

Heartspring and TMF are joining forces! Below are a few answers to frequently asked questions.

Overall benefits:

Q: Is this a traditional merger or an acquisition?

A: This combination is a traditional merger. Both foundations mutually agreed to assess whether a combination would be a good idea, and after much research and due diligence, both boards voted unanimously to join forces. Each foundation brings complementary strengths to the table, and the new organization will combine the best of both to better serve Methodist churches, agencies and individuals.

Q: Why is this merger a good idea?

A: Both nonprofit Methodist foundations already share a similar vision, mission, and purpose, and are presently the only two Methodist foundations tasked with serving the same clientele. After more than a year of intensive due diligence and research, both organizations feel joining together is the best move for the churches, agencies and individual Methodists we serve.

The new organization will move forward with the best offerings and features of both foundations to deliver a wide range of high-quality investment options, loans, leadership platforms, grants, and legacy giving and strategic discernment resources to the Methodist churches, agencies and individuals we serve.

Representation in the Texas Annual Conference (TAC):

Q: How will this merger impact the foundation's presence in the TAC / my district?

A: Both foundations already provide services in the TAC – together, we will have more resources to do more good. The existing Heartspring offices and staff will remain in place to provide local reach. With our back-office services moving to Austin for better efficiencies, we will be able to concentrate on the customer service aspects of our ministry and be even more responsive to your needs.

Q: Will there still be an office in Houston?

A: Yes. We intend to keep the same office space Heartspring has now in the TAC building. This means we will still be within easy reach for the Bishop, TAC churches and agencies.

Q: Will there still be an office in Longview?

A: Yes. We intend to keep the same space in Heartspring's North District office.

Staffing:

Q: Will all Heartspring/TMF staff remain employed in the new organization?

A: Yes. TMF is looking forward to welcoming each member of the Heartspring team to the new organization.

Q: Who will be president?

A: The current president of TMF, Tom Locke, will remain president. C.J. Taylor will continue representing the Texas Conference with similar job duties to his current position. However, his title will change.

Investments/Services:

Q: What about the permanent funds that list Heartspring as the beneficiary?

A: Our lawyers will assist us to ensure that the proper paperwork will be filed to maintain the integrity of our permanent investment agreements.

Q: What about the current benefit of Methodist competition in the TAC for investments and loans?

A: Heartspring and TMF have offered comparable returns on investments over the years, and typically offer very similar bids on loans. Regardless of a merger, the real competition will continue to be local banks and other financial institutions of the secular world, not each other. And given our Methodist affiliation, mission focus and non-profit status, we will continue to be an excellent choice for most church and agency investment and borrowing needs.

Q: What about the Heartspring grant program that offers smaller grants than TMF offers?

A: Some of Heartspring's permanent endowment funds specifically outline distributions that must be used to support small churches in the Texas Conference. These directives cannot change. The new organization would plan to offer the best of both grant programs while honoring the wishes of our donors, but the operational details of the program are still to be finalized.

Q: As a client, will I have to change my investments?

A: No, not any time soon. TMF clients are invested with Wespath and Heartspring clients are invested with a variety of managers through Monroe Vos, a Houston-based investment management firm. As a new entity, we plan to request proposals from various investment firms with both passive and active approaches to management to see what would make the most sense moving forward.

Q: As a client, will my statements or online access change?

A: We are still running various scenarios to see what makes the most sense regarding software systems and conversion options, which will impact the look and feel of statements. However, we can support offering the options from both organizations for as long as necessary. Any changes would offer the superior features from both organizations to all clientele, not limit them to fit the current paradigm of either organization. Any new software system we choose will offer online access to statements and other account information.

Q: I have investments with both Heartspring and TMF. What will happen to my accounts?

A: With a one-stop-shop, you will be able to make one phone call or log in to one online system to manage your Methodist foundation funds.