

# **Global Conservative Strategy** Q1 2023

# Strategy Objective

The Global Conservative strategy primarily seeks capital preservation through asset class exposure and diversification, but also maintains an objective of capital appreciation through active allocations. The multi-asset class strategy combines high-conviction active management with the diversification of low-cost, passive ETFs.

#### 10% 5% 0% -5% -10% Q1 2023 1 Year 3 Years 5 Years Inception Global Cons., Gross 5.09% -6.28% 4.28% 4.17% 3.91% 4.31% -9.07% 1.21% 1.10% 0.84% Global Cons., Net Blended Benchmark 4.62% -5.50% 3.58% 3.45% 3.71%

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors. Returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. The blended benchmark for the Global Conservative strategy is 35% MSCI ACWI (Net) and 65% Bloomberg Barclavs U.S. Government/Credit Bond Index.

WestEnd Advisors claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®)

#### **RISK AND RETURN SUMMARY\***

**INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE\*** 

	Trailing 3 Years			S	Since Inception		
	Global Co	nservative	Blended	Global Co	nservative	Blended	
	Gross	Net	Benchmark	Gross	Net	Benchmark	
Return	4.28%	1.21%	3.58%	3.91%	0.84%	3.71%	
Standard Deviation	10.23%	10.17%	10.34%	7.38%	7.34%	7.60%	
Alpha	0.76%	-2.31%	n/a	0.33%	-2.72%	n/a	
Beta	0.98	0.97	1.00	0.95	0.95	1.00	
Sharpe Ratio	0.30	0.00	0.23	0.38	-0.04	0.34	
R-Squared	97.6%	97.6%	n/a	96.2%	96.2%	n/a	
Tracking Error	1.60%	1.60%	n/a	1.49%	1.49%	n/a	
Upside Capture	97.9%	81.0%	100.0%	95.1%	71.4%	100.0%	
Downside Capture	89.1%	104.7%	100.0%	88.3%	110.2%	100.0%	

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors



Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

Inception Date: January 2015 Top-down approach since 1996

Focus: Global multi-asset

Investments: Long-only, fixed-income and equity ETFs from leading U.S. providers; no leverage or derivatives

Risk Mitigation: Manage downside protection through fixed-income allocation, regional equity allocation, and U.S. sector avoidance

Tax efficiency: Low average annual turnover/long-term holding periods

#### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

Number of Holdings	8 to 17 on average
Fixed-Income Exposure	50% to 80%
Non-Investment Grade	0% to 15%
Equity Exposure	20% to 50%
U.S. Large-Cap	8% to 35%
U.S. Small/Mid-Cap	0% to 8%
International Equity	3% to 30%
Target Cash Position	2% to 5%
Annual Turnover Range	21% to 69%**

#### **MODEL PORTFOLIO WEIGHTS**

Equities	
U.S. Large-Cap Equity	19.5%
Health Care	5.4%
Information Technology	4.9%
Consumer Staples	2.9%
Communication Services	2.4%
Consumer Discretionary	2.0%
Utilities	2.0%
Europe	3.0%
Asia & Other Int'l	7.5%

#### Fixed Income

Inv. Grade Corp. Bonds	25.0%
Floating Rate Treasury	8.2%
Treasury Bonds	36.9%
Courses Discousteres WestErd Advisors	

Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

\* Based on Global Conservative Composite as of 3/31/2023. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information

\*\*Based on 5 years ended 12/31/22



# Global Conservative Strategy Q1 2023

## PORTFOLIO POSITIONING as of 3/31/2023

- We are avoiding early-phase cyclical U.S. sectors and, instead, are emphasizing sectors that we
  expect will see less deceleration in earnings and less margin degradation as economic growth
  slows.
- We have continued to add to late-phase U.S. sector exposure, with overweights of Health Care, Consumer Staples, and Utilities.
- We maintain allocations to the U.S. Information Technology and Communication Services sectors, which we believe are attractive at this stage of the cycle given their lower revenue volatility and more secular-oriented growth profiles versus more cyclical sectors.
- We remain underweight to international equities, as a whole, including underweights of Europe and emerging markets, but we maintain an overweight of developed Asia, where we see the greatest potential for economic resilience abroad.
- Seeing reduced risk to fixed income returns, and late economic cycle risks to equities, we have
  increased our overweight of fixed income and, within fixed income, we are emphasizing longerterm securities that should benefit from declining long-term interest rates, and we have
  increased Treasury exposure over the past year, which we believe could benefit amid a flight to
  perceived safe assets.

# Q1 2023 ATTRIBUTION

#### Positive Contributors

Overweight	Long-term Fixed Income Securities
Underweight	U.S. Financials Equities Short-term Fixed Income Securities

#### **Negative Contributors**

Underweight	Equities	
Overweight	U.S. Health Care Equities U.S. Utilities Equities	

Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

#### **HISTORICAL RETURNS\***

	Global Conserv		
	Gross	Net	Benchmark
2023 YTD	5.09%	4.31%	4.62%
2022	-15.09%	-17.64%	-15.05%
2021	6.57%	3.43%	5.06%
2020	13.61%	10.28%	12.18%
2019	14.76%	11.40%	15.63%
2018	-1.49%	-4.41%	-3.44%
2017	10.18%	6.94%	10.64%
2016	1.74%	-1.26%	4.87%
2015	0.24%	-2.72%	-0.51%

Source: Archer IMS, IDC, WestEnd Advisors

### GLOBAL CONSERVATIVE INVESTMENT PROCESS

We begin the investment process by aggregating more than 200 domestic and international economic measures into a proprietary database. Then we evaluate the data to identify areas of economic strength and weakness in the U.S. fixed-income and global equity markets, and invest in typically 8 to 17 ETFs from leading providers.



For illustrative purposes only.

\* Based on Global Conservative Composite as of 3/31/2023. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate. See Footnotes and Disclosures on page 4 for additional information.

### CURRENT HOLDINGS

#### **U.S. Equities**

Communication Services Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLC
Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLY
Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLP
Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLV
Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLK
Utilities Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLU

#### **International Equities**

iShares Core MSCI Europe ETF Vanguard FTSE All-World Ex-US Index	IEUR VEU
Fund ETF Shares	
Vanguard FTSE Pacific Index Fund ETF Shares	VPL

#### Fixed Income

iShares 3-7 Year Treasury Bond ETF	IEI
iShares 20+ Year Treasury Bond ETF	TLT
iShares Treasury Floating Rate Bond ETF	TFLO
Vanguard Interm. Term Corp. Bond ETF	VCIT
Vanguard Long-Term Corporate Bond ETF	VCLT

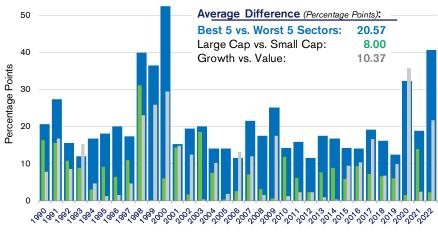
#### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Fritz Porter, CFA	CIO, Portfolio Manager 24 years of experience 15 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ned Durden	CIS, Portfolio Manager 26 years of experience 16 years at WestEnd Advisors
Ty Peebles, CFA, CPA	Portfolio Manager 13 years of experience 9 years at WestEnd Advisors



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SECTOR ALLOCATION

The path of economic growth is a key driver of U.S. equity sector performance. The investment team analyzes recurring cyclical trends and identifies the characteristics particular to the current economic cycle. Portfolios are typically invested in four to six large-cap U.S. sectors at any one time based on our macroeconomic outlook, but may be invested in more or fewer sectors as conditions warrant.

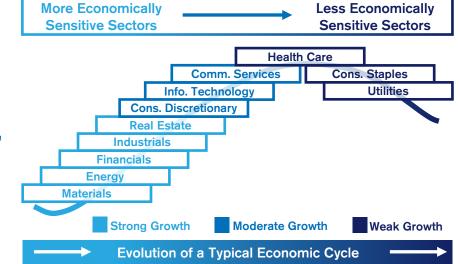


### RANGE OF RETURNS BY SECTOR, CAPITALIZATION, AND STYLE\*

Owning the right sectors at the right time and avoiding those not in their ideal economic environment offers significantly more opportunity for outperformance, in our view, than allocating to the right equity style or market capitalization range.

Sectors: Best 5 vs. Worst 5 Capitalization: Large vs. Small Style: Growth vs. Value Source: Bloomberg, WestEnd Advisors

WestEnd actively positions client portfolios in more economically-sensitive sectors when it expects strong growth, and transitions to less economically-sensitive sectors as growth expectations wane.



For illustrative purposes only.

\* Sector performance is represented by sectors of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. "Large Cap" is represented by the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. "Small Cap" is represented by the Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Growth Index. "Value" is represented by the Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Value Index. Data for 2016 excludes Real Estate as a stand-alone sector, which was included in Financials until September 16, 2016. Data for 2018 replaces the Telecommunication Services Sector with the new Communication Services Sector after September 21, 2018, using geometrically-linked total returns to produce a single full-year return, and treats the linked returns as a single sector, due to changes in GICS sector classifications and index rebalancing that occurred as of market close on September 21, 2018.



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# FOOTNOTES AND DISCLOSURES

On December 31, 2021, Victory Capital Holdings, Inc. ("Victory Capital") acquired WestEnd Advisors, LLC ("WestEnd"). WestEnd, an SEC-registered investment adviser, operates as an autonomous Victory Capital Investment Franchise. WestEnd's active principals continue to be responsible for managing the firm and its day-to-day operations. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. WestEnd manages equity securities for individual, institutional and wrap clients. Total firm assets include all discretionary assets managed by WestEnd Advisors.

WestEnd Advisors' Global Conservative Composite includes all discretionary accounts invested in the Global Conservative model except for portfolios that participate in a wrap-fee program. The Global Conservative Composite creation and inception date is December 31, 2014, and the investment strategy has been consistent since creation. WestEnd Advisors' Global Conservative Composite is invested in large, mid, and small-cap U.S. equities, international equities, U.S. fixed-income, and other assets, all through the use of exchange-traded funds, and/or high-grade money market instruments. Returns were achieved without the use of options, derivatives, or leverage of any kind. Results are calculated daily using the aggregate method, use trade date valuations, and include cash as well as the reinvestment of dividends, interest income, and other earnings, if applicable. Portfolio returns are weighted using beginning of period values plus weighted cash flows. Portfolios and composites are valued daily and are denominated in U.S. dollars only.

The performance shown is based on WestEnd Advisors' Global Conservative Composite which includes all fully discretionary accounts invested in the Global Conservative model except for Wrap-Fee (Wrap) and Unified Managed Account (UMA) accounts. While the accounts in the Global Conservative Composite are invested according to the same model as Wrap and UMA accounts, performance may differ between the Global Conservative Composite and Wrap and UMA accounts due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to: fees assessed by Wrap and UMA sponsors (e.g. wrap fees), Wrap and UMA sponsorand client-imposed investment restrictions, and WestEnd Advisors' lack of trading discretion over UMA accounts.

Gross returns reflect the deduction of direct trading costs and the underlying expenses of investment vehicles held in the portfolio. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate which is intended to equal or exceed the combined maximum advisory program fees and maximum investment management fees charged to advisory platform clients. This combined fee will normally include all charges for trading costs, portfolio management fees, custody and other administrative fees. Composite net returns are calculated by subtracting 1/12th of the highest applicable annual fee rate (3.00%) from the monthly gross return. Due to compounding of returns, full year net returns will typically not equal the gross return less 3%. Actual fees may vary depending on the individual sponsor's fee. Investment management fees are negotiated directly with advisory program sponsors. Fees are negotiable where circumstances warrant. Additional information on fees is provided in WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable. The information contained herein is not intended to be an offer to provide investment advisory services. Such an offer may only be made if accompanied by WestEnd Advisors' SEC Form ADV Part 2.

The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index, Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Index, and Global Conservative benchmark are used for comparative purposes only. The MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is a free float-adjusted market capitalization

weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed and emerging markets. The MSCI ACWI consists of 47 country indexes comprising 23 developed and 24 emerging market country indexes. The total return of the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index is calculated using net dividends. Net total return reflects the reinvestment of dividends after the deduction of withholding taxes, using (for international indices) a tax rate applicable to nonresident institutional investors who do not benefit from double taxation treaties. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Index measures performance of U.S. dollar denominated U.S. Treasuries, government-related, and investmentgrade U.S. corporate securities that have a remaining maturity of greater than or equal to 1 year. In addition, the securities have \$250 million or more of outstanding face value, must be fixed-rate, and non-convertible. The Global Conservative benchmark is composed of 35% of the MSCI ACWI (Net) Index and 65% of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Government/Credit Index; is shown to reflect the investments in equity and fixed-income securities; and is rebalanced monthly. Benchmark returns are not covered by the report of independent verifiers.

A complete list and description of all WestEnd Advisors' composites, as well as a presentation that complies with the requirements of Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®), may be obtained by phone (888-500-9025) or email (info@westendadvisors.com). Policies for valuing investments, calculating performance, and preparing GIPS Reports is available upon request. GIPS® is a registered trademark of CFA Institute. CFA Institute does not endorse or promote this organization, nor does it warrant the accuracy or quality of the content contained herein.

Attribution Analysis is relative to the Global Conservative benchmark and was current as of the quarter specified in this presentation. A complete attribution report is available upon request.

Any portfolio characteristics, including position sizes and sector allocations among others, are generally averages and are for illustrative purposes only and do not reflect the investments of an actual portfolio unless otherwise noted. The investment guidelines of an actual portfolio may permit or restrict investments that are materially different in size, nature and risk from those shown. The investment processes, research processes or risk processes shown herein are for informational purposes to demonstrate an overview of the process. Such processes may differ by product, client mandate or market conditions. Portfolios that are concentrated in a specific sector or industry may be subject to a higher degree of market risk than a portfolio whose investments are more diversified. Holdings, Sector Weightings and Portfolio Characteristics were current as of the date specified in this presentation. The listing of particular securities should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell these securities. While these securities were among WestEnd Advisors' Global Conservative holdings at the time this material was assembled, holdings will change over time. There can be no assurance that the securities remain in the portfolio or that other securities have not been purchased. It should not be assumed that recommendations made in the future will be profitable or will equal the performance of the securities presently in the portfolio. Individual clients' portfolios may vary. Upon request, WestEnd Advisors will provide a list of all

As of March 31, 2023, WestEnd Advisors had \$1.6 million of assets in the Global Conservative Composite. This information is included as supplemental information only.

April 2023

recommendations for the prior year.