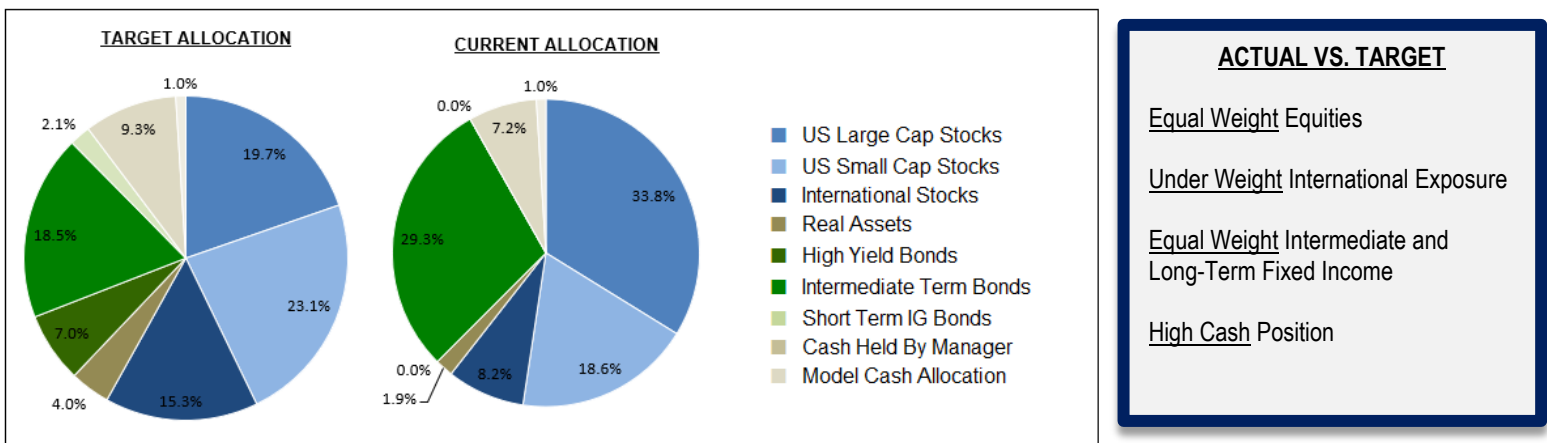


\*General overall portfolio comments refer to the Moderate Growth allocations used in both the Pooled Fund Program and the Unified Managed Account Program. These general comments will be referred to as “Moderate Growth” throughout. Specific references to performance, current allocation, or comparison to indexes are derived from the CWA Model 5 Portfolio in the Pooled Fund Program; these specific comments will be referred to as “Model 5” throughout.

## PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS

**Overall Goal.** We construct portfolios to generate a return that maximizes the probability that an investor will meet their retirement goals, as opposed to maximizing their asset base (which interjects significant risk). We believe that a value bias, international exposure and general diversification provide the best avenue to meet this objective. Our portfolios have lower volatility<sup>†</sup>, but can go through periods where they do not keep pace with the U.S. equity markets (the most common benchmark) because of our focus on value, fixed income and international stocks.

The **Moderate Growth Portfolio** is intended to provide a balanced allocation, with a slight overweight to equities over fixed income. The goal is to provide a balance of growth and income with lower volatility than an all-equity portfolio. Our target and current portfolio asset class allocations for Model 5 are listed below.



## LARGEST EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME POSITIONS

In normal market environments, Moderate Growth has a target allocation of 60% stocks & 40% bonds, with approximately 20% of the portfolio in international equities and fixed income. So, the portfolio is a global one – with a U.S. tilt. By design, the holdings are broadly diversified by location/country, by company size, by credit quality/yield and by maturity/duration. The investment managers have a degree of flexibility which allows them to respond to different market environments, and our equity managers are currently holding a large amount of cash (given current valuations).

<sup>†</sup> as of 01/31/2022, the 10-year volatility (standard deviation) of Model 5 is 8.3%, versus 13.1% for the S&P 500 Index.

## PERFORMANCE

The Moderate Growth portfolios in the Pooled Fund Program and the Unified Managed Account Program have slightly different investments, costs and thus returns. Accordingly, we direct you to your account statement for your individual performance.

In January, Model 5 (net of fees and expenses) outperformed compared to the Global 60/40 Index, outperformed compared to the U.S. 60/40 Index, and underperformed compared to the S&P Moderate Growth which posted the following returns:

| PERFORMANCE                                 | JAN    | COMMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Global 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(2)</sup> | -3.93% | Equity markets were marred by significant volatility during the month as the Fed doubled down on their plans to tighten monetary policy, coupled with a round of earnings that left something to be desired. The Fed's comments also caused a selloff in the bond market. |
| U.S. 60/40 Benchmark Index <sup>(3)</sup>   | -3.96% |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| S&P Moderate Growth Index <sup>(4)</sup>    | -3.22% |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

(1) "Market Perform" means within a range of +10 bps to -10 bps of the applicable index for the month (or +/- 8 bps per month for YTD performance); "Outperform" means more than +10 bps for the month (or more than +8 bps per month for YTD performance); "Underperform" means more than -10 bps for the month (or more than -8 bps per month for YTD performance). **Please note performance comparison comments are based upon Model 5 Pooled Fund Program data. There are inherent limitations in the use of model performance – please read the Model Disclosure found on page 6. Investors should consult their individual custodial statement for actual performance of individual portfolios. Actual performance comparisons may differ from model comparisons.**

(2) Global 60/40 Benchmark is 60% MSCI ACWI Index & 40% Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index.

(3) U.S. 60/40 Benchmark is 60% S&P 500 Index & 40% Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

(4) S&P Moderate Growth Index is 50% S&P Target Risk Moderate Index & 50% S&P Target Risk Growth Index.

## MARKET PERFORMANCE

### Equities

| PERFORMANCE                            | JAN    | MULTIPLE | COMMENTS                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------|--------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Equities <sup>(5)</sup>           | -5.88% | 26.4X    | The broader market was materially lower for the month, led by small caps and technology, particularly momentum stocks. |
| International Developed <sup>(6)</sup> | -4.82% | 16.2X    | International markets were down in concert with domestic markets during the month.                                     |
| Emerging Markets <sup>(7)</sup>        | -1.90% | 13.6X    | Emerging markets did not experience as much selling as domestic and developed international markets during the month.  |

(5) U.S. Equities are represented by the Russell 3000 Index.

(6) International Developed is the MSCI EAFE Index.

(7) Emerging Markets is the MSCI EM Index.

## Fixed Income

| PERFORMANCE                                      | JAN    | SPREAD OVER UST 10 YEAR | COMMENTS                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| U.S. Treasuries (Medium Duration) <sup>(8)</sup> | -2.35% | -                       | Yields rose during the month after the Fed reiterated plans to begin raising rates as early as March. |
| U.S. Treasuries (Longer Duration) <sup>(9)</sup> | -4.30% | 0.36%                   | Long-term yields moved higher during the month.                                                       |
| Global Fixed Income <sup>(10)</sup>              | -2.05% | -0.23%                  | Global bonds fell during the month.                                                                   |
| Emerging Fixed Income <sup>(11)</sup>            | -2.45% | 2.88%                   | Emerging market debt fell during the month.                                                           |
| High Yield <sup>(12)</sup>                       | -2.73% | 3.28%                   | High Yield was negative during the month and spreads widened markedly.                                |

(8) U.S. Treasuries (7-10 Years), represented by the Barclays U.S.T 7-10 Yr Total Return Index

(9) U.S. Treasuries (20+ Years), represented by the Barclays U.S.T 20+ Yr Total Return Index

(10) Barclays Global Aggregate Bond Index.

(11) Barclays Emerging Markets EMEA Total Return

(12) Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield Index.

**Commodities and Real Assets.** The Model 5 portfolios do not have significant exposure to commodities, except indirectly. However, commodities and real assets (real estate) provide a good sense of global demand (in the case of industrial commodities) or fear (gold).

| PERFORMANCE                       | JAN    | TREND | COMMENTS                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Energy <sup>(13)</sup>            | 18.40% | UP    | Oil has continued to surge higher.                           |
| Real Estate <sup>(14)</sup>       | -8.14% | -     | Real estate sold off during the month.                       |
| Industrial Metals <sup>(15)</sup> | 2.57%  | UP    | Industrial metals continued to move higher during the month. |
| Gold <sup>(16)</sup>              | -1.68% | -     | Gold sold off modestly during the month.                     |

(13) S&P GSCI Energy Total Return Index.

(14) Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Index.

(15) S&P GSCI Industrial Metals Total Return Index.

(16) SPDR Gold Shares (GLD).

### Market Comments

The words “Happy New Year” need not apply when it comes to the markets in 2022. Volatility began at the onset of the year and has continued for the first month.

Judging by the tone of emails in our inbox, the veracity of the decline has caused clients to begin to get nervous. This is within reason. Dating back to the middle of December, the markets have had to digest the Federal Reserve turning hawkish and changing course on the timeline for rate increases; an increasing spate of negative COVID news as Omicron has spread seemingly unabated, an almost constant feed of negative geopolitical news, continued high inflation data, and a round of earnings announcements that have fallen short of lofty expectations. That is a lot for the market to digest during normal times, much less following a 24-month period where the S&P 500 has returned a cumulative 52.3% in the face of a pandemic and the ensuing economic uncertainty.

It was and continues to be completely logical that an investor would have been nervous to start the year, and even more logical that these same investors would be looking for an opportunity to sell at any given moment. Behaviorally, investors tend to never want to be first to act and therefore pile on at the first mention of a warning signal. None of this is more apparent than looking at what has happened to Netflix in the following 2 trading days. Netflix announced last week that it had added 8.3 million new subscribers in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, approx. 2.5% below their estimate of 8.5 million new customers. The stock has fallen over 27% since this announcement late last week.

What has happened to Netflix can be applied to other stocks in the market. Was a 200,000 subscriber miss enough to knock almost a third out of their market capitalization? That does not seem logical. Was the stock too expensive to begin with and this is just reality setting in? Perhaps, but NFLX has traded at an expensive valuation for the better part of a decade, so what has changed now? These are questions that are important to take a breath and ask ourselves.

The conclusions we draw at this moment are that investors were wide eyed at the returns they have received over the past two years and were spring loaded to bail the moment trouble set in because they are afraid of incurring losses. The disorder in the market over the past 3 weeks is indicative of this mindset. It is during these times that great investments are made. When others are fearful, asset prices get dislocated and a patient long-term investor can take advantage the rampant selling and turn that it to outsized returns. The market has had fits like these several times over the past 5 years – all with very similar rounds of fearful emails and concern – and yet it has continued to march higher. We believe this market is no different. The market may exit this round of volatility with a new batch of stocks leading the way and certain indexes may not bounce back as they have in the past, but that is an area of opportunity, not something to hide from.

### Further Reading

**Disappointing Meta, Paypal Earnings Send Shudders Through Stock Market, Wall Street Journal, February 3, 2022**

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/disappointing-meta-paypal-earnings-send-shudders-through-stock-market-11643906563?mod=markets\\_lead\\_pos1](https://www.wsj.com/articles/disappointing-meta-paypal-earnings-send-shudders-through-stock-market-11643906563?mod=markets_lead_pos1)

**For questions, or to request additional information, please contact your CWA Financial Planner**

### DISCLOSURES

#### **PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT AN INDICATOR OF FUTURE MARKET RETURNS.**

*Cain Watters is a Registered Investment Advisor. Request Form ADV Part 2A for a complete description of Cain Watters Advisors' investment advisory services. Diversification does not ensure a profit and may not protect against loss in declining markets. No inference should be drawn that managed accounts will be profitable in the future or that the Manager will be able to achieve its objectives. Investing involves risk and the possibility of loss, including a permanent loss of principal.*

Asset allocation and diversification do not assure or guarantee better performance and cannot eliminate the risk of investment losses. All investments and strategies have the potential for profit or loss. Different types of investments involve higher and lower levels of risk. Historical performance returns for investment indexes and/or categories, usually do not deduct transaction and/or custodial charges or an advisory fee, which would decrease historical performance results. There are no assurances that a portfolio will match or exceed any specific benchmark.

*This commentary contains the opinions of the CWA Investment Committee at the time of publication and is subject to change. Market and economic factors can change rapidly, producing materially different results. This update is intended for clients currently invested in CWA Recommended Investment Programs. This is not intended to be personalized investment advice. This does not take into account a particular investor's financial objectives or risk tolerances. Any specific mention of securities is for informational purposes only and is not intended as a recommendation or solicitation to purchase.*

*CWA Model 5 Moderate Growth Pooled Fund Program: The target allocation and portfolio data used throughout this presentation is for the CWA Model 5 recommended for participants in the Pooled Fund Program. This Model is the most common recommendation and is used here to illustrate the CWA methodology. Other CWA Recommended Investment Program models will vary in asset allocation and underlying manager and/or security selection. Clients should discuss these models and programs with their planner prior to selection.*

*\*\*The CAPE ratio is a valuation measure that uses real earnings per share (EPS) over a 10-year period to smooth out fluctuations in corporate profits that occur over different periods of a business cycle. The ratio is generally applied to broad equity indices to assess whether the market is undervalued or overvalued. While the CAPE ratio is a popular and widely-followed measure, several leading industry practitioners have called into question its utility as a predictor of future stock market returns. The CAPE ratio, an acronym for Cyclically Adjusted P/E (i.e. Price-Earnings) ratio, was popularized by Yale University professor Robert Shiller. It is also known as the Shiller P/E ratio.*

*+Statements relating to Value outperforming Growth are based upon the data of the Fama-French 3-Factor Model. A pioneering study by renowned academics, Eugene Fama and Ken French, suggesting that three risk factors: market (beta), size (market capitalization) and price (book/market value) dimensions explain 96% of historical equity performance.*

**Model Performance Disclosure: Model performance is NOT an indicator of future or actual results. Performance does not represent the returns that any individual investor actually received. Cain Watters Investors may incur a loss. Cain Watters Models contain allocations to several different common pooled trust funds. Each individual pooled trust fund has a defined investment strategy; usually designed around a specific asset class. Investment managers and their respective strategies are chosen to meet each of the pooled funds' objectives. Investors in the models pay a monthly asset based trust fee, based on their average investment balance during the month. Model performance is calculated using the reported net asset value of each individual pooled fund. Performance for the individual funds is then weighted according to the model target allocation. Model performance includes the reinvestment of dividends**

*and interest. The annual trust fee of 0.65% is subtracted from gross returns on a pro-rated basis of 0.0541% per month; and includes trust fees and investment advisory fees. For time periods prior to July 1, 2016 an annual trust fee of 1.05% or 0.0875% per month was used. Model performance has inherent limitations in that it does not reflect the effects of significant cash flows, or take into account actual client asset allocation that may differ materially from the target allocation due to rebalancing policies and changes in market values. This model performance information is provided for illustrative purposes only. Cain Watters Model investors may experience materially different returns.*

*Use of Comparison Benchmark or Index: Indexes cannot be invested in directly. Index performance and statistics are provided for illustrative or comparison purposes and are chosen as commonly accepted representations of the performance of a particular segment of the market.*