

SERVANT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



Servant Solutions
YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER



REST ALONG THE WAY

REV. DR. CHARLES MYRICKS,
DIRECTOR OF MEMBER RELATIONS

When traveling on a long journey, one of the most welcome sights you'll see is a rest stop. It gives you an opportunity to pull off the road and refresh yourself. These places can be beautiful and pleasant, with trees, picnic tables and even BBQ grills. Yet everyone knows, the rest stop is not your destination.

The rest stop never takes any miles off of your journey, but it can take the weariness of the journey off of you. A wise traveler will take advantage of them and allow them to refresh your soul, so you can continue your journey in strength. Life is a long journey, and the Lord knew we would often get weary, so He gave us the fourth of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:8: *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Devote time to worshipping God."*

Every opportunity you have to worship the Lord is a rest stop. It is a God-given time for you to rest from your labors, and be refreshed, refurbished, renewed, and even refitted for your journey.

Every opportunity to pray is a rest stop. It is the privilege of having "a little talk with Jesus, when you can tell Him all about your troubles. He will hear your faintest cry, and He will answer

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SPRING INTO FINANCIAL PLANNING

As we embrace the arrival of Spring and reflect on the “renewal” significance of the Easter season, it’s an opportune time to redirect our focus towards something that also requires renewal: our financial well-being. Just as the Spring and

Jim O’Bold

Easter seasons breathe new life into the world around us, it’s time to have new life breathed into planning our own financial futures.

In the fast-paced world of ministry, it’s easy to prioritize immediate needs over long-term financial planning. However, as stewards of God’s resources, it’s crucial to recognize the importance of having a clear financial plan in place. At Servant Solutions, our mission is clear: “Serving Those Who Serve.” We are dedicated to improving financial security for servants of the church, and we believe our Servant Solutions Financial Roadmap is essential for achieving long-term security and peace of mind for our participants.

With that said, I invite you to team up with our financial professionals to craft a plan tailored to your unique financial situation. We provide free financial planning services to all our members because we understand the importance of navigating complex, time-sensitive decisions without the burden of fees. Our experienced team, led by our Director of Financial Planning, Dr. Jerry Fox, CFP®, is committed to providing personalized guidance and support every step of the way. And here is the best part - our Financial Roadmap is more than just a document – it’s a dynamic software tool that

grows and changes with you as you walk through different seasons of life. Whether you’re planning for retirement, saving for your children’s education, or navigating unexpected financial challenges, your Roadmap will adapt to your evolving needs and priorities. Even if your current ministry employment situation changes, your Financial Roadmap stays with you. We understand that ministry can be unpredictable, but your financial security shouldn’t be. Signing up for a discovery meeting is simple and convenient. Simply reach out to roadmap@servantsolutions.org or select the Financial Education tab under Services at servantsolutions.org. Our goal is to make the process as seamless as possible, allowing you to focus on what matters most – serving your ministry organization and community.

Furthermore, we believe in empowering our members with other valuable resources not offered by other retirement plans. That’s why we offer free DIY estate planning documents (wills, POAs, etc.) for all members and their spouses, ensuring you have essential legal protections in place. Moreover, our designation with the IRS allows retired ministers to claim the Minister’s Housing allowance tax benefit in retirement, providing further financial relief.

Renewal can come in many life-giving ways during this season. As we embark on this journey towards financial security together, remember that you are not alone. With Servant Solutions, you can have peace of mind knowing that your financial future is in capable hands.



LEGACY NOTES

Naming a beneficiary ensures your legacy is left where you intend.

Tell us who should receive your retirement savings in the event of your death – and we’ll help it get there. Add or update your beneficiary designation to make sure they match your wishes—it only takes a few minutes.

You can complete your beneficiary form online by visiting the FORMS section of our website: servantsolutions.org. Choose “member forms” and you’ll see the beneficiary form option listed.

ALONG THE WAY, continued from page 1

by and by.” Prayer prepares you to keep on, keeping on. Not in your own strength, but in the strength and wisdom of the Lord, which is the joy of your life.

Every chance you get to praise His name is a rest stop. We should regularly pause to consider the many ways the gracious hand of God has been at work in our lives.



Rev. Dr. Chuck Myricks

In giving God the praise that is due His name, we will take confidence in His faithfulness, and find new energy for our journey. Through our worship, prayer and praise we can find rest in Jesus.

Jesus knows we will get tired for a variety of reasons, but

if we learn to rest, our fatigue doesn't have to make us stumble along the way.

Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor, all you who are heavy laden, all you who are fatigued, all you who are burdened, all of you who are crazy, all you who are grieving, all you who are lonely, all you who are losing, all of you who have been uncertain. Come to Me and I will give you rest. In my love, you can recover, and be refreshed, and renewed and refitted for your journey.”*



LIFEFUND UPDATES FOR 2024



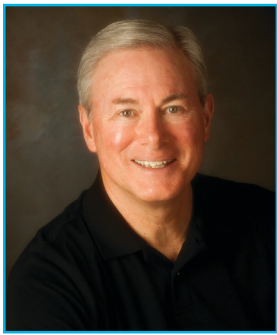
LifeFund adjustments are made each year on April 1st. The LifeFund “glidepath” is the careful way in which Servant Solutions adjusts the mix of growth and fixed income assets smoothly as you move through your ministry career toward retirement. You’ll see the adjustments for 2024 in the chart below. If you have any questions regarding these updates, please contact us \neq and we will be more than happy to assist you. It is our privilege to serve you!

Investment Composition of the LifeFund Age-Based Portfolios

(as of April 1, 2024)

LifeFund Name (Birth Year)	Heritage (before 1945)	1945 1949	1950 1954	1955 1959	1960 1964	1965 1969	1970 1974	1975 1979	1980 1984	1985 1989	1990 1994	1995+	
Time-Based Portfolio Allocations:													
Long-term	30%	36%	43%	48%	56%	66%	76%	85%	90%	93%	97%	99%	
Intermediate-term	45%	42%	40%	40%	40%	34%	24%	15%	10%	7%	3%	1%	
Short-term	25%	22%	17%	12%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Fund Allocations:													
Long-term	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	9.9%	11.9%	14.2%	15.8%	18.5%	21.8%	25.1%	28.0%	29.7%	30.7%	32%	32.7%
	Fidelity Total Intl Index	8.4%	10.1%	12%	13.4%	15.7%	18.5%	21.3%	23.8%	25.2%	26.0%	27.2%	27.7%
	Fidelity Emerging Mkts Index	2.4%	2.9%	3.4%	3.9%	4.5%	5.3%	6.1%	6.8%	7.2%	7.4%	7.8%	7.9%
	Fidelity Large Cap Value Index	4.5%	5.4%	6.5%	7.2%	8.4%	9.9%	11.4%	12.7%	13.5%	14%	14.5%	14.8%
	Fidelity Extended Market Index	2.1%	2.5%	3.0%	3.4%	3.9%	4.6%	5.3%	6.0%	6.3%	6.5%	6.8%	6.9%
	Fidelity Large Cap Growth Index	2.7%	3.2%	3.9%	4.3%	5.0%	5.9%	6.8%	7.7%	8.1%	8.4%	8.7%	8.9%
Intermediate-term	Fidelity US Bond Index	15.3%	14.3%	13.6%	13.6%	13.6%	11.6%	8.2%	5.1%	3.4%	2.4%	1.0%	0.3%
	Vanguard High-Yield Corporate Adm	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
	Fidelity Intermediate Treasury Bd Index	7.6%	7.1%	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%	5.8%	4.1%	2.6%	1.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0.2%
	Fidelity Short-Term Treasury Bd Index	2.3%	2.1%	2%	2%	2%	1.7%	1.2%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%
	Vanguard Interm-Term Investment-Grde	8.6%	8.0%	7.6%	7.6%	7.6%	6.4%	4.5%	2.9%	1.9%	1.3%	0.6%	0.2%
	Vanguard Mortgage-Backed Secs Idx Adm	7.6%	7.2%	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%	5.8%	4.1%	2.6%	1.7%	1.2%	0.5%	0.1%
	Vanguard Shrt-Term Infr-Prot Sec Idx Adm	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%
Short-term	Fidelity Short-Term Bond Index	25%	22%	17%	12%	4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The Servant Solutions custom age-based funds are each composed of mutual funds. Age-based funds for younger participants have greater stock market risk, while age-based funds for older participants have less exposure to stocks and a higher allocation to bonds and cash. Over time, each age-based fund reduces risk by following a glidepath, allocating more to bonds and cash and less to stocks. Age-based funds are automatically rebalanced at least quarterly. Rebalancing may occur more frequently if performance of individual funds or asset classes results in significant deviation from the age-based fund's target allocations.



Dr. Jerry Fox, CFP®

ARE THE AGE-BASED LIFEFUNDS RIGHT FOR YOU?

by Dr. Jerry Fox, CFP®, Director of Financial Planning

I'm sure that you've heard this advice at some point in your life: ***Don't put all your eggs in the same basket.*** You don't want a single bad occurrence (*dropping the basket!*) to ruin all your resources at once.

That's even more important if your time and opportunities to gather more eggs is limited.

To spread the risk and protect your resources—whether eggs or, more importantly, your financial nest egg of resources—you should “diversify.” That’s a fancy way of saying you should choose a variety of baskets in which to carry your eggs. And, while you’re at it, why not recruit some expert help to not only safely carry those baskets, but maybe even help you find more eggs to add to them along the way?

That is the purpose and design of our LifeFunds. Our partners at BlueTrust, a Christ-honoring financial advisory firm, help us design and manage the portfolios of diverse investments inside these funds. Each is customized for members within a five-year birth age grouping. For a detailed view of the fund allocations, take a look at the chart on the previous page of this newsletter. Here is the philosophy: For our youngest members the LifeFund portfolios for their age group are more aggressive. Greater stock market risk is accepted for their investment choices to create the potential for greater returns over the long term. Because these younger folks have more time until their retirement years, they can ride a few of the ups and downs that are inevitable with more aggressive investments in equities (stocks) and real estate and commodities.

In contrast, the LifeFund portfolios built for our older members are more conservative. While still investing in some

carefully selected equities to provide growth, these funds emphasize safety and preservation of your past savings and earnings as you retire and begin taking withdrawals. Their investment choices include more high-grade bonds and U.S. Treasury securities. This means, of course, that their returns and growth are usually a bit lower than funds built for younger groups. But they maintain their value much better when markets and the general economy are in a downturn. If you want lower risk, you have to accept some lower returns to gain that safety.

But here is why we say the LifeFund choice is like “leaving the driving to us” over your savings years. Our fund managers automatically adjust the investments inside the funds each year as your age group gets closer to your retirement date. They replace some of the more aggressive investments with more conservative securities to smooth out the ups and downs. No one wants to see a major drop in the financial markets and their account balance right as they retire and begin drawing down their savings.

Can the LifeFunds remove all risk from your investment choices? Of course not. Beyond our sure hope of our heavenly home with Christ, there are very few sure things in life and even fewer when it comes to investing. But well diversified, professionally managed portfolios can improve your odds of preserving and growing your nest egg to meet your retirement goals. That is why more than half of those with Servant Solutions retirement accounts have chosen to make a LifeFund the foundation of their account investments. Should that be your strategy as well? Contact us for a financial planning review of your current situation and future goals.



SERVANT SOLUTIONS WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBER

On March 1st, Servant Solutions happily welcomed **Jen Tafflinger** to our team. Jen brings a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm to her role as Member Services Coordinator. Jen directly supports the Directors of Engagement and Retirement Plan Operations in various capacities, primarily focusing on the onboarding process, ensuring accurate database updates and investment alignment. With her background in sales, sales management, and office management, Jen is well-equipped to guide new employers and members through the application requirements and ensure accurate set up for remittance. Additionally, she will assist in business analysis projects,

contributing valuable insights to enhance operational efficiency.

Outside of work, Jen and her husband Tim find joy in spending time with family and friends and traveling (*especially to see their grandson!*). Jen also enjoys reading and looking for God’s amazing creations in the water (scuba diving) and in the sky (bird watching).



Jen Tafflinger