



The Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF) was established in February of 1974 for the purpose of providing a place for ministers to invest finances for their future retirement years. Since that time it has expanded greatly. The MRF now serves as the retirement plan for UPCI Headquarters, Global Missions, Urshan Graduate School, and over 600 UPCI Churches throughout the country. Over 1,300 individuals currently utilize the benefits offered by the MRF.

# Sowing For Your Future Today!

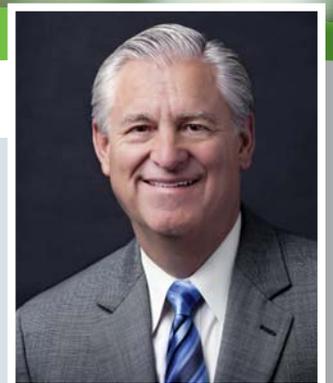


## Do you have a plan in place?

[www.MRFUPCI.org](http://www.MRFUPCI.org)

*"Every minister should plan for retirement, and every church should consider a retirement plan as part of pastoral compensation. Such a plan helps secure the future of pastors and their families and also gives them flexibility to make ministry transitions based on their needs, the church's needs and the will of God."*

~General Superintendent, David K. Bernard



Please explore this handout to learn more about the Ministers Retirement Fund.

1-(855)673-8724 (MRF-UPCI)  [MRFServiceTeam@epicrps.com](mailto:MRFServiceTeam@epicrps.com)

# How does the Ministers' Retirement Fund compare to other retirement plan solutions?

Questions to ask before selecting a retirement plan service provider:

## Are there any costs associated with setting up a retirement plan?

There are no setup costs for joining the Ministers' Retirement Fund! By joining the MRF, you are adopting the plan as a Participating Member Sponsor. The MRF has already been set up and you are participating in a retirement plan that already meets the needs of hundreds of UPCI Ministers and Staff.

## How are the service providers compensated?

The MRF Board of Trustees has hired Moneta Group Investment Advisors, LLC to provide professional, objective investment oversight for the MRF. Moneta Group, in order to be truly objective, works for a plainly stated fee and does not have anything to sell. In order to maintain a completely conflict free approach, Moneta Group does not accept any commissions or revenue sharing from any of the funds offered within the plan.

## Do you have dedicated staff?

The MRF is able to leverage the economies of scale necessary to provide a dedicated service team. You will not be forwarded around a corporate call center when you call in with questions. Be assured that any questions you have will be answered in a prompt and professional manner.

## Do you offer faith-based investments?

As mentioned in the section on investments, you are able to access high-quality faith-based investments as a participant in the MRF. These funds have additional screening to avoid investment in companies inconsistent with a Christian lifestyle.

## Do you allow tax-advantaged housing allowance distributions?

One of the most significant benefits of the MRF is the ability to withdraw your retirement savings as a housing allowance. Many Pastors receive some form of tax-free housing allowance as part of their compensation. Investing in the MRF allows licensed UPCI Ministers to continue this benefit throughout their retirement. Any funds contributed to your MRF account can be received during retirement, and as long as they are used for qualified housing purposes, they will be free of federal and state income tax (provided certain additional criteria are met). Please contact a dedicated MRF Service Team Member if you have further questions. For any tax related questions and reporting, please consult your professional tax advisor.

The chart below can help you compare and contrast other features of the MRF vs. other alternatives.

|   | IRA | 401(k) | MRF |
|---|-----|--------|-----|
| Designed Specially for UPCI Ministers and Staff | X   | X      | ✓   |
| Dedicated, Experienced Church Plan Service Team | X   | X      | ✓   |
| MRF Board of Trustees Oversight                 | X   | X      | ✓   |
| Independent Investment Selection                | ?   | ?      | ✓   |
| \$0 Set-Up Costs                                | ?   | ?      | ✓   |
| No Compliance Testing for Church Participants   | n/a | n/a    | ✓   |
| Employer Contribution Flexibility               | X   | X      | ✓   |
| Participant Loans                               | X   | ?      | ✓   |
| Housing Allowance Distribution                  | X   | X      | ✓   |
| Postponement of RMDs for Unretired Ministers    | X   | ?      | ✓   |

*The information contained herein is general in nature and subject to change without notice. Moneta Group Investment Advisors, LLC ("Moneta") is not affiliated with your employer. Moneta is an SEC regulated investment advisor. Moneta does not give legal or tax advice. All investments carry risk. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Applicable laws and regulations are complex and subject to change. For legal or tax advice concerning your situation, please consult your legal counsel or professional tax advisor.*

# Investments

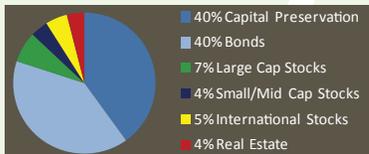
There are three unique investment solutions designed to fit the needs of all MRF participants.

## 1. Board Managed Fund:

The Board Managed Fund is an appropriate investment option for those MRF participants desiring a conservative, faith-based, investment strategy where the underlying investment decisions are made by the MRF Board of Trustees.

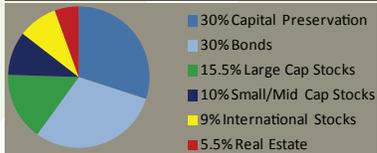
## 2. Risk-Based Model Portfolios:

Model Portfolios give participants the ability to make investment decisions based on their own personal risk tolerance. They are offered in both Faith-Based and Standard platforms. While none of the investment managers are intentionally investing heavily in “sin stocks” (i.e. abortion, alcohol, gaming, pornography, and tobacco), the Faith-Based investments have additional screening to mitigate exposure to those industries.



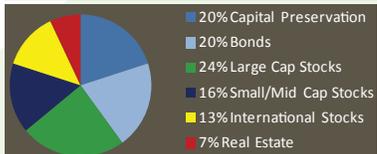
### Conservative:

- Asset Allocation: 80% Fixed Income / 20% Stocks
- Appropriate for investor “in retirement” and/or one with a strong aversion to short-term stock market volatility
- Accepts probability of lower long-term rate of return in exchange for lower volatility



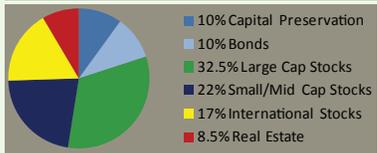
### Moderate Conservative:

- Asset Allocation: 60% Fixed Income / 40% Stocks
- Appropriate for investor “near or in retirement” and/or one who wants to limit the effects of short-term stock market volatility
- Accepts slightly more stock market risk than a conservative investor with potential to achieve higher returns over the long term



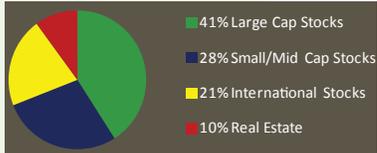
### Moderate:

- Asset Allocation: 40% Fixed Income / 60% Stocks
- Appropriate for investor “nearing retirement” and/or one who wants a “middle of the road” level of volatility in their portfolio
- Accepts greater stock market risk than the Moderate Conservative portfolio, with potential for higher long-term returns



### Moderate Aggressive:

- Asset Allocation: 20% Fixed Income / 80% Stocks
- Typically appropriate for investors with 10 – 15 years or more until retirement
- Accepts the potential for high volatility in the short to intermediate term in order to achieve a potentially higher long-term growth rate



### Aggressive:

- Asset Allocation: 100% Stocks
- Typically appropriate for investors with 15 – 20 years or more until retirement
- Accepts the potential for significant short term volatility for potentially higher returns over the long-term

## 3. Core Fund Menu:

Each individual participant has the flexibility to design their own personal investment strategy by choosing from the diversified mix of fund options available on the MRF Platform. The chart below shows the investment classes from which you will be able to choose. Specific information on the investment options can be found on your enrollment materials and on the MRF website.

| Primary Investment Type                    |  |
|--|--|
| Short Term Fixed Income Fund               | Domestic Midsize Company Stock Funds       |
| Domestic Large Company Stock Funds         | Developed Foreign Large Company Stock Fund |
| Domestic Small Company Stock Funds         | Developing Markets Stock Fund              |
| Developed Foreign Small Company Stock Fund | Global Real Estate Stock Fund              |
| Investment Grade Bond Fund                 |  |



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Ministers Retirement Fund?

The Ministers Retirement Fund (MRF) is a qualified 403(b)(9) retirement plan. The MRF is a tax deferred savings vehicle offering benefits similar to a 401(k) or an IRA, but is specifically designed with additional benefits for UPCI Ministers and employees of UPCI Churches. For a full comparison of the MRF and other retirement plan options, please see the retirement plan comparison chart on page 2 of this handout.

## Who is eligible?

If you are a UPCI Minister or employee of a UPCI Church and receive taxable income from ministry or your church, then you are eligible to participate in the MRF. The MRF may be open to other UPCI affiliated individuals or entities. Please contact your MRF Service Team with questions.

## How do I enroll?

Most new participants choose to make monthly contributions that are automatically deducted from the church checking account. You may also send in checks, or make "one-time" contributions.

## What are the contribution limits?

Since the MRF is a qualified 403(b)(9) retirement plan, the contribution limits are significantly higher than those of an IRA. However, the limits are defined by the IRS and subject to change. We therefore ask that you contact the MRF Service Team for specific and up-to-date information regarding contribution limits.

## What are my investment options within my MRF account?

The MRF offers a variety of investment options. Please see page 3 of this handout for more information regarding investments.

## Can I withdraw money from my MRF account as a housing allowance?

The IRS allows for credentialed clergy and ministers to receive their distributions in the form of Housing Allowance Distributions. These distributions are exempt from federal and state income taxes. For more information on housing allowance distributions, please see the side-bar on page 2 of this handout or contact your dedicated MRF Service Team. Please consult with a tax advisor if you have any tax-related questions.

## Can I access my MRF account online?

Yes. Once you are enrolled in the Ministers Retirement Fund, you will have 24/7 online access to your account. You will be able to view your daily account balance, change your investment elections, and access other important information specific to your individual account.



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