



Your Checklist for Retirement

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW: CHECK BENEFITS ACCESS



- ☐ **Register for Benefits Access** at benefitsaccess.org if you haven't already.
- ☐ **Confirm your contact information.** Check your email, mailing address, and phone number. Make any necessary updates. Make sure that you are using a personal email address for this purpose.
- ☐ **Confirm your spousal information (if applicable).** Verify your spouse's information and contact Wespath immediately if changes are needed so your benefit options are correct.
- ☐ **Verify and/or update your beneficiary designations**—both primary and secondary.
- ☐ **Confirm your Clergy Service Record.** Available under “**Retirement**” / “**Profile**” / “**Service and Compensation**” summary. If this information is not correct, please contact your Annual Conference immediately. If this information is incorrect, it will delay the calculation of your benefits.
- ☐ **Review your retirement account balances and defined benefit plans**—if applicable—and your benefit election options.

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW: GATHER PERSONAL INFORMATION



- ☐ **Create your *mySocial Security* account at ssa.gov.** Pay special attention to your Social Security benefit at your Full Retirement Age. Also verify your earnings history is accurate. If you set up LifeStage Retirement Income, you'll need this information for accurate benefit calculations.
- ☐ **Explore your medical insurance needs and determine when you are required to sign up for Medicare.** Also determine whether you will need supplemental health insurance.
- ☐ **Understand your life insurance benefits** and make sure your beneficiaries are up to date.

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60 – 90 DAYS BEFORE APPLYING FOR BENEFITS



- ☐ **Review your LifeStage Investment Management profile.** This can be found in Benefits Access under “**Accounts**” and “**LifeStage Investment Options**.”
- ☐ **Review your full financial picture** (including spouse’s income, spouse’s retirement benefits, other retirement accounts, personal IRAs, savings and investments, etc.) as well as planned expenses (including moving and/or purchasing a new home).

30 – 60 DAYS BEFORE APPLYING FOR BENEFITS



- ☐ **Make an appointment with EY or your personal financial advisor** with all of your information in hand (estimated Social Security benefits, your spouse’s retirement benefits, etc.). A financial advisor can also help you decide if LifeStage Retirement income is right for you. However, if you have defined benefit plans, like Pre-82, Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and/or Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP)-DB it may be helpful to begin meeting sooner.
- ☐ **Review your LifeStage Retirement Income options.** Please review the enclosed brochure Spend Retirement Right with Wespeth, which describes the features and customizable options of LifeStage Retirement Income. This award-winning program allows you to tailor your retirement income to suit your personal situation.

WHEN APPLYING FOR BENEFITS



- ☐ **Make sure your information is on hand**, such as Social Security information (if applicable), bank account information, tax information, etc.
- ☐ **Make the benefit elections for the retirement plan(s) you want to start.** Benefits Access leads you through the process for each plan.
- ☐ **Model your LifeStage Retirement Income options** and choose the retirement income scenario that meets your needs.