

Webinar—August 2019



## **Automatic Features**

# Agenda

Participant Engagement Goal

Automatic Features Definition

- Findings
- Plan Sponsor Elections
- Timeline
- Resources



# Our Shared Engagement Goal



### **Auto Enrollment and Auto Escalation**

#### "Automatic Features" defined:

#### **Auto Enrollment**

Participants not currently contributing or contributing less than a specified rate chosen by sponsor are automatically enrolled at that rate

 Participant can choose a different rate or to opt out

#### **Auto Escalation**

Participants' contribution rates are automatically increased every year until they reach a pre-determined rate

Participant can choose to opt out



# Automatic Features—Importance

- Getting participants engaged is key to success
- Automatic Features will help protect clergy who are less engaged
  - Automatic enrollment: Get participants contributing
  - Automatic escalation: Increase savings rate incrementally over time

Reminder: Automatic Features don't change participant options.

They merely change which option is the default.

### **UMPIP Automatic Features**

#### December 2015

 Church Plan Clarification Act permits Automatic Features in church plans

#### January 2018

6 conferences and Wespath adopt Automatic Features as part of the pilot program

#### January 2019

3 additional conferences adopt **Automatic Features** 

#### **April 2019**

18 general agencies and related organizations adopt Automatic **Features** 

#### January 2020

3 additional conferences adopt **Automatic Features** 











# **Auto Enrollment: Findings**

Conferences added Auto Enrollment As of January 1, 2018

Conferences added Auto Enrollment As of January 1, 2019

Only **7.2%** 

chose lower contribution

 $4.45\% \rightarrow 5.46\%$ 

Increase in average contribution\*

\*includes 3 with Auto Escalation in 2019

 $3.60\% \rightarrow 4.33\%$ 

Increase in average contribution (1,445 participants)  $39.4\% \rightarrow 5.6\%$ 

Decrease in clergy not contributing

# **Auto-Escalation: Findings**

Conferences had auto-escalation As of January 1, 2019 821

**Participants** 

 $6.05\% \rightarrow 6.65\%$ 

Increase in average contribution



**Eligible Participant Group** 



**Automatic Enrollment Default Contribution Rate** 



**Automatic Contribution Escalation Increase and Cap** 



**Annual Automatic Contribution Escalation Month** 



### **Eligible Participant Group**

### Who can be subject to Auto Enrollment?

- ☐ New hires only
- ☐ New hires *and* current participants contributing nothing
- New hires *and* participants contributing nothing and participants contributing less than the default contribution rate



### **Automatic Enrollment Default Contribution Rate**

What is the default rate for participants enrolled automatically?

> Any Percent Plan Sponsor Chooses (frequently between 1%-5%)



### **Automatic Contribution Escalation Increase and Cap**

How much will contributions increase annually and at what % will automatic escalation stop?

Any Percentage/Limit Plan Sponsor chooses

**Common Examples:** 

**Annual Increase**: 1%-3%

5%-10% Cap:



#### **Annual Automatic Contribution Escalation Month**

When will the first automatic escalation occur and when will it occur each year after that?

**Month**: Any month

**Initial Escalation Year:** 

- Effective Date
- Effective Date + 1 year

- Conferences adopting automatic features must sponsor UMPIP for:
  - Participant contributions for clergy
  - All appointed clergy
    - Even if part-time and not in CRSP
    - Includes conference-responsible clergy
    - Excludes clergy at extension ministries who are not conference-responsible
  - Conference office lay employees

All affected clergy must be in Benefits Access Portal prior to automatic enrollment effective date

Clergy are auto enrolled at change of appointment (same as new hires)

#### **Example:**

Automatic enrollment default rate = 3%

Clergyperson contributing 5% at Church A

Change of appointment to Church B effective 7/1/2019

Clergyperson auto enrolled at 3% at Church B effective 7/1/2019 unless a different rate (or 0%) is chosen on *Contribution Election* form with 7/1/2019 effective date

Dollar amount elections are converted to percentages based on compensation in Benefits Access Portal as of effective date

#### **Example:**

```
1/1/2020 Automatic enrollment default rate = 3%
1/1/2019: Compensation = $48,000
           Contribution election = $120/month before-tax ($1,440/year)
           Calculated contribution rate = $1,440 / $48,000 = 3.0\%
1/1/2020: Compensation = $50,000
           Calculated contribution rate = $1,440 / $50,000 = 2.88%
```

Clergyperson would be "auto enrolled" at 3% as of 1/1/2020 (contribution rate of 2.88% is less than 3% default rate)

Opt-outs and different rate elections must be entered in Benefits Access Portal with auto enrollment or auto escalation effective date

#### **Example:**

1/1/2020 Automatic enrollment default rate = 3%

Clergyperson contributing 1% as of 7/1/2019 wants to continue contributing 1% as of 1/1/2020

Must complete *Contribution Election* form indicating 1% contribution election with a 1/1/2020 effective date

This election of 1% must be in entered in Benefits Access Portal with the 1/1/2020 effective date



- Participants who are auto enrolled or auto escalated can change their rates at any time prospectively
  - Rate can be changed as soon as feasible in payroll (does not have to be the first of the month)
  - No refunds of contributions made

- Clergy with multiple appointments (e.g. 2 or 3 point charges):
  - Auto enrollment and auto escalation apply to each appointment in Benefits Access Portal
  - Contribution Election form needed for each appointment if electing other than the default

#### **Example:**

Automatic enrollment default rate = 3%

Church A contribution rate = 5%

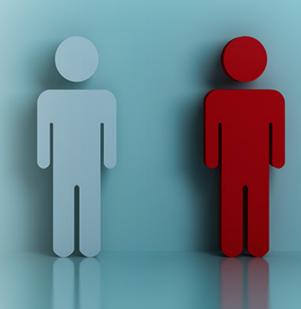
Clergyperson 's rate remains at 5% at Church A (5% is greater than 3% default rate) Church B contribution rate = 0%

Clergyperson automatically enrolled at 3% default rate at Church B (0% is less than 3% default rate)

### **Exclusions**

### Participants excluded from automatic features

- Roth and After-Tax
- Waived participation
- Participants with no compensation on file who are contributing a dollar amount
- Hardship suspension\*/leave/CPP disability (occurs when return)



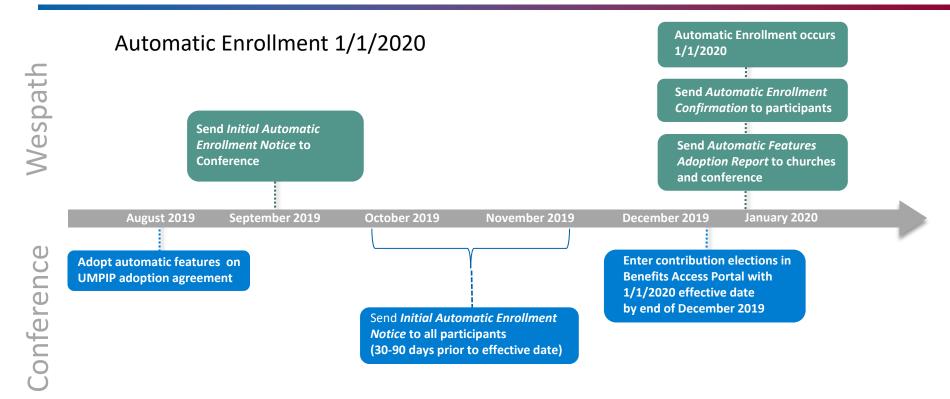
<sup>\*</sup> No suspension for hardships taken after 12/31/2019

## Importance of Communication

- Conferences send *Initial Automatic Enrollment Notice* to all participants
- Participants need to understand choices and how to make them
- Churches or conference implements automatic enrollment rates and increases in payroll
- Wespath provides confirmations of auto enrollment and auto escalation to participants
- Wespath provides reports to churches and conferences

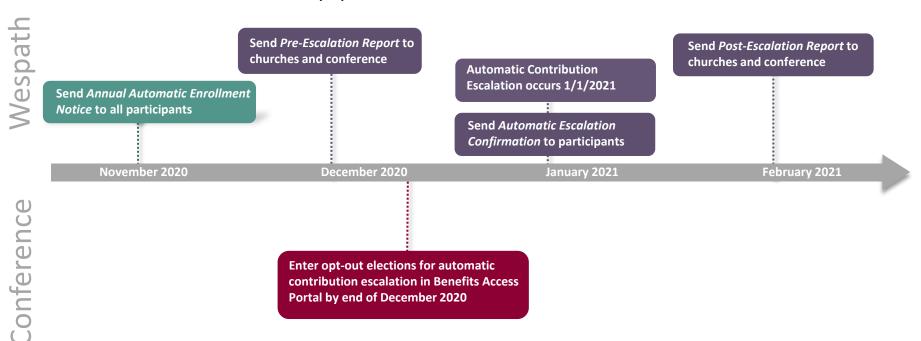


## Automatic Features Sample Timeline



## Automatic Features Sample Timeline

#### Automatic Escalation 1/1/2021



### Resources

- **Automatic Features Overview**
- Participant FAQs
- Plan Sponsor FAQs
- Plan-Specific Cost Impact Report
- Benefits Access for Plan Sponsors Job Aid
  - Entering contribution elections
  - Reports and timing



# Questions

