

# CLERGY RETIREMENT

## Eligibility

According to ¶357 of the *2016 Book of Discipline*, eligibility for clergy retirement can be based *either* on age or years of service. Clergy need only meet *one* of the following criteria for their retirement classification – they do not need to meet both. (Please refer to the *Discipline* for complete details.)

*Full Retirement:* Age 65 or 40 years of service

*Early Retirement:* Age 62 or 30 years of service  
(Under Early Retirement, clergy are eligible for retirement benefits at the time of retirement, but benefits may be subject to a reduction since they will be paid over a longer period of time).

*Twenty Year Rule* 20 years of service  
Clergy who retire under the Twenty Year Rule must wait until age 62 to begin receiving retirement benefits. Also, clergy who retire under the Twenty Year Rule will not be eligible for Retiree Death Benefits under the Comprehensive Protection Plan (CPP).

*Mandatory Retirement* Age 72 on or before July 1

## Retirement Process

1. Submit your retirement request in writing to Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. at least 120 days in advance to allow sufficient time for Cabinet approval and for processing of your retirement benefits with Wespath (formerly General Board of Pension and Health Benefits). (Retirement requests can be approved with less than 120 days notice at the discretion of the Bishop and Cabinet; however, there may be a delay in receiving retirement benefits.)
2. Your retirement letter needs to include:
  - a. Your requested retirement date (*this should be the first day of the month in which you retire*). For example, if your last day worked is December 31, your retirement effective date would be January 1.
  - b. *If you are retiring at Annual Conference, your retirement date will be July 1.*
3. Mail or email a copy of your retirement request letter to:

**Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.**

PO Box 866188  
Plano, TX 75086

CC:

1. Your District Superintendent
2. The NTC Benefits Office  
C/O Shirley Miller  
North Texas Conference  
PO Box 866128  
Plano, TX 75086

4. Once retirement eligibility has been verified and the retirement request approved by the Cabinet, the North Texas Conference Benefits Office will submit the retirement request to Wespath (formerly the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, GBOPHB).
5. Wespath uses an online process to request retirement benefits. You will need to have established an online presence at Benefits Access: <https://my.benefitsaccess.org/login>.
7. You will receive information from the NTC Benefits Office regarding NTC Retiree Health Options.
8. In the spring prior to Annual Conference, you will receive information regarding Retiree Videos, Retiree recognition at Annual Conference, and Retiree Luncheon at Annual Conference.