

October 2023



Retirement Benefits

the Eder Way



A tale of two generations

This issue of Retirement Benefits takes a look at both ends of the age spectrum. Riley Rowan, Eder's director of business development, shares his experience with the profound effect of student debt. For many young adults like Riley, it means their early adult years are burdened by financial struggle. It also means they're unable to get an early start to save for retirement.

Then, there is impending retirement. There are a number of questions one must ask and options one must choose when deciding how to proceed. If you are nearing retirement age or have a loved one who is, included is a Social Security benefits resource plus we've mapped out some thinking points to help along the way.

Russ Chrusciel
Director
Retirement Benefits



How college debt burdens young adults, homeowners, and the church

by Riley Rowan

I grew up in the college debt generation. I was told if you want a job, you need to go to college, so I did. College was a great experience with lots of friends and learning, for which I am incredibly grateful. What I wasn't prepared for was the 40k debt burden I accumulated to ensure I could get a job.

I had to make some sacrifices that maybe were not as common thirty years ago. First, I started working just two days after my graduation ceremony, taking no time off, and I lived with my parents for three years after graduating. Second, the debt reared its head when my wife and I applied for a home loan because our debt ratio was heavily considered in generating rates for a 30-year mortgage. This can be a serious damper on home

ownership. Third, college debt affects the church because those in debt have less income to give. The mission of Christ still matters to young people, but the burden of debt weighs heavy.

As a young adult, here are a few decisions I would have made differently: start a Roth IRA as early as possible (a Roth option is available to members of the Eder Retirement Plan), consider going to a community college for the first two years, take more College Level Examination Program exams to earn credit for college courses where applicable, and lastly, be cognizant of the future and save money when possible. I hope my experience might help others be good stewards of the options God has given us.

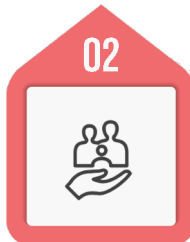
Eder's Director of Business Development, Riley Rowan, graduated in 2019 from Judson University with a major in marketing/management. He recently married his high school sweetheart, and he spends his free time working on their newly purchased house.

Reimagining retirement: Is 70 the new normal?



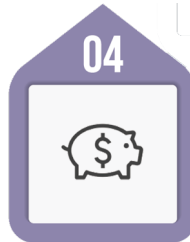
01 ESTIMATE
Get your Social Security benefit estimate from SSA.gov.

DETERMINE
Will the gross payment meet your needs at 65, 67 or 70?



03 PLAN
Do you have a plan to cover health insurance?

ENHANCE
How will waiting until 70 enhance retirement?



05 GENERATE
Accumulate resources to generate extra income.

Here is a [PDF booklet](#) that explains your Social Security benefits: "Retirement Benefits: Securing today and tomorrow."



Healthy finances, healthy people

Financial stress can affect mental state and physical health. In the Voice of America Worker Survey by Franklin Templeton, international investment firm, "Eighty percent said that offering financial wellness support results in more satisfied, loyal, engaged and productive employees."

A March 14, 2023, article in [Forbes](#) online reports, "Today's economic climate piles on an additional layer of stress that can significantly impact our mental health. Struggles to meet expenses, save for the future or even make ends meet can evoke feelings of anxiety and depression." [Further, according to Forbes](#), "Individuals with high financial stress are twice as likely to report poor health overall and are four times more likely to complain of ailments."

One of Eder Retirement Plan's greatest benefits is that it helps secure members in retirement, so the financial stress connected to aging is greatly reduced. The Franklin Templeton study and other sources seem to imply that the ERP may even help keep members physically and emotionally healthy, allowing them to enjoy relaxed and stress-free golden years.

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 September 30, 2023	YTD	3 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
TARGET DATE FUNDS						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Target Date 2015	3.9	-2.7	8.9	-0.3	1.4	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	3.6	-3.1	8.6	-2.2	2.2	—
Target Date 2025	4.6	-2.8	10.2	0.5	1.9	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	4.7	-3.2	10.7	-1.1	2.8	—
Target Date 2035	6.8	-2.9	14.3	2.3	3.1	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	7.4	-3.3	15.4	0.8	3.9	—
Target Date 2045	8.1	-2.9	16.7	3.8	4.0	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	8.5	-3.3	17.4	2.3	4.6	—
Target Date 2055	8.3	-2.9	17.1	4.8	4.7	—
<i>Blended Index</i>	8.6	-3.3	17.5	3.5	5.1	—
EDER VALUES INVESTING						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
EVI Balanced Fund	5.7	-3.0	12.4	2.9	5.4	—
<i>Blended Balanced Index</i>	7.4	-3.1	13.1	4.0	6.4	—
Common Stock Fund	7.2	-4.1	18.1	7.4	7.4	8.5
<i>S&P 500 Index</i>	13.1	-3.3	21.6	10.1	9.9	11.9
EVI Domestic Stock Large Cap Core Index	13.2	-3.1	21.2	9.9	9.9	—
<i>S&P 500 Index</i>	13.1	-3.3	21.6	10.1	9.9	—
Domestic Stock Value Fund	-8.2	-6.4	1.9	—	—	—
<i>Russell 1000 Value Index</i>	1.8	-3.2	14.4	—	—	—
Domestic Stock Growth Fund	18.5	-3.4	25.1	7.5	9.1	11.0
<i>Russell 1000 Growth Index</i>	25.0	-3.1	27.7	8.0	12.4	14.5
Domestic Stock Mid Cap Fund	4.1	-3.0	16.9	10.8	6.7	7.5
<i>Russell Midcap Index</i>	3.9	-4.7	13.4	8.1	6.4	9.0
EVI Domestic Stock Mid Cap Index Fund	4.5	-4.0	15.1	9.0	—	—
<i>S&P 400 Index</i>	4.3	-4.2	15.5	12.0	—	—
Small Cap Fund	16.6	-0.3	25.2	12.6	12.3	14.4
<i>Russell 2000 Index</i>	2.5	-5.1	8.9	7.2	2.4	6.6
EVI Domestic Stock Small Cap Index Fund	1.2	-4.7	9.6	6.7	—	—
<i>S&P 600 Index</i>	0.8	-4.9	10.1	12.1	—	—
International Stock Core Fund	0.6	-8.5	17.9	-1.6	1.2	2.9
<i>MSCI EAFE Index</i>	7.1	-4.1	25.6	5.8	3.2	3.8
EVI International Stock Core Index Fund	11.6	-1.2	29.8	7.4	—	—
<i>S&P ADR Index</i>	9.9	-1.4	28.3	11.2	—	—
EVI Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund	7.7	-2.7	16.7	2.8	—	—
<i>Blended Emerging Markets Index²</i>	-0.9	-2.6	8.1	-1.0	—	—
Treasury-Free Bond Fund	0.0	-2.7	1.9	-5.0	0.8	1.7
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index</i>	-0.9	-3.0	0.9	-5.3	0.4	1.3
Short-Term Fund	3.6	1.4	4.4	1.3	1.6	1.1
<i>ICE BofA 6-Month Treasury Bill Index</i>	3.6	1.3	4.6	1.7	1.8	1.2
Community Development Fund	-1.2	-2.1	-0.3	-2.7	-1.1	0.3
<i>No Benchmark</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
INDEX FUNDS (NON-EVI)						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Balanced Index Fund	6.5	-2.0	10.9	3.6	—	—
<i>60% CRSP US Total Market Index and 40% Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index</i>	6.8	-3.2	12.3	3.5	—	—
Total Bond Market Index Fund	-1.0	-2.7	0.7	-5.0	—	—
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index</i>	-1.1	-3.1	0.8	-5.2	—	—
GENERAL (NON-EVI)						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Balanced Fund	4.0	-3.6	11.1	2.4	5.1	6.0
<i>Blended Balanced Index</i>	7.4	-3.1	13.1	4.0	6.4	7.8
Emerging Markets Stock Fund	-0.9	-5.7	11.1	-0.5	-3.1	-0.1
<i>MSCI Emerging Markets Index</i>	1.8	-2.9	11.7	-1.7	0.6	2.1
Bond Fund	-0.7	-2.9	1.1	-5.2	0.7	1.6
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index</i>	-0.9	-3.0	0.9	-5.3	0.4	1.3
Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	-0.8	-2.0	1.0	-1.9	2.2	1.7
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index</i>	-0.8	-2.6	1.2	-2.0	2.1	1.7
Bank Loans Fund	8.8	2.8	11.6	5.4	3.8	—
<i>S&P/LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 Index</i>	10.0	3.1	14.2	5.4	4.2	—
High Yield Bond Fund	5.5	0.4	10.9	4.9	4.6	4.8
<i>Bloomberg U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index</i>	5.9	0.5	10.3	1.8	3.0	4.2
Global Aggregate Fixed Income	-4.9	-4.4	1.1	-5.0	-3.5	—
<i>Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index</i>	-2.2	-3.6	2.2	-6.9	-1.6	—
ALTERNATIVES (NON-EVI)						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Global Inflation Protection	1.4	-1.5	8.9	5.8	6.1	—
<i>Bloomberg U.S. TIPS 1-10 Year Index +2%</i>	2.0	-0.5	4.1	2.0	4.7	—
Multi-Strategy Hedge Fund	-0.9	-2.3	6.1	3.8	1.9	—
<i>60% S&P 500 Index/40% Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index</i>	7.2	-3.2	13.0	4.0	6.3	—
Public Real Estate Fund	-5.4	-5.7	1.4	-1.3	-0.4	1.8
<i>S&P Developed Property Index</i>	-3.6	-5.0	3.5	1.5	0.1	3.3
Commodities-Based Fund	-5.3	4.8	-3.8	16.3	6.8	-0.8
<i>Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index</i>	-3.4	4.7	-1.3	16.2	6.1	-0.7
U.S. INFLATION						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Consumer Price Index³ (August 2023)</i>	3.4	1.0	3.7	5.7	4.0	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 BLDRS 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.