

Quadrennial  
Benefits  
Conference



# Paying for Clergy Plans— The Basics



**Wespath**  
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS



# Agenda



**Pension Plan Basics**



**Actuarial Basics**



**Pre-Funding Pension Benefits**



**Valuation Results**



**Budgeting**

# Defined Benefit vs. Defined Contribution

Pension Plan Basics



Defined  
Benefit  
DB

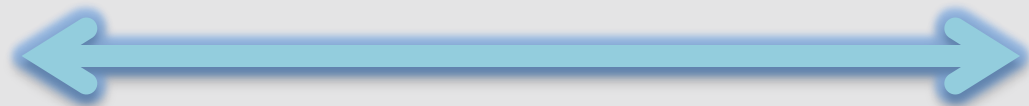
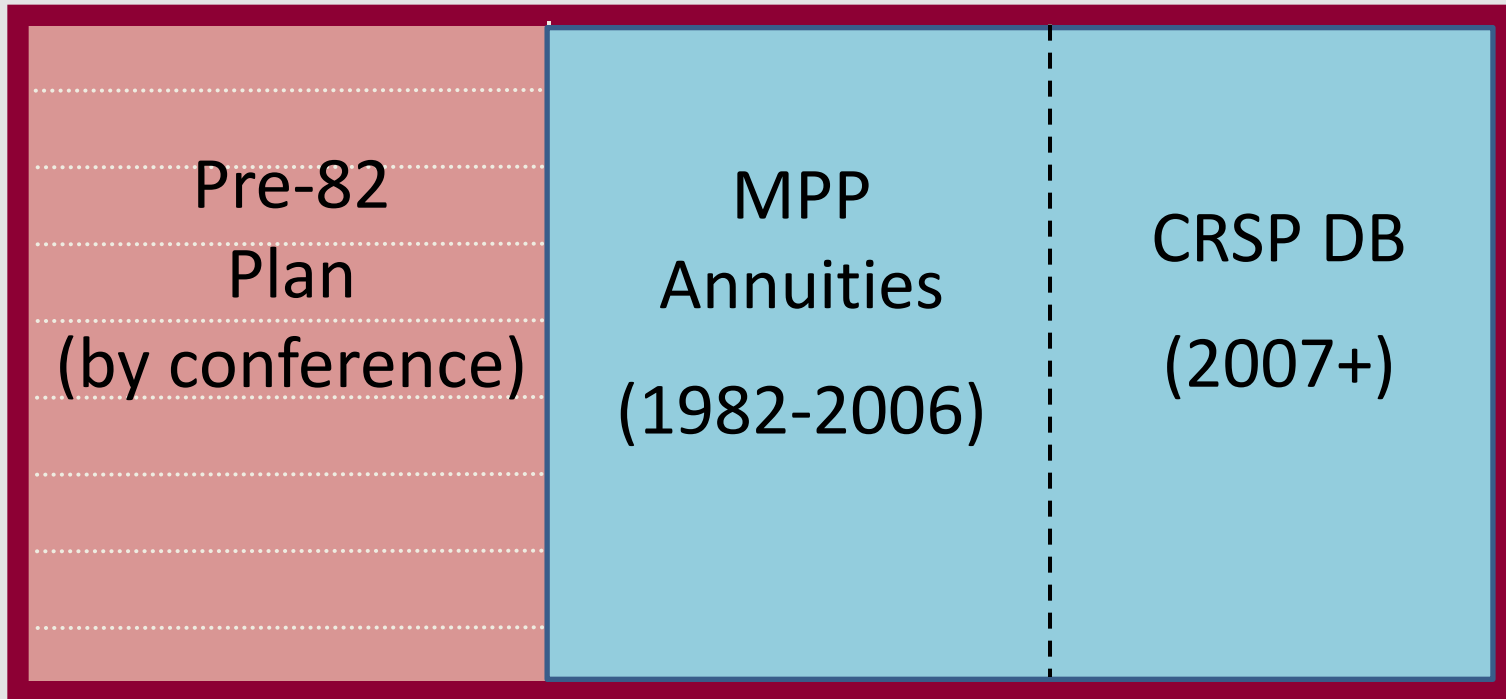


Defined  
Contribution  
DC

The clergy plans we're discussing today  
are **DB PLANS**, not DC plans

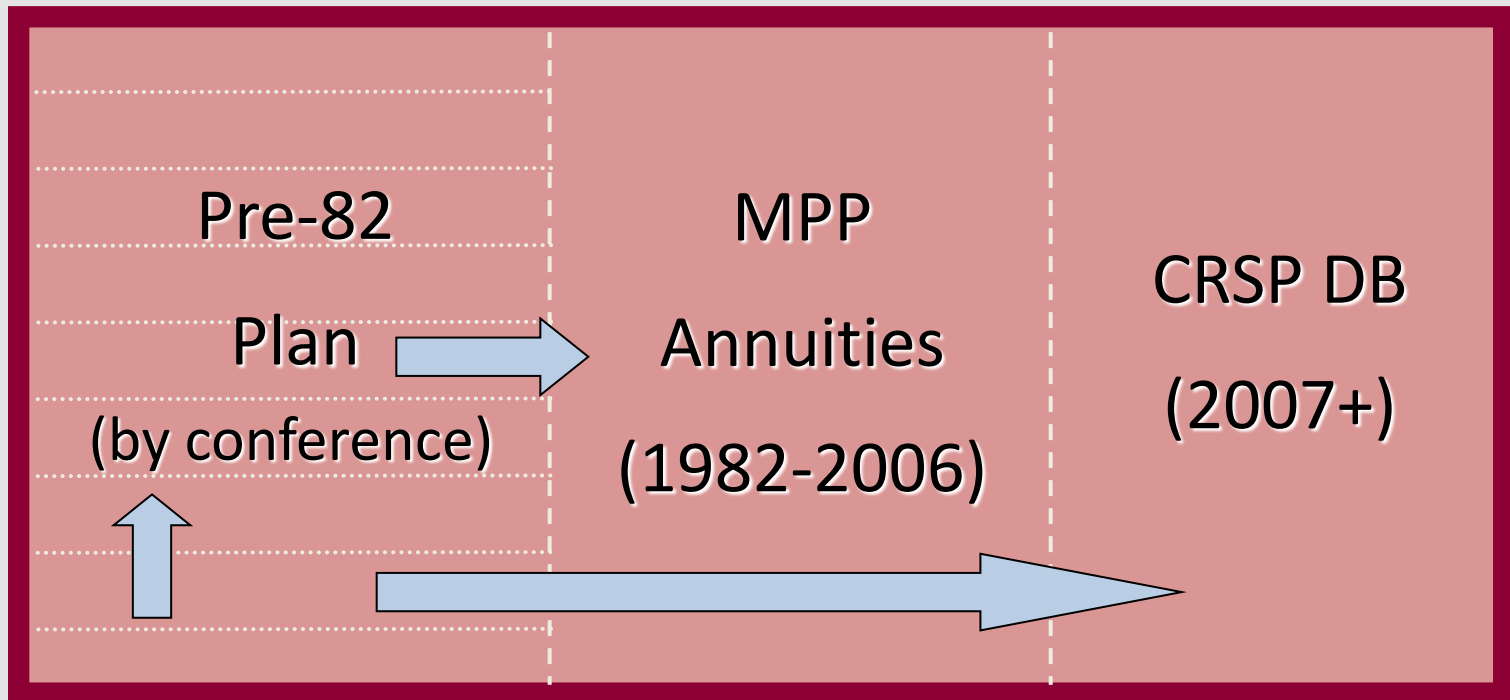
# Clergy DB Plans

Pension Plan Basics



Corridor Plan

# Clergy DB Plans



**Money can move within the red lines  
(Swaps and Redirections)**

1 2 3  
4 5 6  
7 8 9  
0

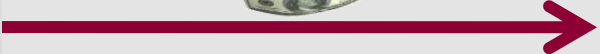


# Actuarial Basics

# DB Basics

## Actuarial Basics

How much will savings earn?  
 $1\% \times \text{DAC} \times \text{Service} = \text{Retirement}$



**TODAY**



**RETIREMENT**



**DEATH**



# Actuarial Valuation

## Actuarial Basics

- Because of these unknowns, assumptions are made to calculate future benefit payments and assets
- An actuary makes these assumptions and performs these calculations
- An actuarial valuation is:
  - A best guess of future plan benefit payments and assets
  - Performed annually for each clergy DB plan, as of January 1 by Wespath's team of actuaries



# Actuarial Valuation

The actuarial valuation presents the plan's:

- **Assets**
- **Liability**
  - Today's value of future expected benefit payments
- **Funded Ratio**
  - $\text{Assets} / \text{Liability}$
- **Contribution**

# Actuarial Valuation— Items Impacting Results

Actuarial Basics



- Asset performance
- Census data
- Key liability assumptions
  - Discount rate
  - Mortality table
- Type of valuation

# Actuarial Valuation—Asset Performance

## Actuarial Basics

- Asset performance impacts the asset value
- The higher the plan's assets, the better funded the plan, and generally the lower the contributions due
- Example:

	<b>Assets</b>	<b>Liability</b>	<b>Funded Ratio</b>
1/1/2015	\$10,000	\$11,000	91%

# Actuarial Valuation—Census Data

## Actuarial Basics

- Collected for all participants entitled to benefits from plan
  - Those receiving benefits AND those with accrued future benefits
- Information needed to estimate future benefits
  - E.g., birth date, gender, service, benefit amount, form of annuity
- Wespath pulls January 1 census data in March from Benefits Access

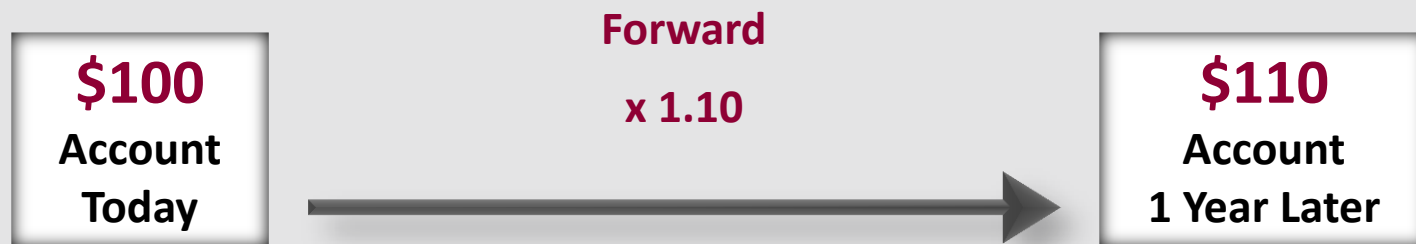


The screenshot shows the Wespath Benefits Access login page. The header is blue with the Wespath logo (a cross inside a circle) and the text "Wespath BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS". Below the header is a white banner with a house icon and the text "Welcome to Benefits Access". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Log In" and contains a "User Name" field, a "Password" field, and a "Log In" button. Below the fields are links for "Change Password", "Forgot Password?", and "Forgot Password?". The right column is titled "Announcements" and contains two entries: one dated 01/03/2014 with the heading "Help Desk" and text "If you need your password res are available from 8:00 a.m. t", and another dated 01/30/2015 with the heading "Online Security" and text "Wespath Benefits and Investm and continually monitor indust".

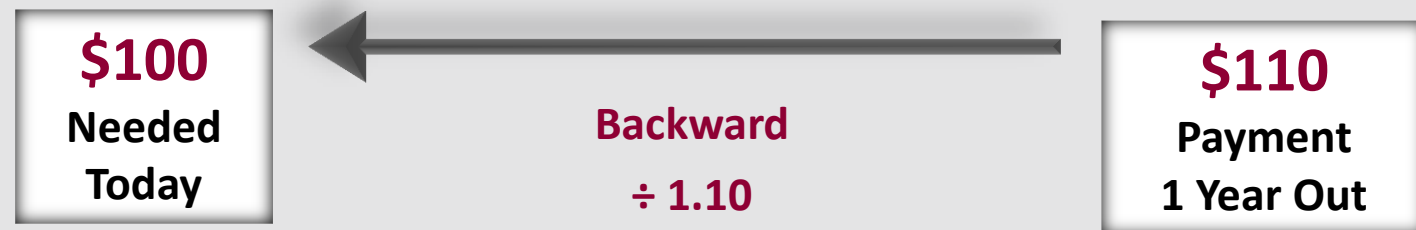


# Actuarial Valuation—Discount Rate

Interest rate = 10%



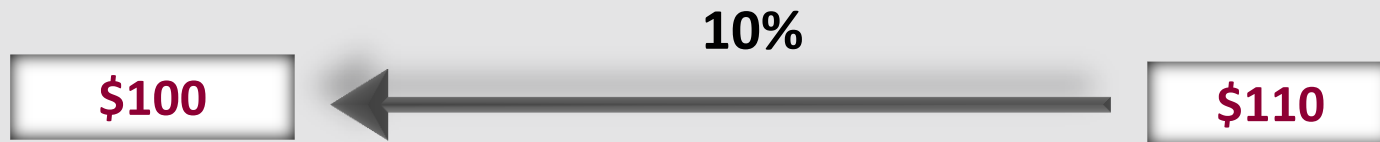
Discount rate = 10%



**LIABILITY**

# Actuarial Valuation—Discount Rate

Actuarial Basics



What if discount rate is 5%?



What if discount rate is 15%?



# Actuarial Valuation—Mortality Table

## Actuarial Basics

- We don't know how long each participant will live, so we use a mortality table assumption
- The longer a participant lives, the more benefits paid, the higher the liability for that participant
- Example of mortality improvement impact:
  - **Mortality assumption A:** 65-year-old expected to live to age 80
  - **Mortality assumption B:** 65-year-old expected to live to age 85

# Actuarial Valuation— Types of Valuations

- **Funding valuation**
  - Based on long-term assumptions
  - Discount rate based on expected return on assets
- **Market valuation**
  - Based on current market conditions
  - Discount rate based on current corporate bond yields





Pre-Funding Pension Benefits

# Balance Equation

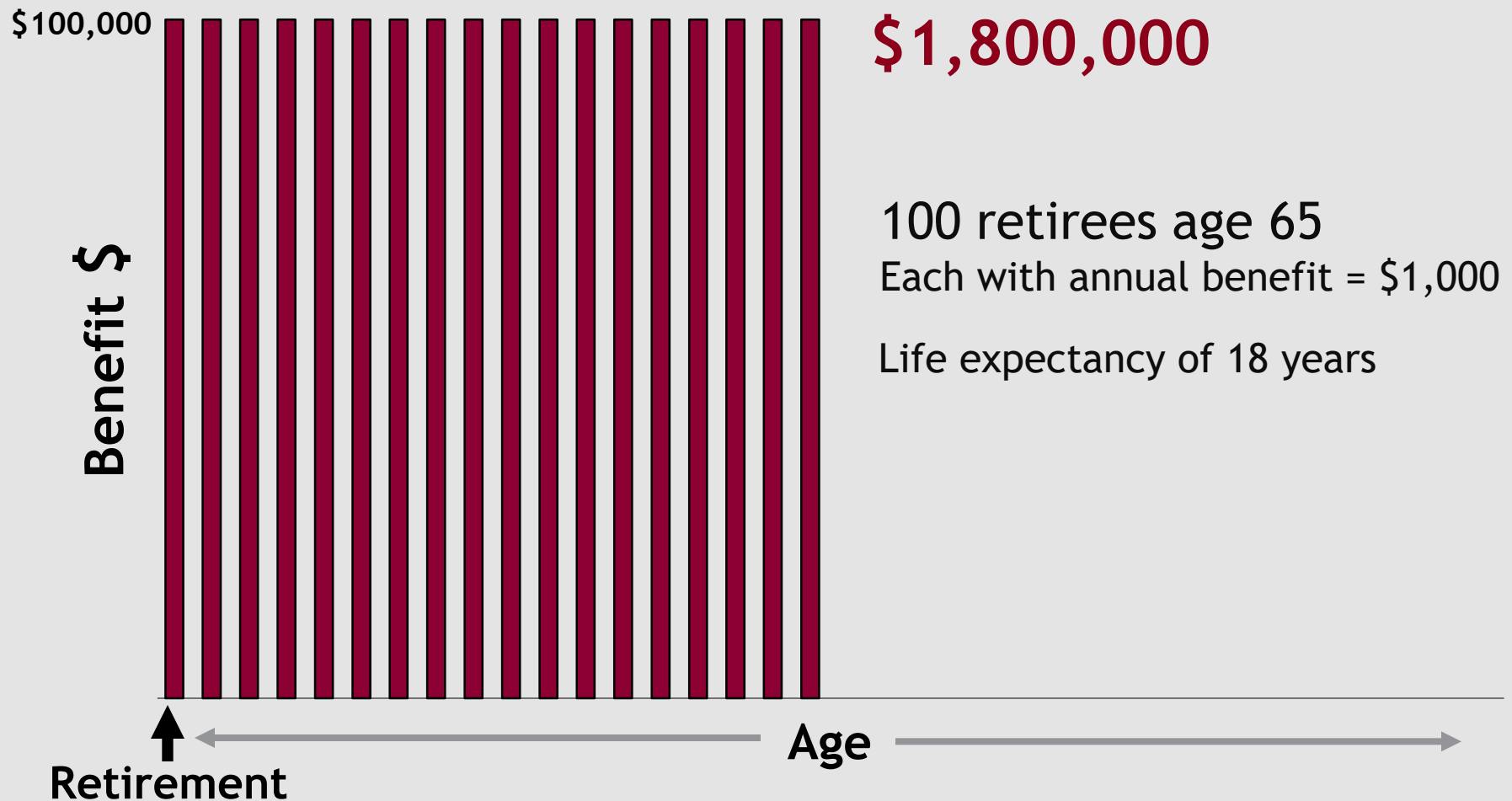
Pre-Funding Pension Benefits

**Benefits Paid = Contributions + Interest Earned**



# Liability Calculation—Benefit Payments

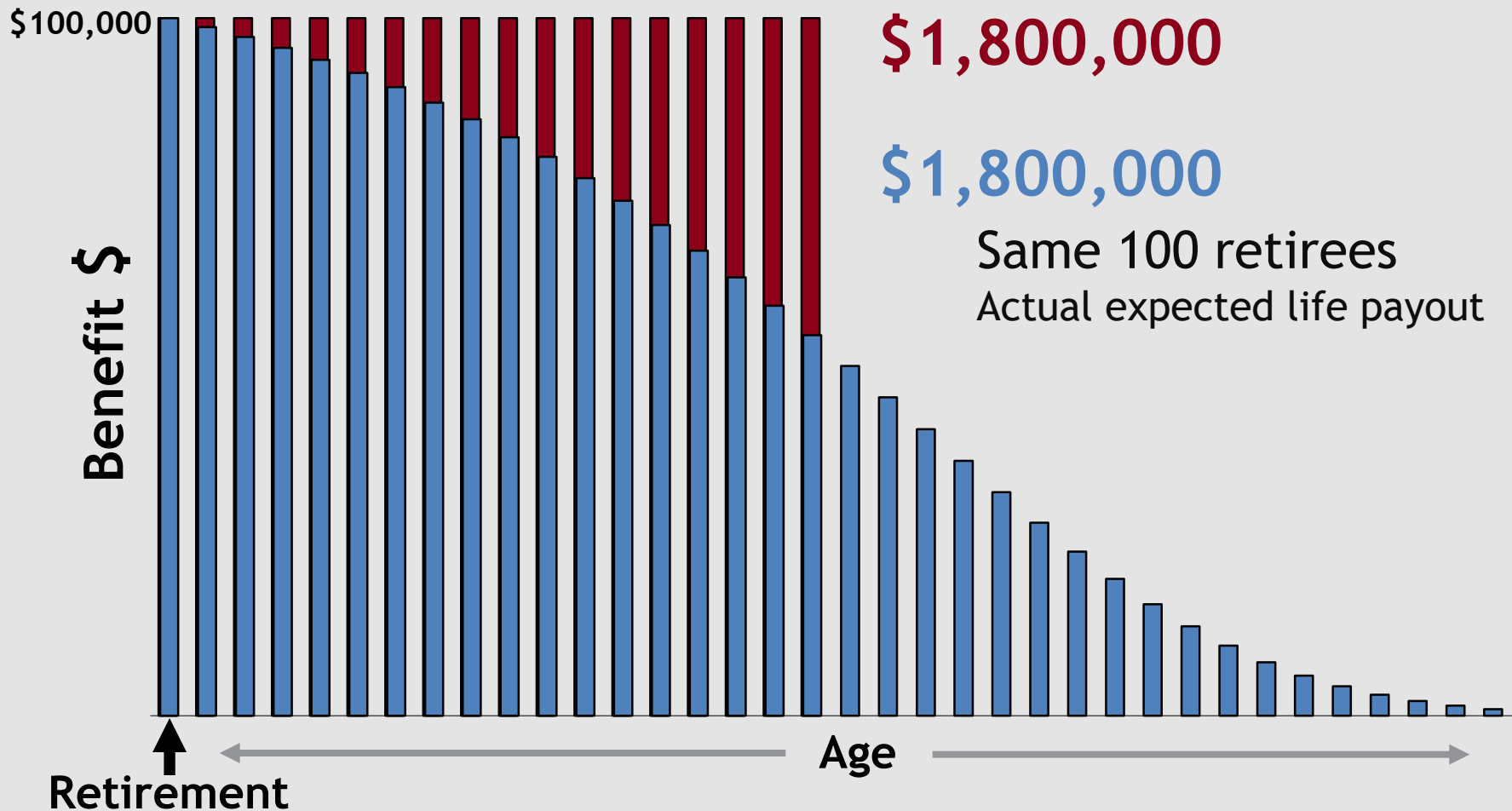
Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



# Liability Calculation—Benefit Payments

## Add Mortality

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits

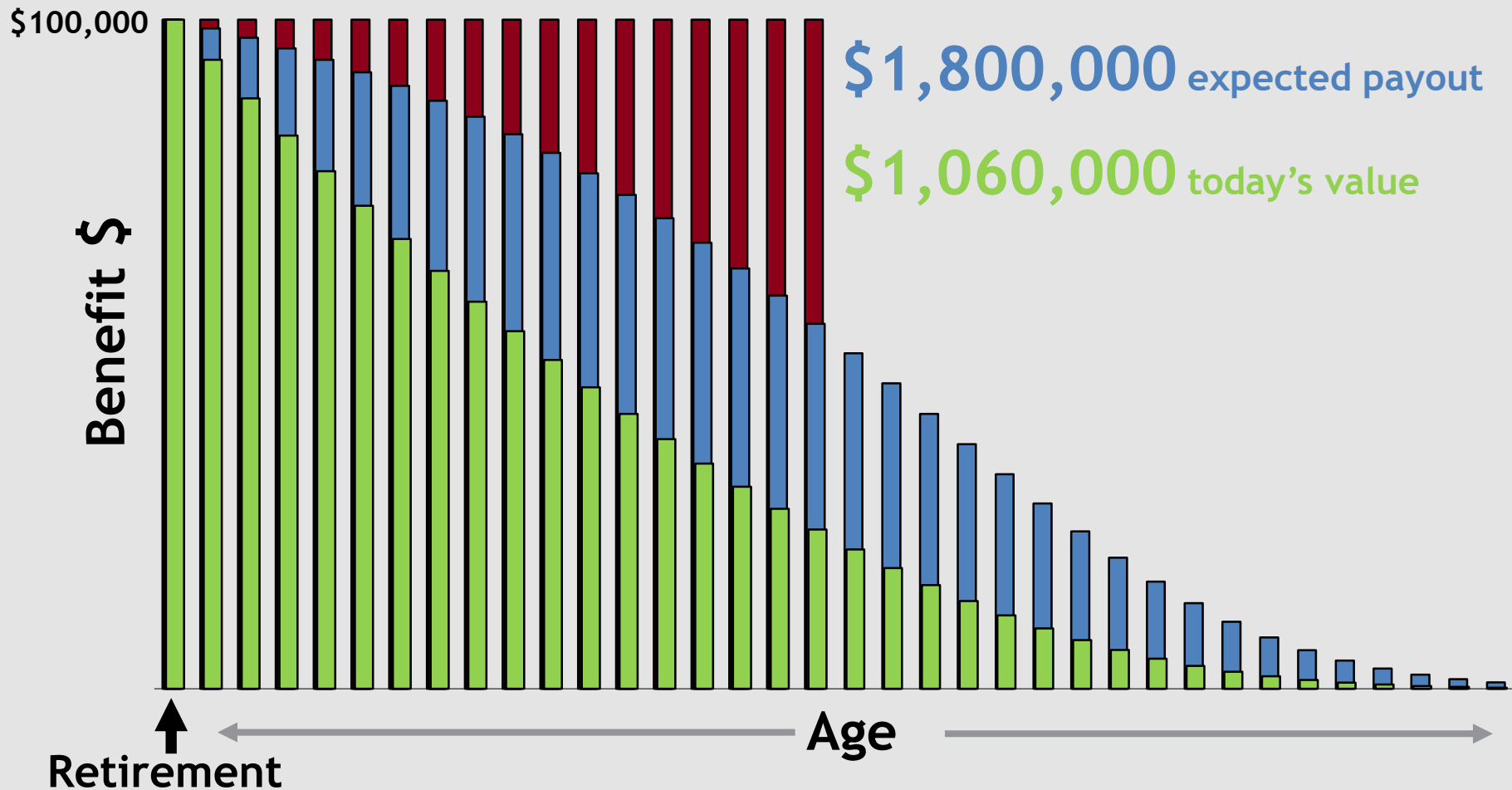




# Liability Calculation—Benefit Payments

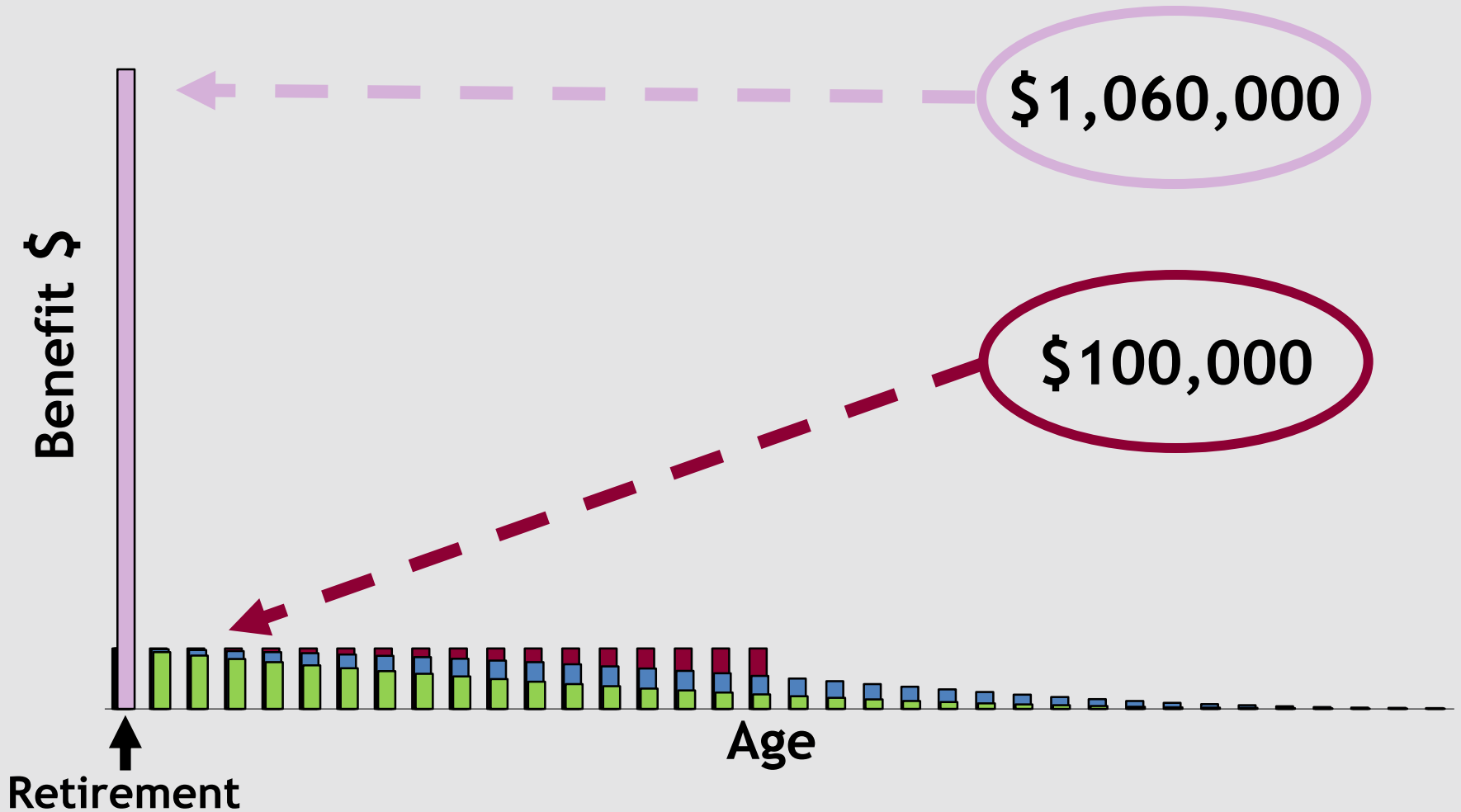
## Add Investment Earnings

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



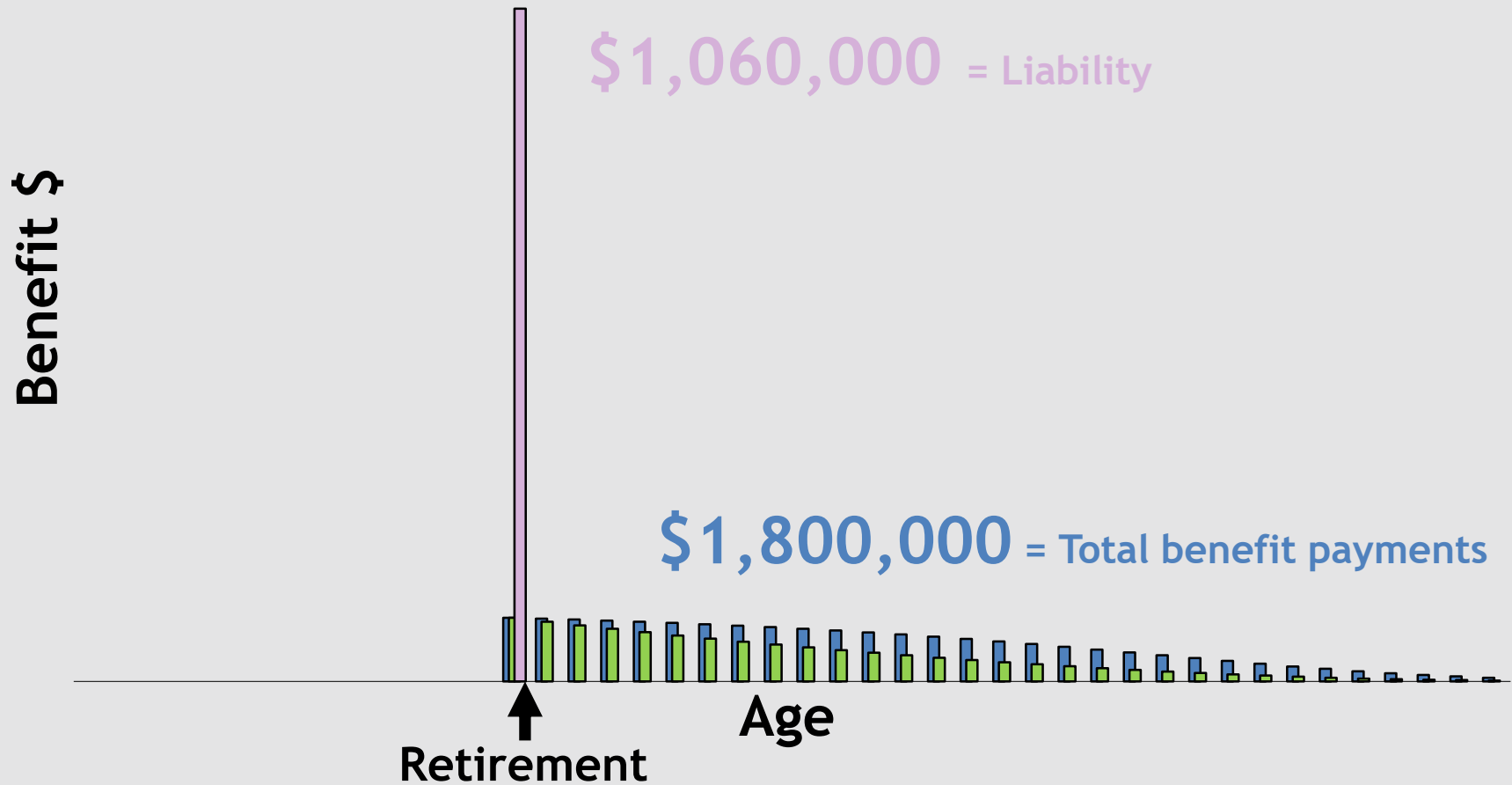
# Liability

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



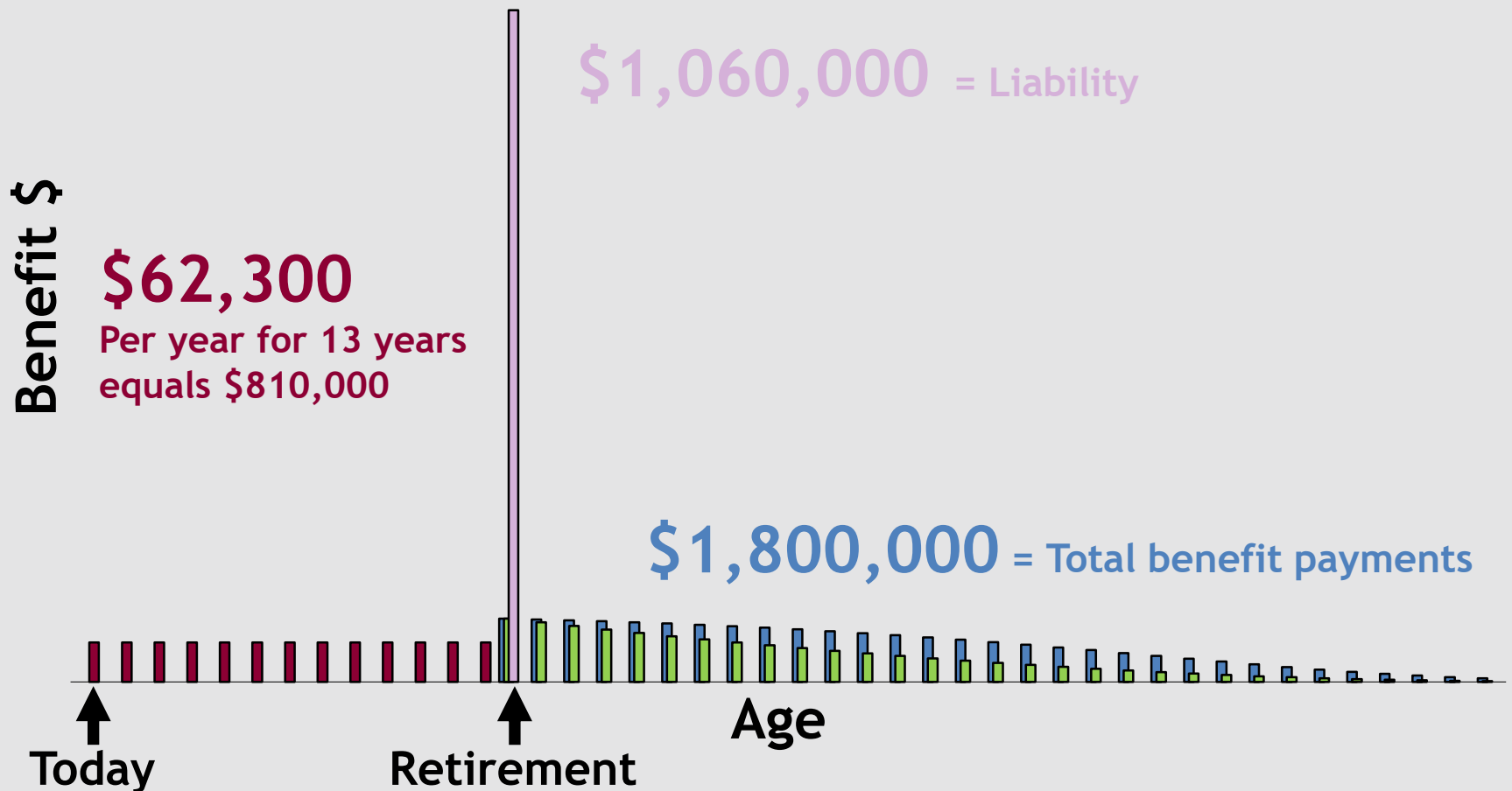
# Liability

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



# Contributions

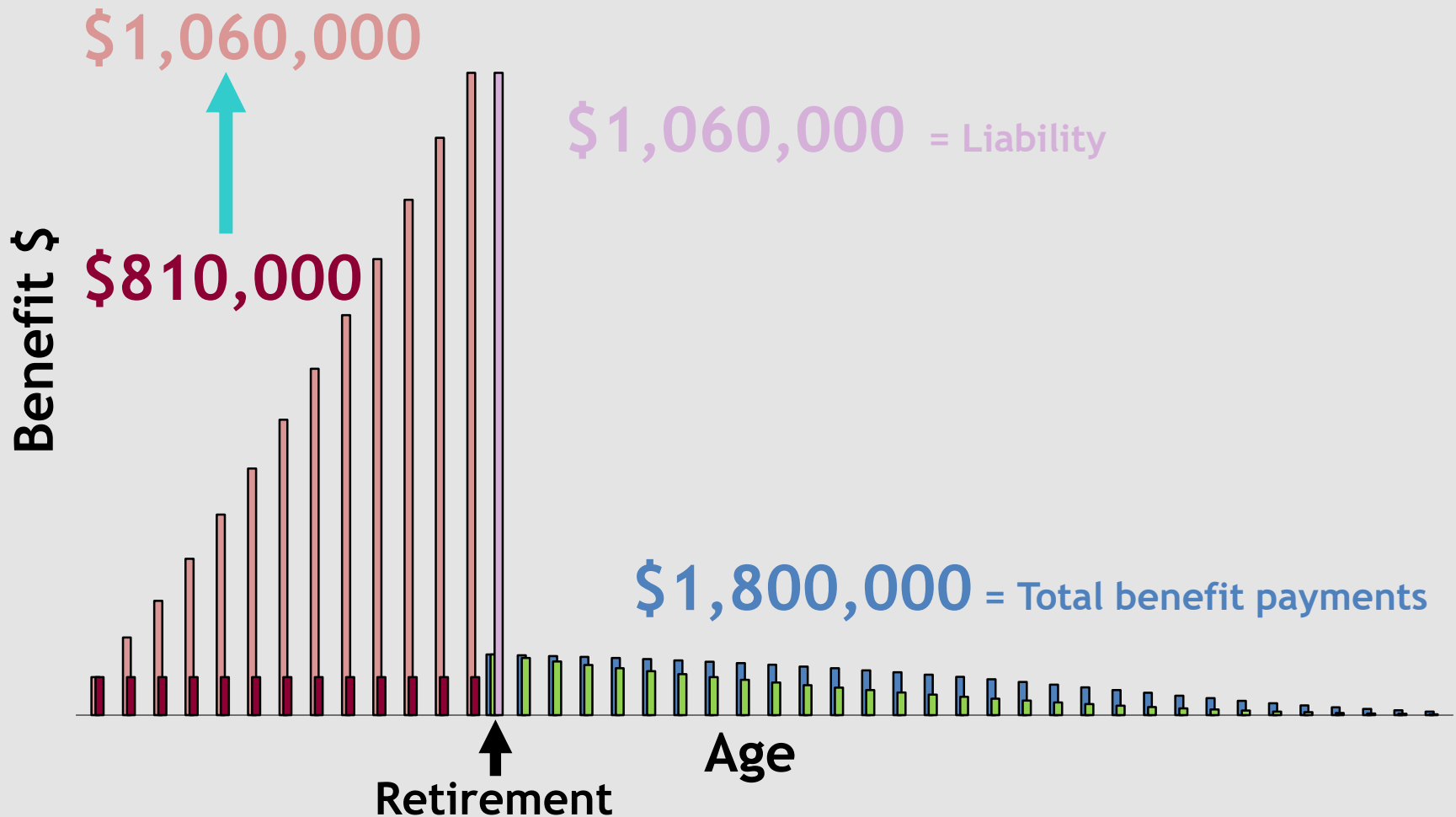
Pre-Funding Pension Benefits





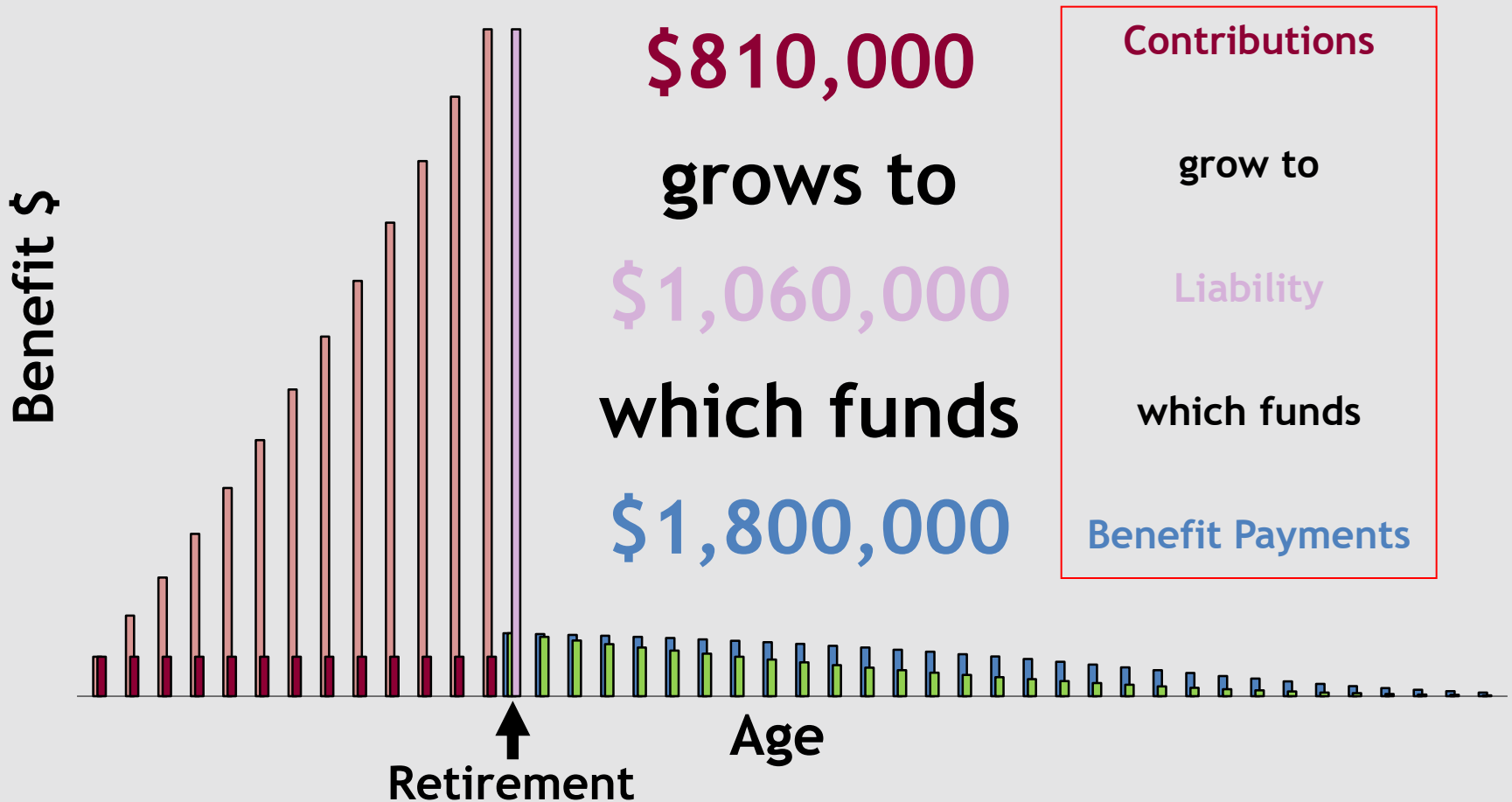
# Pre-Funding Pension Benefits

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



# Pre-Funding Pension Benefits

Pre-Funding Pension Benefits



# Valuation Results



# Asset Returns

## Valuation Results

	2014 Returns		2015 Returns	
	Actual	Expected	Actual	Expected
<b>CRSP DB</b>	4.10%	7.00%	<b>-2.56%</b>	7.000%
<b>MPP Annuities</b>	4.64%	6.25%	<b>-0.80%</b>	6.250%
<b>Pre-82</b>	4.10%	6.75%	<b>-2.50%</b>	6.625%

# CRSP DB and MPP Annuities

Valuation Results

## Funded Ratio—Funding Basis

	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2016
<b>CRSP DB</b>	111%	108%
<b>MPP Annuities</b>	112%	105%
<b>Combined</b>	112%	106%

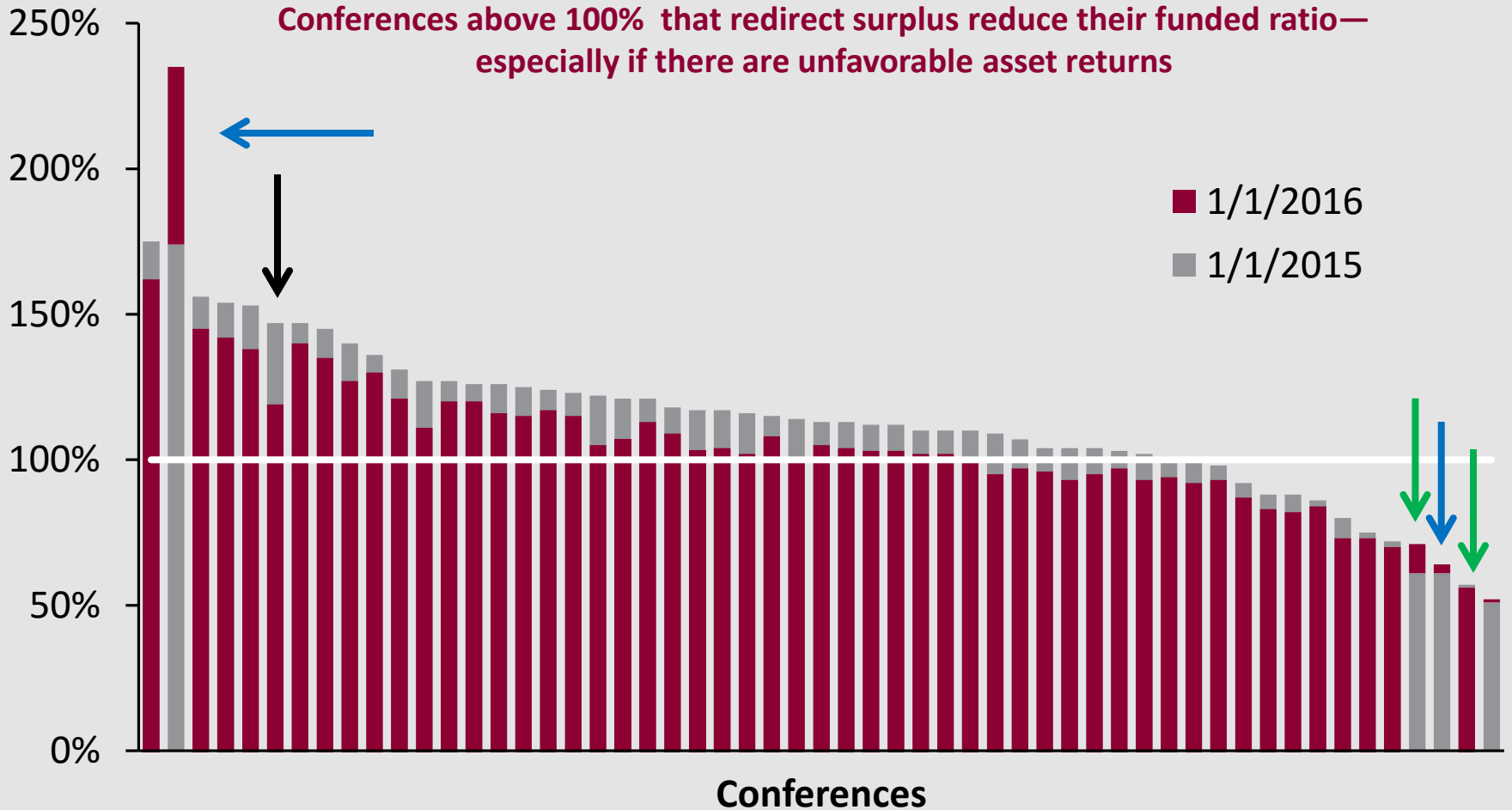
**Note:** 2016 reflects new mortality assumptions and asset smoothing

# Pre-82 Plan

Valuation Results

## Funded Ratio\* —Funding Basis

Conferences above 100% that redirect surplus reduce their funded ratio—especially if there are unfavorable asset returns





# Pre-82 Funded Ratio History— Funding Basis

## Valuation Results

Valuation Year	Contribution Year	Funded Ratio Using All Assets	Funded Ratio Excluding “Funding Surplus”
2010	2012	108%	92%
2011	2013	113%	93%
2012	2014	106%	93%
2013	2015	105%	93%
2014	2016	112%	95%
2015	2017	114%	96%
2016	2018	105%*	95%*

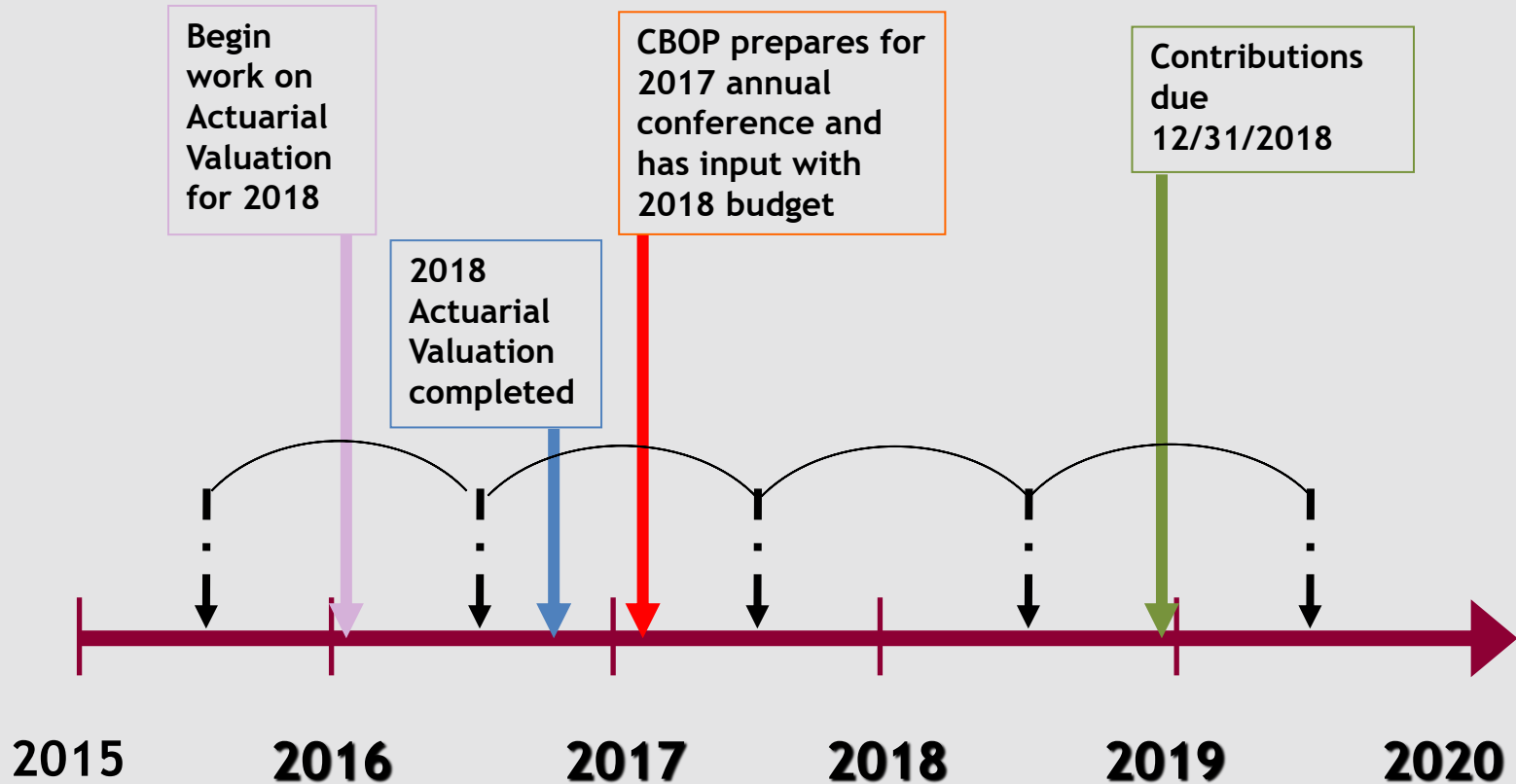
\*Assumes no change in Past Service Rate (PSR)



# Budgeting

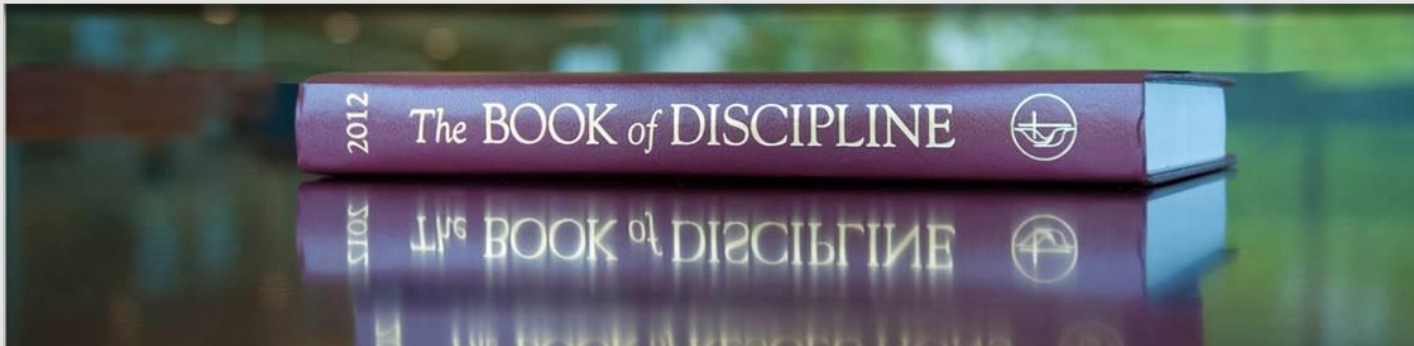
# Conference Budget Timeline—2018

## Budgeting



# Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan (CBFP)

Budgeting



***The 2012 Book of Discipline* ¶ 1506.6 states:**

“Each conference shall develop, adopt, and implement a formal comprehensive funding plan or plans for funding all of its benefit obligations.”

Pre-82 portion of CBFP is required prior to increasing benefit levels (along with pre-funding any unfunded liability)

# Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan

## Budgeting

- Comprehensive Benefit Funding Plan contains:
  - Listing of programs
  - Liability information
  - Estimate of future contribution requirements
  - Assets assigned to those liabilities
  - Future funding sources

# Recap

- Clergy DB plans
  - ✓ Pre-82
  - ✓ MPP Annuities
  - ✓ CRSP DB
- Actuarial Valuation
  - ✓ Assets
  - ✓ Liability
  - ✓ Funded Ratio
  - ✓ Contribution
- Items Impacting Valuation Results
  - ✓ Asset Performance
  - ✓ Census Data
  - ✓ Assumptions
  - ✓ Type of Valuation



# Recap

- **Benefits Paid = Contributions + Interest Earned**
  - ✓ Prefunding allows more time for interest to be earned
- **2016 Valuation Results**
  - ✓ Clergy DB plans are over 100% funded on a Funding Basis
- **Budgeting**
  - ✓ Valuation timing facilitates the UMC budgeting cycle

# Questions?





**Wes**path

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