

March 2024



Retirement Benefits

the Eder Way



The beginning of something else

It's been said that aging is not for the faint of heart. In other words, experiencing diminished capacity and health issues can be difficult. This is one of the reasons having a good retirement plan is beneficial. It can take financial worries off the table.

Mr. Rogers, the iconic children's television host, said, "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Retirement is the end of your active working life, but it can be the beginning of an exciting exploration of your interests and your relationships with the people you love. The Eder Retirement Plan makes this possible.

If you are retiring soon and you're in the Eder Retirement Plan, may it be a blessing to you. If you are still working or you're a long way from retirement, may it hold the promise of good times in your elder years.

Russ Chrusciel
Retirement Benefits Director



Your future Shared Values OUR PRIORITY

Members of Eder Retirement Plan have more than 30 funds in which to choose to invest, and Eder is responsible for managing those investment choices.

"One of the hallmarks of our investing philosophy is that we invest to our values, which are inspired by the Brethren," said Nevin Dulabaum, Eder president.

Eder screens out investments that do not conform to its values, advocates with some companies in which it is invested to change practices that do not align with those values and offers an investment option that supports community development. To be sure that the funds comply with these values and performance standards, Eder's investment team (which includes an outside investment consulting firm) meets quarterly via Zoom with the managers of the self-managed funds. Managers that



underperform are put on watch and eventually terminated if they do not meet performance standards.

Annually, the fund managers are brought to the Eder Financial office for an extensive review. Three times each year, the staff investment team meets with the Eder Board's investment committee, which gives additional investment oversight.

This robust system is designed to ensure that Eder Financial complies with Eder Values Investing and generates returns for its members.

Managing retirement *BEFORE* you retire

You're establishing your nest egg and retirement will be here before you know it. Yay you! While you're on your way to a relaxing future, life still happens. In addition to saving for retirement, here are some things you can do now to better enjoy your retirement experience later.

Establish an emergency fund

When it comes to emergencies, it's not if it happens, it's when. According to a recent study by Bankrate, nearly half of Americans can't muster up enough cash to cover a \$1,000 expense. So, plan to have quick access to funds when needed most.

Find a mix

Most advisers recommend investing in a mix of stocks, bonds, and cash investments that fit your goals and risk tolerance. To decrease risk, some people adjust this mix as they move further into retirement, gradually, putting less in stocks and more in bonds. Eder's Target Date Funds do this too!

Retirement
Nest Egg



Plan for the next 1-3 years

Different from an emergency fund, a short-term reserve such as a money market fund, is a fund that invests in cash-equivalent securities that are highly liquid and low risk. Compared to traditional savings vehicle, an MMF potentially delivers better returns and has fewer withdrawal restrictions. Eder recently added a money market fund to its offerings. It will be available in April.

Correction: Moderator-elect enthusiastic about Eder

A headline in the February 2024 issue of *Retirement Benefits* named Dava Hensley as the current moderator of the Church of the Brethren. Hensley is currently the moderator-elect. She will become moderator in July 2024. We regret the error.

For a retirement consultation, contact a Client Services representative at 847-622-3370 or customerservice@eder.org.



RETIREMENT PLAN FUND PERFORMANCE REPORT

For the period ending February 29, 2024	YTD	3 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
TARGET DATE FUNDS						
Target Date 2015	1.2	5.5	11.4	0.6	3.0	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	1.1	5.4	11.4	0.4	3.8	—
Target Date 2025	1.5	6.0	12.3	1.2	3.7	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	1.8	6.3	13.5	1.4	4.7	—
Target Date 2035	2.8	7.9	16.2	3.2	5.5	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	3.3	8.3	18.3	3.6	6.5	—
Target Date 2045	3.7	9.2	18.7	4.5	6.9	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	4.0	9.2	20.3	4.6	7.6	—
Target Date 2055	3.9	9.4	19.2	5.0	7.8	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	4.0	9.2	20.5	5.1	8.3	—
EDER VALUES INVESTING ¹						
EVI Balanced Fund	2.6	8.1	14.8	4.1	8.2	—
<i>Blended Balanced Index</i>	3.6	7.9	19.2	5.9	9.4	—
Common Stock Fund	4.9	10.7	20.3	7.9	11.8	9.1
<i>S&P 500 Index</i>	7.1	12.0	30.5	11.9	14.8	12.7
EVI Domestic Stock Large Cap Core Index	7.3	12.2	30.6	11.8	14.7	—
<i>S&P 500 Index</i>	7.1	12.0	30.5	11.9	14.8	—
Domestic Stock Value Fund	2.3	6.8	3.8	—	—	—
<i>Russell 1000 Value Index</i>	3.8	9.5	14.0	—	—	—
Domestic Stock Growth Fund	11.3	16.7	43.6	11.8	15.7	12.5
<i>Russell 1000 Growth Index</i>	9.5	14.3	45.9	12.5	18.8	15.7
Domestic Stock Mid Cap Fund	3.5	10.0	15.0	9.9	11.0	7.1
<i>Russell Midcap Index</i>	4.1	12.1	15.5	5.5	10.3	9.5
EVI Domestic Stock Mid Cap Index Fund	4.0	13.0	12.6	6.5	—	—
<i>S&P 400 Index</i>	4.1	13.2	13.0	6.6	—	—
Small Cap Fund	4.3	12.3	24.4	11.9	16.1	16.0
<i>Russell 2000 Index</i>	1.5	14.0	10.0	-0.9	6.9	7.1
EVI Domestic Stock Small Cap Index Fund	-0.7	11.8	6.7	0.5	—	—
<i>S&P 600 Index</i>	-0.8	11.9	6.5	2.3	—	—
International Stock Core Fund	0.3	6.3	6.9	-2.5	4.6	3.4
<i>MSCI EAFE Index</i>	2.4	7.9	14.4	4.4	6.8	4.4
EVI International Stock Core Index Fund	4.8	9.3	20.5	5.7	—	—
<i>S&P ADR Index</i>	4.4	8.8	19.2	8.7	—	—
EVI Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund	1.3	6.3	15.1	-1.3	—	—
<i>Blended Emerging Markets Index ²</i>	0.6	5.6	6.5	-4.2	—	—
Treasury-Free Bond Fund	-1.4	2.3	4.5	-2.9	1.3	2.0
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index</i>	-1.6	2.0	3.7	-3.1	0.9	1.6
Short-Term Fund	0.8	1.3	5.3	2.1	1.8	1.3
<i>ICE BofA 6-Month Treasury Bill Index</i>	0.8	1.3	5.3	2.4	2.1	1.5
Community Development Fund	-0.9	1.7	2.9	-1.3	-0.3	0.6
<i>No Benchmark</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
INDEX FUNDS (NON-EVI)						
Balanced Index Fund	2.5	7.2	16.2	4.6	—	—
<i>60% CRSP US Total Market Index and 40% Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index</i>	3.3	8.1	18.0	4.6	—	—
Total Bond Market Index Fund	-1.5	1.7	3.5	-2.7	—	—
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index</i>	-1.6	2.1	3.5	-3.1	—	—
GENERAL (NON-EVI)						
Balanced Fund	2.3	7.3	13.6	3.6	7.9	6.5
<i>Blended Balanced Index</i>	3.6	7.9	19.2	5.9	9.4	8.4
Emerging Markets Stock Fund	-0.4	2.6	5.7	-6.9	-1.7	1.2
<i>MSCI Emerging Markets Index</i>	-0.1	3.8	8.7	-6.3	1.9	3.0
Bond Fund	-1.5	2.2	3.9	-2.9	1.2	1.8
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index</i>	-1.6	2.0	3.7	-3.1	0.9	1.6
Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	-1.1	1.2	2.5	-0.4	2.6	2.0
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index</i>	-0.9	1.8	2.5	-0.9	2.7	2.1
Bank Loans Fund	1.5	3.1	10.0	5.1	4.6	—
<i>S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 Index</i>	1.4	3.4	11.5	5.4	5.0	—
High Yield Bond Fund	0.5	3.8	10.7	4.9	6.1	5.0
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index</i>	0.3	4.0	11.0	1.8	4.2	4.3
Global Aggregate Fixed Income	-4.3	0.1	0.4	-3.6	-3.7	—
<i>Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index</i>	-2.6	1.4	3.1	-5.5	-1.0	—
ALTERNATIVES (NON-EVI)						
Global Inflation Protection	1.2	3.8	5.8	2.2	5.3	—
<i>Bloomberg U.S. TIPS 1-10 Year Index +2%</i>	-0.2	2.0	5.7	2.6	5.1	—
Multi-Strategy Hedge Fund	-0.1	2.4	2.0	-0.4	2.4	—
<i>60% S&P 500 Index/40% Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index</i>	3.6	8.0	19.0	5.9	9.2	—
Public Real Estate Fund	-6.0	3.5	-0.2	-2.7	0.4	2.5
<i>S&P Developed Property Index</i>	-4.0	5.3	3.1	0.1	1.4	4.1
Commodities-Based Fund	0.4	0.4	0.5	7.6	7.7	-1.1
<i>Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index</i>	-1.1	-3.7	-3.9	7.2	5.7	-1.8
U.S. INFLATION						
<i>Consumer Price Index ³ (January 2024)</i>	0.5	0.2	3.1	5.6	4.1	2.8

¹ Eder Values Investing (EVI) assets under management are invested in a manner that is consistent with the positions of the Church of the Brethren as expressed in Annual Conference statements.

² The Blended Emerging Markets Index consists of the FTSE EM All Cap China A Inclusion Index from September 2019 – July 2022, Invesco BLDERS Emerging Markets 50 ADR Index Fund from August 2022 – March 2023, and the S&P Emerging 50 ADR Index from April 2023 to present.

³ Most recent data available. CPI data are from the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers; all items are not seasonally weighted.