



*"From Where I Sit ..."*

## **Why I Chose to Move into the Safe Harbor!**

Last month, I wrote about the Safe Harbor option and the Trump Administration. With the writing of this article, I have exercised my option to move into the "Safe Harbor" and this article will include three "personal" reasons for this decision. *[Note: The General Board of Personnel Services nor any of its officers, employees or contractors is permitted to advise participants regarding retirement investments.]*

Relying on the premises presented in the December article, my decision to move into the "Safe Harbor" is predicated on the following three reasons:

- 1) Although eligible to move into safe harbor since 2013 when I turned 65, my retirement plan was structured with the goal of my continuing to be employed by the Church until mandatory retirement in 2022. As such, my plan has always included making this decision during the last quadrennium of my service to the Church (2018-2022).
- 2) Even though the markets have fluctuated, to a limited degree, during the past two years under the Trump Administration, it was my belief that the fluctuations were limited due to the residual strengths of the economy resulting from the Obama Administration. However; more current economic decisions of the Trump Administration such as the unfunded "Tax-cut" and other major decisions have made it quite clear "to me" that this economy will eventually suffer a significant downturn into a Bear Market.
- 3) Having had the opportunity to be employed with an ecumenical organization (the former Congress of National Black Churches) for more than 10 years along with other non-profits during my early ministry (i.e. Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) and the Urban League) permitted me the opportunity to establish other investment accounts apart from the CME Retirement Plan. As such, my decision at this time to move into the "Safe Harbor", allows my CME Retirement Account to be included in my overall fixed allocation while my other accounts can remain more active and aggressive on the "open seas" of the markets.

*Safe Harbor*

As stated earlier, we are not permitted to advise others on retirement decisions so these three reasons that predicated my decision are what I deem best for me. Each participant in the CME Retirement Plan must make her or his own decision when they become eligible to exercise the Safe Harbor option. But it does no harm to begin considering your circumstances and your options well before you reach the age of eligibility at 65. It is much easier to "change" or "modify" a plan than to "create" a plan from scratch. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me...*

*Options*

*"From Where I Sit"*

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