

# INCREASING DIVIDEND EQUITY ACCOUNT (IDEA) PLUS (COVERED CALL STRATEGY)

**DECEMBER 31, 2019** 

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Dividend-based equity strategy combined with a covered call option strategy on the S&P 500 Index. Focused on generating total return with lowered risk and volatility than the broader market.

#### **INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**

IDEA Plus combines a diversified, stable and increasing dividend equity strategy (Confluence IDEA) with a covered call option strategy to reduce volatility.

The investment philosophy builds upon the required criteria established to create the initial IDEA investable universe. Stocks selected for the strategy are diversified across a variety of sectors, avoiding excess concentrations in particular industries. Companies typically have well-positioned business models, ones that can grow during economic expansions and persevere through recessions and industry downturns. Valuations play an important role, as we believe avoiding excessive valuations is a key metric in managing risk. We also focus on companies where debt levels are manageable. The result is a diversified portfolio of high-quality companies operating stable businesses from which they can offer the prospect of rising dividends to shareholders.

The IDEA strategy coupled with the covered call strategy produces a compelling portfolio with comparable returns to the S&P 500 with less risk.

#### **OVERVIEW**

- 75% of portfolio: IDEA strategy, which seeks high-quality businesses with long track records of distributing earnings to shareholders through dividends
- ◆ 25% of portfolio: ETF position in the S&P 500 Index with a corresponding covered call position (currently SPDR S&P 500 ETF [NYSE: SPY])
- ♦ Market capitalizations greater than \$1 billion
- Approximately 1.5% position sizes
- New account fully invested at inception
- Low turnover
- Anticipated dividend growth rate of the aggregate portfolio is important since inflation can erode investment returns and lower purchasing power; however, because the targeted portfolio dividend growth rate is higher than inflation, real income to investors can grow over time
- ♦ Suitable for clients who are willing to limit upside potential in exchange for downside protection

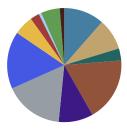
MARKET CAP <sup>1</sup>	Portfolio
Weighted Avg. Market Cap (\$B)	175.5
Largest Market Cap (\$B)	1,203.1
Median Market Cap (\$B)	68.7
Smallest Market Cap (\$B)	4.3
Large Cap (>\$10B)	88%
Mid Cap (\$10B-\$2B)	12%
Small Cap (<\$2B)	0%

10 LARGEST HOLDINGS <sup>1</sup>	
S&P 500 Index Fund - SPDR SPY	30.5%
Microsoft Corporation	1.7%
Brown & Brown, Inc.	1.6%
Nike, Inc. (Class B)	1.6%
Accenture plc	1.6%
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	1.6%
Linde plc	1.6%
The Procter & Gamble Company	1.6%
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	1.5%
Nordson Corporation	1.5%

CHARACTERISTICS <sup>1</sup>	Portfolio
Dividend Yield	1.9%
Number of Positions	50

¹This information is presented as supplemental information to the disclosures required by the GIPS® standards. Investing in securities involves the risk of loss of the amount invested that investors should be prepared to bear. There can be no assurance that any investment objective will be achieved or that any investment will be profitable or avoid incurring losses. The listing of "10 Largest Holdings" is not a complete list of all stocks 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. Sector weightings and holdings of individual client portfolios in the strategy may differ, sometimes significantly, from these listings. Contact Confluence for a complete list of holdings. Portfolio yield: composite level weighted average yield, calculated based on annualized current dividends; source: FactSet. Includes dividends from common stock holdings and SPY but does not include premiums received from writing covered calls. Market Cap statistics do not include holdings within the SPDR S&P 500 Index ETF (IDEA portion of portfolio only). Sector Allocation does include holdings within the SPDR S&P 500 ETF (NYSE: SPY).

#### SECTOR ALLOCATION<sup>1</sup>



- Consumer Discretionary 11%
- Consumer Staples 9%
- Energy 3%
- Financials 18%
- Health Care 10%
- Industrials 17%
- Information Technology 16%
- Materials 6%
- Communication Services 3%Real Estate 1%
- Utilities 5%
- Cash 1%

# **INVESTMENT PROCESS**

#### **IDEA SECURITY SCREEN CRITERIA**

Approximately 75% of portfolio is the IDEA strategy. The initial security screen for the IDEA portfolio includes the following criteria:

## Consistent, Growing Dividends:

- Consecutive dividends paid over the last 10 years
- No dividend reductions in the last 10 years
- ◆ Dividend raised in 7 of the last 10 years
- ◆ Dividend yield greater than 1%

#### **IDEA Criteria Indicate:**

- ♦ Stable and growing cash flow
- ♦ High-quality companies
- ♦ Moderate to low levels of debt

Based on internal research, the portfolio management team can make special exceptions for companies that have growing dividends but do not pass all of the initial security screen criteria.

#### IDEA PLUS (COVERED CALL STRATEGY)

Remaining 25% consists of an ETF position in the S&P 500 Index with corresponding covered call position (allocation can range, at times, from 15% to 40% of the portfolio).

#### **Covered Call Strategy:**

- Sells (writes) call option contracts on the S&P 500 Index ETF shares, giving an option buyer the right, but not obligation, to buy the shares at a set price (strike price) until the option expires
- Covered calls sold only on the S&P 500 Index ETF position, preserving the capital appreciation potential of the IDEA portfolio and only limiting the upside potential of the S&P 500 Index ETF
- Covered call positions are actively managed to maximize strike and term considerations
- Option contracts can be rolled prior to expiration to limit the probability of assignment

### How is IDEA Plus DIFFERENT?

- Designed to reduce volatility of the IDEA strategy
- Covered calls cushion declines in the portfolio in down markets
- As a result, IDEA Plus will likely outperform IDEA strategy in flat to down markets and underperform IDEA in rising markets
- Call premium will fluctuate depending on price volatility of S&P 500 Index ETF and strike price relative to prevailing ETF price
- Minimum account size requirement is \$150,000

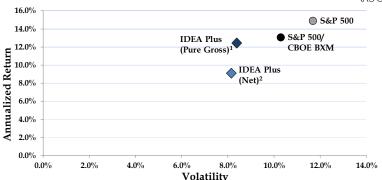
#### ABOUT CONFLUENCE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLC

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, company-specific approach. The portfolio management philosophy begins by assessing risk and follows through by positioning clients to achieve their income and growth objectives.

#### HISTORICAL RETURN & RISK3

SINCE INCEPTION\*\*

(AS OF 12/31/19)



#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS4

Since Inception**	Pure Gross-of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	S&P 500
Downside Capture Ratio	72.10	100.00
Alpha	1.51	0.00
Beta	0.70	1.00
Annualized Standard Deviation	7.68%	10.46%
R-Squared	0.92	1.00
Sharpe Ratio	1.51	1.36

<sup>\*\*</sup>Inception is 12/1/2011

# **ANNUAL** DIVIDEND **STATISTICS** FOR IDEA **PORTFOLIO** AT12/31

\*Divided Change and Annual Dividend Increases sections exclude impact of special dividends and spin-offs. (Yield data source: FactSet)

			Div	vidend	Change fro	m Prior Y	ear*	Annual Dividend Increases Over Past 10 Years*				
		Avg.	# of companies with			Avg.	Indexed	# of companies with			Avg. 10 yr	
Year	ır HoldingsYield		Increase Flat Decrease		Growth	Growth <sup>++</sup>	10 years 9 years < 9 years		< 9 years	Growth		
2009	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.1%	\$3,242	38	6	5	13.3%	
2010	49	2.8%	45	4	0	8.0%	\$3,501	38	3	8	12.6%	
2011	49	2.8%	46	3	0	9.6%	\$3,837	38	4	7	12.5%	
2012	48	3.1%	46	2	0	9.1%	\$4,186	39	5	4	12.8%	
2013	49	2.3%	48	1	0	10.0%	\$4,604	41	3	5	13.1%	
2014	49	2.4%	48	1	0	10.3%	\$5,078	39	3	7	12.7%	
2015	49	2.8%	47	2	0	9.7%	\$5,572	40	3	6	11.9%	
2016	50	2.3%	46	4	0	7.2%	\$5,974	39	1	10	11.4%	
2017	48	2.1%	45	3	0	7.5%	\$6,422	37	1	10	10.5%	
2018	49	2.4%	47	2.	0	9.6%	\$7.036	39	3	7	9.9%	

<sup>+</sup> Average dividend yield of portfolio holdings at 12/31, calculated based on annualized current dividends plus any special dividends paid during the year.
++ The Indexed Growth column is an estimate of cumulative dividend growth on a \$100,000 account beginning on 12/31/2008. It does

#### PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE RETURNS (For Periods Ending December 31, 2019)

	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (75 S&P500/ 25 BXM)	Calendar Year	Pure Gross- of-Fees <sup>1</sup>	Net-of- Fees <sup>2</sup>	Benchmark (75 S&P500/ 25 BXM)	Difference (Gross- Custom)	# of Portfolios	Composite Assets (000s)	Total Firm Assets (000s)	Composite 3yr Std Dev	Benchmark 3yr Std Dev	Composite Dispersion		
Since Inception**	12.4%	9.1%	13.1%	2011**	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	0.5%	1	\$106	\$937,487	N/A	N/A	N/A		
псериоп				2012	9.2%	6.0%	13.2%	(4.1%)	10	\$1,175	\$1,272,265	N/A	N/A	N/A		
5-Year*	10.6%	7.3%	10.5%	2013	26.5%	22.7%	27.4%	(0.9%)	12	\$2,086	\$1,955,915	N/A	N/A	0.3%		
3-Year*	11.9%	8.6%	13.3%	2014	10.4%	7.1%	11.7%	(1.3%)	20	\$4,239	\$2,589,024	7.0%	8.0%	0.2%		
o roui	11.570	0.070	10.070	2015	3.0%	(0.1%)	2.4%	0.6%	25	\$5,883	\$3,175,419	8.3%	9.2%	0.3%		
1-Year	25.5%	21.7%	27.4%	2016	14.5%	11.1%	10.8%	3.7%	32	\$8,631	\$4,413,659	8.0%	9.3%	0.3%		
YTD	25.5%	21.7%	27.4%	2017	17.5%	14.0%	19.6%	(2.1%)	36	\$10,696	\$5,944,479	7.3%	8.7%	0.4%		
						2018	(4.8%)	(7.7%)	(4.5%)	(0.4%)	43	\$10,923	\$5,486,737	8.9%	9.8%	0.3%
QTD	5.3%	4.5%	7.9%	2019	25.5%	21.7%	27.4%	(1.9%)	60	\$16,595	\$7,044,708	9.8%	10.8%	0.7%		

<sup>\*\*</sup>Inception is 12/1/2011

\*Average annualized returns Portfolio Benchmark

Custom benchmark (calculated monthly) consists of a blend of 75% S&P 500 and 25% CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM). (Source: Bloomberg)

S&P 500 Index - A capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries. (Source: Bloomberg)

CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM) — A passive total return index based on buying an S&P 500 stock index portfolio, and then writing (or selling) the near-term S&P 500 Index covered call option every month with an exercise price just above the prevailing index level (i.e., slightly out of the money). (Source: CBOE)

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 Increasing Dividend Equity Account (IDEA) Plus strategy was incepted on December 1, 2011, and the current IDEA Plus Composite was created on February 1, 2012. 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

Management LLC is an independent registered investment adviser. Resulfs 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.

1 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: 1.00% on the first \$500,000; 0.90% on the next \$\$500,000; and 0.75% over \$1,000,000. There are no incentive fees. Clients pay an all-inclusive fee based on percentage of assets under management. The collection of fees produces a compounding effect on the total rate of return net of fees. Prior to February 1, 2012, bundled fee accounts make up 0% of the composite. Subsequent to this date, bundled fee accounts make 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.

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-veighted standard deviation calculated for accounts in the composite or the entire year. The IDEA Plus wrap accounts in the composite or the entire year. The IDEA Plus wrap accounts in the composite or the list of complete or the list of composite or the list of complete or the list of composite or the list of composite or the list of composite or the list of compo

3 Historical Return & Risk Chart—Volatility is calculated taking the square root of the average return and standard deviation of the single month-end return in Dec. 2011 and quarterly returns thereafter. S&P 500/CBOE BXM represents the strategy's primary (blended) benchmark above. The S&P 500 is shown to represent U.S. equity performance and for illustrative purposes only. (Data source: Confluence/Bloomberg, using monthly and quarterly returns) -Downside Capture Ratio: Measures performance in down markets relative to index (down market: any quarter where the market return is less than zero); lower Downside Capture Ratio indicates the manager protected capital better during a market decline. Alpha: Measures nonsystematic return or return that cannot be attributed to the market, i.e., how the manager performed if the market had no gain or loss. Beta: Measures portfolio volatility (systematic risk) compared to an appropriate benchmark index; e.g., Beta of 1.1 indicates the investment has approx. 10% more volatility in returns than benchmark index. Standard Deviation: Measures price variability (risk) over a period of time; higher Standard Deviation indicates more variability in returns. R-Squared: Indicates whether comparison index is an appropriate benchmark based on correlation; generally, R-Squared above 0.70 is desirable. Sharpe Ratio: Quantifies risk-adjusted performance by measuring excess return per unit of risk; higher Sharpe Ratio suggests better risk-adjusted performance. (Data source: Zephyr's PSN SMA Database)

# Confluence Value Equities Investment Committee

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