

# Benefits Access

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Benefits Access provides a summary of your accrued benefits and two online projection aids to help you stay on track to retire, the Retirement Readiness Tool and Retirement Benefits Projection. Each tool works differently, and the information provided has a specific use. Feel free to contact [EY Financial Planning Services](#) for help reviewing your accrued benefits, using the projection aids or for a more customized assessment.

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## Summary Page

The Summary page displays accrued plan balances and monthly defined benefits, if any, for Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath)-administered retirement plans.

### Accrued Monthly Benefit

The Accrued Monthly Benefit Payable at Normal Retirement with Credited Service Earned to Date displays the estimated monthly benefit that would be payable at normal retirement age based on your current years of service if you were to stop working today. The monthly benefit is displayed in today's dollars.

- **Plan provisions and policies govern.** Wespath endeavors to use accurate data, plan rules and programming in producing this estimate. However, actual benefits will be paid in accordance with the data provided by your annual conference or plan sponsor, plan provisions and policies.
- **If you served the denomination as a clergyperson prior to 1982 but terminate service, you may not be vested.** If you terminate service prior to attainment of age 62 or completion of 30 years of eligible service, you may not be vested for benefits in the Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82) and an accrued monthly benefit may not be calculated. See the [Clergy Retirement Security Program \(CRSP\) Summary Plan Description](#) for information regarding the Pre-82 vesting rules.
- **If you were a terminated clergyperson who has returned to active service, your assessment may be inaccurate.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you were on a leave of absence and did not return to service/employment when your leave ended, your assessment may be overstated.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you are eligible for monthly defined benefits as a beneficiary of a participant or due to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) as an alternate payee, an accrued monthly benefit is not calculated.** Contact Wespath for further information.



## Retirement Readiness Tool

The Retirement Readiness Tool estimates your income from both Wespath-administered retirement plans and Social Security, compares it to your retirement income goals and suggests steps to close the gap, if any. You can use sliders and input fields to customize your goals and add information on other retirement plans. This tool provides a high-level overview of your retirement picture. When you're ready to dig deeper, we suggest using the Retirement Benefits Projection or calling [EY Financial Planning Services](#).

### Limitations of the Retirement Readiness Tool

- **This is only an estimate.** The benefits paid from your actual retirement plan and, if applicable, Social Security will likely be different upon retirement given account activity, market fluctuation and potential changes to Social Security.
- **This is not a guarantee of benefits.** This does not guarantee plan eligibility or benefits.
- **Plan provisions and policies govern.** Wespath endeavors to use reasonable assumptions and accurate data, plan rules and programming in producing this statement. However, actual benefits will be paid in accordance with the data provided by your annual conference or plan sponsor, plan provisions and policies.
- **Assumptions may change.** Wespath monitors trends in investment returns and in annuity conversion interest factors, and changes the assumptions concerning them as needed. Changing assumptions can significantly impact projected benefits. Repeat your projection periodically. See the [current assumptions](#).
- **You should re-run the assessment periodically.** Investment results will differ and assumptions may change.
- **If you were a terminated clergyperson who has returned to active service, your assessment may be inaccurate.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you were on a leave of absence and did not return to service/employment when your leave ended, your projection may be overstated.** Contact Wespath for further information.

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- **You are assumed to continue to serve/work in your current capacity until the age you input.** If you terminate service or employment, change your appointment percentage or take a different assignment or position prior to the age you select, your benefits could be considerably less than shown.
- **If you are a participant who is also eligible for a benefit due to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) as an alternate payee, your assessment may be inaccurate.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you are a participant in the Collins Pension Plan, and choose a projection date prior to your normal retirement date, your projected benefits will not be actuarially reduced.** However, if you begin your benefits prior to your normal retirement date, they will be reduced in accordance with plan provisions and policies.
- **If you are a participant in the Collins Pension Plan, you must be vested to receive a benefit from the plan.** See the [Collins Pension Plan for Missionaries Plan Document](#) for information regarding the vesting rules.

## Understanding Your Retirement Readiness Assessment

When you open the book titled, *Your Personal Guide to Maximizing Your Retirement Benefits*, you'll find an assessment consisting of two parts:

- Determine How Much You May Need
- Take Steps To Improve Your Future

### Determine How Much You May Need

The *Determine How Much You May Need* page has two bars. The bar on the left shows potential retirement income if the investment market performs poorly, and the bar on the right shows potential retirement income if the market experiences average performance. This provides a range of results, but actual investment market performance can fall outside of the range depicted.

The colored portions of each bar represent estimated monthly income from Social Security\* and Wespath-administered retirement plans in which you participate. You can scroll over each section to view the plan name and the estimated dollar value. The total value appears at the bottom of each bar.

The figure between the bars represents your estimated retirement income goal. If there is a gap between the goal and the estimated monthly income, there will be a shaded portion. This is the amount that must be made up from personal savings or benefits from other employer retirement plans in which you may have participated.

The page to the right says *Customize Your Goal*. The tool defaults to an estimated retirement income goal of 85% of the compensation you are projected to earn in the year prior to retirement. The tool assumes that you will not have subsidized retirement medical insurance—but if you indicate you will have subsidized coverage by selecting “yes,” the goal is reduced to 80%. The goal already assumes average housing costs, health care expenses and discretionary expenses. But if you feel that your anticipated costs in retirement for any of these items will be higher or lower than average, use the sliders to increase or decrease that goal to make it better fit your situation. Moving the sliders to the right increases the goal; moving them to the left decreases the goal. For more detailed information regarding the assumptions used to project your retirement income and used by the sliders, see the [current assumptions](#).

Your current annual plan compensation is usually pre-filled for you, but if it is missing or incorrect, input the correct amount. If you are a clergyperson, your compensation has been increased by 25% to represent the value of a parsonage or a housing allowance provided in lieu of a parsonage. Changes that you make in the projection tool will not change the data held in our recordkeeping system. If you need to change or correct your actual personal information, contact your employer or salary-paying unit or Wespath.

Most participants will be eligible to receive Social Security benefits upon retirement. The Retirement Readiness Tool may project the value of future Social Security benefits based on current annual plan compensation, if provided.\*

### Take Steps to Improve Your Future

The *Take Steps to Improve Your Future* page is similar to the *Determine How Much You May Need* page. The page to the right says *Close the Gap*. You may add other sources of retirement savings that you may have (e.g., in an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or prior employer retirement plan) to begin to close the gap.

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\* Social Security projections are not shown for participants who:

- notified us they are ineligible via the LifeStage Personal Investment Profile

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- *are not U.S. citizens and are serving as, or served as, missionaries or central conference Jurisdictional bishops through The General Board of Global Ministries.*

Use the sliders to see other ways to close the gap between your goal and your projected retirement income.

**Retirement Age:** The slider is defaulted to your normal retirement age or to your current age if you have already reached normal retirement age. Slide the slider to the right to see how retiring at a later age will help close the gap, or slide it to the left to see the potential impact of retiring sooner. **If you are a clergy person**, the tool assumes that you will retire on the retirement date of your Annual Conference that follows your attainment of the age selected.

**Personal Contributions:** The slider is set to your current level of contributions to your Wespath-administered retirement plans. If your conference or employer offers Automatic Contribution Escalation, the tool assumes that your contribution percentage increases each year (up to the cap amount) for projection purposes—even if you opt out of the increase. Slide the slider to the right to see how increasing your contributions will help close the gap. Or slide it to the left to see the impact of reducing your contributions.

**Investment Risk Tolerance:** The slider will default to your current LifeStage Investment Management risk tolerance setting if you have one. If not, it will be set to moderate. Slide it to the right to see the theoretical impact of investing more aggressively, or to the left to see the theoretical impact of investing more conservatively. The real impact, however, depends on the volatility and returns of the investment markets.



## Annual Retirement Readiness Statements

Annual Retirement Readiness Statements are a projection of your retirement income and income needs based on the Retirement Readiness Tool in Benefits Access. The statements are sent annually; you will receive a statement in February, May, August or November based on your birth month. Copies of your Annual Retirement Readiness Statements are also archived on the **Statements** page in Benefits Access.

### Eligibility

In order to receive a statement, you must:

- Be actively serving/employed with a conference, church or other organization that sponsors one of the Wespath-administered retirement plans
- Have an accrued defined benefit pension or annuity or an account balance related to one of the Wespath-administered retirement plans
- Have plan compensation on file with Wespath
- Not be in the “intends to retire” status
- Be eligible to use the Retirement Readiness Tool

### Methodology

The statements are designed to reflect the same defaults, assumptions and methodology as the Retirement Readiness Tool. See the preceding section for further details.

We encourage you to customize your projection by using the Retirement Readiness Tool or by working with EY Financial Planning Services.



## Retirement Benefits Projection

The Retirement Benefits Projection estimates your benefits from Wespath-administered retirement plans. It provides a more detailed look at these benefits than that provided by the Retirement Readiness Tool. When you're ready to dig even deeper, we recommend speaking to an advisor at [EY Financial Planning Services](#).

You are encouraged to rerun your benefits projection periodically, so you know where you stand and so you get a sense for how your estimated benefits can vary. Try using different growth rates to see the impact of the markets. You also may consider using different savings rates to see how increasing your contributions can increase your financial security in retirement.

### Limitations of the Retirement Benefits Projection

- **This is only an estimate.** Your actual retirement benefits will likely be different.

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- **This is not a guarantee of benefits.** This does not guarantee plan eligibility, benefits or the eligibility of your spouse for surviving spouse benefits.
- **Plan provisions and policies govern.** Wespath endeavors to use reasonable assumptions and accurate data, plan rules and programming in producing this statement. However, actual benefits will be paid in accordance with plan provisions and policies.
- **You should re-run the assessment periodically.** Investment results will differ and assumptions may change.
- **If you were a terminated clergy person who has returned to active service, your projection may be inaccurate.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you were on a leave of absence and did not return to service/employment when you leave ended, your projection may be overstated.** Contact Wespath for further information.
- **If you are a participant who is also eligible for a benefit due to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO) as an alternate payee, your assessment may be inaccurate.** Contact Wespath for further information.

## Understanding Your Personalized Retirement Benefits Projection Statement

Your projection statement will include up to three sections:

- Lifetime Income
- Account Balance(s)
- Understanding the Value of the Estimated Amounts

The **Lifetime Income** section appears only if you participate in one of the following plans:

- Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Benefit (CRSP DB)
- Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) Annuity
- Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82)
- Collins Pension Plan for Missionaries (Collins)

The Lifetime Income section shows the estimated monthly benefits for any of the above plans in which you participate. The benefits are payable for your lifetime, and in some cases, for the lifetime of your spouse, should he or she outlive you.

The **Account Balance(s)** section appears only if you participate in one of the following plans:

- Clergy Retirement Security Program Defined Contribution (CRSP DC)
- Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP)
- Retirement Plan for General Agencies (RPGA)
- United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP)
- Horizon 401(k) Plan (Horizon)

These plans are defined contribution plans. If you elected for purposes of this projection to receive a lump sum or partial lump sum distributions, the projected account balance at your Benefits Commencement Date is shown under "Estimated Account Balance." If instead you elected to receive monthly installments, the "Estimated Monthly Installments" amount is determined using the LifeStage Retirement Income Calculator. Please note that the calculator assumes that your account is invested by LifeStage Investment Management. If you do not invest through LifeStage Investment Management, the calculator may not accurately reflect your situation. Consequently, your account may be exhausted prematurely if you take distributions equal to the "Estimated Monthly Installments." Installment payments end when your account runs out of money.

The **Understanding the Value of the Estimated Amounts** section displays your total estimated account balances and your total estimated monthly income. The estimated monthly income combines both your estimated monthly lifetime benefits and your estimated monthly installments. Remember that your estimated monthly installments are not guaranteed for life.

Your estimated account balances and monthly income are projected forward to your Benefits Commencement Date. They are "future dollars." When you begin receiving your benefits in the future, products and services will cost more than they do today. That makes it difficult to determine whether those projected benefits will be enough to live on in

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the future. So we calculate for you the equivalent value of your estimated monthly income in today's dollars. Consider whether you could live on the amount shown as "Equivalent Value in Today's Dollars" if you were to retire today.

Another way to assess the value of the estimated amounts is to look at the percentage of your pre-retirement income it will replace. Most experts say that you will need retirement income of at least 85% of the income you received while working to maintain your current lifestyle in retirement. This retirement income comes from Wespath-administered retirement plans, any other retirement plans of prior employers, IRAs, Social Security, and your personal savings. The percentage shown as the "Estimated Income Replacement Ratio" estimates how much will be supplied by Wespath-administered retirement plans.

Remember that you may also be eligible to receive Social Security benefits when you retire. You may want to review your annual Social Security benefits projection. Note, however, that your Social Security benefits projection uses different methodology than the Retirement Benefits Projection. For more information on how Social Security estimates your benefits visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

## Understanding How the Tool Works

In order to estimate your benefits, the Retirement Benefits Projection uses data and assumptions—some that you input and some that Benefits Access provides.

- **Participant Selected Input**—As you use the Retirement Benefits Projection, you will be asked a series of questions to gather personal data, which will be used to produce Your Personalized Retirement Benefits Projection Statement. The Participant Selected Input used to estimate your retirement benefits appears on the second page of your statement. Be sure to keep the input page with the statement. Changes to the input can cause dramatically different results, so it's important to know, for example, what Benefits Commencement Date, savings rate, and growth rates you chose to produce that particular statement. See the explanation of Participant Selected Input Data for further details.
- **System Determined Input**—The Retirement Benefits Projection also uses certain data and assumptions that you cannot change to produce Your Personalized Retirement Benefits Projection Statement. The System Determined Input used to estimate your retirement benefits appears on the third page of your statement. Be sure to keep this page with your statement. The data will change over time (e.g., as your account balances change). Assumptions also will change from time to time. For example, assumptions may change if the annuity conversion interest factor used for balances in the Ministerial Pension Plan changes. The annuity conversion interest factor changes with interest rates and certain growth rates used to project account balances are subject to change as the long-term expectations for the investment markets change. Changes to the System Determined Input also may cause dramatically different results, so it's a good idea to produce projections once a year. See the explanation of System Determined Input Data for further details.

## Participant Selected Input Data

### Important Considerations

- **Data changes are only for purposes of this projection.** The Retirement Benefits Projection pre-fills data for you as a convenience, but you may change that data to better reflect your situation, or to reflect your situation as you expect it to change in the future. Changes that you make in the projection tool will not change the data held in our recordkeeping system. If you need to change or correct your actual personal information, contact your employer or salary-paying unit or Wespath.
- **Benefit elections are only for purposes of this projection.** The Retirement Benefits Projection asks you to choose distribution options. When you complete your *Application for Benefits* at the time of retirement, you will enter the choices that impact your actual benefits.

### Data You Can Modify

- **Personal Information:** This information has been pre-filled for you, but you can change it to better reflect your situation. For example, if you will be marrying soon, you can change your marital status. And while the compensation shown is already assumed to increase over time, you may want to change it if you expect your compensation to decrease, or if you expect a particularly large increase in the near future. If there is no compensation displayed in the Total Current Compensation field, please fill it in for the best projection results. (Some employers do not provide compensation data.)
- **Benefits Commencement Date:** The tool automatically selects your normal retirement date, which is generally age 65, or the earlier of age 65 or completion of 40 years of service. You can change the Benefits Commencement

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Date for purposes of this projection to the first of any month. If you are active, the system assumes that you will continue to serve in your current position until the Benefits Commencement Date you input. The date cannot be before attaining clergy eligibility for early retirement (the earlier of age 62 or completion of 30 years of service) or your 55<sup>th</sup> birthday and the date cannot be after your 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Your Benefits Commencement Date can significantly impact your benefit amounts:

- If you choose a date prior to your normal retirement date, your benefits, if any, from CRSP DB and Pre-82 will be **actuarially reduced** to reflect the longer period of time during which you will be receiving benefits. Collins Pension for Missionaries (Collins) benefit projections will not reflect an actuarial reduction; however, actual benefits will be reduced if they begin before normal retirement age.
  - The earlier you retire, the fewer years you have to accumulate contributions in CRSP DC, UMPIP, RPGA or Horizon. You also extend the number of years you will be drawing down those account balances.
  - If you retire early, you also will have fewer years to invest your account balances in CRSP DC, UMPIP, MPP, RPGA or Horizon. Of course, since investment returns both increase and decrease, this does not necessarily mean that retiring later will result in a larger account balance.
- **Personal Contributions:** This tool pre-fills the current contribution dollar amount or percentage that Wespath has on file for you. In some cases, we do not have this data from your employer or salary-paying unit, or in some cases the data we have is not up to date. If your conference or employer offers Automatic Contribution Escalation, the tool assumes that your contribution percentage increases each year (up to the cap amount) for projection purposes. You may enter a different annual contribution increase percentage and maximum percentage for your projection. This data does not impact the amount that is deducted from your paycheck or the amount that is deposited to your account. Feel free to enter the amount that you actually contribute or to try increasing the amount to see the impact larger contributions may have on your projected retirement income.
  - **Growth Rates:** Growth rates or investment earnings are assumptions regarding the investment returns (interest and gains or losses) that your accounts may experience. However, actual investment results, rarely match any growth rate you may select. Returns fluctuate with market performance, hopefully producing an average growth rate that is similar to what is reflected on your projection. However, since no one can accurately predict investment returns, you should consider running your projections using various growth rates, so you can see the potential for different results.
  - **CRSP DB Distribution Options:** CRSP participants are asked to enter the distribution option they would like to model. The choices, simplified for purposes of the projection, are as follows:

CRSP DB Distribution Option	Explanation	Availability
Single-life	Monthly benefit paid to participant for life.* Upon death of the participant, no further benefits are paid.	Only unmarried participants can actually receive a single-life benefit (except that married participants can receive a single-life benefit for service on or after January 1, 2014 with spousal consent), but married participants can select this option for purposes of the projection by changing marital status.
Life and 70%	<b>For service prior to January 1, 2014—</b> Monthly benefit paid to participant for life.* Upon death of the participant, his or her spouse at the time the benefit was set up will receive 70% of the participant's monthly benefit payable for his or her life.	The projection only permits married participants to elect to receive a benefit in this form, but unmarried participants can select this option for purposes of the projection by changing marital status.  <b>Note: Clergy with service both before and after January 1, 2014 will receive a combined benefit, where an actuarial reduction for a spousal benefit will only be applied to the benefit earned for service after December 31, 2013.</b>
	<b>For service on or after January 1, 2014—</b> Monthly benefit paid to participant for life but actuarially reduced to reflect the value of the surviving spouse benefit.* Upon death of the participant, his or her spouse at the time the benefit was set up will receive 70% of the participant's monthly benefit payable for his or her life.	
Life and 100%	Monthly benefit paid to participant for life but actuarially reduced to reflect the higher spousal benefit.* Upon death of the participant, his or her spouse at the time the benefit was set up will receive 100% of the participant's monthly benefit payable for his or her life.	The projections only permits married participants to elect to receive a benefit in this form, but unmarried participants can select this option for purposes of the projection by changing marital status.

\* If you are actively serving as a clergyperson, the Retirement Benefits Projection assumes that you will continue to serve until the Benefits Commencement Date you enter. If you terminate your service prior to this time, your benefit

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*may be considerably less than the amount shown. The benefit may be reduced in the case of a Life and 70% or Life and 100% option, to pay for the surviving spouse benefit. The benefit will also be reduced if the benefit begins before your normal retirement date.*

CRSP participants are also asked to choose a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). If you meet the criteria for early retirement by continuing to serve until you are at least age 62 or until you have at least 30 years of credited service, you will receive an automatic 2% COLA. If you terminate your service prior to meeting the criteria, you will not receive an automatic COLA. If you retire and choose a COLA higher than 2%, or if you terminate and choose any COLA, your benefit will be actuarially reduced.

- **MPP Distribution Options:** MPP participants are asked to choose the MPP distribution option they would like to model. You must annuitize **exactly 65%** of your MPP account balance. The annuity choices, simplified for the projection, are as follows:

MPP Distribution Option	Explanation	Availability
Single-life	Monthly benefit paid to participant for life. Upon death of the participant, no further benefits are paid.	A single-life annuity is the normal form of benefit for an unmarried participant. A married participant can actually choose a single-life annuity only with written spousal consent, but married participants can select this option without spousal consent for purposes of the projection.
Life and 70%	Monthly benefit paid to participant for life, actuarially reduced to reflect the spousal benefit. Upon death of the participant, his or her spouse at the time the benefit was set up will receive 70% of the participant's monthly benefit payable for his or her life.	Only married participants can project a benefit in this form, but unmarried participants can select this option for purposes of the projection by changing marital status.
Life and 100%	Monthly benefit paid to participant for life, actuarially reduced to reflect the spousal benefit. Upon death of the participant, his or her spouse at the time the benefit was set up will receive 100% of the participant's monthly benefit payable for his or her life.	Only married participants can project a benefit in this form, but unmarried participants can select this option for purposes of the projection by changing marital status.

MPP participants also are asked to choose a cost of living adjustment (COLA). Your benefit will be actuarially reduced to reflect the COLA that you choose. The higher the COLA, the larger the reduction of your benefit.

Lastly, MPP participants are asked to provide information on the portion of their MPP account that is not converted to an annuity. You must annuitize **exactly 65%** of your account balance. The remaining 35% may be taken as a lump sum distribution or rolled into UMPIP to set up cash installments or to be invested until such time as you would like to access the funds.

At retirement, you may make a one-time election for your remaining account balance. Your options at retirement, simplified for purposes of the projection, are as follows:

What do you plan to do with the remainder of your MPP account balance?	Choose this option if you plan to:	How it will be reported on your projection
Lump sum or partial distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the remainder in cash</li> <li>• Roll the remainder over to UMPIP, an IRA or another qualified employer retirement plan and then take distributions as needed</li> </ul>	Reported as Estimated Account Balance
Monthly installments until the account is exhausted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll the remainder over to UMPIP, an IRA or another qualified employer retirement plan and then take regular cash installments</li> </ul>	Reported as Estimated Monthly Installments, assumed to be paid through LifeStage Retirement Income



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- **DC Account Distribution Options:** The Defined Contribution Account includes any balances you may have in CRSP DC, UMPIP, RPGA and Horizon. At retirement or termination, you may make separate distribution elections for each of these plans, but for purposes of this projection, they are grouped together. Your projection choices are as follows:

What do you plan to do with your DC account balance?	Choose this option if you plan to:	How it will be reported on your projection
Lump sum or partial distributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the balance in a lump sum or partial distributions as needed</li> <li>• Combine all account balances in UMPIP and then take distributions as needed</li> <li>• Roll the balance over to an IRA or another qualified employer retirement plan and then take distributions as needed</li> </ul>	Reported as Estimated Account Balance
Monthly installments until the account is exhausted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take regular installments</li> <li>• Combine all account balances in UMPIP and then take regular installments</li> <li>• Roll the remainder over to an IRA or another qualified employer retirement plan and then take regular installments</li> </ul>	Reported as Estimated Monthly Installments, assumed to be paid through LifeStage Retirement Income

## System Determined Input Data

### Important Considerations

- **You cannot change System Determined Input.** If you believe there is an error in the data used, contact your employer or salary-paying unit or Wespath. If you do not feel that the assumptions used are appropriate, consider contacting [EY Financial Planning Services](#) to develop a custom projection.
- **Plan provisions and policies govern.** Wespath endeavors to provide accurate data for items such as plan sponsor contribution rates, credited service and past service rates. In the event of any differences between the System Determined Input shown on your projection, and that indicated in retirement plan provisions or policies; however, the plans and policies will govern.
- **You are assumed to continue to serve/work in your current capacity until the Benefits Commencement Date you input.** If you terminate service or employment, change your appointment percentage or take a different assignment or position prior to the Benefits Commencement Date, your benefits could be considerably less than shown.
- **Assumptions differ based on Benefits Commencement Date chosen.** To better tailor the projection to individual participants, the system uses three sets of assumptions based on the amount of time between the date you produce the projection and the Benefits Commencement Date you input. When you change your Benefits Commencement Date and cross from short-term to mid-term or from mid-term to long-term (see explanation below), the assumptions used in your projections may change, even if the projections are run on the same date.

Years Until Benefits Commencement Date	Assumptions
Short-term (0 to 5 years)	Reflect current market conditions
Mid-term (more than 5 to 15 years)	Take a longer-term market view
Long-term (more than 15 years)	Take a longer-term market view

- **Assumptions change from time to time.** Wespath monitors trends in investment returns and annuity conversion interest factors, and changes the assumptions as needed. Changing assumptions can significantly impact projected benefits. Repeat your projection periodically. See the [current assumptions](#).

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## Variable System Data

- **Personal Information:** The system uses the date of birth that Wespath has on file for you. Your Projected Compensation will be calculated using the Total Current Compensation and the compensation growth rate that you input.
- **Plan Sponsor Contributions:** The system shows the plan sponsor contribution rates specified in the plan document or the plan sponsor's adoption agreement. If you have any questions concerning the contribution rates shown, please contact your plan sponsor.
- **CRSP DB Values:** This section will appear if you participate in CRSP.
  - **Annuity Conversion Interest Factor:** This rate is used to determine optional benefit forms of equal value.
  - **Current Credited Service:** The number of years of eligible credited service on file for you for CRSP DB. For further information on the rules for calculating credited service, see the [Clergy Retirement Security Program \(CRSP\) Summary Plan Description](#).
  - **Jurisdictional bishop Compensation:** If you are a Jurisdictional bishop, your "base salary" is the amount established by the General Council on Finance and Administration plus a parsonage value of 25% of your base salary. This compensation amount may be different than the compensation amount used to determine defined contributions if you receive a housing allowance from the conference:
    - In lieu of living in the Episcopal residence, or
    - In addition to living in the Episcopal residence.
  - **Projected Credited Service:** If you are still serving in an eligible capacity, the system takes your current credited service and increases it by the number of years left until you reach the Benefits Commencement Date that you input.
  - **Current Jurisdictional bishop Credited Service:** If you had eligible service in CRSP DB as a Jurisdictional bishop, your years of credited service will be displayed.
  - **Projected Jurisdictional bishop Credited Service:** If you are still serving as a Jurisdictional bishop, the system takes your current credited service as a Jurisdictional bishop and increases it by the number of years left until you reach the Benefits Commencement Date that you input.
  - **DAC used for calculations:** This is the Denominational Average Compensation (DAC) for the current year (if you are actively serving) or for the last year in which you actively served.
  - **DAC Growth Rate:** CRSP DB benefits are based on the DAC for the last year in which you served the denomination as a clergyperson. This is the rate used to estimate how the DAC for the current year may increase over time. If you are no longer actively serving the denomination as a clergyperson, the DAC used to calculate your benefits will not be projected.
  - **Projected DAC:** The estimated DAC for the last year in which you are assumed to serve the denomination as a clergyperson.
- **MPP Values:** This section will appear if you have an account balance in MPP. The annuity conversion interest factor is the rate used to convert your MPP account balance to an annuity. The rate is based on market interest rates. The higher the rate, the higher your monthly annuity payments will be. Changes in this rate can dramatically increase or decrease your benefits, so you may want to rerun the projection periodically. The actual rate used to calculate your benefits is the rate in effect at your actual Benefits Commencement Date.
- **DC Account Values:** This section will appear if you have a Defined Contribution Account. The monthly installment rate is the rate used to convert your DC account balances to installment payments for purposes of this projection. When you begin your DC benefits, you will have various distribution options. For purposes of this projection, your distributions are assumed to be made using LifeStage Retirement Income. Please note that LifeStage Retirement Income requires you to invest your account balance with LifeStage Investment Management. If you do not invest through LifeStage Investment Management, this projection may not accurately reflect your situation. Consequently, your account may be exhausted prematurely if you take distributions equal to the amount projected. Installment payments end when your account runs out of money.

# Benefits Access

- **Collins Values:** This section will display if you have completed service as a missionary eligible to participate in Collins.

*Note: You must be vested to receive a benefit from the plan. See the [Collins Pension Plan for Missionaries Plan Document](#) for information regarding the vesting rules.*

- **Current Credited Service:** The number of months of eligible credited service on file for you in Collins. For further information on the rules for calculating credited service, see the [Collins Pension Plan for Missionaries Plan Document](#).
- **Projected Credited Service:** If you are serving as an eligible missionary, the system takes your current credited service and increases it by the number of years left until you reach the Benefits Commencement Date that you input. The system assumes that you will continue to serve as an eligible missionary until your Benefits Commencement Date. If you leave eligible service prior to then, your actual credited service and benefits may be considerably less than shown.

*Note: Missionaries who, as of January 1, 2014, had not attained age 50 and earned at least 15 years of Collins credited service will not accrue any additional credited service.*

- **Past Service Rate:** Collins bases benefits on your credited service multiplied by the current past service rate. This rate may be increased by The General Board of Global Ministries from time to time.

- **Pre-82 Plan Values:** This section will appear if you have credited service in the Pre-82 Plan (Pre-82). Your Pre-82 benefit will be the greater of your formula benefit (Pre-82 credited service times the past service rate) or your Defined Benefit Service Money (DBSM), if any, converted to an annuity. Your benefit from each annual conference for which you have Pre-82 service is calculated separately. The number that appears in parentheses after certain captions denotes the applicable annual conference. Note: If you are actively serving as a clergyperson, the system assumes that you will continue to serve as clergy until the Benefits Commencement Date you input. If you terminate service prior to age 62 or to completing 30 years of eligible service, you may not be vested, in which case you will not receive a Pre-82 benefit. See the [Clergy Retirement Security Program \(CRSP\) Summary Plan Description](#) for information regarding the Pre-82 vesting rules.

- **Annuity Conversion Interest Factor:** The annuity conversion interest factor is the rate used to convert your DBSM balance to an annuity.
- **DBSM Growth Rate:** The investment rate of return assumption used to project your DBSM balance.
- **Past Service Growth Rate:** This is the assumption used to predict how the past service rate will increase from now until your Benefits Commencement Date. Each conference sets its own past service rate. While Pre-82 does not permit past service rates to be decreased, it does not require that they be increased, except under specific circumstances.
- **DBSM Balance:** The current DBSM Balance, which is multiplied by the DBSM Growth Rate, results in your projected balance which is converted to an annuity.
- **Current Past Service Rate:** The current past service rate for the applicable annual conference.
- **Projected Past Service Rate:** The past service rate increased by the Past Service Rate Growth Rate up to the Benefits Commencement Date you input.
- **Credited Service:** The years of eligible Pre-82 credited service for the applicable annual conference.
- **Surviving Spouse Benefit Percentage:** Upon your death, this is the benefit percentage that your spouse will receive, if still living. Your spouse is eligible to receive this benefit only if you married that spouse before you ceased serving under Episcopal appointment, and you must still be married to that spouse when you retire and commence benefits. Each annual conference chooses the applicable percentage.
- **QDRO Deductions:** This is the amount, if any, that is required to be paid to an alternate payee pursuant to a Qualified Domestic Relations Order.



# Benefits Access

## LifeStage Retirement Income

As you move from saving for retirement to spending in retirement, you have the option to elect LifeStage Retirement Income, a no-cost service\* that automatically issues monthly benefit payments from your Defined Contribution Account. LifeStage Retirement Income seeks to make your account last for your lifetime, similar to pension payments, while being adjusted based on the cost-of-living.

### Limitations of LifeStage Retirement Income

- **This is not a guarantee of lifetime income or annual increases.** While LifeStage Retirement Income seeks to make your account last for your lifetime and provide cost-of-living increases, it is not an annuity. Neither lifetime income nor cost of living increases are guaranteed.
- **Payment amounts may decrease.** While payments are designed to increase annually to keep up with changes in the cost of living, payments can decrease if your account balance is lowered due to lower investment returns or withdrawals from your defined contribution account.
- **You must use LifeStage Investment Management.** If you do not use LifeStage Investment Management, you are not eligible for LifeStage Retirement Income.
- **You must consolidate your Defined Contribution Account balances.** If you have accounts in multiple plans such as CRSP DC, RPGA, and Horizon, you must consolidate these accounts into UMPIP to qualify for either LifeStage Retirement Income or Self-Managed Retirement Income. If you do not already have a UMPIP account, one will be set up for you.
- **Payments may be increased due to required minimum distribution rules.** Once you reach age 70½, if your annual payments are less than the required minimum distribution, you will receive an additional payment to make up the difference. This amount should be invested and saved for future years, or you may exhaust your retirement savings prematurely.
- **Assumptions and methodology may change.** Wespath monitors trends in investment returns and longevity, and modifies these assumptions as necessary. We may also change the method for calculating payments. Changes to the assumptions and methodology can impact your monthly payment amounts.

### How LifeStage Retirement Income Works

LifeStage Retirement Income performs a statistical analysis to determine your monthly payments. It calculates a range of monthly payment amounts, based upon your current Defined Contribution Account balance, your age at the time your payments will begin, and your target investment asset allocation as determined by LifeStage Investment Management. The calculation assumes that your starting payment amount will be adjusted annually for inflation and targets having enough money to potentially purchase a lifetime annuity at the later of 10 years into the future or age 85. The assumption that you will purchase an annuity is for modeling purposes only, with the understanding that it is unlikely that you will actually purchase such an annuity. The cost of the annuity is calculated using a set of assumptions.

#### Payment Safety Zone

LifeStage Retirement Income runs 5,000 simulations of various possible future market conditions and investment returns for various asset classes to determine the payment safety zone. For this purpose, asset classes are described by their returns, volatility, and correlation with other asset classes. To find out the expected investment returns for individual asset classes, see [“current assumptions.”](#)

The payment safety zone is a range of payment amounts that you can receive based on the probability of running out of money. For this purpose, “running out of money” is not defined as having a zero account balance. It is defined as no longer having an account balance large enough to purchase the full theoretical annuity. The payment safety zone is that range of payments that fall between a one in 100 chance of “running out of money” and a one in three chance of “running out of money.” Your initial payment amount will be the amount in the middle of the payment safety zone.

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\* Costs for these services are included in Wespath’s operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.

# Benefits Access

## Payment Recalculations

Each November, your payment safety zone for the following year will be recalculated based on your UMPIP account balance, your age and your target investment asset allocation. Your payment amount will be increased for inflation, if applicable. Then, it will be adjusted to remain in the payment safety zone. If investment returns are low and have caused a significant decline in your account balance, your payment may be reduced. If investment returns are high and have caused a significant increase in your account balance, you may receive a payment increase that is greater than the cost-of-living increase.

If you take a partial distribution while you are receiving LifeStage Retirement Income payments, your payment amount will be recalculated, and will likely be reduced. If you roll over money from an outside Individual Retirement Account or another qualified retirement plan, your payment amount will also be recalculated and may be increased.

## Reserve Amounts

You may elect to set aside up to 20% of your UMPIP account balances as a reserve for a future purchase or as a contingency fund. If you do so, this money will not be considered when calculating your initial monthly payment amount. If you set up this reserve after you have already set up your monthly payments, your payment amount will be recalculated. If you elect to take a partial distribution, it will be taken from the reserve first. Your monthly payment amount will likely decrease if the distribution exceeds the amount of your reserve.

## LifeStage Retirement Income Calculator

The LifeStage Retirement Income Calculator determines the amount that your monthly payments would be if you used LifeStage Retirement Income. You can use the calculator either to help you estimate the monthly income you might receive through LifeStage Retirement Income, or to help you choose a monthly payment amount if you self-manage your monthly payments. The calculator is based on the same assumptions and methodology as used for LifeStage Retirement Income.

### Limitations of the LifeStage Retirement Income Calculator

- **Results may not be applicable to your situation.** If you do not invest through LifeStage Investment Management, the calculator results may not accurately reflect your situation. Your account balance may be exhausted prematurely if you take payments equal to the amount calculated.
- **Amounts calculated must be revisited.** If you use the calculator to determine the payment amount that you will take as self-managed installments, you should review the calculation just before submitting your application for benefits. Once you begin taking your payments, you should consult the calculator annually to determine whether your payment amount should be adjusted. Poor investment returns may require a reduced payment amount.
- **Assumptions and methodology may change.** Wespath monitors trends in investment returns and longevity, and changes the assumptions concerning them as needed. We may also change the way in which payments are calculated. Changing assumptions and methodology can impact monthly payment amounts produced by the calculator.

# Benefits Access

## Definitions

### **Actuarially Reduced**

To actuarially reduce a benefit is to calculate the amount of the benefit reduction necessary when a benefit is paid earlier than normal or with a special option so that the expected total cost to the retirement plan is equivalent to the cost if the benefit began at the normal time and in the unadjusted form.

### **CRSP**

Clergy Retirement Security Program. CRSP includes both a defined benefit and a defined contribution plan. Most clergy serving UMC local churches and annual conferences are covered by CRSP.

### **CRSP DB**

The defined benefit component of CRSP.

### **CRSP DC**

The defined contribution component of CRSP.

### **Defined Benefit**

A defined benefit retirement plan is one in which you receive a certain lifetime benefit upon retiring based on a formula using certain factors (e.g., a fixed rate and length of employment). Your plan sponsor must prudently plan to fund this future benefit. Your plan sponsor bears the investment risk and the risk of whether funds will be sufficient for participants to collect benefits until death.

### **Defined Contribution**

A defined contribution retirement plan is one in which a certain amount or percentage of your compensation is contributed to an account in your name by your plan sponsor and/or by you. Upon retiring you have access to your account balance, which consists of your contributions plus investment earnings. You bear the investment risk and the risk that you may outlive your account balance.

### **Early Retirement**

For clergy and Jurisdictional bishops, early retirement can be taken the first of the month following the date the participant attains age 62 or completes 30 years of service toward retirement.

For lay employees, early retirement is considered to be the first of the month following the date the participant attains age 55. However, lay employees may take a distribution from their defined contribution plans at any time following termination of employment. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) penalties may apply if the participant is younger than age 55 at termination and does not roll the distribution over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or another qualified employer retirement plan.

### **EY Financial Planning Services**

Eligible participants in Wespath-administered retirement plans can receive confidential financial planning assistance at no additional cost\* from [EY Financial Planning Services](#) (EY), a leading global financial services firm.

### **Horizon**

The Horizon 401(k) Plan. Horizon provides retirement benefits and savings opportunities to employees of United Methodist churches and church-related organizations, including eligible for-profit organizations.

### **LifeStage Investment Management**

Wespath uses LifeStage Investment Management to determine an appropriate investment mix for participants with balances in the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP). LifeStage Investment Management is an optional service offered to you at no additional cost\* for managing Wespath-administered (non-MPP) defined contribution retirement account(s).

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\* Costs for these services are included in Wespath's operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.

# Benefits Access

## Monthly Projected Social Security Benefits

Social Security benefits are assumed to commence at Social Security Normal Retirement Age. Future year earnings are assumed to be constant. Prior year earnings are estimated based upon current earnings and historical national average wage increases. For more information on how your benefits are calculated visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

Estimated Monthly Social Security Benefit Amounts at Social Security Normal Retirement Age						
Age in 2015	Annual Earnings in 2015					
	\$20,000	\$35,000	\$50,000	\$65,000	\$80,000	\$118,500
30	1,012	1,412	1,812	2,138	2,325	2,806
35	1,010	1,408	1,807	2,135	2,321	2,801
40	1,006	1,401	1,797	2,129	2,314	2,789
45	1,002	1,395	1,788	2,123	2,307	2,777
50	998	1,388	1,778	2,117	2,300	2,761
55	994	1,381	1,769	2,111	2,293	2,743
60	990	1,373	1,757	2,104	2,284	2,717
61	989	1,372	1,755	2,103	2,282	2,712
62	988	1,371	1,753	2,102	2,281	2,707
63	993	1,377	1,761	2,111	2,291	2,717
64	978	1,357	1,736	2,080	2,257	2,673
65	966	1,340	1,714	2,052	2,228	2,633
66	977	1,356	1,735	2,076	2,254	2,657
67	974	1,352	1,729	2,071	2,248	2,638

Linear interpolation is used to estimate benefit amounts for ages and earnings between those shown in this table.

### Normal Retirement

For clergy, generally, normal retirement can begin June or July 1 (depending on the participant's member conference) on or after the date on which the participant attains age 65 or completes 40 years of service toward retirement. However, if your member conference has a June 1 retirement date, you may commence benefits on June 1 if you will attain age 65 or complete 40 years of service toward retirement on or before July 1 of the same year.

For Jurisdictional bishops, normal retirement can begin September 1 of the quadrennial year (2012, 2016, 2020...) in which a Jurisdictional bishop has attained age 68 on or before July 1 of that same quadrennial year, or it can begin September 1 of the next quadrennial year (in four years).

For lay employees, normal retirement can begin on the first of the month following the date the participant attains age 65.

For Collins participants, normal retirement age is the first of the month coincident with or following Social Security Normal Retirement Age.

### RMD

Required Minimum Distribution. The amount required by the Internal Revenue Service to be distributed from retirement plans each year upon attainment of age 70½ or retirement, whichever is later.

### RPGA

Retirement Plan for General Agencies, a defined contribution retirement plan for lay and clergy employees of United Methodist general agencies.

### Social Security Normal Retirement Age

Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA) gradually increases from age 65 for people born before 1938 to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. More information about Social Security benefits and retirement age is available at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### UMPIP

United Methodist Personal Investment Plan, a defined contribution retirement plan for clergy and lay employees of United Methodist churches, general agencies and other Church-related organizations.



# Benefits Access

## Current Assumptions

Retirement Readiness Tool			
Field Name	Years to Benefits Commencement Date	Possible Values	Default Value
Compensation growth rate		2.5%	n/a
CRSP DB annuity optional form interest factor		6.5%	n/a
CRSP DB cost-of-living adjustment		2% (0% if termination of conference relationship occurred)	n/a
CRSP DB formula rate*		For service before January 1, 2014: 1.25%	n/a
		For service on or after January 1, 2014: 1.00%	
CRSP DC matching contribution rate as of 1/1/2014		0% to 1% (based on UMPIP personal contribution rate)	n/a
CRSP DC non-matching contribution rate before 1/1/2014		3%	
CRSP DC non-matching contribution rate as of 1/1/2014		2%	n/a
DAC growth rate		2.5%	n/a
DBSM balance growth rate		4%	n/a
Discretionary expenses		-5%, 0%, 5%, 10%	0%
Health care expenses <b>with</b> subsidized retiree medical		0%, 5%, 10%	0%
Health care expenses <b>without</b> subsidized retiree medical		5%, 10%, 15%	5%
Housing costs		-10% to 30%, increments of 5%	0%
Investment returns in an <b>average</b> performing market – <b>conservative</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	4%	4%
	More than 5 to 15 years	5%	5%
	More than 15 years	6%	6%
Investment returns in an <b>average</b> performing market – <b>moderate</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	5%	5%
	More than 5 to 15 years	6%	6%
	More than 15 years	7%	7%
Investment returns in an <b>average</b> performing market – <b>aggressive</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	5.5%	5.5%
	More than 5 to 15 years	7%	7%
	More than 15 years	8%	8%
Investment returns in a <b>poorly</b> performing market – <b>conservative</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	-2%	-2%
	More than 5 to 15 years	2%	2%
	More than 15 years	3%	3%
Investment returns in a <b>poorly</b> performing market – <b>moderate</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	-2%	-2%
	More than 5 to 15 years	3%	3%
	More than 15 years	5%	5%
Investment returns in a <b>poorly</b> performing market – <b>aggressive</b> risk tolerance	0 to 5 years	-5%	-5%
	More than 5 to 15 years	3%	3%
	More than 15 years	5%	5%
Investment risk tolerance		Conservative, moderate, aggressive	Current LifeStage profile setting or moderate



# Benefits Access

Retirement Readiness Tool			
Field Name	Years to Benefits Commencement Date	Possible Values	Default Value
Monthly installment rate		As determined by LifeStage Retirement Income	n/a
MPP annuity conversion interest factor	0 to 5 years	<a href="#">Current market rate</a>	
	More than 5 to 15 years	4%	n/a
	More than 15 years	5%	n/a
MPP annuitization percentage		65%	n/a
MPP cost-of-living adjustment		2%	n/a
Personal contributions		0% to 20%, increments of 1%	Current contribution
Pre-82 DBSM annuity conversion interest factor	0 to 5 years	<a href="#">Current market rate</a>	
	More than 5 to 15 years	4%	n/a
	More than 15 years	5%	n/a
Pre-82 past service rate growth rate		1%	n/a
Retirement age		62 to 72	SSNRA or current age if older than SSNRA
Contribution rate annual increase percentage		0% to 100%, increments of 1%	0% or percentage elected by plan sponsor (even if you opt out)
Contribution rate maximum percentage		0% to 100%, increments of 1%	0% or percentage elected by plan sponsor (even if you opt out)

Retirement Benefits Projection			
Field Name	Years to Benefits Commencement Date	Possible Values	Default Value
Compensation growth rate	0 to 5 years	0% to 4%, increments of 1%	2.5%
	More than 5 to 15 years	2% to 4%, increments of 1%	2.5%
	More than 15 years	2% to 4%, increments of 1%	2.5%
CRSP DB annuity optional form interest factor		6.5%	n/a
CRSP DB cost-of-living adjustment		2%, 3%, 4%, 5%	2% (0% if terminated)
CRSP DB formula rate*		For service before January 1, 2014: 1.25%	n/a
		For service on or after January 1, 2014: 1.00%	
CRSP DC matching contribution rate as of 1/1/2014		0% to 1% (based on UMPIP contribution rate)	n/a
CRSP DC non-matching contribution rate before 1/1/2014		3%	
CRSP DC non-matching contribution rate as of 1/1/2014		2%	n/a
DAC growth rate		2.5%	n/a
DBSM balance growth rate		4%	n/a
DC account investment earnings growth rate	0 to 5 years	0% to 10%, increments of 1%	7%
	More than 5 to 15 years	0% to 10%, increments of 1%	7%
	More than 15 years	0% to 10%, increments of 1%	7%

# Benefits Access

Retirement Benefits Projection			
Field Name	Years to Benefits Commencement Date	Possible Values	Default Value
Inflation rate	0 to 5 years	2.5%	n/a
	More than 5 to 15 years	2.5%	n/a
	More than 15 years	2.5%	n/a
Monthly installment rate		As determined by LifeStage Retirement Income	n/a
MPP annuity conversion interest factor	0 to 5 years	<a href="#">Current market rate</a>	
	More than 5 to 15 years	4%	n/a
	More than 15 years	5%	n/a
MPP cost-of-living adjustment		0%, 2%, 3%, 4%, 5%	2%
MPP investment earnings growth rate	0 to 5 years	0% to 5%, increments of 1%	4%
	More than 5 to 15 years	0% to 5%, increments of 1%	4%
	More than 15 years	0% to 6%, increments of 1%	5%
Collins Pension growth rate		0%	0%
Personal contributions limit		The lesser of 100% of compensation or \$55,000 per year	n/a
Contribution rate annual increase percentage		0% to 100%, increments of 1%	0% or percentage elected by plan sponsor (even if you opt out)
Contribution rate maximum percentage		0% to 100%, increments of 1%	0% or percentage elected by plan sponsor (even if you opt out)
Pre-82 DBSM annuity conversion interest factor	0 to 5 years	<a href="#">Current market rate</a>	
	More than 5 to 15 years	4%	n/a
	More than 15 years	5%	n/a
Pre-82 past service rate growth rate		1%	n/a

\*Determined by plan rules. See the [Clergy Retirement Security Program \(CRSP\) Summary Plan Description](#) for information regarding the monthly benefit formula.



LifeStage Retirement Income Hypothetical Annuity Cost Assumptions	
Assumption	Current Value
Interest rate	1.00% below the mid-term AA corporate bond yield at annuity purchase as projected under each economic assumption scenario
Mortality assumption	RP2014 mortality table projected with MP2016, blended 70% male and 30% female