Finances: How to prepare for a generous future!

Welcome *Eat Your Ice Cream*

Thank you for participating today. As a group, you include a broad range of experience - some early planners, currently in transition, and retired pros. Some of you have been joined every session and for others this may be your first. Today's topic is of interest to all of us.

The purpose of these webinars is to: *Equip ministers to be spiritually faithful, emotionally healthy, socially connected, physically strong, and financially free*. We believe that planning for your future is about planning to be free. Free to be a steward of your gifts and callings without the need for role, remuneration, or reciprocation.

We are Ann and Jared Roth, Foursquare planters and pastors for 47 years. We retired three years ago from Evergreen Christin Center in Hillsboro. If we are just meeting, we are adventurers who love to hike. In the past 42 months we visited 50 national parks in our Sprinter adventure van. We hiked in Switzerland, New Zealand, Patagonia, Italy and Croatia. This fall we are hiking in Iceland, Turkey, Greece and Slovenia. We enthusiastically contribute time, talent and treasure to our home church Evergreen. We have fun experiences with our four-generation family. Our life is full of conversations with friends.

Your vision for your Third/Third may be different. Your context may be different. But we all share a common interest - to be wholistically healthy so we can continue to make helpful contributions.

This session will combine teaching, discussion, and reflection. Everyone's experience will enrich the conversation.

Today we tackle the fifth of six areas: Being financially free. How does this sound as a future state? *"I am an Elder who is free to do good without needing anything in return."* When would you like to be financially free in that way?

The purpose of this session is to help pastors and leaders *prepare to be financially free to say "Yes" in retirement.* How can I be free to say, "Yes!" without being paid?

Our mission statement for finances. <u>*"Our financial freedom empowers us to provide toward our family's needs and connections, give generously, pursue interests, explore the world, while providing for our future needs and leaving legacy gifts."*</u> Seven areas to fund in advance.

Financial Preparation for Ministers:

1. Unique financial realities of credentialed pastors:
    - 403(b) – allocation (Empower planning and fees)
    - Housing allowance issues – credentialed ministers withdraw 403b as housing
    - Social security – Opted out; Check your account
    - Spouse benefits and resources – SS, pension, earnings, Medicare

2. Principles of stewardship in retirement:
    - Budgeting on a fixed income – create before retiring
    - Managing debt and expenses before retirement
    - Planning for healthcare costs
3. Part-time work and ministry: Freedom to choose rather than need to work.

Top 10 Questions for Foursquare ministers. [Conversation with pastor friends – wow]

1. How much money is enough to be free? You can find your number! Why some do not retire. [Our story plan to work to 70. Hockley discovered that do not need to earn more. Randy S discovered that he needed to earn for several more years!]
2. How might the housing allowance benefit effect my retirement finances? Don't roll-over IRA
3. What social security benefits will I (and my spouse) receive? Check now
4. Which assets do we want to leave to our children, grandchildren, and others? 70's☺
5. What are each of our views and values about generosity?
6. What is our strategy to build and/or protect our investments? Allocation. W/D
7. What medical expenses and taxes should we prepare for in retirement? Medicare, Supplement, Dental eyecare. Tax issues as you approach age 73 RMD's, W/D sequence, IRMA
8. What legal tools will we use to manage our estate? Revokable Trust is a gift to heirs
9. Who will advise us as we financially plan? Robust plan $3k, Trust $2-5k. Your Financial Team: Financial Advisor, Estate Attorney (trust), CPA (tax), Insurance Agent (umbrella)
10. What steps can I take toward retirement readiness?

Practical Tools to Explore

1. Check your Social Security statement (SSA.gov).
2. Review 403(b) account and other investments – accumulation and allocation. Empower
3. Consider housing allowance benefits in the 403(b) plan.
4. Budget and savings review. Planning tools: Empower, Fidelity, AARP calculator
5. Seek wise counsel with an advisor who understands clergy tax and retirement issues.

Now for the best part of our session – conversation. "What are my next best steps?" Four questions in the chat are asked from the point-of-view of planning toward retirement. If you already made that transition, restate the question in the past tense and address your experience in this area. Prepare to share some of your insights on the other side of your discussion.

Discussion questions:
<u>1. What steps have I taken toward preparing for retirement?</u>
<u>2. What obstacles am I facing—financial, spiritual, or emotional?</u>
<u>3. What practices or decisions have proven helpful in my journey so far?</u>
<u>4. What questions do I need answered and what next step will I take?</u>

Group reflection: We would love to hear insights or encouragements that surfaced in your groups.

Take a moment to identify one step you can take in the next 30 days to move forward in your retirement preparation. What is one next step I'll take in the next 30 days toward retirement readiness?

Next week Timing: When does it seem good to God, the church, and me? How can I find the word of the Lord, the wisdom of the Lord, and the peace of the Lord?

Resources: The Development Lattice on the NWD website recommends high-value resources. In the "Future Planning" section you will find several featured suggestions. A link at the end of that sampler list is a document with 50 resources curated specifically for these webinars.
Among others we suggest:

The Minister's Retirement by C. J. Cagle, 2020
The Minister's Retirement provides practical financial guidance tailored to the unique challenges ministers face when planning for retirement.

How to Retire: 20 Lessons for a Successful and Wealthy Retirement, 2024
How to Retire offers 20 expert lessons on creating a fulfilling retirement that balances wealth, happiness, and personal growth.

Courses:

- Personal Finance https://www.ed2go.com/portlandcc/online-courses/personal-finance/
- Rejuvenate Your Retirement https://www.pcc.edu/schedule/winter/fin/9mny616i/
- Retirement Roots: A Christian Plan for Everyday Life in Retirement by Robert Laura, 2025

Join us next week as we look at the question: When should I retire?