

## **Growth Portfolio**

**Portfolio Objective:** The Growth portfolio is primarily focused on capital appreciation. The profile of this portfolio is similar to that of a diversified all-equity portfolio.

#### Portfolio Overview

The Growth portfolio is positioned to pursue capital appreciation. The allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap. International allocations may include both developed and emerging markets, while commodities, real estate and fixed income may be utilized for total return and diversification. The profile is similar to that of a diversified all-equity portfolio.

#### **Investment Process**

Asset allocation is a portfolio management process where various asset classes are combined in one portfolio. Properly implemented, asset allocation is a time-tested approach that addresses risk through diversification. The Confluence approach to asset allocation is different than traditional asset allocation approaches which rely on long-term historical averages for strategic capital market assumptions. Confluence recognizes that risk levels and return potential rise and fall over market and economic cycles. Therefore, we apply a dynamic process in which the Confluence team estimates the performance of 12 different asset classes in terms of risk, return and yield looking forward 3 years. This cyclical approach is not market *timing*. Rather, the intention is to remain within an acceptable risk profile, while changing the asset class mix to optimize return potential. We may adjust allocations in much shorter time frames, depending upon changing views of the marketplace and economy. Alternately, we may abstain from making significant allocation adjustments if we believe the existing posture remains optimal. The process may involve somewhat higher turnover than a more static strategic program, but usually involves less trading relative to tactical approaches.

The asset allocation portfolios are comprised of exchange-traded funds (ETFs). We may use ETFs that allow us to focus on or avoid particular industry sectors, bond maturities, commodities or countries.

# Portfolio Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

	Portfolio
Dividend Yield (as of 3/31/18)	1.9%
Number of Securities	22-26
Annual Turnover	40-70%

# Five Largest Holdings<sup>1</sup> (as of 4/17/18)

iShares S&P 500 Growth - IVW iShares S&P 500 Value - IVE Vanguard FTSE Emerging Markets - VWO iShares S&P SmallCap 600 Growth - IJT iShares S&P MidCap 400 Growth - IJK

The listing of "Five Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all securities in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Furthermore, application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings.

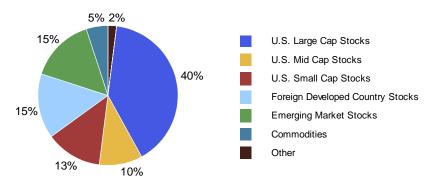
<sup>1</sup>This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Information presented reflects wrap account composites with "Plus" strategies & taxable income (if applicable).

#### Second Quarter 2018 Growth Market Observations

While the U.S. equity exposure is diversified across large, mid and small caps, the large cap allocation continues to serve as the core component and remains unchanged. Our overall posture for U.S. equities has a 60% tilt toward growth as we expect the economic expansion to continue. We reduce the allocation to mid-caps in favor of small caps, owing to more attractive fundamentals as well as the potential for appreciation in an environment where M&A activity is elevated. We eliminate the previous small allocation to REITs in order to introduce a gold allocation, which we believe is attractive relative to its fair value price and its potential to reduce overall portfolio risk.

We maintain the strategy's high exposure to non-U.S. equities with an equal split between developed and emerging markets. The prospect for continued improvement in the European economic climate affirms the foreign developed allocation, and attractive fundamental valuations for emerging market equities encourage this exposure. Our thesis for a softer U.S. dollar will further benefit this positioning for U.S.-based investors.

# Sector Allocation<sup>1</sup> (as of 4/17/18)



<sup>1</sup>Note: The asset allocation shown represents the allocation of assets in the Growth model portfolio as of the second quarter of 2018 and does not represent the allocation of assets in an actual client account. Asset allocation in client accounts may vary based on individual client considerations and market fluctuations. The allocation of assets in the model portfolio may be changed from time to time due to market conditions and economic factors. The investments held by the portfolio are not guaranteed and do carry a risk of loss of principal. Each asset class has specific risks associated with it and no specific asset class can prevent a loss of capital in market downturns. ETFs trade like a stock but charge internal management fees; there will be brokerage commissions associated with buying and selling exchange traded funds unless trading occurs in a fee-based account. This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.





# **Growth – Plus Composite Returns** For Periods Ending 3/31/18

	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of-Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	Inflation
QTD	(0.5%)	(1.3%)	(0.8%)	0.5%
YTD	(0.5%)	(1.3%)	(0.8%)	0.5%
1-year	11.2%	7.9%	14.0%	1.8%
3-year	8.0%	4.8%	10.8%	1.6%
5-year	10.2%	7.0%	13.3%	1.7%
Since Inception* Annualized	7.4%	4.3%	10.2%	1.6%

	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of-Fees <sup>2</sup>	S&P 500	Inflation
2017	16.0%	12.5%	21.8%	1.8%
2016	13.1%	9.7%	12.0%	1.5%
2015	(0.4)%	(3.3)%	1.4%	1.4%
2014	14.6%	11.2%	13.7%	1.8%
2013	17.7%	14.2%	32.4%	2.0%
2012	11.0%	7.7%	16.0%	2.0%
2011	(1.5)%	(4.5)%	2.1%	1.9%
2010	14.5%	11.1%	15.1%	1.6%
2009	29.2%	25.4%	26.5%	1.1%
2008**	(29.8)%	(30.5)%	(28.9)%	(0.0)%

<sup>\*</sup>Inception is 9/1/08

## The benchmark is the S&P 500 index.

Inflation is provided as additional information and is represented by the US 5-year TIP breakeven spread (Bloomberg: USGGBE05 Index), which had 3-year standard deviation as follows: 0.1% 2011, 0.1% 2012, 0.1% 2013, 0.1% 2014, 0.1% 2015, 0.1% 2016, 0.1% 2017.

The benchmark was changed retroactively on 7/1/13 to be more simplified. The custom benchmark prior to 7/1/13 (calculated monthly) consisted of: S&P 500 48%, S&P 400 15%, Russell 2000 15%, ML US Corporate, Government, and Mortgage 10%, MSCI EAFE 10% (gross), and ML T-Bill 2%.

Confluence claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

- <sup>1</sup> Pure gross-of-fees returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. The Growth - Plus Composite was created on September 1, 2008. Results are based on fully discretionary accounts under management, including those accounts no longer with the firm. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The U.S. dollar is the currency used to express performance. Returns are presented gross-of-fees and net-of-fees and include the reinvestment of all income.
- <sup>2</sup> Net-of-fees performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly. This fee includes brokerage commissions, portfolio management, consulting services and custodial services. The Confluence fee schedule for this composite is as follows: 0.40% on the first \$500,000; 0.35% on the next \$500,000; and 0.30% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. Clients pay an all-inclusive fee based on a percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net-of-fees. Bundled fee accounts make up 100% of the composite for all periods. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary. Wrap fee schedules are provided by independent wrap sponsors and are available upon request from the respective wrap sponsor.

The Growth - Plus Composite contains fully discretionary Growth - Plus wrap accounts. The Growth strategy is implemented using ETFs and the investment objective is the pursuit of nominal returns (yield and growth) in excess of inflation, subject to the limitations of the risk constraint for the Growth strategy. The allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap. International allocations may include both developed and emerging markets, while commodities, real estate and fixed income may be utilized for total return and diversification. This portfolio may be appropriate for equity-oriented investors with an average risk tolerance. A GIPS-compliant presentation and/or the firm's list of composite descriptions can be requested by contacting Confluence. Yield data source: FactSet. Weighted average dividend yield of holdings in the portfolio, calculated based on annualized current dividends.

## Firm Overview

## The Confluence Team

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## **The Confluence Mission**

Our mission is to provide our clients with superior investment solutions and exceptional client service with the highest standards of ethics and integrity. Our team of investment professionals is committed to delivering innovative products and sound, practical advice to enable investors to achieve their investment objectives.

#### **About Confluence Investment Management LLC**

Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri that was founded in 2007. Confluence provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. The firm's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates our evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with our value-driven, fundamental companyspecific approach. Confluence's portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk, and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives. The Confluence team has more than 400 years of combined financial experience and 200 years of portfolio management experience.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Results for 2008 represent partial period performance from 9/1/2008 through 12/31/2008.