OF CHILD CARE**  
*of The United Methodist Church, Inc.*



## Hope for the future, power in the present.



Today, in communities here and abroad, many children are without a permanent, loving home. Their greatest need and deepest desire is to have the love, stability and security of a *forever family*.

Through adoption, a child can have what is so often taken for granted – the security, permanence and nurturing of a family of their own. The Board of Child Care has a long and proud history of providing adoption services. We have been a premiere service provider in the field of adoption since 1945. To expand on that foundation, we have developed a dynamic partnership program with Adoptions Together, an established, licensed adoption agency in the Baltimore-Washington area. Through this collaborative alliance, the Board of Child Care offers a comprehensive array of high-quality adoption services. If you are considering adoption, we can help.

### Pre-Adoption Information and Referral Services

So many programs, agencies, issues and terms must be considered in making decisions about adoption. We understand how confusing, and even overwhelming, it can be. The Board of Child Care's adoption staff will provide the information and

professional assistance you need to make these important decisions. We help you sort through your options and think through all the possibilities.





Some agencies charge for these consultative services, but the Board of Child Care provides them for free. An adoption professional will talk with you at length by phone or in person to answer questions, outline options, and even refer you to the best local and national resources for your particular adoption plan.

### **Home Study and Post-Placement Services**

The Board of Child Care is licensed as a nonprofit child placement agency in Maryland and the District of Columbia and can provide complete domestic and international home study and post-placement services for families living in both jurisdictions. These services are available to individuals and couples, whether they use

the Board of Child Care's partnership program with Adoptions Together for placement, or they choose another agency to work with for placement services.

### **The Domestic Adoption Program**

This program serves adoptive families, birth parents and children in this country. Through our partnership with Adoptions Together, newborns and infants from diverse races and backgrounds are placed with waiting families.

We also have a need for families willing to adopt infants with medical or physical problems, many of which are treatable or correctable. Free counseling and supportive services are available to pregnant women who are considering adoption or who have decided to make an adoption plan.





## The International Adoption Program

This program serves children residing in orphanages or foster homes in countries around the world. The primary countries placing children with U.S. families are in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Through our partnership with Adoptions Together, children of all ages and either gender are placed with loving families. The adoptive parents typically travel to the country and are escorted throughout the adoption process. Families are extensively prepared for an international adoption and given assistance with all paperwork and travel arrangements.



## Post-Adoption Search and Reunion Services

As an agency that has provided adoption services for so many years, the Board of Child Care has an active Search, Contact and Reunion program. This program serves adopted adults and their birth parents whose past adoption services were provided by the Board of Child Care and who now may be interested in getting information about one another.

Two levels of service are available:

- 1) the provision of non-identifying background information gathered from the file, and
- 2) performing an actual search for a birth parent or adopted person over age 21 through the services of a trained Confidential Intermediary.



We operate under the guidelines and laws of the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia in providing these services. We take our commitment to past clients - both adoptees and birth parents - very seriously and work hard to provide high-quality, confidential intermediary services.

**Our promise to you: To provide high-quality adoption services in a respectful, timely and responsive manner that meets your family's needs.**

## **Q&A**

**Q. *Do I have to be a United Methodist to use the Board of Child Care's adoption services?***

**A.** No, we work with people of all religions and with people who have no religious affiliation. Our interest is finding loving, permanent homes for children.

**Q. *How much does an adoption cost?***

**A.** Fees vary greatly depending on the type of adoption you choose. The home study and post-placement fees are set fees for service no matter what type of adoption.





**Q. What is a home study?**

**A.** A home study consists of a series of interviews with a social worker and certain paperwork that must be completed. The home study is designed to help families prepare for an adoption and meet the requirements of a particular jurisdiction and any other governing entities, such as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.

**Q. What are post-placement services?**

**A.** In most adoptions, the adopting family's state of residence or the sending country require follow-up by the agency after the adoption. Post-placement visits occur in the adoptive family's home and are generally done by the social worker who completed the family's home study.

**Q. Will my child's birth parents be involved during or after the adoption?**

**A.** In almost all international adoptions, birth parents are anonymous and not involved in the adoption process. In domestic adoptions, there can be some openness and contact, but only if voluntarily and mutually agreed upon between the adoptive and birth parents.

**Q. I am an adopted adult thinking about searching for my birth parents. Can the Board of Child Care help?**

**A.** If the Board of Child Care was the agency that completed your adoption and you are 21 or older, then we can help. Likewise, if you placed a child for adoption through the Board of Child Care and that child is now 21 or older, we can also help.





*The Board of Child Care is a nonprofit, multi-service organization serving children and families in Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia as an outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church. Programs include residential and short-term care, foster care, early childhood education, therapeutic counseling, adoption services, special education and a car loan program. Since 1874, the Board of Child Care has served as a community of hope: providing an opportunity to heal, and a safe and caring environment for children, youth and families.*



### **Contact Us**

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### **Accreditations**

Council on Accreditation (COA)

Educational Assessment Guidelines  
Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE)

### **Licenses**

Maryland Department of Human Resources  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

*"I was really worried about the home study but it was much easier and more supportive than I could have imagined. It really helped to prepare us for our adoption."*

*"Sifting through all of the adoption information was becoming overwhelming. The BCC social worker was a tremendous help to us in thinking through our adoption options."*

*"Thank you for helping to make our dream of a family come true."*



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