



“From Where I Sit ...”

**The CME Retirement Plan ...
“A Comprehensive Comparison”**

Over the past six years, I have written many articles about the CME Retirement Plan. My goal was to help every participant in the Plan (and even those who are “pre-enrollees” because they have not yet completed their enrollment requirements) to better understand how the Plan is structured and how it benefits each participant regardless of the degree of their understanding of investments.

As I was online the other day and in the process of making a purchase, I found it very helpful to see a visual comparison of the specific options included in the product I wanted to purchase as compared with similar products; and I wondered if such an approach in this page would be more helpful to our participants, pre-enrollees and prospective enrollees. Well it certainly cannot hurt so “here goes” using the CME Retirement Plan (a money purchase plan) compared to typical (and more recent) employer plans.

Features and Options	CME Retirement Plan	Other Employer Plans
Must be 18 to participate	■	■
Pre-Service requirement ¹	■	■
Completed enrollment requirement	■	■
Vesting (<i>usually 5 years</i>)	■	■
Immediate vesting at Retirement	■	■
Life Insurance on Participant	■	■
Life Insurance on Spouse	■	■
Short-Term Disability on Participant	■	■
Self-Directed Investments	■	■
Employer Directed Investments	■	■
Ability of participant to Borrow against Account ²	■	■
Online Access	■	■
Free Insurance after Retirement ³	■	?

¹ CME Plan requires 1 year minimum, others may require 90 to 180 days.

² This option is usually available when the circumstances exist where the employer can withhold payments from the employee’s payroll.

³ If insurance is provided by an employer in “other employer plans,” it generally exists as a separate program and may not continue into retirement.

Having viewed this “visual” comparison, it appears clear to me that our Plan compares quite well with other plans. Over the next 12 months, we will begin to see additional improvements in the CME Retirement Plan which will make it even more attractive as a planning tool and far more user friendly for the average enrollee. These will be important enhancements to a long standing and quite successful Plan. *Or at least that’s the way it looks to me...*

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the
Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)