

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the receivership affect me as a participant in the Pension Plan?

Yes, the receivership proceeding affects all parties who have any interest in the Plan regardless of (1) whether you are currently receiving monthly benefits; (2) your current employment status; and (3) your eligibility to currently receive benefits under the Plan.

What is the Receiver's role?

He is an independent, unbiased, Court-appointed fiduciary put in place by the Court to take custody, manage and maximize the Plan and its assets and to equally protect the interests of ALL parties who have an interest in the Plan. The Receiver does not "represent" anyone. The Receiver does not and cannot provide legal representation to any particular party or group in this proceeding and cannot provide any legal advice to Plan participants or any other interested parties.

What is a "church" plan?

A church pension plan is a retirement plan that is established and maintained by a religious based organization for its employees. A plan that is maintained by an organization associated with a church that has as its principal function the administration and funding of a pension plan may be treated as a church plan. The Receiver has not taken any position on whether this Plan was or should have been properly designated as a "church plan".

Why does it matter under Federal law if a pension plan is a church plan?

Church pension plans can choose to be covered by the federal private pension law, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code. However, most choose not to be. Without the protections provided by federal laws, these plans:

- Have no funding requirements.
- Are not required to disclose information to workers, employees or the federal government.
- May not be insured by the federal pension insurance program.
- Do not have to follow federal rules requiring that pensions be paid fairly.

I submitted my application to begin receiving benefits around the same time as the commencement of the receivership proceeding (August 18, 2017). What is happening with my application?

If you submitted your application to begin receiving benefits to Angell Pension Group (Angell Pension Group is the benefits administrator) on the same day the Court appointed the Receiver (August 18, 2017) or any day thereafter your application is being "held". If you submitted your

application just prior to August 18, 2017, but it was not yet fully processed by Angell Pension Group by August 18, 2017, your application is also being “held”. On September 1, 2017, the Court entered an Order postponing the processing of all new benefit applications until a determination can be made regarding how benefits will be adjusted going forward. The date of submittal and placement of all applications currently being postponed are preserved until the application process is re-commenced. At this time it is unknown exactly when the application process will re-commence.

Why are new applications for benefits being held?

The primary reason for the hold on new applications for benefits is to enable the Receiver and the Court to accurately assess all options available to Plan participants. The processing of new applications would constantly and substantially change the benefit payments and monthly obligations of the Plan. The postponement is the only way to assure that the information upon which the Receiver and the Court are relying upon in making assessments is accurate day-to-day.

I am not currently receiving benefits from the Plan but am eligible to. Can I submit my application to begin receiving benefits now?

If you choose to submit your application for benefits now, properly filed applications will be accepted by Angell Pension Group but will be “held” and not processed until the application process is re-commenced by the Court. This means that although you submitted your application you will not begin receiving your benefits until the Court allows for the re-commencement of the application process. At this time it is unknown exactly when the application process will re-commence.

I am not yet of retirement age, but am thinking of electing to begin receiving “early” benefits which will result in me receiving less than my full pension amount. If I do so, will I also be subject to any cut(s) approved by the Court in the future?

Yes. Electing to apply for your benefits early will not exclude you from any cut(s) ultimately approved by the Court.

Is there a class action lawsuit?

No, there is no class action lawsuit filed or pending at this time.

Do I need to retain a lawyer to solely represent me in connection with my interest in the Plan?

Participants are free to retain independent counsel to represent them; however, the Receiver cannot act as that lawyer and cannot appoint a lawyer for you. An issue with parties retaining

separate lawyers would be the potential substantial costs that it would place on individual participants.

I've heard that 'groups' of Plan participants have been identified. Is that accurate?

Yes. In addition to Union members and those represented by Attorneys Arlene Violet and Robert Senville, the Court has recognized a "middle group" of Plan participants that are not current Union members and are not permanently disabled or "unemployable" due to advanced age.

How can I contact any of the law firms in attendance at the November 7, 2017 meeting hosted by the Receiver?

While there were 3 law firms in attendance at the November 7th meeting, none of those law firms spoke at the meeting nor did they indicate to the Receiver or the group of Plan participants in attendance that they would agree to be engaged in any aspect of this matter. The Receiver is aware that they did provide their contact information to some of the people in attendance that night so I will provide it to you here:

1. Shechtman Halperin Savage, LLP; Preston W. Halperin, Esq.; (401) 272-1400
2. DiOrio Law; Joseph DiOrio, Esq.; (401) 632-0911
3. Brennan Recupero Cascione Scungio & McAllister; Thomas Hemmendinger, Esq.; (401) 453-2300

You are free to contact any or all of them (or any other attorney you may choose) to ask how they may be able to help, what they may be able to do for you or a group, how much they would be paid and how they would be paid. However, please keep in mind that they are not yet involved and, therefore, they will not be able to answer specific questions about this proceeding. Regardless, any counsel engaged by any pension member would not be involved in any way regarding the Receiver's investigation of claims and potential lawsuits.

Will there be different reductions for different participants or will any reduction in benefits be the same for all participants?

The Receiver is assessing all options and will ultimately make a recommendation to the Court regarding what he believes will be best to protect benefits and Plan assets for the long-term for the benefit of all participants. The Court has approved the formation of an Advisory Committee to assist the Receiver's evaluation of options. Any recommendation ultimately made by the Receiver and presented to the Court will be intended to protect all Plan participants as equally as possible.

When will any proposed change in benefits be presented to the Court?

Assuming no dramatic change to the Plan's current assets, the Receiver will present a proposed first interim change to benefits sometime in late February 2018. The Receiver will notify ALL Plan participants in advance of that recommendation being made to the Court. Likewise, ALL Plan participants will receive notice from the Receiver of any changes or developments.

Is it a possibility the Plan will be terminated and lump sum payments made to participants?

Yes. The Receiver was appointed by the Court to assess all possible options for the Plan.

I took a decrease in my benefit payments to allow for a beneficiary to receive increased benefit payments upon my passing. What impact does the receivership have on that election?

It is anticipated that all benefits will be impacted by any approved adjustment.

Will the Receiver be hosting additional "town hall" meeting(s)?

Yes. The Receiver intends to schedule meetings open to ALL Plan participants at least every two months.

How will information be distributed to Plan participants to keep them updated?

All official notifications from the Receiver or the Court will be distributed by the Receiver to ALL Plan participants. The Receiver has a list of Plan participants' names and mailing addresses. Notices of hearings and meetings in connection with the Receiver's efforts will be sent to all participants via first class mail. In addition, all documents filed with the Court, notices of hearings and meetings, hearing transcripts and other non-confidential information related to the Plan will be posted to the Receiver's dedicated website located at <https://www.pierceatwood.com/st-joseph-health-services-rhode-island-retirement-plan>. To the extent meetings hosted by the Receiver are recorded, the video will also be accessible for viewing via the dedicated website. You can also contact the Receiver via a dedicated email address at StJosephRetirementPlan@PierceAtwood.com, or via dedicated telephone lines at (401) 490-3436 or (401) 865-6249. The website and email address are the best ways for all participants to stay up-to-date with accurate information.