

# Understanding your GuideStone Retirement Account

As you begin saving for your retirement years, it's important to understand how your GuideStone® 403(b) retirement plan works so you can maximize the benefits of your retirement savings.

## Why save for retirement?

When people choose to retire or can no longer work, most want to maintain the same standard of living as they transition into retirement. Typically, a retiree will need to replace **80%** of his or her pre-retirement income – which includes retirement savings, other savings and Social Security income.

Social Security benefits will replace **roughly 30%** of your income – which means **you're responsible for the remaining 50%!**

## So, how do you save effectively and replace the remaining 50%?

Let's learn how to take advantage of the benefits and features in your employer-sponsored retirement plan by learning the answers to these five questions:

### 1 What is a 403(b) plan?

- A retirement plan sponsored by your employer to help you save
- Similar to a 401(k) but designed for nonprofit organizations
- A defined contribution plan – a common workplace plan where both the employer and employee can contribute

### 2 How do you place money into the 403(b) plan?

#### Employee Contributions:

##### • Tax-sheltered Contributions:

You receive a tax benefit today, but you pay taxes in retirement (unless you are able to claim housing allowance during retirement as a minister.)

##### • Roth Contributions:

You pay taxes today on your savings but can receive tax-free distributions in retirement.

#### Employer Contributions:

Employers can provide contributions with both non-matching and matching options. If your employer offers a match, make sure your employee contribution meets it – as it's additional money placed into your retirement account just for participating in the plan.

Let's look at the numbers:

Your employer's matching percentage  %

Your employee contribution percentage  %

Industry experts recommend a savings contribution **goal of 15%**.

**15%**



## Rollovers from Other Accounts

Traditional IRAs

401(k) plans

403(b) plans

To consolidate, visit [GuideStone.org/Consolidate](https://www.guidestone.org/consolidate) or you may reach a customer solutions specialist by calling 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433), Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT.

### 3 How do you choose your investments?

When you enroll in a GuideStone plan, you automatically have access to industry-leading, faith-based mutual funds. Choose from three investment approaches that make it easy to select the right funds for your retirement plan:

**Do It For Me**  
Asset Allocation Options

**Do It Myself**  
Core and Specialty Options

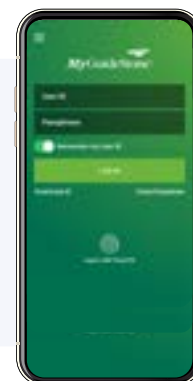
**Do It Together**  
Advisory Services

Learn more at [GuideStone.org/Fund-Choices](https://www.guidestone.org/fund-choices).

### 4 How do you access and manage your account?

Log in to **MyGuideStone®** at  
[My.GuideStone.org](https://www.myguidestone.org)

Utilize the  
**MyGuideStone®** app



### 5 What are your next steps?

Enroll by contacting your administrator. Increase contributions by visiting [My.GuideStone.org](https://www.myguidestone.org).



Other options are available besides rolling over your employer-sponsored retirement plan, including leaving the account with your previous employer. An employer-sponsored retirement plan may offer advantages investors can't get if they roll the money into an IRA or other plan.

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