



Third Quarter 2019

# **OBJECTIVE**

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

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

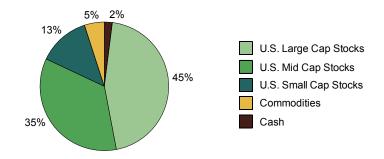
Asset allocation is a portfolio management process where various asset classes are combined in one portfolio. Properly implemented, asset allocation is a timetested approach that addresses risk through diversification. The Confluence approach to asset allocation is different than traditional asset allocation 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 1.4% **Number of Securities** 10-21 **Annual Turnover** 40-70%

5 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>								
iShares S&P 500 Growth ETF - IVW	18.0%							
iShares S&P 500 Value ETF - IVE	18.0%							
iShares S&P Mid-Cap 400 Growth ETF - IJK	17.5%							
iShares S&P Mid-Cap 400 Value ETF - IJJ	17.5%							
iShares S&P Small-Cap 600 Growth ETF - IJT	6.5%							

¹This 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). Asset allocations shown represent the individual EIFs used in the model portfolios as of \*/17/19 and on or represent the precise 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 The listing of \*5 Largest Holdings is not a complete list of all EIFs 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. Yield data source: Morningstar. 30-day SEC yield for the model portfolio as of 7/11/19.

Short-Term Bonds

Long-Term Bonds

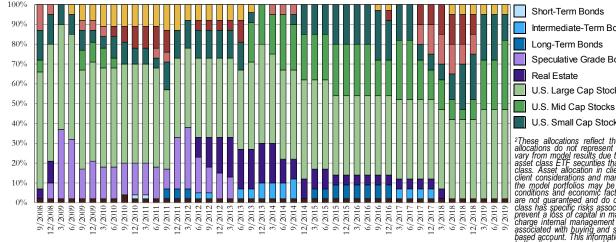
Real Estate

Intermediate-Term Bonds

Speculative Grade Bonds

U.S. Large Cap Stocks

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



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 prevent a loss of capital in market downtums. ETFs trade like a stock but charge internal management fees; there will be brokerage commissions associated with buying and selling ETFs unless trading occurs in a feebased account. This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards.

Foreign Developed

**Emerging Market Stocks** 

Country Stocks

Commodities

Cash

# ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

Confluence Investment Management 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 evaluation of market cycles, macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis with the firm's value-driven approach. Confluence's portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives

# THIRD QUARTER 2019 GROWTH MARKET OBSERVATIONS

- We maintain our sanguine view of the economy and markets, though it is more guarded than last quarter.
- ♦ We expect the Federal Reserve to implement easier policy in the third quarter, marking its first rate reduction since 2008.
- In the absence of a recession, which is not in our forecast, the rate reduction should lead to a healthy environment for U.S. equities.
- ♦ Although economic weakness abroad is forecast to persist in the near-term, such weakness will only modestly impact the U.S. economy.
- The Fed's accommodation and our expectations for continued, albeit muted, U.S. growth encourages our decision to maintain historically high allocations to U.S. equities in the strategies.

We reduced exposure to small cap stocks in the Growth strategy in favor of mid-caps, which now sit at a historically high level of 35%. This change was enacted due to our view that the latter stages of an economic cycle, coupled with expectations for continued elevated levels of M&A activity, produce an advantage for mid-cap stocks. The neutral split between growth and value remains, and the Industrials, Technology and Materials sectors continue to be overweight within the large cap allocation. The overweight to Industrials underscores our thesis for an advancing equity market caused by a docile Fed and continued corporate profitability, while we favor Technology due to its potential in the latter stages of the economic cycle. We find Materials attractive based upon valuations and expectations for normalization in natural gas prices, which have substantial influence on the Materials sector. Mid-cap and small cap stocks now represent 35% and 13% of the strategy, respectively. We retain the 5% gold allocation as a hedge against geopolitical risks and due to its attractiveness should the U.S. dollar experience weakness.

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 JUNE 30, 2019)

	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (S&P 500)	Inflation		Pure Gross-of- Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	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**	7.0%	3.8%	10.3%	1.6%	2008**	(29.8%)	(30.5%)	(28.9%)	(0.0%)	(0.9%)	2	\$252	\$291,644	N/A	N/A	N/A						
·	φιοπ				2009	29.2%	25.4%	26.5%	1.1%	2.7%	73	\$10,824	\$533,832	N/A	N/A	0.0%						
10-Year*	10.8%	7.5%	14.7%	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*	7.3%	4.1%	10.7%	1.7%	2011	(1.5%)	(4.5%)	2.1%	1.9%	(3.7%)	155	\$32,263	\$937,487	17.8%	18.7%	0.2%						
3-Year*	9.0%	5.7%	14.2%	1.8%	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	3.8%	0.7%	10.4%	1.8%						, ,												
YTD	15.5%	13.8%	18.5%	0.9%	2013	17.7%	14.2%	32.4%	2.0%	(14.7%)	119	\$35,195	\$1,955,915	11.2%	11.9%	0.2%						
					2014	14.6%	11.2%	13.7%	1.8%	0.9%	115	\$38,771	\$2,589,024	8.5%	9.0%	0.3%						
QTD	3.3%	2.6%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.4%	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 **Inception is 9/1/2008					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%						

### Portfolio Benchmark

The benchmark is the S&P 500 index. 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% 2016, 0.1% 2017, 0.1% 2018.

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

The Growth - Plus Composite was created on September 1, 2008. Confluence Investment Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. 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 inclome.

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

2 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 feets. 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 sponsors. A complete list of composite descriptions and/or fully compliant GIPS® presentations are available upon request. Additional information regarding policies for calculating and reporting performance are available upon request.

A complete list of composite descriptions and/or fully compliant GIPS® presentations are available upon request. Additional information regarding policies for calculating and reporting performance 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.

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\*\*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

### 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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