



In 2021

\$208,287

Amount provided by the Church Workers' Assistance Plan in COVID-related Emergency Grants

From Brethren Pension Plan

Pension Perspective

December 2021

ENDING THE OLD AND GETTING READY FOR THE NEW

Taking an active interest in your Pension Plan account

At the end of the year, we often take stock of what we have and prepare for the year to come. So it's a good time to log in to your account at brethrenpension.org and do the following:

- Review and update your contact information, such as address, phone numbers, and e-mail address.
- Review and update your beneficiaries.
- Verify that contributions to your account have been made according to your expectations. It is much easier to correct errors in the current year than to correct them after the new year rolls around.
- You might want to consider increasing contributions for the coming year. The goal should be to contribute 15 percent of your income over many years in order to have an income stream in retirement that will sustain your current lifestyle. Most people do not get to the 15 percent contribution level all at once; they achieve that level by gradually increasing their contributions. Even a 1 percent increase in contributions every year will help you achieve a higher income stream in retirement.
- You may want to consider Roth contributions. A combination of Roth and pre-tax contributions could give you a more efficient income stream in retirement, with the benefit of some tax-free income.
- Review your asset allocation. Is it in line with your risk tolerance? Click on the "Get Advice" tab for specific financial advice from Edelman Financial Engines. There is increasing evidence that people who use EFE services have better outcomes than those who use the "set it and forget it" investment strategy.
- Finally, as the new year approaches, you might resolve to learn more about how your BPP plan works, such as what income options are available to you, how much money you can expect to receive in retirement based on your contribution level, and how a modest contribution increase could impact future income. ■

Are your retirement plans where you want them to be?

The end of the year may also be a good time to take stock in how well you have prepared for retirement.

Here are some points to ponder as you consider this —

- What do you want your retirement to look like? What are your goals?
- Think about your assets. How much do you have in the bank? How much is in your Pension Plan account? Do you have other pension accounts and/or 401Ks, etc.? What is the value of your house and car?
- Review your insurance policies.
- Have you had all your checkups, preventive exams, flu shots, etc.?
- Are you eating healthy and getting exercise? Do your life experiences and your work keep you mentally sharp?
- Have you thought about the age at which you will want to begin to collect Social Security? Do you understand the ramifications of starting sooner or delaying a few years?
- Have you thought about where you want to retire and what sort of network of people you want around you, i.e., community, church, family, etc.?
- Have you thought about how much you will want (or need) to work after retirement?
- Have you looked at what income you can expect when you retire and whether that will support the lifestyle you hope to have?
- Review with your family and beneficiaries the compiled documents and information you want them to have access to if you are disabled, or upon your death. ■

Have you created a list of documents, contacts, and information for your family and beneficiaries?

Are you a current or retired clergy or church employee in need of financial assistance?

The Church Workers' Assistance Plan provides financial assistance to eligible current and former clergy and employees of Church of the Brethren congregations, districts, or camps who have worked at least half-time (1,000 hours per year) and have no other means of financial assistance. Could this be you or someone you know?

The Plan stems from the Church of the Brethren's commitment to mutuality within the church, and is funded by local churches and districts that participate in the Pension Plan. You can now log on to complete an online application at cobbt.org/Church-Workers-Assistance-Plan. For questions, contact Debbie Butcher at 847-622-3391 or dbutcher@cobbt.org. ■

For the period ending November 30, 2021	YTD	3 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
TARGET DATE FUNDS	%	%	%	%	%	%
Target Date Fund 2015	5.2	-1.1	6.8	6.9	—	—
Blended Index	1.9	-0.8	2.9	8.3	—	—
Target Date Fund 2025	6.1	-1.2	8.1	7.7	—	—
Blended Index	3.2	-0.9	4.5	9.1	—	—
Target Date Fund 2035	8.4	-1.3	11.1	9.5	—	—
Blended Index	5.3	-1.1	7.3	10.5	—	—
Target Date Fund 2045	10.2	-1.4	13.4	11.0	—	—
Blended Index	7.3	-1.2	10.0	11.7	—	—
Target Date Fund 2055	11.7	-1.4	15.5	12.6	—	—
Blended Index	9.2	-1.2	12.5	12.9	—	—
BRETHREN VALUES INVESTING ¹	%	%	%	%	%	%
BVI Balanced Fund	9.5	-1.2	12.6	14.4	—	—
Blended Balanced Index	12.9	0.6	15.5	15.0	—	—
BVI Index Balanced Fund	12.8	0.5	15.6	—	—	—
Blended Balanced Index	12.9	0.6	15.5	—	—	—
Common Stock Fund	17.0	-1.4	22.2	18.6	15.5	13.4
S&P 500 Index	23.2	1.3	27.9	20.4	17.9	16.2
BVI Domestic Stock Large Cap Core Index Fund	22.9	1.3	27.7	20.2	—	—
S&P 500 Index	23.2	1.3	27.9	20.4	—	—
Domestic Stock Growth Fund	22.6	-1.6	28.6	22.9	19.2	—
Russell 1000 Growth Index	25.0	3.2	30.7	29.2	25.1	—
Domestic Stock Mid Cap Fund	16.8	-1.0	20.9	16.0	10.5	—
Russell Midcap Index	17.8	-2.0	23.3	17.5	14.4	—
Small Cap Fund	13.0	-0.6	19.5	20.3	21.1	—
Russell 2000 Index	12.3	-3.0	22.0	14.2	12.1	—
International Stock Core Fund	1.3	-6.7	6.5	12.7	11.2	—
MSCI EAFE Index	5.8	-5.1	10.8	9.8	9.2	—
Treasury-Free Bond Fund	-1.4	-0.9	-1.2	6.7	4.4	—
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government / Credit Bond Index	-1.4	-0.6	-1.3	6.3	4.1	—
Short-Term Fund	0.0	-0.1	0.0	1.1	1.2	1.0
ICE BofAML 6-Month Treasury Bill Index	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.8
Community Development Investment Fund	-0.1	-0.5	0.1	0.9	1.1	1.6
No Benchmark	—	—	—	—	—	—
INDEX FUNDS (NON-BVI)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Balanced Index Fund	13.6	0.9	—	—	—	—
60% CRSP US Total Market Index and 40% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index	11.8	0.1	—	—	—	—
Domestic Stock Large Cap Core Index Fund	26.2	3.1	—	—	—	—
S&P 500	23.2	1.3	—	—	—	—
Domestic Stock Mid Cap Index Fund	23.3	2.4	—	—	—	—
CRSP Mid-Cap Index	19.9	-0.4	—	—	—	—
Domestic Stock Small Cap Index Fund	16.0	-0.4	—	—	—	—
CRSP US Small-Cap Index	13.7	-2.8	—	—	—	—
International Stock Core Index Fund	7.1	-3.9	—	—	—	—
FTSE Developed All Cap ex US Index	6.2	-5.4	—	—	—	—
Emerging Markets Stock Index Fund	-0.3	-3.7	—	—	—	—
FTSE Emerging Markets All Cap China A Inclusion Index	-0.3	-5.4	—	—	—	—
Total Bond Market Index Fund	-1.6	-1.0	—	—	—	—
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Float Adjusted Index	-1.3	-0.6	—	—	—	—
GENERAL (NON-BVI)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Balanced Fund	9.4	-1.1	12.5	14.4	11.4	9.8
Blended Balanced Index	12.9	0.6	15.5	15.0	12.5	11.1
Emerging Markets Stock Fund	3.4	-6.4	8.0	4.6	6.5	—
MSCI Emerging Markets Index	-4.3	-7.0	2.7	9.3	9.5	—
Bond Fund	-1.6	-0.6	-1.4	6.6	4.4	3.9
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index	-1.4	-0.6	-1.3	6.3	4.1	3.3
Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	5.8	0.8	6.9	8.4	5.1	—
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Treasury Inflation-Linked Bond Index	5.6	1.3	6.8	8.5	5.3	—
Bank Loans Fund	3.8	0.5	4.9	3.7	—	—
S&P / LSTA U.S. Leveraged Loan 100 Index	2.7	0.2	3.8	4.2	—	—
High Yield Bond Fund	4.2	-0.7	5.9	7.4	6.0	—
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Bond Index	3.3	-1.2	5.3	7.4	6.3	—
Global Aggregate Fixed Income Fund	-5.3	-3.2	-5.1	-3.1	—	—
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index	-4.6	-2.3	-3.3	4.3	—	—
ALTERNATIVES (NON-BVI)	%	%	%	%	%	%
Global Inflation Protection Fund	14.6	-0.9	16.5	10.6	—	—
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. TIPS 1-10 Year Index +2%	7.1	0.9	8.6	9.1	—	—
Multi-Strategy Hedge Fund	12.5	-0.9	16.2	8.1	—	—
60% S&P 500 Index / 40% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	12.9	0.6	15.6	14.7	—	—
Public Real Estate Fund	18.9	-1.4	21.4	10.5	8.4	—
S&P Developed Property Index	19.0	-2.2	23.4	9.2	8.4	—
Commodities-Based Fund	32.0	2.5	38.8	11.3	6.4	—
Bloomberg Commodity Total Return Index	22.8	-0.2	28.2	6.1	3.3	—
U.S. INFLATION	%	%	%	%	%	%
Consumer Price Index ² (October 2021)	6.3	1.3	6.2	3.0	2.7	2.0

¹ Brethren Values Investing (BVI) 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 Most recent data available. CPI data are from the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers; all items are not seasonally weighted.