Registered as: F5 Financial Planning, LLC | CRD No. 170674

# F5 FINANCIAL

# Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Disclosure Brochure

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This Form ADV Part 2A ("Disclosure Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of F5 Financial ("Advisor" "Firm" "F5FP"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Disclosure Brochure, please contact us at (630) 474-5213 or by email at <a href="mailto:info@f5fp.com">info@f5fp.com</a>. The information in this Disclosure Brochure has not been approved or verified by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or by any state securities authority. Registration of an investment advisor does not imply any specific level of skill or training. This Disclosure Brochure provides information about the firm to assist you in determining whether to retain the firm. Additional information about Advisor is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching our CRD number 170674.

# **Item 2 – Material Changes**

Annually, if there are material changes, a complete Disclosure Brochure will be offered to Clients along with a summary of the changes, within 120 days from the firm's fiscal year-end.

At any time, the current Disclosure Brochure is available on the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <a href="www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching the firm name or CRD number 170674. A copy of this Disclosure Brochure may be requested at any time, by contacting (630) 474-5213; by email at: <a href="mailto:info@f5fp.com">info@f5fp.com</a> via our web site <a href="www.f5fp.com">www.f5fp.com</a>.

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# Item 4 -Advisor y Business

# **Firm Information**

F5 Financial Planning, L.L.C. is an Illinois-based company formed in 2011 and registered as an investment advisor in 2021. Our firm is not a subsidiary of nor do we control another entity. We hold ourselves to a fiduciary standard, which means our firm and its associates will act in the utmost good faith and perform in a manner believed to be in the best interest of our clients. As fiduciaries, we are obligated to put *you – our client – first*. This disclosure brochure provides information regarding the qualifications, business practices and details of the advisory services and the applicable fees.

# **Principal Owners**



# Curtis L. Stowers, PhD, CFP®

President, Chief Compliance Officer & Financial Advisor (70% Owner)

Curt is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>TM</sup>. He is a graduate from the University of Illinois where he earned a BS, MS and PhD in Industrial Engineering. Curt's goal as a financial planner is to ensure that families, corporate executives, and entrepreneurs have a comprehensive financial plan in place to reach their life goals. With 18 years of experience as a corporate executive and having owned a Subway franchise for over a decade, he knows how to provide practical, first-hand perspectives in the financial planning process. Curt is a husband, father of three, an avid outdoorsman, and a follower of Christ.

# Joshua S. Duncan, MBA, CFP®

Partner & Financial Advisor (30% Owner)



Josh is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>TM</sup>. He grew up near Peoria Illinois and attended Eastern Illinois University where he earned a B.S. in computer science. He also holds an MBA from Capella University. Josh's interest in personal finance took off in 2008 with a focus on long-term investing and personal financial planning. He officially started his vocation in the financial industry in 2013 and quickly grew a successful business. Josh joined the F5 Financial team in October 2018. Josh is based in Venice, FL, along the Gulf Coast. He also maintains an office in McDonough, GA. As a Christ-follower, he spends time deepening his faith and loving on his community. Josh is a husband and a father of three.

### **Advisory Services Offered**

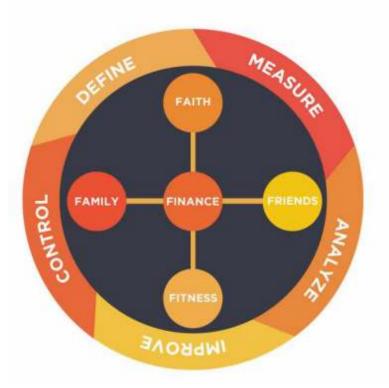
F5 Financial is a NAPFA approved, fee-only financial planning firm with a focus on serving Corporate Executives, Entrepreneurs, and Families. The firm provides its clients with financial planning and investment advisory services that are specifically tailored to the client's individual needs and circumstances. The firm

utilizes a combination of in-person meetings, telephone, email correspondence, as well as financial planning questionnaires to obtain and clarify a client's goals and objectives. A client's specific goals and objectives are used as a basis for the financial planning and investment strategy developed for each client.

The primary type of advisory service offered by the firm is comprehensive, fee only financial planning. The firm also provides investment supervisory services (i.e. "asset management") but only as part of an on-going financial planning relationship. In performing its services, the firm is not required to verify any information received from the client or from the client's other professionals. Each client is advised that it remains his/her responsibility to promptly notify the firm when there are any changes in his/her financial situation and/or financial objectives for the purpose of reviewing, evaluating, or revising previous recommendations and/or services.

In the course of developing a client's investment strategy, clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities. These restrictions must be submitted in writing and signed by the client. The firm will make a best efforts to accommodate the restrictions as practical. If a client requests investment restrictions on their investment strategy, the firm will discuss (with the client) the advantages, disadvantages, and anticipated impact of those restrictions on the client's investment strategy.

# THE F5 PROCESS



#### FAITH

Faith is our belief in a higher power beyond our individual selves. Our faith is at the core of all we do. In developing a deeper relationship with our Creator, we are able to improve our relationship with ourselves, our family, and our friends.

#### FAMILY

Family is our relatives. Everything we have done, will do, or are doing should enhance the vitality of those relationships.

#### FRIENDS

Friends are the people with whom we choose to spend our lives. We honor our friendships when we choose to spend time with, respect the beliefs of, and support the choices of our friends. We are made by our Creator to be in relationships with others.

#### FITNESS

Fitness requires that we maintain our physical, social, and mental health, When we are healthy, we are best able to relate to our faith, our family, and our friends. A focus on health is necessary to live a life of freedom and significance.

#### FINANCE

Finance refers to the collection of assets and liabilities that support the life we choose. Finances are only relevant in relationship to how they allow us to pursue our faith, family, friends, and fitness. The healthier our relationship with finances, the more we have the freedom and opportunity to lead a life of significance.

The firm provides regular and continuous management and supervision of assets as well as financial planning primarily to families, individuals, businesses and trusts. Assets are managed on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis, as selected on the written asset management agreement.

# **Discretionary Authority**

Client grants Advisor ongoing and continuous discretionary authority to execute its investment recommendations without the Client's prior approval of each specific transaction. Under this authority, Client shall allow Advisor to purchase and sell securities and instruments in this Account(s), arrange for delivery and payment in connection with the foregoing, select and retain sub-advisors, and act on behalf of the Client in all matters necessary or incidental.

## **Non-Discretionary Authority**

Advisor will not execute any investment recommendations without Client's prior approval (verbal or written).

Investment Advisor Representatives are restricted to providing services and charging fees based in accordance with the descriptions detailed in this document and the account agreement. However, the exact service and fees charged to a particular Client are dependent upon the Investment Advisor Representatives that are working with the Client.

# **Comprehensive Financial Planning Services**

The firm works with clients to identify and define their specific financial goals and objectives in order to develop strategies for attaining those goals and objectives. The strategies developed include a focus on any number of the following areas:

- Goal setting and achievement (financial and non-financial goals);
- Investment management and advisory services including asset allocation services, monitoring of investments, and implementation of recommended investment plans;
- Retirement planning and projections including statistical analyses such as Monte Carlo simulations;
- Estate planning, wealth transfer, and family succession strategies;
- Cash flow planning and budgeting;
- Wealth preservation and savings analysis;
- Insurance and risk management reviews, risk assessment analyses, and risk reduction strategies;
- Tax planning and tax reduction strategies;
- College funding and planning for children and grandchildren;
- Employee benefits reviews; and
- Executive compensation and stock options analyses.

# **Investment Advisory Services/Portfolio Management Services**

Investment advisory services are only provided as part of the comprehensive financial planning services described above. All investment management, monitoring, and planning services are based on an in-depth analysis of each client's financial goals, the time horizon applicable to their objectives and their tolerance for investment risk.

The firm coordinates the investment and financial planning advice in an individually tailored, long-term strategy for each client. This advice is updated regularly with clients to ensure that if changes are needed, they are made on a timely basis. All portfolios are reviewed for risk, liquidity, cash flow requirements, and diversification among asset classes and investment styles. Assets under the direct management of the firm are held directly in the client's name by the independent custodian, Shareholders Service Group (SSG)/ Pershing. The firm does not act as a custodian of client assets. For purposes of the Security and Exchange Commissions (SEC) technical definition of "custody", the firm may be deemed as having custody because, in some cases, the firm is allowed to deduct its advisory fees directly from its client's account after having been given express, written consent from the client to do so.

#### **Retirement Plan Consulting Services**

Investment Advisor Representatives assist Clients that are trustees or other fiduciaries to retirement plans ("Plans") to design a retirement plan but does not serve in an ERISA 3(21) or 3(38) fiduciary capacity. In addition, F5 Financial Planning does not provide Third Party Administration (TPA) services. A TPA is hired by the plan's trustee.

# **Plan Participant Services**

F5 Financial Planning does not provide services to plan participants.

# **Retirement Plan Rollovers**

An employee generally has four (4) options for their retirement plan when they leave an employer:

- 1. Leave the money in his/her former employer's plan, if permitted
- 2. Rollover the assets to his/her new employer's plan if one is available and permitted
- 3. Rollover to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), or
- 4. Cash out the account value, which has significant tax considerations

#### **Rollover Educational Services**

Advisor generally provides educational services pertaining to retirement plan assets that could potentially be rolled-over to an IRA managed by the firm. Education is based on a particular Client's financial circumstances. Advisor has an incentive to recommend such a rollover based on the compensation received, which is mitigated by the fiduciary duty to act in a Client's best interest and acting accordingly.

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and before making a change we encourage you to speak with your CPA and/or tax attorney. If you are considering rolling over your retirement funds to an IRA for us to manage here are a few points to consider before you do so:

- Determine whether the investment options in your employer's retirement plan address your needs or whether you might want to consider other types of investments.
- Employer retirement plans generally have a more limited investment menu than IRAs.

- Employer retirement plans may have unique investment options not available to the public such as employer securities, or previously closed funds.
- Your current plan may have lower fees than our fees.

If a client elects to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an asset-based fee as set forth in the agreement you executed with our firm. This practice presents a conflict of interest because Investment Advisor Representatives have an incentive to recommend a rollover to you for the purpose of generating fee-based compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm.

Many employers permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of each. An employee will typically be investing only in mutual funds, you should understand the cost structure of the share classes, available in your employer's retirement plan and how the costs of those share classes compare with those available in an IRA. Clients should understand the various products and services they might take advantage of at an IRA provider and the potential costs of those products and services.

- Our strategy may have higher risk than the option(s) provided to you in your plan.
- Your current plan may also offer financial advice.
- If you keep your assets titled in a 401k or retirement account, participants could potentially delay their required minimum distribution beyond age 70½.
- A 401(k) may offer more liability protection than a rollover IRA; each state may vary.
- Participants may be able to take out a loan on your 401k, but not from an IRA.
- IRA assets can be accessed any time; however, distributions are subject to ordinary income tax and may also be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty unless they qualify for an exception such as disability, higher education expenses or the purchase of a home.
- If company stock is owned in a plan, participants may be able to liquidate those shares at a lower capital gains tax rate.
- Plans may allow Advisor to be hired as the manager and keep the assets titled in the plan name.

Generally, federal law protects assets in qualified plans from creditors. Since 2005, IRA assets have been generally protected from creditors in bankruptcies. However, there can be some exceptions to the general rules so you should consult with an attorney if you are concerned about protecting your retirement plan assets from creditors.

It is important to understand the differences between these types of accounts and to decide whether a rollover is the best option. Prior to proceeding, if you have questions contact your Investment Adviser Representative, or call our main number as listed on the cover page of this brochure.

#### **Rollover Recommendations**

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and/or the Internal Revenue Code (IRS), as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. Under this special rule's provisions, we must meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice); never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations (give loyal advice); avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments; follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest; charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

#### **Minimum Investment Amount**

The firm does not have a minimum asset or household account minimum required to open or maintain an account, but does not provide ongoing services for less than \$4,000 per year. We also charge an initial, one-time-only, financial planning fee of \$3,000.

 Most clients have in excess of \$500,000 in investable assets or have a demonstrated track record of saving aggressively.

# Wrap Fee Program

A wrap fee program includes securities transaction fees together with its investment advisory fees. Depending on the level of trading required for the Client's account[s] in a particular year, the Client may pay more or less in total fees than if the Client paid its own transaction fees.

• F5 Financial does not sponsor or act as a portfolio manager for a Wrap Fee Program.

#### **Client Account Management**

Prior to engaging Advisor to provide investment advisory services, each Client is required to enter into an investment advisory agreement with that defines the terms, conditions, authority, and responsibilities.

#### **Third Party Advisor Services**

Advisor can establish agreements with a third-party adviser where that Adviser offers various types of directly sponsored programs. All third-party investment advisers to whom Advisor may refer clients will be licensed as

investment advisers by their resident state and any applicable jurisdictions or Registered Investment Advisers with the SEC. After gathering information about a client's financial situation and investment objectives. Advisor may assist the client in selecting a particular third-party program. Advisor receives compensation pursuant to its agreements with these third-party advisers for introducing clients to these third-party advisers and for certain ongoing services provided to clients. Fees shared will not exceed with any limit imposed by any federal and/or state regulatory agency.

This compensation is disclosed in a separate disclosure document and is typically equal to a percentage of the investment advisory fee charged by that third-party adviser or a fixed fee. The disclosure document provided by Advisor will clearly state the fees payable to Advisor and the impact to the overall fees due to these payments.

Since the compensation paid to Advisor can differ depending on the agreement with each third-party adviser. Advisor has an incentive to recommend one third-party advisers over another however the firm has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the client.

Clients who are referred to third-party investment advisers will receive full disclosure, including services rendered and fee schedules, at the time of the referral, by delivery of a copy of the relevant third-party adviser's Form ADV 2A as well as the Form ADV 2A for Advisor . In addition, if the investment program recommended to a client is a wrap fee program the client will also receive the wrap fee program brochure provided by the sponsor of the program.

Clients will be required to enter in to an advisory agreement and complete other account specific documents with the third-party money manager in order to establish an account. While Advisor will assist in determining an appropriate third-party adviser. Advisor does not participate in the management of account established with a third-party money manager.

#### **Assets Under Management**

The firm is a newly registered investment adviser. Assets under management will be amended at least annually as of December 31st.

Assets under Management (02/14/2023)		
Discretionary	\$107,176,088	
Non-Discretionary	\$3,242,492	
Total	\$110,418,580	

### Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

As a fee only firm, F5FP is compensated directly by its clients and never accepts commissions, referral fees, or compensation of any kind related to the products recommended to client or purchased or sold by clients.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning and Investment Management Fee**

Initial financial planning fees for the Comprehensive Financial Planning agreement are \$3,000. This is a one-time fee. The firm charges an annual fee for the Comprehensive Financial Planning Services described above. The fee agreement is provided to the prospective client in an engagement letter prior to working together. An approximate schedule for the annual fee is as follows:

Investable Assets	<b>Annual Fee</b>
< \$500,000	\$4,000
\$500,000 - \$600,000	\$5,000
\$600,000 - \$700,000	\$6,000
\$700,000 - \$800,000	\$7,000
\$800,000 - \$900,000	\$8,000
\$900,000 - \$1,000,000	\$9,000
\$1,000,000 - \$1,200,000	\$10,000
\$1,200,000 - \$1,400,000	\$11,000
\$1,400,000 - \$1,600,000	\$12,000
\$1,600,000 - \$1,800,000	\$13,000
\$1,800,000 - \$2,000,000	\$14,000
\$2,000,000 - \$2,500,000	\$15,000
> \$2,500,000	Negotiable

Fees are paid quarterly in arrears on a pro-rated basis. In no case will any fee be prepaid six months or more in advance. The firm's fees are negotiable. The annual comprehensive financial planning fee paid to the firm for discretionary or nondiscretionary investment management services is independent of any fees and expenses charged by mutual fund companies or the broker-dealer with whom transactions are placed. A complete explanation of fees and expenses charged by mutual funds is contained in the fund's prospectus.

#### **Retirement Plan Consulting Services**

Fees for Retirement Investment Consulting Services will be determined based on complexity and scope of work requested. It is anticipated that these fees will be a maximum of 1.00% of the plan's assets but are negotiable.

#### **Fee Billing**

Comprehensive financial planning clients are given the choice to have their quarterly fees deducted from their designated brokerage account at the independent custodian used by the firm or to be invoiced at the end of each calendar quarter. If a client chooses to have their quarterly fee deducted from their brokerage account, they must provide the firm and the custodian with advanced, written consent. These quarterly fees are billed in arrears for the proceeding calendar quarter.

- An initial, one-time only fee is required for all engagements.
- Clients will receive quarterly statements from the Custodian that provides details of the advisory fees.
- The firm will not have the authority or responsibility to value portfolio securities.

#### **Mutual Fund Share Class Disclosures**

Section 206 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") imposes a fiduciary duty to act in a client's best interests and specifically prohibits investment advisers, directly or indirectly, from engaging in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client.

However, the fiduciary duty to which advisers are subject is not specifically defined in the Advisers Act or the Commission rules but reflects a Congressional recognition "of the delicate fiduciary nature of an investment advisory relationship" as well as a Congressional intent to eliminate, or at least expose, all conflicts of interest which might incline an investment adviser, consciously or unconsciously, to render advice which was not disinterested.

The purpose of 12b-1 fees, as approved by the SEC, are to cover marketing expenses and shareholder services such as the support services. The more beneficial share class depends on an analysis of all fees including ticket charges and expected 12b-1 fees. Investing in a 12b-1 fee paying share class can be less expensive for a client than investing in a share class with a lower expense ratio if the ticket charges on the lower-cost share class exceed the amount of ongoing 12b-1 fees.

Depending on the anticipated trading volume, and the asset management fee that is determined based on account size, complexity and time requirements, investment advisor representatives have a fiduciary duty to determine the mutual fund share class that is in the best interest of each client as part of the overall fee analysis.

Advisor will seek to determine the most advantageous share class available to each client. While institutional share classes are usually the lowest cost alternative, under certain circumstances clients may be better served to pay a higher annual expense ratio and avoid a transaction fee on each trade. When selecting a mutual fund for a client's advisory account, the Investment Advisor Representative has a fiduciary duty to select the share class that helps manage the overall fee structure of the account. The overall fee structure includes such fees as: Asset Management Fees, Expense ratio, which includes 12b-1 fees, generally .25% for A shares and/or trade ticket charges.

#### **Legacy Mutual Fund Holdings**

When the client transfers assets into a managed account, the portfolio advisor will review the client's mutual fund holdings. If not one of Advisor's recommended funds, the mutual fund will generally be sold unless the client needs to avoid a taxable gain or directs the Company to hold the position. In some circumstances, if the legacy holding fits into the asset allocation of the portfolio, it may be held going forward.

When legacy holdings are maintained in a client's account, the client's primary advisor or the Head Trader (or his designee) is responsible for conducting an initial analysis of the mutual fund share class that he or she believes is in the client's best interest to hold based on the account size, investment strategy and eligibility requirements.

If in the client's best interest to convert to an alternative share class and the position meets the minimum investment and eligibility criteria, Advisor will place instructions for the custodian to convert the position on its next available share class conversion date. If not converted, the position will be re-evaluated during the next account review. All steps taken will be documented either in the client's file or in the trading records of the firm.

# **Additional Sources of Income**

The firm and its advisors do not sell insurance or investment products and do not accept commissions as a result of product recommendations, product sales, or product purchases. The firm does not accept referral or finder's fees from other firms. The firm does not have any "soft dollar" arrangements with any supplier of financial products or services.

# **Money Managers and Product Sponsors**

Investment advisor representatives will, on occasion, have an opportunity to attend a training event or participate in a due diligence visit where the Money Manager or Product Sponsor will cover the associated travel expenses such as airfare, hotel and meals. Training opportunities are often held at luxury resorts where amenities such as golf, spas and entertain are provided. Such accommodations represent a conflict of interest that can influence the evaluation of the Money Manager or Product sponsor based on factors other than the quality of services.

## **Non-Cash Compensation**

Advisor can receive an economic benefit for providing advisory services from sources other than the client. Economic benefits include sales awards and gifts, an occasional meal, as well as entertainment such as a concert, show or sporting event. Such compensation is not directly related to the advice or services provided to a particular client, but it does create a conflict of interest that can influence the selection of services based on the compensation received.

#### **Other Fees and Expenses**

Clients will incur transaction charges for trades executed in their accounts. These transaction fees are separate from our fees. Also, Clients will pay the following separately incurred expenses, which we do not receive any part of: charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus (i.e., fund management fees and other fund expenses). If a Client's assets are invested in mutual funds or other pooled investment products, Clients should be aware that there will be two layers of advisory fees and expenses for those assets. Client will pay an advisory fee to the fund manager and other expenses as a shareholder of the fund. Client will also pay. Advisor the advisory fee with respect to those assets. Most of the mutual funds available in the program may be purchased directly. Therefore, Clients could generally avoid the second layer of fees by not using the management services of Advisor and by making their own investment decisions. Further information regarding fees assessed by a mutual fund is available in the appropriate prospectus. The firm does not receive any portion of transaction fees.

#### **Industry Professionals**

When it is in the best interests of the client, Advisor can introduce the services of other professionals for certain non-investment purposes (i.e., attorneys and accountants). Introductions represent a conflict of interest because they create a relationship where the other professional has an implied obligation to introduce potential new clients to Advisor. Clients are under no obligation to engage the services of any such professional. If the client engages any such professional, and a dispute arises, any recourse will be exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

# **Friends & Family**

Fees can be waived, in whole or in part, for clients who are members of the family or friends. In certain other circumstances, fees and account minimums are negotiable and therefore, fees can vary from client to client.

# **Agreement Termination**

Prior to engaging the firm for Comprehensive Financial Planning Services, the client will be required to enter into a written agreement with the firm setting forth the terms and conditions under which the firm shall render its services (the "Agreement"). The Agreement between the firm and the client will continue in effect in accordance with the terms set forth in the Agreement unless modified or terminated in writing by the client or the firm. The client and the firm, each, shall have the right to terminate the Agreement at any time. Within thirty (30) days after receiving written termination, the client will receive a prorated portion of the fees for the remaining services that were not rendered. Neither the firm nor the client may assign the Agreement without the written consent of the other party. Transactions that do not result in a change of actual control or management of the firm shall not be considered an assignment.

- The firm reserves the right to stop work or terminate any financial planning engagement where a client has willfully concealed or has refused to provide pertinent information about financial situations when necessary and appropriate to providing proper financial advice, per the judgment of the firm.
- If a client terminates its relationship with the Adviser before completing the client's written financial plan or analysis, the firm will provide the work completed to date to the client. The client acknowledges the plan or analysis is incomplete and may not meet their desired goal or output.

#### Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

Advisor does not accept performance-based fees, fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a Client (such as a Client that is a hedge fund or other pooled investment vehicle).

Advisor does not participate in side-by-side management, where an advisor manages accounts that are both charged a performance-based fee and accounts that are charged another type of fee, such as an hourly or flat fee or an asset-based fee.

# Item 7 – Types of Clients

The firm is focused on serving Corporate Executives, Entrepreneurs, and Families throughout the Chicago area, Metro Atlanta area, southern Florida, and across the US.

# Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

#### **Methods of Analysis**

Upon engagement, F5 Financial will first gather and consider several factors, including:

- Current financial situation,
- Current and long-term needs,
- Investment goals and objectives,
- Level of investment knowledge,
- Tolerance for risk, and
- Restrictions, if any, on the management of your portfolio

F5 Financial will generally employ a fundamental analysis which involves evaluating economic factors including interest rates, the current state of the economy, or the future growth of an industry sector. In addition to our own research, the firm's recommendations may also be drawn from research sources that include financial publications, investment analysis and reporting software, materials from outside sources, annual reports, prospectuses and other regulatory filings, and company press releases.

F5 Financial makes asset allocation and investment policy decisions based on the above-noted elements and any other reasonable requirements a client prescribes. We will discuss with you how, in our best judgment, to meet your objective while at the same time seeking a prudent level of risk exposure.

#### **Investment Strategies**

We do not engage in market timing or the selection of individual equities. We favor a long-term buy and hold strategy with periodic rebalancing of the portfolio among asset classes, while incorporating the principles of Modern Portfolio Theory, whose concepts are based on rigorous, long-term academic research. The major premises of this theory include:

- Markets are typically fairly efficient (though not always rational); therefore, it is extremely difficult to gain a competitive edge by exploiting market anomalies.
- Risk and reward are highly correlated. Over time, riskier assets provide higher expected returns to compensate investors for accepting greater risk.
- Adding high-risk, low-correlating asset classes to a portfolio can actually reduce volatility/risk while increasing expected rates of return.
- Proper diversification of a portfolio can maximize expected return for a certain level of risk; likewise, it can minimize risk for a certain expected rate of return.

F5 Financial also adheres to some other major premises that have been supported by a significant amount of time-tested research such as investment costs. Costs have a significant impact on the long-term performance of a portfolio. A fund's expense ratio is the primary factor in how that fund performs versus its competition, especially over long time periods.

#### **Investment Strategy Risks**

We believe our strategies and investment recommendations are designed to produce the appropriate potential return for the given level of risk; however, we cannot guarantee that an investment objective or planning goal will be achieved. As an investor you must be able to bear the risk of loss that is associated with your account, which may include the loss of some or all of your principal. In general, risks regarding markets include interest rates, company, and management risk, among others. Examples include:

- Market Risk When the stock market as a whole or an industry as a whole falls, it can cause the prices of individual stocks to fall indiscriminately. This is also called systemic or systematic risk.
- Company Risk When investing in securities, there is always a certain level of company or industry-specific risk that is inherent in each company or issuer. This is also referred to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is the risk that the company will perform poorly or have its value reduced based on factors specific to the company or industry.
- Management Risk An investment with a firm varies with the success and failure of its investment strategies, research, analysis, and determination of its portfolio. If an investment strategy were not to produce expected returns, the value of the investment would decrease.
- **Firm Research** When the firm's research and analyses are based on commercially available software, rating services, general market and financial information, or due diligence reviews, the firm is relying on the accuracy and validity of the information or capabilities provided by selected vendors, rating services, market data, and the issuers themselves. The firm makes every effort to determine the accuracy of the information received but it cannot predict the outcome of events or actions taken or not taken, or the validity of all information it has researched or provided, which may or may not affect the advice on or investment management of an account.
- ETF and Mutual Fund Risk ETF or mutual funds may carry additional expenses based on their share of operating expenses and certain brokerage fees, which may result in the potential duplication of certain fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. Clients may incur additional costs associated with ETFs and mutual funds (see Item 5). Consumer Discretionary ETF Shares are listed for trading on NYSE Arca and can be bought and sold on the secondary market at market prices. Although it is expected that the market price of a Consumer Discretionary ETF Share typically will approximate its net asset value (NAV), there may be times when the market price and the NAV vary significantly. Thus, the client may pay more or less than NAV when the Consumer Discretionary ETF Shares are purchased on the secondary

market, and the client may receive more or less than NAV when you sell those shares. Although Consumer Discretionary ETF Shares are listed for trading on NYSE Arca, it is possible that an active trading market may not be maintained and Trading of Consumer Discretionary ETF Shares on NYSE Arca may be halted by the activation of individual or market wide "circuit breakers" (which halt trading for a specific period of time when the price of a particular security or overall market prices decline by a specified percentage). Trading of Consumer Discretionary ETF Shares may also be halted if the shares are delisted. While many ETFs and index mutual funds are known for their potential tax-efficiency and higher "qualified dividend income" (QDI) percentages, there are asset classes within these investment vehicles or holding periods within that may not benefit. Shorter holding periods, as well as commodities and currencies (that may be part of an ETF or mutual fund portfolio), may be considered "non-qualified" under certain tax code provisions. We consider a holding's QDI when tax-efficiency is an important aspect of the client's portfolio.

- **Fixed Income Risks** Various forms of fixed income instruments, such as bonds, money market funds, bond funds, and certificates of deposit, may be affected by various forms of risk including:
  - Interest Rate Risk The risk that the value of the fixed income holding will decrease because of an increase in interest rates.
  - Liquidity Risk The inability to readily buy or sell an investment for a price close to the true underlying value of the assets due to a lack of buyers and sellers. While certain types of fixed income are generally liquid (i.e., bonds), there are risks which may occur such as when an issue trading on any given period does not readily support buys and sells at an efficient price.
  - Credit Risk The potential risk that an issuer would be unable to pay scheduled interest or repay principal at maturity, sometimes referred to as "default risk." Credit risk may also occur when issuer's ability to make payments of principal and interest when due is interrupted. This may result in a negative impact on all forms of debt instruments, as well as funds or ETF share values hat hold these issues. Bondholders are creditors of an issuer and have priority to assets before equity holders (i.e., stockholders) when receiving a payout from liquidation or restructuring. When defaults occur due to bankruptcy, the type of bond held will determine seniority of payment.
  - **Reinvestment Risk** With declining interest rates, investors may have to reinvest interest income or principal at a lower rate.
  - **Duration Risk** Duration is a measure of a bond's volatility, expressed in years to be repaid by its internal cash flow (interest payments). Bonds with longer durations carry more risk and have higher price volatility than bonds with shorter durations.

#### **Additional Risk Considerations**

Cybersecurity Risk – The computer systems, networks and devices used by us and our service

providers employ a variety of protections designed to prevent damage or interruption from computer viruses, networkand computer failures and cyberattacks. Despite such protections, systems, networks and devices potentiallycan be breached. Cyberattacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systemsfor purposes of corrupting data, or causing operational disruption, as well as denial-of- service attacks on websites. Cyber incidents may cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of us or our service providers to trade, violations of privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, reputational damage, reimbursement costs and additional compliance costs, as well as theinadvertent release of confidential information.

Currency/Exchange Rate Risk – The risk of a change in the price of one currency against another.

**Dependence on Key Personnel** – The success of the Underlying Funds will also depend materially upon the active participation of the individuals of the Underlying Managers. There can be no guarantee of the continuing participation of any one or more of these individuals, the loss of whose services could have a material adverse effect on the Underlying Funds. In addition, although the partners and other employees of the Underlying Managers are expected to devote as much time as they believe is necessary to conduct the affairs of the Underlying Funds, generally none of them will be required to devote any particular portion of his or her working time to the affairs of any of the Underlying Funds. These individuals are expected to devote substantial working time to conducting the affairs of the other funds they manage.

**Dependence on Underlying Managers** – Given that the Funds will generally be passive investors in any Underlying Fund and will not have a role in the management of the Underlying Funds, the returns of the investments in the Underlying Funds will primarily depend on the performance of the Underlying Managers. The Funds will not control the investment policies of the Underlying Funds and the access of an investor in a Fund to information concerning the Underlying Funds' investments and other matters will not be as comprehensive nor as timely as if investors made direct investments in the Underlying Funds. Also, information about Underlying Managers may be limited. As a result, Precision may not be in a position to protect the value of a particular Fund's investment in Underlying Funds. In addition, the Underlying Managers may have economic or business interests or goals that are inconsistent with those of the Fund.

**Derivatives** – Investment strategies may cause a client to be exposed to derivatives including instruments and contracts whose value is linked to one or more underlying securities, financial benchmarks, or indices. Derivatives allow an investor to hedge or speculate upon the price movements of a particular security, financial benchmark, index, currency, or interest rate at a fraction of the cost of investing in the underlying asset. The value of a derivative depends largely upon price movements in the underlying asset.

Extraordinary Events – Terrorism and the United States' involvement in armed conflict may negatively affect general economic fortunes, including sales, profits, and production. An unstable geopolitical climate and continued threats of terrorism and war could have a material effect on general economic conditions, market conditions, and market liquidity (i.e., depressed securities prices and problems with trading facilities and infrastructure). Additionally, a serious pandemic or natural disaster could severely disrupt the global, national, and/or regional economies. A resulting negative impact on economic fundamentals and consumer confidence may increase the risk of default of particular companies and negatively impact our clients.

**Inflationary Risk** – the risk that future inflation will cause the purchasing power of cash flow from an investment to decline.

**Legislative Risk** – The risk of a legislative ruling resulting in adverse consequences.

**Mutual Fund Risks** – A risk exists that the investment strategies employed by the mutual funds will not meet the stated investment objectives the fund is seeking to obtain. Mutual funds may invest in equities, fixed income, derivatives, and other asset classes; the risks associated with such investments are described in the fund's prospectus. The performance of a mutual fund may not exactly match the performance of the index or market benchmark that the fund is designed to track due to the mutual fund incurring expenses and transaction costs not incurred by any applicable index or market benchmark.

**Social/Political Risk** – The possibility of nationalization, unfavorable government action or social changes resulting in a loss of value.

**Pandemic Risk** – Large-scale outbreaks of infectious disease that can greatly increase morbidity and mortality over a wide geographic area, crossing international boundaries, and causing significant economic, social, and political disruption.

#### COVID-19

The novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 involves significant risk of a sustained increase in the volatility of global markets, which volatility could continue for the foreseeable future. Market responses to decisions made by governments and scientists around the world, including measures to contain the spread of the virus, availability of healthcare and treatments, and rolling shutdowns of markets across the globe would negatively impact markets and pose a significant risk of loss to investment principal. The pandemic also poses a risk from a human capital and resource perspective.

All investments involve varying degrees of risk, and it should not be assumed that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s). Investing in securities and other investments involve a risk of loss that each Client should understand and be willing to bear. Clients are reminded to discuss these risks with the Advisor.

#### **Types of Investments**

Advisor generally manages Client portfolios that consist of mutual funds, Exchange Traded Equities (ETFs) and individual securities.

Cash Positions – Based on a perceived or anticipated market conditions and/or events, certain assets will be taken out of the market and held in a defensive cash position. The firm invests cash balances in money market funds, FDIC Insured Certificates of Deposit, high-grade commercial paper and/or government-backed debt instruments. Cash positions are subject to the agreed upon advisory fee as they are managed as part of the overall active investment strategy. The firm does not hold cash positions for an extended period of time.

Cryptocurrency – Cryptocurrencies refer to the actual virtual currency (decentralized digitized money) that allows individuals or entities to transfer funds online without the need for a bank or credit card company, such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Cardona, and Litecoin. Cryptocurrency is Cryptocurrencies were not designed to be investments and have not been deemed to be a security. They were designed to be mediums of exchange and seen as an alternative to traditional sovereign currencies. Cryptocurrency-related products refer to securities that either directly purchase cryptocurrencies or are involved in the cryptocurrency space, such as through mining cryptocurrency, investing in companies that develop and use blockchain technology, etc. The SEC, CFTC, NFA, and FINRA have issued investor alerts and advisories on the risks of cryptocurrencies and initial coin offerings (ICOs). These regulators continue to warn investors to keep in mind that actual cryptocurrency and cryptocurrency-related products continue to be speculative and extremely volatile investments. Due to the unregulated nature and lack of transparency surrounding the operations of crypto exchanges, they may experience fraud, market manipulation, security failures or operational problems, which can adversely affect the value of cryptocurrencies and, consequently, the value of the shares of cryptocurrency-related products.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) – An ETF is a portfolio of securities invested to track a market index similar to an index mutual fund, but the shares are traded on an exchange like an equity. An ETF share price fluctuates intraday depending on market conditions instead of having a net asset value (NAV) that is calculated once at the end of the day. The shares may trade at a premium or discount; and as a result, investors pay more or less when purchasing shares and receive more or less than when selling shares. The supply of ETF shares is regulated through a mechanism known as creation and redemption that involves large, specialized investors, known as authorized participants (APs). Authorized participants are large financial institutions with a high degree of buying power, such as market makers, banks or investment companies that provide market liquidity. When there is a shortage of shares in the market, the authorized participant creates more (creation). Conversely, the authorized participant will reduce shares in circulation (redemption) when supply falls short of demand. Multiple authorized participants help improve the liquidity of a particular ETF and stabilize the share price. To the extent that authorized participants cannot or are otherwise unwilling to engage in creation and redemption transactions, shares of an ETF tend to trade at a significant discount or premium and may face trading halts and delisting from the exchange. The performance of ETFs is subject to market risk, including the complete loss of

principal. ETFs also have a trading risk based on cost inefficiency if the ETFs are actively traded and a liquidity risk if the ETFs has a large price spread and low trading volume. In addition, investors buying or selling shares in the secondary market pay brokerage commissions, which may be a significant proportional cost not incurred by mutual funds.

**Fixed Income** – Investments generally pay a return on a fixed schedule, though the amount of the payments can vary. This type of investment can include corporate and government debt securities, leveraged loans, high yield, and investment grade debt and structured products, such as mortgage and other asset-backed securities, although individual bonds may be the best-known type of fixed income security. In general, the fixed income market is volatile and fixed income securities carry interest rate risk. (As interest rates rise, bond prices usually fall, and vice versa. This effect is usually more pronounced for longer-term securities.) Fixed income securities also carry inflation risk, liquidity risk, call risk, and credit and default risks for both issuers and counterparties. The risk of default on treasury inflation protected/inflation linked bonds is dependent upon the U.S. Treasury defaulting (extremely unlikely); however, they carry a potential risk of losing share price value, albeit rather minimal. Risks of investing in foreign fixed income securities also include the general risk of non-U.S. investing described below.

Index Investing – ETFs and indexed funds have the potential to be affected by "active risk" or "tracking error risk," which might be defined as a deviation from the stated benchmark. Since the core portfolio may attempt to closely replicate a stated benchmark, the source of the tracking error or deviation may come from a satellite portfolio or position, or from a "sample" or "optimized" index fund or ETF that may not as closely align with the stated benchmark. In these instances, the firm may choose to reduce the weighting of a satellite holding, utilize very active satellites, or use a "replicate index" position as part of its core holdings to minimize the effects of the tracking error in relation to the overall portfolio.

**Mutual Funds** – A pool of funds collected from many investors for the purpose of investing in securities such as stocks, bonds, money market instruments and similar assets.

#### **Open-End Mutual Funds**

A type of mutual fund that does not have restrictions on the amount of shares the fund will issue and will buy back shares when investors wish to sell. Investing in mutual funds carries the risk of capital loss and thus you may lose money investing in mutual funds. All mutual funds have costs that lower investment returns. The funds can be of bond "fixed income" nature (lower risk) or stock "equity" nature.

#### **Closed-End Mutual Funds**

A type of mutual fund that raises a fixed amount of capital through an initial public offering (IPO). The fund is then structured, listed and traded like a stock on a stock exchange. Clients should be aware that closed-end funds available within the program are not readily marketable. In an effort to provide invest or liquidity, the funds may offer to repurchase a certain percentage of shares at net

asset value on a periodic basis. Thus, clients may be unable to liquidate all or a portion of their shares in these types of funds.

## **Alternative Strategy Mutual Funds**

Certain mutual funds available in the program invest primarily in alternative investments and/or strategies. Investing in alternative investments and/or strategies may not be suitable for all investors and involves special risks, such as risks associated with commodities, real estate, leverage, selling securities short, the use of derivatives, potential adverse market forces, regulatory changes and potential illiquidity. There are special risks associated with mutual funds that invest principally in real estate securities, such as sensitivity to changes in real estate values and interest rates and price volatility because of the fund's concentration in the real estate industry.

**Passive Markets Theory** – A portfolio that employs a passive, efficient markets approach (often associated with index investing) has the potential risk that at times the broader allocation may generate lower-than-expected returns than those from a specific, more narrowly focused asset, and that the return on each type of asset is a deviation from the average return for the asset class. We believe this variance from the "expected return" is generally low under normal market conditions when a portfolio is made up of diverse, non-correlated assets.

**Socially Conscious Investing** – If you require your portfolio to be invested according to socially conscious principles, you should note that returns on investments of this type may be limited and because of this limitation you may not be able to be as well diversified among various asset classes. The number of publicly traded companies that meet socially conscious investment parameters is also limited, and due to this limitation, there is a probability of similarity or overlap of holdings, especially among socially conscious mutual funds or ETFs. Therefore, there could be a more pronounced positive or negative impact on a socially conscious portfolio, which could be more volatile than a fully diversified portfolio.

Additional types of investments will be considered per Client for asset allocation and risk management purposes.

# **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

There are no legal, regulatory, or disciplinary events involving Advisor or any of its Supervised Persons.

#### Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

#### **Broker-Dealer Affiliation**

No Investment Advisor Representative is affiliated with a broker/dealer.

# **Insurance Agency Affiliation**

No Investment Advisor Representatives has affiliation with an insurance company.

# **Futures or Commodities Affiliation**

Neither Advisor nor any of the management persons are registered or has a registration pending to register as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

#### Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

#### **Code of Ethics**

Advisor has implemented a Code of Ethics (the "Code") that defines our fiduciary commitment to each Client. This Code applies to all persons associated with the firm (our "Supervised Persons"). The Code was developed to provide general ethical guidelines and specific instructions regarding our duties to you, our Client. The firm and its Supervised Persons owe a duty of loyalty, fairness, and good faith towards each Client. It is the obligation of the firm's Supervised Persons to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code, but also to the general principles that guide the Code. The Code covers a range of topics that address employee ethics and conflicts of interest. To request a copy of our Code, please contact us at (630) 474-5213 or by email at <a href="mailto:info@f5fp.com">info@f5fp.com</a>.

## **Personal Trading with Material Interest**

Advisor does not act as principal in any transactions. In addition, the firm does not act as the general partner of a fund or advise an investment company. Advisor does not have a material interest in any securities traded in Client accounts.

## Personal Trading in Same Securities as Clients

Advisor allows our Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Owning the same securities, we recommend (purchase or sell) to you presents a conflict of interest that, as fiduciaries, we must disclose to you and mitigate through policies and procedures. As noted above, we have adopted a Code of Ethics to address insider trading (material non-public information controls); gifts and entertainment; outside business activities and personal securities reporting. Personal Trading at Same Time as Client

Supervised Persons may not purchase or sell any security immediately prior to or immediately after a transaction being implemented for an advisory account, thereby preventing an employee from benefiting from transactions placed on behalf of advisory accounts.

# Item 12 - Brokerage Practices

F5 Financial does not have any affiliation with product sales firms. Specific custodian recommendations are made to clients based on their need for such services. We typically recommend mutual fund and discount brokerage firms like Vanguard, Fidelity, Charles Schwab, Scottrade, and TD Ameritrade (TD Ameritrade Institutional, Division of TD Ameritrade, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC/NFA) based on their transaction costs, ease of use, fund selection, and client service.

When clients select investment management services, F5 Financial uses an independent, 3rd-party custodian. The firm does not receive fees or commissions from any of these arrangements. F5 Financial can also benefit from other services provided by custodians, such as research, continuing education, and practice management advice. These benefits are standard in a relationship with these custodians and are not in return for client recommendations or transactions.

- F5 Financial is not affiliated with a brokerage firm. No broker firm is responsible to supervise Advisor, its agents or activities.
- F5 Financial does not direct brokerage for specific client transactions except occasionally individual bonds, for which the firm may select a broker/dealer to secure better pricing for the client than offered by the custodial broker/deal on an individual trade.

# **Soft Dollars**

Soft dollars are revenue programs offered by broker-dealers whereby an advisor enters into an agreement to place security trades with the broker in exchange for research and other services.

Advisor, LLC does not receive soft dollars; however, the firm receives support services and/or products from our custodians to better monitor and service program accounts maintained on behalf of Advisor 's clients. These support services and/or products are received without cost, at a discount, and/or at a negotiated rate, and can include the following:

- investment-related research
- pricing information and market data
- software and other technology that provide access to client account data
- compliance and/or practice managementrelated publications
- consulting services
- attendance at conferences, meetings, and other educational and/or social events

- marketing support
- computer hardware and/or software
- other products and services used by Advisor in furtherance of its investment advisory business operations
- custody of securities
- trade execution
- clearance and settlement of transactions

The research products and services provided by a Custodian can include research reports on recommendations or other information about, particular companies or industries; economic surveys, data and analyses; financial publications; portfolio evaluation services; financial database software and services; computerized news and pricing services; quotation equipment for use in running software used in investment decision-making. These support services provided by a Custodian to Advisor are based on the overall relationship between Advisor and the Custodian. It is not the result of soft dollar arrangements or any other express arrangements with the Custodian that involves the execution of client transactions as a condition to the receipt of services.

• F5 Financial will continue to receive the services regardless of the volume of client transactions executed with the Custodian.

- Clients do not pay more for services as a result of this arrangement.
- There is no corresponding commitment made by the Advisor to the Custodian or any other entity to invest any specific amount or percentage of client assets in any specific securities as a result of the arrangement.

F5 Financial examined this conflict of interest when we chose to enter into the relationship and we have determined that the relationship is in the best interest of our clients and satisfies our fiduciary obligations, including our duty to seek best execution.

# **Brokerage Referrals**

Advisor does not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with the recommendation for establishing a brokerage account.

# **Transaction Fees**

The Custodian charges brokerage commissions and transaction fees for effecting certain securities transactions (i.e., transaction fees are charged for certain no-load mutual funds, commissions are charged for individual equity and debt securities transactions). The Custodian enables Advisor to obtain many no-load mutual funds without transaction charges and other no-load funds at nominal transaction charges. The Custodian's commission rates are generally discounted from customary retail commission rates. However, the commission and transaction fees charged by the Custodians may be higher or lower than those charged by other custodians and broker/dealers.

#### **Best Execution**

In seeking best execution, the determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a broker/dealer's services, including the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates, and responsiveness. Accordingly, although we will seek competitive rates, to the benefit of all Clients, we may not necessarily obtain the lowest possible commission rates for specific Client account transactions.

#### **Aggregation and Allocating Trades**

The primary objective in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities for Client accounts is to obtain the most favorable net results taking into account such factors as price, size of order and difficulty of execution. Advisor does not aggregate purchases and sales for various Client accounts, but orders can be aggregated by the custodian.

#### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

For those clients to whom Advisor provides investment advisory services, account reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by the Investment Advisor Representative. All clients (in person or via telephone) are

encouraged to review financial planning issues (to the extent applicable), investment objectives and account performance with their Investment Advisor Representative. In addition, each client relationship shall be reviewed at least annually. Reviews may be conducted more or less frequently at the client's request. Accounts may also be reviewed as a result of major changes in economic and/or political conditions, known changes in the client's financial situation, and/or large deposits or withdrawals in the client's account. The client is encouraged to notify Advisor if changes occur in the client's personal financial situation that might adversely affect the client's investment plan. Additional reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events.

Clients will receive brokerage statements no less than quarterly from the custodian. These brokerage statements are sent directly from the custodian to the client. The client can also establish electronic access to the custodian's website so they can view these reports and their account activity. Client brokerage statements will include all positions, transactions and fees relating to the Client's account[s].

# Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation

Advisor is a fee-based advisory firm, that is compensated by its Clients to provide investment advice and not from any investment product or someone other than the Client. Advisor does not receive commissions or other economic benefit or compensation from product sponsors, broker/dealers or any un-related third party.

#### **Client Referrals from Solicitors**

Advisor does not engage paid solicitors for Client referrals.

# Item 15 – Custody

Advisor does not accept or maintain actual custody of funds or securities. A qualified custodian is responsible to provide Clients with trade confirmations, tax forms and quarterly statements that include account balance(s). Clients are advised to carefully review the information provided by the custodian and notify their Investment Advisor Representative with any questions or if such information is not received.

• Clients authorize the custodian by separate agreement to deduct advisory fees on behalf of Advisor.

#### **Statements Provided by F5FP**

Clients are at times provided account statements, net worth statements, and net worth graphs that are generated from our financial planning software. Net worth statements contain approximations of bank account balances provided by the client, as well as the value of land, real estate, limited partnerships, and other hard-to-price assets. The net worth statements are used for long-term financial planning where the exact values of assets are not material to the financial planning tasks. The book values of hard to price assets are reviewed whenever supplemental information relating to valuation is received. Otherwise, these assets are priced at client cost. Clients are urged to compare the statements they receive from us to those they receive from their qualified custodians.

#### Item 16 – Investment Discretion

Clients can determine to engage Advisor to provide investment advisory services on a discretionary basis. Prior to Advisor assuming discretionary authority over a client's account, the client shall be required to execute an agreement, naming F5 Financial as the client's attorney and agent in fact, granting Advisor full authority to buy, sell, or otherwise effect investment transactions involving the assets in the client's name found in the discretionary account.

If a client enter into non-discretionary arrangements with our firm, we will obtain their approval prior to the execution of any transactions for their account(s). Clients have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any non-discretionary advice.

# **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

Advisor does not accept proxy-voting responsibility for any client. Clients will receive proxy statements directly from the custodian. Advisor will assist in answering questions relating to proxies, however, the client retains the sole responsibility for proxy decisions and voting.

#### Item 18 - Financial Information

Neither the firm, nor its management, have any adverse financial situations to disclose and have not been subject to a bankruptcy or financial compromise.

• The firm does not collect advance fees \$1,200 or more for services to be performed six months or more in the future.

# **Privacy Policy**

# **Our Commitment to You**

F5 Financial is committed to safeguarding the use of personal information of our Clients (also referred to as "you" and "your") that we obtain as your Investment Advisor, as described here in our Privacy Policy ("Policy"). Our relationship with you is our most important asset. We understand that you have entrusted us with your private information, and we do everything that we can to maintain that trust. F5 Financial (also referred to as "we", "our" and "us") protects the security and confidentiality of the personal information we have and implements controls to ensure that such information is used for proper business purposes in connection with the management or servicing of our relationship with you. The firm does not sell your non-public personal information to anyone. Nor do we provide such information to others except for discrete and reasonable business purposes in connection with the servicing and management of our relationship with you, as discussed below. Details of our approach to privacy and how your personal non-public information is collected and used are set forth in this Policy.

#### Why you need to know?

Registered Investment Advisor's ("RIAs") must share some of your personal information in the course of servicing your account. Federal and State laws give you the right to limit some of this sharing and require RIAs to disclose how we collect, share, and protect your personal information.

What information do we collect from you?

Employment Information and or Government ID	Date of birth
Social security or taxpayer identification number	Assets and liabilities
Name, address and phone number(s)	Income and expenses
E-mail address(es)	Investment activity
Account information (including other institutions)	Investment experience and goals

What Information do we collect from other sources?

Custody, brokerage and advisory agreements	Account applications and forms
Other advisory agreements and legal documents	Investment questionnaires and suitability documents
Transactional information with us or others	Other information needed to service your account

#### **How do we protect your information?**

To safeguard your personal information from unauthorized access and use we maintain physical, procedural and electronic security measures. These include such safeguards as secure passwords, encrypted file storage and a secure office environment. Our technology vendors provide security and access control over personal

information and have policies over the transmission of data. Our associates are trained on their responsibilities to protect Client's personal information. We require third parties that assist in providing our services to you to protect the personal information they receive from us.

## **How do we share your information?**

Name of Firm shares Client personal information to effectlively implement its services. In the section below, we list some reasons we may share your personal information.

Basis For Sharing	Do we share?	Can you limit?
Servicing our Clients.  We may share non-public personal information with non-affiliated third parties (such as administrators, brokers, custodians, regulators, credit agencies, consultants or other financial institutions) as necessary for us to provide agreed upon services to you, consistent with applicable law, including but not limited to: processing transactions; general account maintenance; responding to regulators or legal investigations; and credit reporting.	Yes	No
Marketing Purposes.  Advisor does not disclose, and does not intend to disclose, personal information with non-affiliated third parties to offer you services. Certain laws may give us the right to share your personal information with financial institutions where you are a customer and where Name of Firm or the Client has a formal agreement with the financial institution. We will only share information for purposes of servicing your accounts, not for marketing purposes.	No	Not Shared
Authorized Users. Your non-public personal information may be disclosed to you and persons that we believe to be your authorized agent(s) or representative(s).	Yes	Yes
Information About Former Clients.  Advisor does not disclose and does not intend to disclose, non-public personal information to non-affiliated third parties with respect to persons who are no longer our Clients.	No	Not Shared

# Other Important Information

Information for California, North Dakota, and Vermont Customers. In response to applicable state law, if the mailing address provided for your account is in California, North Dakota, or Vermont, we will automatically treat your account as if you do not want us to disclose your personal information to non-affiliated third parties for purposes of them marketing to you, except as permitted by the applicable state law.

Changes to our Privacy Policy	Changes	to o	ur Pri	vacy l	Policy
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We will send you a copy of this Policy annually for as long as you maintain an ongoing relationship with us. Periodically we may revise this Policy and will provide you with a revised Policy if the changes materially alter the previous Privacy Policy. We will not, however, revise our Privacy Policy to permit the sharing of non-public personal information other than as described in this notice unless we first notify you and provide you with an opportunity to prevent the information sharing.

# **Any Questions?**

You may ask questions or voice any concerns, as well as obtain a copy of our current Privacy Policy by contacting us at (630) 474-5213 or by email at <a href="mailto:info@f5fp.com">info@f5fp.com</a>.