



ELCA Foundation

MINISTRY GROWTH FUND - SECOND QUARTER SUMMARY

The Ministry Growth Fund generated positive absolute and relative performance for the second quarter, with net returns of 3.4%, vs. the Target Benchmark's return of 3.2%. This strong performance brings the year-to-date net return to 8.6% over the Target Benchmark's return of 7.9%. Equities, particularly U.S. equities, were the primary contributors of return, although all strategies generated positive returns year to date.

MARKET SNAPSHOT

The seemingly divergent views on key issues like the direction of interest rates, inflation, the stock market, and the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) have led to "mixed emotions" in the market. The Rolling Stones' top 10 hit of the same name was released in 1989, a year that saw the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the bursting of the Japanese asset bubble. Ultimately, the S&P 500 Index returned over 30% in 1989, but investors were rather apathetic on stocks. Ed Mathias, managing director of T. Rowe Price, quipped at the time: "It is a kind of joyless prosperity."

Thus far, 2023 feels a bit similar. While most major markets are up on the year, there are plenty of issues to worry about, from the geopolitical like the Russia-Ukraine war and Chinese policy, to monetary concerns and a Federal Reserve (Fed) that did not raise interest rates during their June meeting, but has subsequently raised rates in July, and seems likely to continue raising interest rates in the months ahead.

A prevailing theme throughout 2022 and early 2023 was the growing narrative of a looming economic downturn, which, when combined with the sharp rise in interest rates, helped place downward pressure on the major traditional asset classes and categories amid the most aggressive Fed tightening campaign in four decades.

A cursory review of market performance over the first half of 2023 paints a starkly different picture, however, with most major asset classes seemingly missing the memo on the looming 'doom and gloom' and posting strong gains. In fact, the year-to-date rally across risk

assets, such as equities, has been so strong that domestic large cap equities such as the S&P 500 Index ended the quarter close to the all-time high, which was established on the first trading day of 2022.

GLOBAL EQUITY

U.S.

The U.S. equity component of the Ministry Growth Fund gained 8.5% for the quarter, slightly ahead of the Russell 3000 index, bringing its contribution to 16.3% year to date.

Mega-cap technology companies were a standout outperformer through the first half of 2023, with the S&P 500 Information Technology Index posting a staggering 42.8% total return for the first six months of the year.

Much of these gains were driven by technology companies engaged in the development and advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. These stocks, which include Nvidia, Meta, Tesla, Apple, Amazon, Google parent Alphabet, and Microsoft, have been deemed the "Magnificent Seven" and drove most of the S&P 500's 16.9% year-to-date return, while the other 493 companies have delivered only 3.7%.

Fortunately, the Fund's equity portfolio had good exposure to these magnificent seven and benefited from their strong performance.



Non-U.S.

The Non-U.S. equity component of the Ministry Growth Fund gained 2.9% in the quarter, outperforming the MSCI All Country World ex-US IMI benchmark's return of 2.4%. This relative outperformance is even more pronounced when you look at the year-to-date return of 11.7%, which outperforms the benchmark by 2.6%. All active investment managers provided positive absolute returns, driven by stock selection, particularly within the consumer discretionary and financials sectors. A sector overweight to technology and underweight to energy also contributed positively. For the second quarter, country allocation drove much of the relative outperformance given an overweight position in Japan.

FIXED INCOME

Investment Grade

Investment grade bonds generated negative returns during Q2 2023 given the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) increased the Fed Funds target range from 4.75% – 5.00% to 5.00% – 5.25%. (As interest rates go up, bond prices go down.) On a relative basis though, the Ministry Growth Fund's investment grade portfolio returned -0.7%, ahead of the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index benchmark return of -0.8%. The fund has exposure to more credit than the benchmark. Year-to-date return is positive 2.2%, vs. a benchmark return of 2.1%.

High-Yield

High-yield bonds outperformed relative to investment-grade fixed income, as falling credit spreads and higher coupons offset the impact of rising interest rates. The portfolio returned 1.3% during Q2 2023 and 4.7% YTD, slightly behind the benchmark.

Inflation-Indexed

The inflation-indexed bond portfolio return was negative for the quarter, at -1.4%. Despite this, expectations for higher returns are promising as real yields (meaning, the yield above inflation) increased during the quarter to a level higher than we have seen since 2008.

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE SECURITIES

The Ministry Growth Fund's global real estate securities component returned 0.2% in the first quarter of 2023 and 1.4% year to date, trailing the custom benchmark return of 0.4% and 1.5%, respectively.

Security selection within the specialty, industrial, and apartment sectors was the primary driver of underperformance for the quarter. The portfolio continues to maintain overweight positions to residential real estate (apartments, single family, and mobile homes) while underweighting regional malls and office properties.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

Hedge Funds

The hedge fund portfolio returned 2.9% on a net basis for the second quarter, versus the HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index return of 0.6%. Year-to-date net return is 4.6% versus the benchmark's 0.6%. As with last quarter, long/short equity and relative value strategies were the most material drivers of positive performance. Gains in these strategies were driven by a diversified portfolio of managers. Also, like last quarter, gains were lightly offset by losses within the macro strategy; however, during the second quarter, negative attribution was a factor of bearish equity positioning.

Private Infrastructure

The private infrastructure allocation returned 2.7% for the quarter, versus the S&P Global Infrastructure Index return of -0.1% for the same period. Like last quarter, the strategy continues to generate a strong cash yield and lower volatility relative to other asset classes, such as global equities and bonds, given the essential nature of the services provided. Given this investment is unhedged, the Ministry Growth Fund's investment further benefited from the depreciation of the U.S. dollar throughout the quarter.

Private Markets

Given their valuation process, private funds provide performance updates on a lag. As such, the most recent available performance is through the first quarter. Since inception, the private markets allocation of the Ministry Growth Fund has returned a net internal rate of return (IRR) of 16.4% and a net total value to paid-in multiple of 1.3x (as of 3/31/23). Recent performance has underwhelmed during the short-term time horizon, primarily due to lagged write-downs in NAVs after the 2022 downturn. However, the private markets performance remains strong over the long-term, and is the highest performing asset class within the portfolio over the trailing 5-year period.



As of June 30, 2023, Ministry Growth Fund Net Assets totaled \$964.3 million* and Ministry Growth Fund Investments totaled \$957.8 million.**

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

\$206.9 million

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS INVESTMENTS

\$29.0 million

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE SECURITIES

\$34.1 million

FIXED INCOME

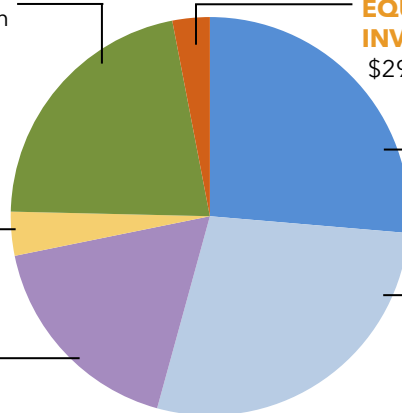
\$168.0 million

U.S. EQUITY

\$252.4 million

NON-U.S. EQUITY

\$267.4 million



* Net Assets includes investments, deposits between monthly valuation dates, operating cash and liabilities. ** Pie Chart represents Ministry Growth Fund Investment Assets only.

MINISTRY GROWTH FUND INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE (%) AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

	Q2 2023	2023 YTD	1 YR (%)	3 YRS (%)	5 YRS (%)	7 YRS (%)	10 YRS (%)	SINCE INCEPTION	INCEPTION DATE	
MINISTRY GROWTH FUND¹	3.4	8.6	8.9	7.2	5.5	6.5	6.4	4.7	07/01/1999	
Target Benchmark ²	3.2	7.9	9.2	8.4	6.3	7.5	7.3	5.7		
EQUITY	Social Purpose U.S. Equity Portfolio³	8.5	16.3	18.8	13.9	11.5	12.7	12.0	7.0	07/01/1999
	Portico US Equity Benchmark ⁴	8.4	16.2	19.0	13.9	11.4	12.9	12.3	7.3	
	Social Purpose Non-U.S. Equity Portfolio	2.9	11.7	13.4	6.3	3.6	6.5	5.5	6.0	04/01/2004
	Portico Non-US Equity Benchmark ⁵	2.4	9.1	12.5	7.3	3.4	6.3	4.9	5.4	
FIXED INCOME	Social Purpose Investment Grade Bond Portfolio³	-0.7	2.2	-0.8	-3.8	0.7	0.5	1.5	4.0	07/01/1999
	Portico Fixed Income Benchmark ⁶	-0.8	2.1	-0.9	-3.8	0.8	0.6	1.6	4.1	
	Inflation Indexed Bond Portfolio	-1.4	1.5	-1.1	1.2	2.9	2.2	2.2	2.4	06/01/2011
	Portico Inflation Index Benchmark ⁷	-1.4	1.5	-0.9	1.2	8.8	2.2	2.2	2.4	
	Social Purpose High Yield Portfolio	1.3	4.7	8.2	2.5	2.7	3.8	3.8	6.0	07/01/2003
Portico High Yield Benchmark ⁸	1.4	4.8	8.9	2.7	3.0	4.0	4.0	6.1		
REAL ESTATE	Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	0.2	1.4	-2.5	6.0	2.1	2.2	4.4	6.7	03/01/2004
	Portico Real Estate Benchmark ⁹	0.4	1.5	-3.3	5.1	0.5	1.0	3.7	6.0	
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS	Hedge Funds	2.9	4.6	7.8	4.8	3.1	-	-	3.4	08/01/2017
	HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index	0.6	0.6	1.3	2.5	1.7	-	-	1.7	
	Private Infrastructure Fund¹⁰	2.7	11.0	6.5	7.7	5.8	-	-	6.1	10/01/2017
	S&P Global Infrastructure Benchmark ¹¹	-0.1	3.8	4.7	11.2	6.2	-	-	5.4	
	Private Markets Fund¹²	2.9	2.9	1.2	17.9	11.2	-	-	12.6	07/01/2017
Cambridge Private Equity Index	3.8	3.8	-0.1	23.6	15.7	-	-	16.1		

- The ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's ELCA Endowment Fund "A" was renamed the Ministry Growth Fund, effective November 1, 2021. Total Ministry Growth Fund returns are net of investment-manager and custodian fees and expenses, as well as the Foundation's administrative fee of 60 basis points (0.60%). Prior to July 2017, the total fee was 100 basis points (1.00%). Refer to the Disclosure Statement for total fees and expenses. Returns for the subasset classes are net of investment manager and custodian fees and expenses as reported by the investment managers.
- The Target Benchmark is composed of: Russell 3000 (25%), MSCI ACWI xUSA IMI (29%), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate (8%), Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Ba/B 1% Issuer Cap (5%), Bloomberg U.S. 1-10 Yr Inflation Linked (5%), DJ U.S. Select Real Estate Securities (2.4%), DJ Gib xUSA Select Real Estate Securities (1.6%), HFRX Global Hedge Funds (5%), S&P Global Infrastructure (5%), Cambridge U.S. Private Equity (10%), and FTSE 90 Day T-Bill (4%) indices. The benchmark is rebalanced on a monthly basis. Target Benchmark allocation is static and based on the SAA as of September 2019. From July 2017 to September 2019, the Target Benchmark was composed of: Russell 3000 index (27%), MSCI ACWI xUSA IMI index (30%), Portico Fixed Income Benchmark (8.5%), Portico High Yield Benchmark (8.5%), FTSE Portico Inflation Linked index (5%), Portico Real Estate Benchmark (5%), HFRX Global Hedge Funds index (3%), S&P Global Infrastructure index (3%), and Cambridge Private Equity index (10%). Historical benchmark returns prior to July 2017 have been provided by Portico Benefit Services.
- The Ministry Growth Fund moved from separately managed accounts to the SP Investment Grade Fixed Income Pool as of November 2007 and to the SP U.S. Equity Pools as of December 2007. On July 1, 2019, the Ministry Growth Fund moved the U.S. equity allocation to the SP U.S. Stock Index Pool.
- The U.S. equity benchmark changed from the Dow Jones Total Stock Market Index to the Russell 3000 in October 2011.
- The Non-U.S. Equity pool has been benchmarked to the MSCI All-Country World xU.S. IMI since July 1, 2012; prior to that, the benchmark was the standard MSCI All-Country World xU.S. Index.
- The Investment Grade Fixed Income Benchmark changed from the old Custom FTSE Index (40% Mortgage, 30% Credit, 25% Treasury/Government, 5% Asset-Backed) to the new Custom Bond Benchmark (40% Collateralized, 35% Credit, 25% Treasury/Government) in October 2011. In November 2020 fixed-income benchmarks switched from FTSE to Bloomberg. On April 1, 2021, this benchmark switched to 100% the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.
- In June 2011, Inflation Indexed Bonds were added as a component of the Ministry Growth Fund's asset allocation. The Inflation Index benchmark changed from the FTSE Inflation Linked Securities Index to the FTSE U.S. 1-10 Year Inflation Linked Securities Index as of Dec. 1, 2014. In November 2020 it changed to the Bloomberg Barclays - U.S. TIPS 1-10 Year Index.
- The high-yield benchmark changed from the FTSE High Yield Cash-Pay Capped Index to the FTSE BB/B Cash-Pay Capped Index as of Sept. 1, 2012. In November 2020 it changed to the Bloomberg Barclays - U.S. HY Ba/B 1% Issuer Cap Index.
- Late in 2008, the Real Estate Securities benchmark transitioned from 100% to 60% Wilshire U.S. Real Estate Securities Index, adding 40% Wilshire Ex-U.S. Real Estate Securities Index. In April 2013, the Custom Global Real Estate Securities benchmark transitioned to 60% Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Securities Index and 40% Dow Jones Global Ex-U.S. Real Estate Securities Index with net dividends.
- Private Infrastructure returns are reported on a quarter lag.
- Starting in 2023, The S&P Global Infrastructure Benchmark went from the Hedged S&P Global Infrastructure Index to the unhedged S&P Global Infrastructure Index.
- Private Markets returns reported on the performance table are on a time-weighted basis and on a quarter lag, except for fourth-quarter returns that are on a two-quarter lag. The commentary section may, in addition, reference the Private Markets portfolio's internal rate of return (IRR) and/or multiples such as total value versus paid-in capital (TVPI).



ELCA Foundation

8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101

CONTACT US

For more information contact:

Annette C. Shoemaker
Interim President & CEO,
ELCA Foundation

800-638-3522 • fax 773-380-2775
elcafoundation@elca.org
ELCA.org/endowmentinvesting

ELCA Foundation regional gift planners are located throughout the country and are ready to assist you.



AT A GLANCE

ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust – Ministry Growth Fund

was established to allow for the collective long-term investment of funds belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), its congregations, synods, seminaries and other eligible affiliated entities. The ELCA promotes investment in the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust through the ELCA Foundation.

The Ministry Growth Fund is administered by the Endowment Fund of the ELCA dba ELCA Foundation.

SOCIAL PURPOSE INVESTING

The Ministry Growth Fund's assets are selected, where feasible, in accordance with criteria of social responsibility that are consistent with the values and programs of the ELCA. In addition, the Ministry Growth Fund seeks positive social investments that provide a proactive way to receive a return while directing capital to underserved markets, such as community development and renewable energy.

ABOUT THE MINISTRY GROWTH FUND

You should carefully consider the target asset allocations, investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of any fund before investing in it. The Ministry Growth Fund is subject to risk. Past performance cannot be used to predict future performance. The Ministry Growth Fund investments are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Fund assets are invested in multiple sectors of the market. Some sectors, as well as the fund, may perform below expectations and lose money over short or extended periods.

The investment managers and/or the investments the Ministry Growth Fund directly invests in are not subject to registration, regulation or reporting under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 or state securities laws. Members, therefore, will not be afforded the protections of the provisions of those laws and related regulations.