

Are You On Track for Retirement?

Contributing regularly to your retirement savings plan is one of the most important commitments you can make to your future self. But how can you know if you're on track for a financially secure retirement?

How much will I need?

According to experts, you should aim to replace between 70% and 90% of your annual preretirement income. For example, someone earning \$60,000 annually before retirement should expect to need **between \$42,000 to \$54,000 annually** upon retirement, at least in the first few years.

There are more precise ways to calculate not only how much income you'll need during retirement but also what percentage of each paycheck should go into your

retirement savings now. An EY financial planner can help you customize your retirement income goals. You can also consider the age at which you want to retire, the lifestyle you hope to lead, your life expectancy, inflation, the projected return on your savings and any defined benefit payments.

Increase your savings each year and earn your match

Even a small amount of pay set aside now on a pre-tax basis can

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Retirement planning checklist:

- ☒ I know approximately how much I will need in retirement
- ☒ I am currently contributing enough to receive my conference/employer match
- ☒ I plan to increase my retirement contribution by 1% every year
- ☒ I have registered for Benefits Access (benefitsaccess.org)
- ☒ I have talked with an EY financial planner*

*See page 3




Connect with Us on Instagram

We are excited to announce Wespath is now on Instagram!

We have heard from you, our participants, that you are among the 5.3 billion who use Instagram for connection and information, and that we should be too. We value your feedback, and therefore are pleased to announce that you can now connect with Wespath on Instagram!

We look forward to sharing posts during our in-person and virtual events, giving you quick access to retirement and well-being resources, investment insights, highlighting participant benefits experiences, stories of our sustainability and positive social purpose lending work, and much, much more!

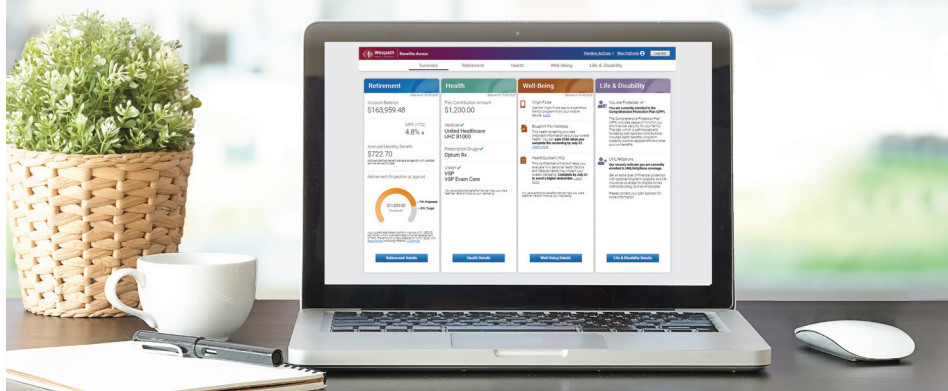
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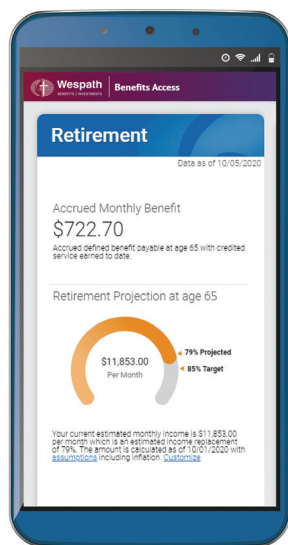
Log In to Benefits Access for Retirement Planning Tools

Whether you are 25 or 55, it's important to know if you are on track for retirement. Benefits Access has the tools to help you plan and stay on track for retirement.



Retirement Readiness Tool

Your Retirement Projection summary is displayed on the Benefits Access home page.



This graphic shows your estimated retirement income for your Wespath plans, including inflation and estimated Social Security benefits at age 65. You can access the Retirement Readiness tool to update and customize your retirement goals by selecting the “Customize” link below the graph. Use this feature to add any retirement savings outside of Wespath and change

age, housing costs and discretionary spending. You can print or save a PDF of your projection.

Retirement Benefits Projections

This tool is designed to help you project retirement benefits based on options you select—when you will begin receiving benefits, distribution options and other assumptions. The tool will walk you through your plans and personalized options. You can rerun your projection with different scenarios to compare. When you are ready, the tool will output a Personalized Retirement Benefits Projection Statement for you to review.

To access the Retirement Benefits Projection Tool from Benefits Access, select the **Retirement** tab at the top of the page, click on **Accounts > Retirement Benefits Projection > Project Future Retirement Benefits** and follow the prompts.

REMEMBER: The new and improved Benefits Access now has your retirement, health and well-being benefits all in one place. Log in or register today at benefitsaccess.org.

Allowing Access to Your Account

You’ve worked hard to save and accumulate your retirement account balances. Prepare now to make sure those close to you have access to your account when they need it.

Beneficiaries

It’s important that you designate beneficiaries and keep them up to date to ensure that upon your death any remaining defined contribution plan account balances and welfare plan benefits are left to the persons or entities you choose. Remember to review and update your beneficiaries often, especially at life event changes like marriage, divorce, birth of a child or death of a beneficiary.

It’s easy to designate and update beneficiaries online at benefitsaccess.org. Log in and select the **Retirement** tab at the top of the page, then click on **Profile > Beneficiaries Summary** to view current beneficiary designations or **Manage Beneficiaries** to make changes.

Information about your account is only made available to beneficiaries upon your death. If you would like your spouse or another trusted person to be able to discuss information about your account with Wespath while you are living, you will need to submit a **Participant Information Release** form.

For a copy of this form, please contact Wespath at **1-800-851-2201** on business days from **8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**, Central time.

Power of Attorney (POA)

Submit a POA to Wespath to allow a named “agent” to act on your behalf regarding your retirement and/or welfare plans while you are living. Upon Wespath’s review and acceptance of the POA as valid, your agent will be allowed to perform any legal act that you have appointed him or her to do in the document. The document must be drafted in accordance with state law of the state in which the POA was signed (i.e., signatures, witnesses, notary seal, etc.).

Contact EY Financial Planning Services or an attorney or trusted advisor to help you determine if you should have a POA and how to establish one.

LifeStage Investment Management

4 Benefits of Automating Your Investments

LifeStage Investment Management is an automated investment account management solution offered to participants with Wespath-administered retirement accounts. The platform puts your account on “cruise control,” automatically adjusting investment allocations based on your own risk tolerance and other key personal information.

We recognize many readers already know and appreciate the simplicity of LifeStage Investment Management—in fact, **nearly 80% of Wespath participants** are using LifeStage Investment Management right now.

For those who have not yet opted to use LifeStage Investment Management—or for those who are, but want a friendly reminder on the benefits they are receiving—we’ve put together a short list of our favorite features!

In addition to LifeStage Investment Management, Wespath offers a retirement income distribution solution for retired participants who want to optimize the distribution of their hard-earned savings over their lifetimes. You can read more about LifeStage Retirement Income at www.wespath.org/r/lsri.

1 There’s no additional cost.

Wespath is pleased to offer LifeStage at no additional participant cost¹. Managed account solutions offered by other mutual fund providers often cost half of a percent per year, or more. Over time, these extra costs add up and meaningfully detract from your hard-earned savings!

2 It’s personalized just for you.

LifeStage Investment Management provides you with the opportunity to create a custom “Personal Investment Profile,” which includes information about your age, risk tolerance, whether you qualify for Social Security and other factors. You may change this information at any time—your account is always custom designed to meet your needs.

3 It’s got you covered when the markets move.

Based on your Personal Investment Profile, LifeStage Investment Management allocates your account among a selection of Wespath investment funds. Each quarter, LifeStage Investment Management reviews this target mix to your actual mix of investments, which can change due to market fluctuations. The platform automatically rebalances your investment mix if significant differences arise.

4 Long-term performance is competitive.

According to an analysis recently conducted by Wespath, LifeStage Investment Management’s recommended allocations to a selection of six Wespath funds delivered five-year returns that were at or above the median five-year returns of comparable target date funds.²

¹ Costs for EY Financial Planning and LifeStage services are included in Wespath’s operating expenses that are paid for by the funds.

² As of 12/31/20, historical returns are not indicative of future performance. Medians established via Wespath’s proprietary analysis of 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050 Target Date Fund Universes provided by Lipper. The Lipper Universe is a group of mutual funds comparable to the Wespath funds. The Target Date Fund Universes have asset allocations comparable to various allocation recommendations made by LifeStage Investment Management. Comparisons between the combined performance of the six Wespath funds at LifeStage Investment Management’s various recommended allocations and that of corresponding Target Date Fund Universes were made by Wespath staff, for illustrative purposes only. It is possible to underperform Target Date Funds by using LifeStage Investment Management.

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add up to a significant balance over time, thanks to the compounding of tax-deferred investment earnings. If you are eligible for “auto-escalation” in your conference or employer’s plan, your contributions automatically increase by 1% a year unless you opt out. If you are not eligible for auto escalation, consider increasing your contributions periodically when you can. Also, make sure you contribute enough to get the full matching contributions your conference or employer may offer.

Allocating your assets

At least once a year, be sure to review how your savings are allocated across stocks, fixed income and cash. With LifeStage Investment Management, offered through Wespath, it’s easy to automate your investments based on your risk tolerance and other key personal information. An EY financial planner* can help you determine whether LifeStage is right for you or help you with choosing your

asset allocation. Call EY at **1-800-360-2539**.

Read the article “LifeStage Investment Management: 4 Benefits of Automating Your Investments” in this edition to see how LifeStage helps you stay on track for retirement.

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

Source: EY Financial Planning article—ASK A PLANNER: Are you on track for retirement?



Investing Your United Methodist Organization's Discretionary Assets

Do you serve on the board or investment committee of a United Methodist-related organization? Does your organization need help investing its non-benefit-related assets? You are not alone—we invest on behalf of over 130 organizations, just like yours.

Wespath Institutional Investments (WII), a subsidiary of Wespath Benefits and Investments (Wespath), offers

custom-designed investment solutions

for United Methodist-related:

- Foundations
- Endowments
- Children's Homes
- Older Adult Facilities
- Higher Education Institutions, and
- Healthcare Organizations

By partnering with WII, your organization can invest in funds with daily pricing and liquidity, diversified exposure to world-class investment managers, built-in ESG best practices and more. Better yet, our experienced investment professionals offer asset allocation advice, subaccounting solutions and expertise on popular topics for not-for-profit operations.

We handle the daily tasks needed to execute a diligent investment program, so your organization has more time to focus on its mission.

If you think WII is
the right solution for your organization,

visit us at wespath.com, call us at 1-847-866-4100, or email us at investmentinfo@wespath.org.

Our institutional service offering is founded on three investment commitments:

MISSION Our goal now and in the future is to support your mission—100% of our institutional investors are **not-for-profit, faith-based** investors.

IMPACT Wespath is recognized as a **global leader in sustainable investing**. We consider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors across our entire investment process.

PERFORMANCE Our disciplined investment approach seeks **long-term, competitive performance** relative to our peers.

Now Available!

2019-2020 Sustainable Investment Report

Learn about our organization-wide approach to sustainable investment—including highlights from 2019 and 2020, and our ongoing efforts to support a sustainable global economy. Read it at wespath.org/si.

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