

# United Methodist Personal Investment Plan



GENERAL BOARD OF PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS  
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caring For Those Who Serve



# United Methodist Personal Investment Plan

Good financial health—like good physical, emotional and spiritual health—can last a lifetime.

The United Methodist Personal Investment Plan (UMPIP) is a retirement savings program designed to help your employees achieve and maintain financial health after they complete their service to the Church.

To make this special savings opportunity available to your lay employees, all you have to do is sponsor the plan.

UMPIP has both basic and optional plan features. As a plan sponsor, you can structure the plan to meet your and your workers' needs by selecting from a variety of plan design options. These choices shape how the General Board will administer UMPIP for your lay employees.

## Advantages

As a plan sponsor, you have considerable flexibility in how you establish UMPIP for your church employees.

You can select the eligibility requirements and determine employer contribution rates. You can even set up employee participation requirements in order for employees to receive *your* contribution, as an incentive to save for retirement.

Or you can choose *not* to make employer contributions but merely to sponsor UMPIP, so your employees can make their own before-tax and/or after-tax contributions to the plan.

UMPIP has both **basic** and **optional** plan features. As a plan sponsor, you can structure the plan to meet your and your employees' needs by selecting from a variety of plan design options. These choices determine how the General Board will administer UMPIP for your lay employees.

## Basic UMPIP Features

### Participant Contributions

- All lay employees are eligible to begin contributions on the date of hire.
- Participants can contribute on a before-tax and/or after-tax basis.

### Rollovers

- UMPIP accepts eligible rollovers from most types of retirement plans, including traditional IRAs and prior employer plans.
- If participants roll over money into UMPIP, they may withdraw this money as often as once a quarter.



### UMPIP...

All you have to do is sponsor the plan.



# United Methodist Personal Investment Plan



## Access to Account Information

Participants receive account information in several ways. The General Board mails account statements to participants every quarter. Account information is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Benefits Access ([www.benefitsaccess.org](http://www.benefitsaccess.org)) or via telephone using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. Participants also can call and speak to a General Board customer service representative Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Central time.

## Investments

- Participants have free access to the LifeStage Investment Management Service, which develops and manages a customized investment portfolio tailored to their individual needs for their General Board retirement plan balances.
- Objective professional financial planning assistance from Ernst & Young is available to eligible participants at no charge.
- UMPIP has yielded strong historical investment returns compared with mutual funds of similar investment types.
- All assets are invested in a socially responsible manner in accordance with *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*.
- Participants direct the investment of both personal and plan sponsor contributions.
- Seven investment funds are available.

## In-Service Withdrawals and Distributions

- Hardship loans and hardship withdrawals are available to participants who meet eligibility requirements.
- Participants age 59½ or older may withdraw all or part of their participant contributions account for any reason.
- Distribution options upon retirement or termination include lump-sums, partial lump-sums and monthly or annual cash installments.

## Optional UMPIP Features

- Various eligibility requirements for plan sponsor contributions are available—including up to 1,040 hours of service per year, minimum service of up to 12 months and minimum age of up to 21.
- Vesting options for plan sponsor contributions include immediate vesting and several types of vesting schedules.

- Plan sponsors have a variety of contribution options:
  - ♦ matching contributions using a variety of formulas,
  - ♦ non-matching contributions based on participants' compensation,
  - ♦ conditional contributions based on participants' compensation and dependent upon required participant contributions, or
  - ♦ discretionary contributions with flexible design options.
- Plan sponsors can choose either to discontinue or continue plan sponsor contributions for participants on long-term disability.

## Plan Sponsorship

To bring these retirement savings advantages to your church employees, simply complete an *adoption agreement*.

***Don't wait—start the process now!***

Order the *United Methodist Personal Investment Plan Adoption Kit* by calling **800.851-2201**. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Central time.

If you have questions, we are always just a phone call away.

Once your adoption agreement is in place, you become a plan sponsor, and your employees can begin enrolling in the plan. It's as easy as that.

By offering UMPIP to your employees, you are providing them with a unique opportunity to build retirement savings on their own, increase their savings through your plan sponsor contributions (if you decide to make them) and manage the growth of their account by investing in funds offered by the General Board.

It's a personal choice on your part that can make all the difference in retirement to the employees who contribute their time and talents in service to the Church.

**Sponsor the United Methodist Personal Investment Plan...**  
**continue to care for those who serve!**



# About the General Board



Our mission is to support the financial well-being of our plan participants, guided by the principles of The United Methodist Church.

## Faithful in Mission

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (General Board) is the financial connection for 74,000 clergy and lay employees of The United Methodist Church. As financial stewards, our mission is to secure the retirement future for our plan participants across the U.S. and, eventually, around the world. We are a not-for-profit, 100-year-old financial agency, recognized worldwide for our values-aligned investment philosophy and the results we achieve for our participants.

Since 1908, the General Board has been managing retirement, health and welfare benefit programs for participants who serve the Church in ministry—in universities, hospitals, foundations, retirement homes and churches of all sizes. Our mission is to support the financial well-being of our plan participants, guided by the principles of The United Methodist Church.

We take our stewardship role seriously, managing retirement and benefit plan assets and institutional deposits for UMC-affiliated organizations who realize the advantages of lower fees, excellent market returns and socially responsible investing. Our financial achievements underscore our dedication to this stewardship role.

## Financially Strong

Sound investments—prudently managed and broadly diversified—keep us on a steady track of stability and growth to ensure our participants' financial security today and into the future. Our funds are designed to compete with traditional mutual funds and other financial institutions; they regularly meet or exceed benchmark investment returns.





With more than \$17 billion in assets under management, the General Board is the largest faith-based pension fund in the United States and ranks among the top 100 pension funds in the country. Our funds are designed to compete with traditional mutual funds and other financial institutions; they regularly meet or exceed benchmark investment returns.

We invest in a broad range of funds representing varying levels of potential risk and return—from conservative fixed-income instruments and funds that provide built-in diversification among a variety of major asset classes to stock funds with longer-term objectives. Because of our scale and the efficient management of our funds, our administrative fees are significantly lower than most funds with similar investment objectives.

## Socially Responsible

Socially responsible investing can help create positive change in the world. The General Board is recognized internationally for our socially responsible investment philosophy. In alignment with UMC principles, we do not invest in companies that derive significant revenues from the manufacture, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, weapons, gambling or pornography.

We are actively involved in shareholder advocacy with letter-writing campaigns and proxy voting to focus companies and organizations on adopting more socially responsible business practices. The General Board is the largest denominational investor in affordable housing programs for low- and moderate-income families in the United States.

As you become familiar with our investment philosophy, you will see that it works very well to achieve positive change: financially, socially and globally—all in faithful service to our mission.



Our vision is that our participants are secure in life's transitions because we are here.



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