

# GROWTH

SECOND QUARTER 2020

OBJECTIVE

Primarily focused on capital appreciation. Profile is similar to that of a diversified all-equity portfolio.

## **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

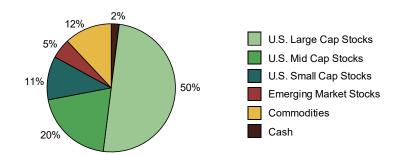
Asset allocation is a portfolio management process where various asset classes are combined in one portfolio. Properly implemented, asset allocation is a timetested approach that addresses risk through diversification. The Confluence approach to asset allocation is different than traditional asset allocation 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 an adaptive 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 utilize exchange-traded funds (ETFs). We may use ETFs that allow us to focus on or avoid particular industry sectors, bond maturities, commodities or countries.

### **OVERVIEW**

- Positioned to pursue capital appreciation
- Allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap
- International allocations may include both developed and emerging markets
- Commodities, real estate and fixed income may be utilized for total return and diversification
- Profile is similar to that of a diversified all-equity portfolio
- Suitable for equity-oriented investors with an average risk tolerance

# ASSET ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



# CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

Weighted SEC Yield	1.9%
Number of Securities	10-21
Annual Turnover (3-Year Rolling)	74%

# **5** LARGEST HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup>

SPDR Portfolio S&P 500 Growth ETF - SPYG	19.5%
SPDR Portfolio S&P 500 Value ETF - SPYV	13.0%
SPDR S&P 400 Mid Cap Growth ETF - MDYG	12.0%
iShares Gold Trust - IAU	10.0%
SPDR S&P 400 Mid Cap Value ETF - MDYV	8.0%

<sup>1</sup>This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosure sequired by the GIPS® standards. Information presented reflects wrap account composites with "Plus" strategies & taxable income (if applicable). Asset allocations shown represent the individual ETFs used in the model portfolios as of 330/20 and do not represent the precise allocation of assets in an actual client account. Asset allocations 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 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 downturms. The listing of "5 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all ETFs in the portfolio or which Confluence may be currently recommending. Application of the investment strategy as of a later date will likely result in changes to the listing. Individual client portfolios may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Yielid data source: Morningstar. 30-day SEC yield for the model portfolio as of 3/30/20. Annual turnover 3-year rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 1/231/2019.

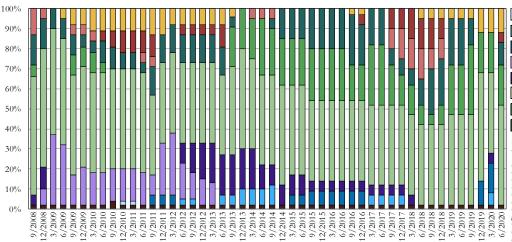
> Foreign Developed Country Stocks

Commodities

Cash

**Emerging Market Stocks** 

# HISTORICAL MODEL ALLOCATIONS<sup>2</sup>



- Short-Term Bonds Intermediate-Term Bonds Long-Term Bonds
- Speculative Grade Bonds
- Real Estate U.S. Large Cap Stocks
- U.S. Mid Cap Stocks
- U.S. Small Cap Stocks

<sup>2</sup>These allocations reflect the model asset allocations over time. The allocations do not represent actual trading as actual investment results vary from model results due to inherent limitations in sector, industry and asset class. ETF securities that do not perfectly replicate a selected asset class. Asset allocation in client accounts may vary based on individual client considerations and market fluctuations. The allocation of assets in the model portfolios may be changed from time to time due to market conditions and economic factors. The investments held by the portfolios 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 be so accurated and and and etform the best fragment. The stock but charge internal management fees; there will be brokerage occurs in a feebased account. This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management is an independent Registered Investment Advisor located in St. Louis, Missouri, that provides professional portfolio management and advisory services to institutional and individual clients. Confluence's investment philosophy is based upon independent, fundamental research that integrates evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven approach. The investment team's portfolio management philosophy begins by addressing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve income and growth objectives.

# SECOND QUARTER 2020 GROWTH MARKET OBSERVATIONS

- The prospect of a recession in the U.S. is nearly a foregone conclusion. The depth will likely be severe, but the duration could be brief.
- Actions over the past two weeks by the U.S. Federal Reserve should help mitigate the economic crisis, potentially avoiding problems faced in past downturns
- The stimulus package signed into law on March 27 offers further assistance for lessening the duration of the contraction.
- Our three-year forecast is for a recovery and even the potential for expansion toward the end of the forecast period.
- Risk assets, especially U.S. equities and even corporate bonds, are at attractive valuations in our view.
- Each strategy now has elevated exposure to equities with a tilt toward growth over value.
- Though long-term Treasuries have likely run their course, the use of gold as a stabilizer for the strategies remains appropriate.

Although the Growth strategy was risk-controlled over the past two quarters and incorporated equity stabilizers of intermediate/long-term bonds and commodities, only the commodities remain. We removed the former positions in long-term and intermediate-term bonds, with the proceeds funding larger exposure to U.S. large cap equities and a new position in U.S. small cap equities. Among U.S. equities, a tilt now exists in favor of growth over value and we increase the allocation to the quality factor focusing on profitability, earnings quality, and lower leverage. Within large cap sectors, we establish an overweight to Consumer Discretionary, given expectations for performance once constrained demand from COVID-19 is revived, while maintaining the overweight to Technology and Communication Services. We introduce a position in emerging markets to the Growth strategy this quarter due to our view that the sharp sell-off has adequately addressed associated risks and presents an attractive entry point. The strategy retains the stabilizer of gold for its potential to reduce overall strategy risk accruing from geopolitical uncertainty, along with the opportunity it affords in the event of continued global equity market volatility. This position is augmented by a minor position in silver, which complements the gold position and has the potential to magnify the advantages of gold.

Information provided in this report is for educational and illustrative purposes only and should not be construed as individualized investment advice or a recommendation. The investment or strategy discussed may not be suitable for all investors. Investors must make their own decisions based on their specific investment objectives and financial circumstances. Opinions expressed are current as of the date shown and are subject to change.

### PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (FOR PERIODS ENDING MARCH 31, 2020)

	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees²	Benchmark (S&P 500)	Inflation	Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees²	Benchmark (S&P 500)	Inflation	Difference (Gross- Bchmrk)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	S&P 500 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since Inception**	6.0%	2.9%	8.5%	1.6%	2008**	(29.8%)	(30.5%)	(28.9%)	(0.0%)	(0.9%)	2	\$252	\$291,644	N/A	N/A	N/A
					2009	29.2%	25.4%	26.5%	1.1%	2.7%	73	\$10,824	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	0.0%
10-Year*	7.6%	4.4%	10.5%	1.7%	2010	14.5%	11.1%	15.1%	1.6%	(0.5%)	124	\$18,719	\$751,909	N/A	N/A	0.2%
5-Year*	4.5%	1.4%	6.7%	1.6%	2011	(1.5%)	(4.5%)	2.1%	1.9%	(3.7%)	155	\$32,263	\$937,487	17.8%	18.7%	0.2%
3-Year*	3.2%	0.2%	5.1%	1.7%	2012	11.0%	7.7%	16.0%	2.0%	(5.0%)	152	\$36,374	\$1,272,265	14.0%	15.1%	0.1%
1-Year	(2.2%)	(5.1%)	(7.0%)	1.5%	2012	17.7%	14.2%	32.4%	2.0%	(14.7%)	119	\$35,195	\$1.955.915	11.2%	11.9%	0.2%
YTD	(11.7%)	(12.4%)	(19.6%)	0.3%						( /		• •	, ,,			
OTD	(44 70()	(40,40()	( )	,	2014	14.6%	11.2%	13.7%	1.8%	0.9%	115	\$38,771	\$2,589,024	8.5%	9.0%	0.3%
QTD	(11.7%)	(12.4%)	(19.6%)	0.3%	2015	(0.4%)	(3.3%)	1.4%	1.4%	(1.8%)	133	\$35,486	\$3,175,419	9.5%	10.5%	0.1%
*Average annualized returns			2016	13.1%	9.7%	12.0%	1.5%	1.1%	70	\$24,178	\$4,413,659	10.1%	10.6%	0.2%		
**Inception is 9/1/2008				2017	16.0%	12.5%	21.8%	1.8%	(5.8%)	76	\$15,068	\$5,944,479	9.2%	9.9%	0.1%	
					2018	(10.1%)	(12.7%)	(4.4%)	2.0%	(5.7%)	65	\$11,109	\$5,486,737	10.5%	10.8%	0.2%
					2019	23.9%	20.2%	31.5%	1.6%	(7.6%)	60	\$15,524	\$7,044,708	11.7%	11.9%	0.2%
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#### Portfolio Benchmark

The benchmark is the S&P 500 Index (Source: Bloomberg)

The benchmark was changed retroactively on 7/1/13 to be more simplified. The custom benchmark prior to 7/1/13 was calculated monthly and consisted of: S&P 500 48%, S&P 400 15%, Russell 2000 15%, ML U.S. Corporate, Government, and Mortgage 10%, MSCI EAFE 10% (gross), and ML T-Bill 2%. Inflation is provided as additional information and is represented by the U.S. 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% 2015, 0.1% 2018, 0.1% 2018, 0.1% 2019.

Confluence claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Confluence has been independently verified for the periods of 8/1/2008 through 12/31/2018. A copy of the verification report is available upon request. Verification assesses whether: 1, the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis, and 2, the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS standards. Verification des not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

The Growth-Plus Composite was created on September 1, 2008. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. 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 and net of all fees and include the reinvestment of all income.

<sup>1</sup> Pure gross returns are shown as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS ® standards. <sup>2</sup> Net-of-fee 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.

A complete list of composite descriptions is available upon request. Additional information regarding policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request. The annual composite dispersion is an equal weighted standard deviation calculated for accounts in the composite for the entire year. 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.

\*\*Results shown for the year 2008 represent partial period performance from September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008. N/A-Composite Dispersion: Information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios in the composite for the entire year. N/A-3yr Std Dev: Composite does not have 3 years of monthly performance history.

#### **Confluence Asset Allocation Committee**

Mark Keller, CFA William O'Grady
Gregory Ellston
David Miyazaki, CFA

Patty Dahl Kaisa Stucke, CFA Patrick Fearon-Hernandez, CFA

#### 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.

# FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ONE OF OUR SALES TEAM MEMBERS:

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