

Improve Your Financial Situation

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April 2017

## Improve Your Financial Situation with EY Guidance

Whether you're finishing up your taxes now or have completed them, you may have questions about the process or changes you can make to improve your financial situation.

Wespath offers you the opportunity to receive one-on-one, confidential, professional guidance at no cost\* from EY Financial Planning Services—a leading financial services firm specially-trained to handle questions from Wespath participants.

EY can provide tax planning ideas, such as:

- Adjusting your withholding could bolster your paycheck or save you from tax penalties



- The Saver's Credit could make your retirement contributions an even better value
- Roth contributions are an appropriate tax diversification strategy for you
- Consolidating retirement accounts with past employers into UMPIP could help streamline account management

Call EY today to evaluate your entire financial picture, including your investment mix, debt management, budget and more! Financial professionals are available business days from 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m., Central time at **1-800-360-2539**. Or visit the EY Financial Planning Center website at **wespath.eyfpc.com** to make an appointment or access financial articles and calculators.

\*EY Financial Planning Services are available to active participants and surviving spouses with account balances, and to retired and terminated participants with account balances of at least \$10,000. Costs for these services are included in Wespath's operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.

## New Name, Same Principles

*Wespath Benefits and Investments* is the new name for the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits—it invokes *John Wesley*, and indicates a path to follow for financial success for those we serve. While our name has changed over the years, our commitment to helping participants achieve their retirement objectives through products and services aligned with the principles of The UMC has remained the same.



**Wespath**

BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

# Prepare for Your Future with Benefits Access

Benefits Access is a powerful self-service tool for 24/7 participant account management now and into your future.

While Benefits Access—[benefitsaccess.org](http://benefitsaccess.org)—offers access to your retirement plan account balances, transactions, investment returns and allocations, it is also designed to help you at any stage of your career.

## As an Early or Mid-career Participant...

Review your account, invest your funds and learn about Wespath-administered plans and programs.

Consider using the:

- **Retirement Readiness Tool** to estimate how much you need for retirement by viewing your projected retirement income, retirement income needs, and income gap or surplus.
- **LifeStage Investment Management** modeling tool to determine whether to use this service to automate your retirement investing.

**Benefits Access is your one-stop shop—determine when you'll be financially prepared to retire, complete online benefit applications and even set up monthly benefit payments.**

## If You're Nearing Retirement...

Benefits Access is your one-stop shop—determine when you'll be financially prepared to retire, complete online benefit applications if you have already set a retirement date and even set up monthly benefit payments that are automatically adjusted.

Consider using the:

- **Retirement Benefits Projection** to view estimates of your Wespath-administered benefits projected to your retirement date.
- **LifeStage Retirement Income** service to help you transition from saving to spending in retirement by automating your retirement distributions (including your Required Minimum Distribution). Use the **LifeStage Retirement Income Calculator** to determine how much your monthly payments will be.
- **Online application for benefits** to use our intuitive benefit election tool to make decisions about, and begin benefits from, your Wespath-administered retirement plans.

## Prefer a Personal Touch?

Wespath has you covered with assistance from our in-house call center at **1-800-851-2201** or professional financial guidance from EY Financial Planning Services at **1-800-360-2539**.\*

Additional information about Benefits Access is available at [wespath.org/retirement/services/benefits-access/](http://wespath.org/retirement/services/benefits-access/).

## Accessing Your Account on the Go?

The Benefits Access Mobile App allows you to view your Wespath-administered retirement accounts on your mobile device. The app is available to download at [wespath.org/retirement/services/bamobileapp/](http://wespath.org/retirement/services/bamobileapp/).



# Sustainable Investment Strategies Corner

SIS  
CORNER

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT  
STRATEGIES

We invest in a sustainable and responsible manner, creating long-term value for our participants while aspiring to uphold the values of The United Methodist Church.

## Sustainable Investment Report: Investments with Impact

Wespath has released its *2015-2016 Sustainable Investment Report*.

Read about the ways our sustainable investment strategies help us invest in a manner that has a positive financial, environmental and social impact,

aspiring to uphold the values of The United Methodist Church. Learn how investments made on behalf of participants have supported small business owners in Mozambique who have been able to grow their businesses and provide food and education for their children and

grandchildren (page 29). You can also learn about our 20-year-long history of engaging public companies, urging them to create more sustainable business practices, including addressing climate change-related risks (page 13).

Read the full report at [wespath.org/sireport](http://wespath.org/sireport).

Watch as Kirsty Jenkinson, Wespath's sustainable investment strategist, explains **Avoid—Engage—Invest**, our internal framework that helps us implement sustainable investing in a manner that promotes long-term value creation, while having a positive impact on the environment and society.

Find the video at [wespath.org/sis-video](http://wespath.org/sis-video).



*Lizeta Jose Gojamo—a small business owner in Mozambique's Manhiça district—received business financing through Wespath's Positive Social Purpose Lending Program.*



## Equity Social Values Plus Fund (ESVPF) Changes

Wespath will change the investing benchmark for ESVPF—a passively managed fund that has a heightened focus on companies' environmental and social performance. As of **April 1**, the fund's new benchmark will be the MSCI World Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ex-Fossil Fuels Index.

Wespath is changing the benchmark to reflect additional exclusions of companies within ESVPF. This is in response to a threshold number of annual conference petitions requesting an option for conference investments that exclude:

- Companies that derive a significant amount of revenue from the production of fossil fuels
- Specific companies that conferences have identified as linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

We have changed Wespath's *Statement of Administrative Investment Policy*, specifically relating to ESVPF, to allow the additional exclusion of companies within the fund. These exclusions will not impact any other Wespath funds.

Additional details about ESVPF are available in the Q&A at [wespath.org/esvpf-qa](http://wespath.org/esvpf-qa) and in the *Investment Funds Description* at [wespath.org/assets/1/7/3052.pdf](http://wespath.org/assets/1/7/3052.pdf).

# Keep Your Money with Wespath

## Did You Know You Can Keep Your Money with Wespath?

Here are some things to consider:

- **Autopilot solutions**—LifeStage Investment Management and LifeStage Retirement Income—offered at no cost.
- **Comprehensive financial guidance**—EY Financial Planning Services are available at no cost.
- **Clergy housing allowance preservation**—Rollovers out of a Wespath-administered plan may not be eligible for the housing allowance exclusion.

## Additional Advantages

- **Sustainable investment management**—We promote environmental stewardship, workers’ and human rights and sound corporate governance.
- **Proven long-term track record**—Our funds have competitive long-term investment returns.
- **Lower expenses**—Compare our investing costs with other plans and IRAs.
- **Flexible retiree loans**—Retirees can take a loan from account balances instead of a taxable distribution.
- **Customer-focused approach**—We provide competitive services to meet your every need.

### Disclosures:

- Information provided is as of December 31, 2016.
- Historical comparative returns are for the 10-year period ending December 31, 2016. Investment returns are not indicative of future results. The investment funds are neither insured nor guaranteed by the U.S. government. For more information about the funds, please see the Investment Funds Description at [wespath.org/assets/1/7/3052.pdf](http://wespath.org/assets/1/7/3052.pdf).
- Costs for EY Financial Planning and LifeStage services are included in Wespath’s operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.
- EY Financial Planning Services are available to active participants and surviving spouses with account balances, and to retired and terminated participants with account balances of at least \$10,000.
- Online account access is available 24/7 at [benefitsaccess.org](http://benefitsaccess.org).

# Improve Your Well-Being with the *Center for Health Newsletter*

Have you read the *Center for Health Newsletter*—a tool to support your path to well-being? The newsletter offers useful and practical information based on the five dimensions of well-being and highlights the influence each dimension has on the others.



This quarter’s issue features articles on finding joy, forgiveness, faithfulness and fitness, and features two printable bulletins for you to read and share:

- **Go Red for Women**—focused on women’s heart health
- **Healthy Happy Families**—focused on making activity a family business

Quarterly newsletters are available at [wespath.org/cfh/newsletter/](http://wespath.org/cfh/newsletter/).

## Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming Event



### Clergy Benefits Academy

August 7-9, 2017  
Tempe Mission Palms Hotel  
Tempe, Arizona

For clergy of all ages and stages of ministry—new ordinands, early-career clergy, mid-career clergy, ready-to-retire clergy, district superintendents, clergy in extension ministries—and spouses.

Register at [wespath.org/events/](http://wespath.org/events/)

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