



TAKE NOTE: YOU NEED A WRITTEN FINANCIAL PLAN

WHY THEY ARE THE BETTER CHOICE



At Servant Solutions, we offer all of our members a FREE financial plan called the Servant Solutions Financial Roadmap. We have seen it change many lives for those in ministry. Many who have engaged in the Roadmap have a renewed sense of peace, knowing better where they stand financially. They are also armed with healthy financial behaviors that will secure a clearer direction for the future. We wanted to share an article with you that stresses the need for everyone, yes...even those in ministry with modest incomes, to engage in this FREE service for our members. If you would like to know more, please email our Director of Financial Planning, Jim O'Bold at jobold@servantsolutions.org or call him at 800-844-8983.

Written Financial Plans Are For Everyone!

The idea that financial planning and wealth management are just for millionaires is one of the biggest misconceptions among Americans, and one of the most damaging.

New research from Charles Schwab shows that three in five Americans live paycheck to paycheck and that only one in four have a written financial plan. The situation is worse among those that serve their church or school in their ministry employment.

According to Schwab's 2018 Modern Wealth Index, having a financial plan can lead to better "daily money behaviors," and this goes for those near the bottom of the income scale. The Wealth Index lumps the responses of roughly 1,000 workers into

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



We are so very blessed to serve individuals serving in a variety of ministry capacities in the life of the church. Ministers, missionaries, church workers, para-church ministry personnel, Christian college faculty and staff are all part of the broad church family that we are privileged to serve.

But our largest constituency (over half) is ministers of the gospel. Many ministers may not be aware that the housing allowance benefit extended to them during their active ministry years actually can go with them into retirement. In most cases, for ministers who have participated in the Servant Solutions Retirement Plan, retired ministers are permitted to claim a portion of their retirement income, often up to the actual housing expenses they incur, as a non-taxable housing allowance for federal tax purposes. It is a very valuable benefit.

More recently, you may have heard that there has been a challenge to that benefit by a group called the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF). The suit filed by this group against the ministerial housing allowance has been granted “standing” in the courts, meaning that it can proceed forward. In response, there are efforts underway by groups within the broader church to preserve this wonderful benefit.

Currently, I serve on the Steering Committee of the Church Alliance, an advocacy group that works with Congress toward

the best interests of ministers and church workers in areas of retirement planning and health care issues. The Church Alliance works closely with a Core Lawyer Working Group that helps to craft legislation or, in the case of the housing allowance challenge, file Amicus Briefs (Friend of the Court Briefs) in support of ministers. We have done so in this situation. Much groundwork has been done, and now it is a bit of waiting game for rulings to come forth.

There is much more information on this process at the Church Alliance website (church-alliance.org) and on the website of our friends at the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ecfa.org) if you are interested. Obviously, we hope that the courts will recognize the importance of the housing allowance

as it pertains to churches and the compensation provided for pastors. We’ll, of course, keep you informed as additional information comes forward.

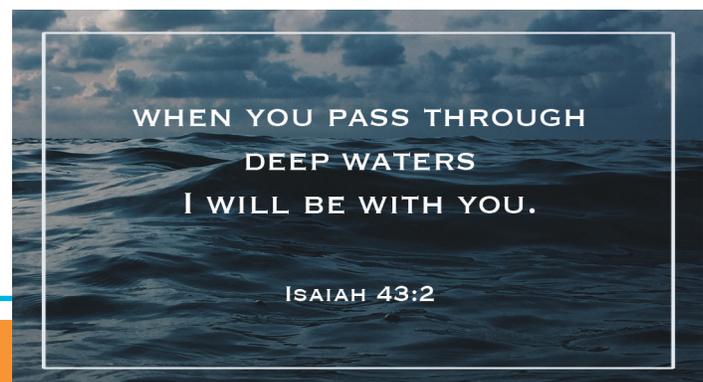
I mention this so that we might agree to pray for good outcomes since this is an important element

relative to a minister’s pay package. But I’d like to suggest that we also expand our effort to pray for those who are a part of the FFRF. Let’s pray for the people within that organization that they may find the peace and contentment that only comes from relationship with Christ and that their hearts might be softened toward the church. Matthew 5:43-45 is a great reminder to us.

In closing, our staff extends its heartfelt love and appreciation to you with hopes that you will find wonderful times of respite and relaxation during the summer. God bless each of you!



Servant Solutions
YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER



WRITTEN PLANS, continued from page 1

“planners” and “non-planners,” and no surprise, across all important savings and investing metrics, planners are doing a lot better than their more lackadaisical counterparts.

Planners are more likely to have a higher overall Modern Wealth Index score, be regular savers, and effectively manage their debt. Far more planners say they can pay all their bills

Planning is critical to achieving any kind of goal.

fund and far more have life insurance. Not surprisingly, far more planners feel financially stable relative to non-planners, whatever their level of income.

When we look at the top 10 percentile of overall performers in our Modern Wealth Index, there’s a consistent theme that they’re diligent planners—three in four say they have a written financial plan. Planning is critical to achieving any goal. It’s like establishing an exercise regimen to get in shape—we need to take the same approach to keep our finances in good health and on track.

When it comes to investing behavior, planners are also more likely to stay engaged with their investments, be aware of the fees they are paying, and have confidence about reaching their goals.

and still save each month, far more have an emergency

Time to help the non-planners – Is that YOU?

According to the Charles Schwab analysis, among those without a written plan, nearly half (45%) say this is because they don’t think they have enough money to merit a formal plan. Next-most common, 20% say getting and crafting a formal plan simply never occurred to them, and another 20% say they wouldn’t know how to go about getting a plan. Whether people think they don’t have enough money, believe it would be too expensive, or just find the whole concept too complicated, the longer they wait the harder it is to achieve long-term success.

Millennial workers seem to be quite interested in planning opportunities. What we see with younger investors is they aren’t just saving and investing for retirement, which has been the primary focus of previous generations. They know they need to save for longer-term goals, but they also save and invest to fund near-term items. This focus on nurturing themselves as they age might be one explanation of why they are so engaged with their money. Interestingly, Millennials are also the least likely generation in our survey to think the amount of money they have doesn’t merit a plan. We can all learn something from them.

Source: Written Financial Plans Empower Employees’ Economic Future By John Manganaro, Data and Research Plan Sponsor Magazine, May 15, 2018

SERVANT SOLUTIONS ON THE MOVE

Servant Solutions has enacted several changes to support its continued growth in helping our members make financial decisions that support their faith and values.

First, Servant Solutions has welcomed four new employees. “As our ministry continues to expand, it has become clear that we need to ensure that we remain positioned to deliver the kind of excellent service we have become known for,” said Jim O’Bold, Director of Financial Planning and Development. “Additional employees in multiple roles will help facilitate that.”

Ellen Daniels joined Servant Solutions in the role of Director of Engagement. Her unique personal experience as the wife of a pastor, as well her professional years in leadership at Anderson University, have equipped her well to be an ambassador for Servant Solutions to the Christian education community.

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Catherine Allison



Ellen Daniels



Heidi Lindley



Anne Nelson



Julie Killion

ON THE MOVE, continued from page 3



left: Catherine Allison chats with Dr. Harold Conrad at her retirement dinner June 21st

right: additional Servant Solutions office space allows for continued growth



left: at work in our new office space

Anne Nelson has been hired as Controller and will eventually assume many of the duties Catherine Allison currently fills. Catherine is preparing to retire in 2018 after almost 42 years of service. Though she will be leaving her current position in June, we have convinced her to come back and continue to work with us on a part time basis in August.

Also new to the Servant Solutions family of employees are Heidi Lindley and Julie Killion. They are providing much needed assistance in the area of operations. “We are thankful that God has provided such competent people who also possess a heart and willingness to serve,” said Erin Wagoner, Chief Financial Officer.

In late May 2018, Servant Solutions moved into a new office space. “We are just moving across the hall to expand our footprint, and we are excited that this opportunity allows us to stay in close proximity with our fellow ministry partners, Christian Women Connection, Warner Press, and Church of God Ministries” said Jeff Jenness, president. “This move supports the company’s growth strategy not only now, but into the future as well.” **Members please note: Our contact information is unchanged.**

All of our staff are thankful to God for His favor during this season of growth for Servant Solutions. We truly consider it a privilege to “serve those who serve.”

SIX REASONS TO ROLL OVER YOUR OLD RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS



- **Participating in more than one retirement plan?**
- **Changing jobs?**
- **Aren't sure of your options?**

Cut through the confusion with a rollover to Servant Solutions:

- 1. Fewer fees.** Stop paying multiple fees to maintain separate retirement accounts through former employers' programs. Not only do you experience fewer fees, **our fees are lower** than industry averages due to our non-profit status.
- 2. One Statement Simplicity.** Eliminate multiple statements and paperwork hassles.
- 3. No taxes or tax penalties.** You can keep more of your nest egg working harder for you.
- 4. Ministry Income Bonus.** For rollover accounts containing ministry income contributions, ministers can consolidate those funds under the Servant Solutions church plan “umbrella” so those funds may be eligible for housing allowance in retirement.
- 5. More investment choices.** If you like your current investment “mix”, we can tailor your retirement account with similar options. Or, we can help you set up investments to meet your changing needs.
- 6. Free expert financial assistance.** Know your options. We have retirement experts who help find the options that are best for you and offer free financial planning.

visit servantsolutions.org/forms/rolloverform