

## Your Checklist for Retirement

**WHAT YOU CAN  
DO RIGHT NOW:  
CHECK BENEFITS  
ACCESS**



- Register for Benefits Access** at [benefitsaccess.org](https://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 account information.** Verify your personal information and your spouse's information (if applicable). Contact Wespath immediately if you need to make a change to your spousal information 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](https://ssa.gov).** Pay special attention to your Social Security benefit at your Full Retirement Age. Also verify your earnings history is accurate. This is essential information to have ready when speaking to a financial advisor. 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.

*continued on next page*

# Your Checklist for Retirement

**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. For additional income options, you may want to wait until Spring 2022 when the new LifeStage Retirement Income features are available. 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.

**30 DAYS  
BEFORE APPLYING  
FOR BENEFITS**



- Review your LifeStage Retirement Income options.** The enclosed brochure describes the program features and enhancements. Once these enhancements are available, you’ll be able to use the modelling tool to tailor your retirement income to suit your personal situation. *We will let you know via email and U.S. mail as soon as the new LifeStage Retirement Income enhancements and features are available.*

**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.