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KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE EVENT

# From Savings to Security: Making Your Money Last in Retirement with David Blanchett and Michael Finke

Feeling confident in retirement starts with a clear plan for income—not just a strong investment mix. When you know how you'll pay for your must-haves, plan for a long life, and choose how to spend based on what matters most to you, it's easier to enjoy retirement without worry.

1 **Plan for your retirement to last longer than you think.**
Many people live past the "average." In fact, there's about a 50/50 chance you'll outlive it. Test your plan for 30 years of retirement—and for the possibility of living into your 90s (or longer).

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2 **Pick a target retirement date—and a Plan B. Life happens.**
Health issues or job changes can push retirement earlier than expected. If you're planning to work until 67, also see what your plan looks like if you retire at 65 (or sooner) so you're not caught off guard.

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3 **Think "monthly paycheck," not just "investment account."**
A well-built portfolio is helpful, but it's not the whole plan. Start with the life you want and the bills you need to pay, then build an income plan that can support it year after year.

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4 **Separate your "needs" from your "wants"—and fund them differently.**
Cover your non negotiables (housing, taxes, healthcare, insurance, and basics) with steadier income sources like Social Security, pensions, or other guaranteed income. Then use the rest of your savings for flexible goals and fun spending.

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5 **Protect against outliving your money with income that lasts for life.**
Turning part of your savings into lifetime income can ease the fear of running out. When your essentials are covered, you can choose how much risk to take with the rest of your money—based on what feels right for you.

6 **Look at Social Security timing—and how to cover the gap if you wait.**
If you can, waiting until age 70 can boost your monthly benefit for life and help protect against inflation. If you retire earlier, talk through ways to "bridge" the years before benefits start—such as temporary withdrawals from an IRA.

7 **Spend on what matters while you can—especially early on.**
Many retirees are so careful they never enjoy the money they have saved. Build a plan that lets you spend on what you value most—often in your late 60s and early 70s—while keeping simple guardrails so you still feel secure later.

## Questions?

Speak with your Thrivent financial advisor to learn more about creating a personalized plan to support the future you want.