

## OBJECTIVE

Combines objectives of growth and income, with more emphasis on growth, using tactical ETFs that are focused on generating alpha relative to an index rather than delivering the beta of the underlying index.

## INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY

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 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

- ◆ Combines objectives of growth and income, with more emphasis on growth
- ◆ Balances longer term perspective of a cyclical asset allocation model with tactical ETFs focused on generating alpha relative to an index, rather than delivering the beta
- ◆ Growth allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap, with both domestic and international equities
- ◆ Commodities may be utilized for total return and diversification benefits
- ◆ Fixed income and real estate will normally form the foundation to pursue income objectives
- ◆ Profile is similar to that of a portfolio with a blend of stocks and bonds
- ◆ Appropriate for investors with a moderate risk tolerance

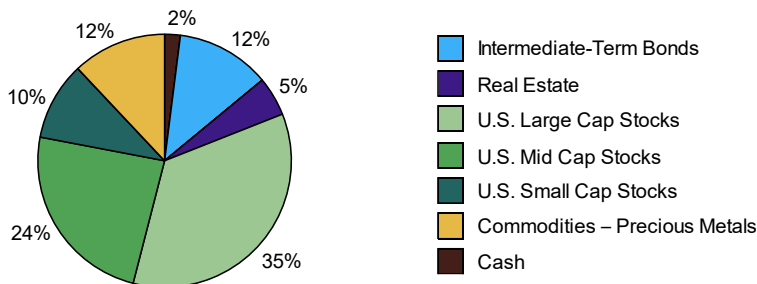
## CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

Weighted SEC Yield	1.1%
Number of Securities	17-21
Annual Turnover (3-Year Rolling)	75%

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

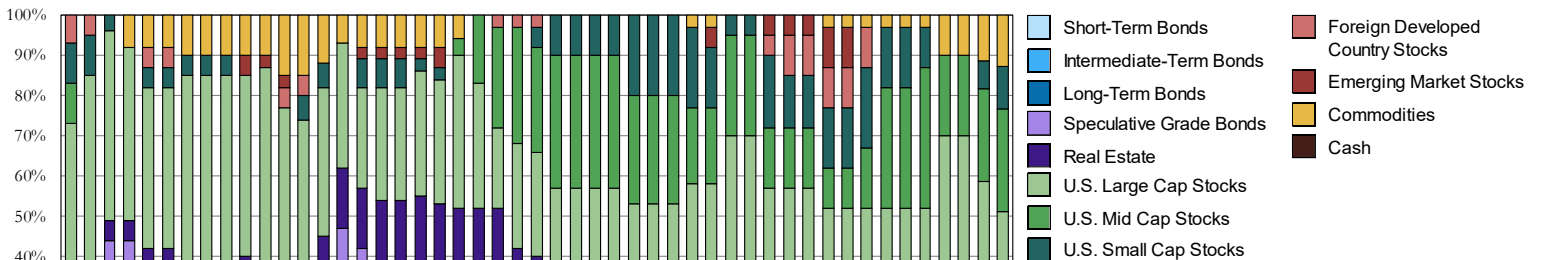
First Trust Large Cap Gr AlphaDEX® - FTC	13.7%
First Trust Large Cap Val AlphaDEX® - FTA	13.7%
First Trust Mid-Cap Growth AlphaDEX® - FNY	12.0%
First Trust Mid-Cap Value AlphaDEX® - FNK	12.0%
iShares Gold Trust - IAU	10.0%

## ASSET ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



<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). Asset allocations shown represent the individual ETFs used in the model portfolios as of 7/21/20 and do not 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 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. Yield data source: Morningstar. 30-day SEC yield for the model portfolio as of 7/21/20. Annual turnover 3-year rolling calculated from sample accounts for periods ending 12/31/2019.

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



<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 downturns. 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 fee-based 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.

## THIRD QUARTER 2020 GROWTH & INCOME ALPHA MARKET OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ We expect the current U.S. recession to be deep, yet brief, with a long period of recovery and the potential for expansion toward the latter portion of our forecast period.
- ◆ The Federal Reserve has stabilized the financial markets and ensured the continued functioning of the corporate debt market.
- ◆ Long-term Treasuries served the strategies well, especially through the first half of this year, but appear to have run their course and are now absent from all strategies.
- ◆ We retain a favorable outlook for equities. Therefore, elevated exposures are maintained and the former overweight to growth has been brought to an even weight with value.
- ◆ Valuations are favorable for lower capitalization stocks, which are represented in each of the strategies.
- ◆ Precious metals occupy an increased weight in each strategy with gold supplemented by a modest exposure to silver.

Changes in the Growth & Income Alpha strategy this quarter include the removal of the former exposure to long-term bonds in favor of increased weightings to U.S. mid-cap and small cap equities and the introduction of a modest position in silver. U.S. mid-cap and small cap equities are now overweights in the strategy. We eliminated the former tilt to growth, with growth and value now equally weighted. There remains an inherent tilt to growth in large caps due to continued sector overweights to Technology, Communications Services, and Consumer Discretionary. As noted, the allocation to gold was supplemented by new exposure to silver. Both stand to benefit from ample global liquidity and silver has proven beneficial in the early stages of past recoveries.

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, 2020)

	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of-Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (70stock/30bond)	Inflation	Calendar Year	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of-Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (70stock/30bond)	Inflation	Difference (Gross-Bchmrk)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	Bchmrk 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion
Since Inception**	6.1%	2.9%	8.9%	1.6%	2014**	6.8%	4.7%	8.6%	1.1%	(1.8%)	1	\$134	\$1,955,915	N/A	N/A	N/A
5-Year*	6.1%	2.9%	9.1%	1.6%	2015	(4.2%)	(7.0%)	1.3%	1.4%	(5.5%)	3	\$1,866	\$3,175,419	N/A	N/A	N/A
3-Year*	6.2%	3.0%	9.5%	1.7%	2016	11.8%	8.5%	9.2%	1.5%	2.6%	1	\$143	\$4,413,659	N/A	N/A	N/A
1-Year	6.4%	3.2%	8.5%	1.3%	2017	14.7%	11.3%	16.1%	1.8%	(1.4%)	1	\$164	\$5,944,479	8.1%	6.8%	N/A
YTD	2.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.5%	2018	(10.4%)	(13.0%)	(2.8%)	2.0%	(7.5%)	1	\$147	\$5,486,737	9.6%	7.5%	N/A
QTD	20.3%	19.4%	15.1%	0.2%	2019	19.7%	16.2%	24.6%	1.6%	(4.8%)	1	\$176	\$7,044,708	10.7%	8.3%	N/A

\*Average annualized returns

\*\*Inception is 5/1/2014

### Portfolio Benchmark

The benchmark is calculated monthly and consists of a blend of 70% S&P 500 and 30% ML U.S. Corporate, Government, and Mortgage Bond Index (Source: Bloomberg)

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% 2014, 0.1% 2015, 0.1% 2016, 0.1% 2017, 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 does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

The Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus Strategy was inceptioned on May 1, 2014, and the current Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus Composite was created on April 1, 2015. 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. From April 1, 2015, to September 30, 2016, bundled fee accounts made up 100% of the composite. 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.

Performance prior to April 1, 2015, and after September 30, 2016, is based on the Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus-Direct Composite which was created on May 1, 2014. This composite includes accounts that pursue the Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus strategy, but do not have bundled fees. Gross returns from the Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus-Direct Composite include transaction costs and net-of-fee performance was calculated using the highest applicable annual bundled fee of 3.00% applied quarterly.

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 & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus Composite contains fully discretionary Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus wrap accounts. The Growth & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus strategy is implemented using "Alpha" ETFs that seek to outperform an underlying index. 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 & Income Taxable Alpha-Plus strategy. The growth allocation may include equity asset classes ranging from small cap to large cap, with both domestic and international equities. Commodities may be utilized for total return as well as diversification benefits. Fixed income and real estate allocations will normally form the foundation to pursue taxable income objectives. This portfolio may be appropriate for investors with a moderate risk tolerance.

\*\*Results shown for the year 2014 represent partial period performance from May 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014. 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	Patty Dahl
Gregory Ellston	Kaisa Stucke, CFA
William O'Grady	Patrick Fearon-Hernandez, CFA
David Miyazaki, 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 A MEMBER OF OUR SALES TEAM:

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