

Los Angeles Korean United Methodist Church Scholarship



(After the 120th Anniversary Worship Service - March 10, 2024.)

LAKUMC established an endowment fund in 1999, which has since evolved into a scholarship foundation totaling \$1.44 million by 2024. Each year, the interest from this fund is used to provide scholarships, and as of 2024, \$500,000 in scholarships has been awarded to approximately 280 students since its inception. The California-Pacific Conference oversees this fund. In 2024, the scholarships supported 23 diverse students, including children of pastors from underfunded churches, children of North Korean defectors, and students from mission fields in Mexico, Mongolia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan, as well as church-affiliated children. The Los Angeles United Methodist Church has consistently donated \$10,000 annually to the Claremont School of Theology in recent years. By 2024, the church has contributed \$61,000 in scholarships to CST.

Rev. Chang Min Lee, senior pastor of Los Angeles United Methodist Church and an alumnus of CST, shared the following about scholarships: 'I have received many scholarships during my studies in Korea and at CST. I thought I was receiving "scholarships" because I was a good student. Later, I realized I received them because of the generosity and dedication of many donors.' LAKUMC, the first Korean church established on the U.S. mainland, has always been future-oriented. The creation of the scholarship foundation was aimed at nurturing pastors who could take responsibility for the church's future. Many congregants have also signed life insurance policies, directing the life insurance benefits to be deposited into this scholarship fund upon their passing. The church has a close relationship with CST. As the 'firstborn church' of the Korean church community on the US mainland, it continues to set an example of growing future leaders in the church.

