

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT March 2022





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# **CIO REPORT**



There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat. And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures."
— William Shakespeare

### **MERS' Portfolio Characteristics**

- Disciplined asset allocation
- Globally diversified
- May lag in periods of
   extended bull markets
   reti
- investors
  Focus on risk-adjusted returns

Valuation focused

### **MERS' Office of Investments Goals**

- Maintain adequate liquidity
   Exceed the actuarial rate assumption on a long-term basis
- Minimize costs
- Exceed the Policy Benchmark <sup>(1)</sup> on a longterm basis

### **Economic and Market Summary**

After a remarkable 2021, U.S. equities closed out their first negative quarter in two years as the S&P 500 returned -4.60%. Year-over-year inflation in the U.S. accelerated to 7.90% in February, the highest since January 1982. The impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February weighed heavily on markets. Russia is a significant producer of several vital commodities, including oil, natural gas, and wheat. Sanctions imposed by Western countries on Russia sent commodity prices soaring, amplifying existing concerns over inflation pressures. WTI oil reached \$123 per barrel in early March - the highest in 14 years. At its March meeting, the Federal Reserve approved a 0.25% interest rate hike to begin combatting persistent inflationary pressures finally. After incorrectly describing inflation as transitory for more than a year, the Fed has communicated that it intends to use its tools to attempt to reign the highest inflation in more than four decades. The Fed also indicated there would be six or more rate hikes throughout 2022 and balance sheet reductions to start later in the year. Markets have priced in an aggressive Fed rate hike cycle, and its impact on financial conditions, liquidity, and economic activity will be closely monitored in the coming guarters. Many measurements of the "yield curve", a market indicator based on the difference between long term and short term US Treasury bond yields, inverted during the first guarter, indicating that the bond market expects slowing economic growth and the rising probability of a recession in the coming years. Market expectations sent yields soaring as the 10 Year Treasury increased by 0.83% (from 1.51% to 2.34%). Rising rates hurt growth stocks this guarter as they underperformed the S&P value index by 8.43%. In Europe, the economic impact of rising commodity prices was severely felt since many countries are dependent on Russia for their energy. The MSCI Europe index returned -5.18% for the quarter. In emerging markets, the index returned -6.99%. Russia being almost 3.50% of the index and lockdowns from a resurgence of Covid-19 in China attributed to emerging markets being the worst-performing asset class.

### Portfolio Performance Review

MERS' Total Portfolio returned -4.17% (net) for the first quarter and outperformed the Policy Benchmark by 1.37%. The Global Equity portfolio returned -6.50%, underperforming the global equity policy blend by 114 bps due to its overweight in international and emerging market equities. Within U.S. equities, MERS outperformed the Russell 3000 benchmark by 9 bps. Overweight to U.S. micro-cap detracted from performance, but allocation to S&P indices rather than Russell indices added value. The MERS International Equity and Emerging Market portfolios underperformed their respective index due to underperformance in large-cap and an overweight to small-cap. The Global Fixed Income portfolio returned -6.26% on the quarter, underperforming the global fixed income policy blend by 26 bps. Overweight to emerging market debt contributed to the underperformance. The Liquid Natural Resources portfolio, designed to protect MERS' assets from rising inflation, continues to benefit from a rising inflationary environment and returned 14.60% on the quarter. The Private Investments portfolio delivered positive returns of 0.80%, partially offsetting the negative returns of the public markets portfolio. MERS' Defined Benefit (DB) portfolio assets are \$11.78 billion, and MERS' total assets are \$15.09 billion.

### **Risks and Trends**

### **Economic Risks**

- Covid-19 resurgence
- Monetary policy mistakes
- Corporate/government debt levels
- Eurozone instability
- Fiscal policy implementation
- Supply-chain disruptions

### **Medium-Term Trends**

- Rise of populism
- Investment industry consolidation
- Rise of passive investing
- Amplification of country and regional investment risks
- In-sourcing | Supply chain realignment

### Long-Term Trends

- Aging population/workforce
- Rising taxes/entitlement costs
- Aging infrastructure
- Deglobalization | Competition for resources
- Geopolitical instability
- Rise of ESG

### **Projects and Initiatives**

- Incorporating ETFs into the asset allocation program and internal strategies
- Researching the role of active management in sub-asset classes
- Enhancing internal equity portfolio models
- Internal fixed income portfolio development

<sup>1</sup> The Policy Benchmark consists of: 45% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net), 25% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate, and 10% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

# **CIO REPORT**



### Asset Class Valuation Summary

### Value/Price Discrepancy<sup>1</sup>

Asset Class	Overvalued	I Undervalued
US Equity	-4 <mark>5.00%</mark>	
Europe Equity		24.70%
Japan Equity		55.60%
EM Equity		47.50%
US Treasury	-1.10%	
EMD		2.90%
US IG	-6.30%	
US HY	-10.10%	

The value/price discrepancy is a ratio that compares the estimated fair value of an asset relative to its current market price. Overvalued assets have prices above estimated fair value and are expressed as a negative percentage and undervalued assets have prices below estimated fair value and are expressed as a positive percentage.

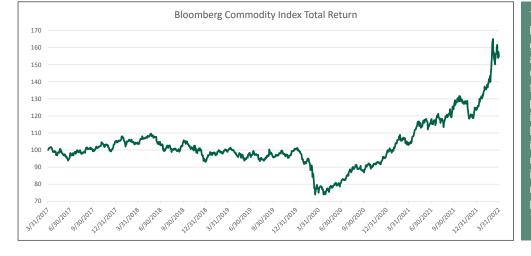
### **Equity Market Outlook**

- Despite the most recent selloff, valuation multiples are still historically elevated in the U.S., and current earnings remain above estimated trend earnings due to cyclically high-profit margins, low-interest rates, and lower corporate taxes.
- Valuation multiples and earnings are expected to revert to long-term averages resulting in lower expected returns for US equities.
- Valuations are more favorable in Europe, Japan, and Emerging Markets
- European and Japanese earnings are currently below trend, which is expected to drive higher returns in the future as earnings recover to long-term cyclically-adjusted levels.
- In Emerging Markets, recovery from current below-trend earnings and strong trend earnings growth is expected to provide positive support going forward

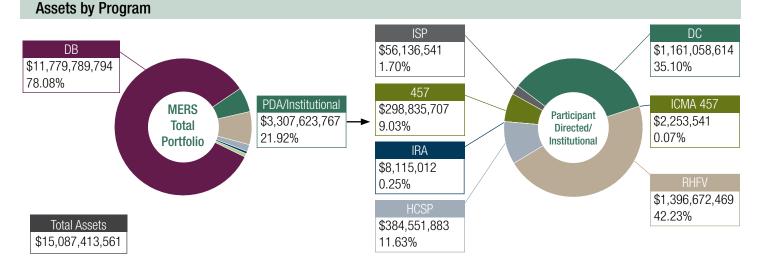
### Fixed Income Market Outlook

- Most fixed income asset classes are currently overvalued due to current market interest rates being lower than MERS' long-term assumptions
- Emerging Markets Debt spreads are near fair value, and the asset class is now modestly undervalued as spreads widened.
- U.S. Investment Grade and High Yield bonds are the most overvalued due to historically low credit spreads and yields in those asset classes.

### Chart of the Quarter

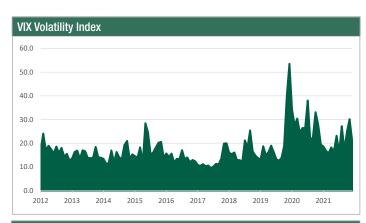


The Bloomberg Commodity Index is a diversified basket of commodities that contains energy, grains, industrial metals, precious metals, softs, and livestock. In the years leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic, the index was relatively flat. As supply chain disruptions and pricing pressures escalated, this resulted in higher inflation with commodity prices rising. The Russian invasion of Ukraine exacerbated the issue and sent prices soaring as the index is up 25.55% during Q1 of 2022. MERS' has implemented strategies to protect assets from rising Inflation. The Liquid Natural Resources portfolio has a value of \$338 million and is up 14.60% in the quarter.

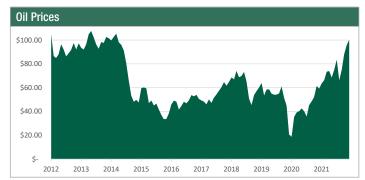


# ECONOMIC UPDATE

Market Indicators	Current	Prior Quarter
10 Year Treasury Yield	2.34%	1.51%
Fed Funds Rate	0.50%	0.25%
Crude Oil	\$100.3 /barrel	\$75.2 /barrel
Gold	\$1,937.4 /oz.	\$1,829.2 /oz.
30 Year Fixed Mortgage Rates	4.90%	3.27%
US Investment Grade Credit Spread	1.16%	0.92%
US High Yield Credit Spread	3.25%	2.83%
US Leading Economic Indicators	7.60%	8.40%

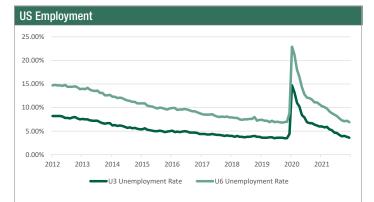


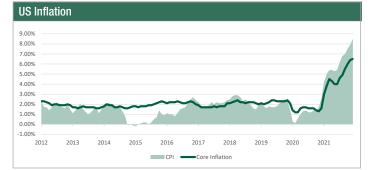




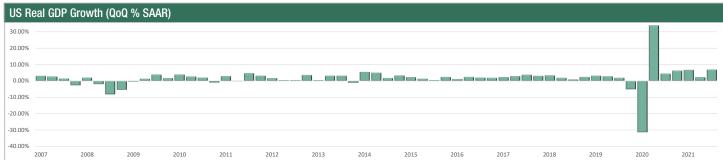
### **Economic Releases Prior Quarter** Current ISM Manufacturing 57.10 58.80 ISM Non-Manufacturing 58.30 62.30 U of M Consumer Sentiment 59.40 70.60 US Real GDP\* 5.50% 4.90% Eurozone Real GDP\* 4.60% 4.00% UK GDP\* 6.60% 6.90% Japan GDP\* 0.40% 1.20% China GDP\* 4.00% 4.90%

\* All GDP data is lagged 1 quarter





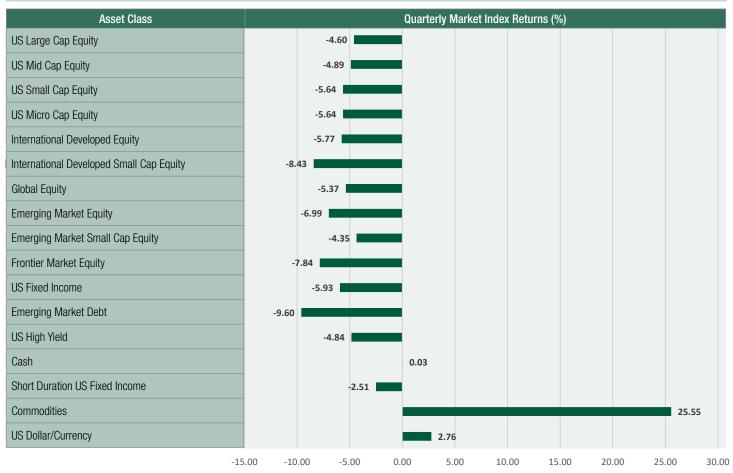




# MARKET UPDATE



### **Quarterly Market Performance Review**



### **Market Index Returns**

Market Index	Asset Class	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	7 Year	10 Year
S&P 500	US Large Cap Equity	-4.60	-4.60	15.63	18.91	15.98	14.00	14.63
S&P 400	US Mid Cap Equity	-4.89	-4.89	4.56	14.11	11.08	10.18	12.18
S&P 600	US Small Cap Equity	-5.64	-5.64	1.15	13.53	10.84	10.53	12.51
Russell Microcap	US Micro Cap Equity	-7.61	-7.61	-11.01	12.99	9.86	8.56	11.14
MSCI EAFE	International Developed Equity	-5.77	-5.77	1.70	8.38	7.31	5.70	6.87
MSCI EAFE Small Cap	International Developed Small Cap Equity	-8.43	-8.43	-3.28	8.93	7.82	7.69	8.68
MSCI ACWI IMI	Global Equity	-5.37	-5.37	6.75	14.06	11.95	10.12	10.55
MSCI Emerging Markets	Emerging Market Equity	-6.99	-6.99	-11.13	5.27	6.32	5.07	3.72
MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap	Emerging Market Small Cap Equity	-4.35	-4.35	5.85	12.24	8.10	6.37	5.57
MSCI Frontier Markets Index	Frontier Market Equity	-7.84	-7.84	9.59	7.40	6.05	4.12	5.85
BBG Barclays U.S. Aggregate	US Fixed Income	-5.93	-5.93	-4.15	1.69	2.14	1.87	2.24
JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index	Emerging Market Debt	-9.60	-9.60	-6.46	-0.25	1.22	2.60	3.36
ICE BofA Merrill Lynch Global High Yield	US High Yield	-4.84	-4.84	-0.66	4.58	4.69	5.03	5.75
91 Day Treasury Bill	Cash	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.74	1.07	0.82	0.59
BBG Barclays 1-3 Year Treasury	Short Duration US Fixed Income	-2.51	-2.51	-3.04	0.84	1.04	0.91	0.84
Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return	Commodities	25.55	25.55	49.25	16.12	9.00	4.33	-0.70
Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index	US Dollar/Currency	2.76	2.76	5.45	1.06	-0.41	-0.01	2.21

# QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

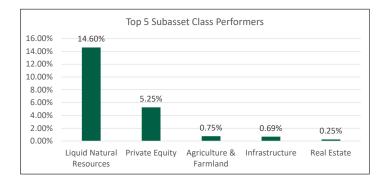
**Global Equity** 

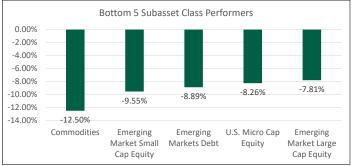
Global Fixed Income

Private Investments

<sup>1</sup> Global Equity returns

Portfolio	% of Total Portfolio	Quarterly Portfolio Returns (Net %)
MERS Total Portfolio	100.00%	
	100.00%	-4.17
Policy Benchmark	-	-5.54
Global Equity <sup>1</sup>	53.53%	-6.50
US Equity	21.88%	-5.19
US Large Cap Equity	15.25%	-4.50
US Mid Cap Equity	3.03%	-5.00
US Small Cap Equity	0.40%	-6.03
US Micro Cap Equity	3.21%	-8.26
International Equity	18.82%	-7.42
International Large Cap Equity	12.91%	-7.47
International Small Cap Equity	5.90%	-7.25
Emerging Market Equity	10.28%	-7.63
Emerging Mkt Large Cap Equity	5.87%	-7.81
Emerging Mkt Small Cap Equity	2.70%	-9.55
Frontier Market Equity	1.71%	-3.83
Liquid Natural Resources	2.55%	14.60
Global Fixed Income	21.97%	-6.26
US Core Fixed Income	13.09%	-4.81
Emerging Markets Debt	7.08%	-8.89
High Yield	0.07%	-5.43
Cash/Short Duration	1.73%	0.04
Private Investments	24.50%	0.80
Private Equity	7.19%	5.25
Real Assets	11.33%	-2.26
Diversifying Strategies	5.99%	1.72
ty returns do not include Liquid Natural Res	ources	-10.00 -5.00 0.00 5.00 10.00 15.00





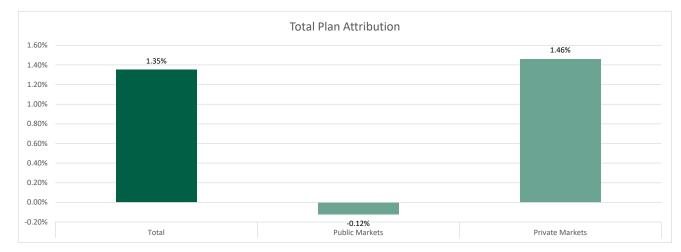
# QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO ATTRIBUTION SUMMARY

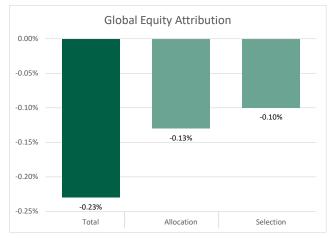


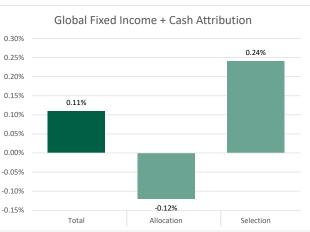
	Avg Weight			i	Return (Net)		Att	ribution Totals	
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Difference	Portfolio	Benchmark	Difference	Allocation	Selection	Total
Total Plan	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	-4.18%	-5.53%	1.35%	-0.26%	1.60%	1.35%
Public Markets	76.28%	100.00%	-23.72%	-5.68%	-5.53%	-0.15%	-0.25%	0.14%	-0.12%
Global Equity <sup>1</sup>	53.51%	65.00%	-11.49%	-6.51%	-5.35%	-1.16%	-0.13%	-0.10%	-0.23%
U.S. Equity	21.61%	45.00%	-23.39%	-5.20%	-5.28%	0.08%	-0.08%	0.01%	-0.07%
International Equity	19.08%	15.00%	4.08%	-7.40%	-5.18%	-2.22%	0.01%	-0.43%	-0.42%
Emerging Market Equity	10.57%	5.00%	5.57%	-7.61%	-6.65%	-0.96%	-0.06%	-0.11%	-0.16%
Liquid Natural Resources	2.24%	0.00%	2.24%	14.54%	-5.54%	20.08%	0.00%	0.42%	0.42%
Global Fixed Income	20.62%	35.00%	-14.38%	-6.25%	-6.00%	-0.25%	-0.25%	0.24%	-0.02%
U.S. Core Fixed Income	13.34%	25.00%	-11.66%	-4.81%	-5.93%	1.12%	0.03%	0.15%	0.18%
Global Agg ex USD	0.00%	10.00%	-10.00%	0.00%	-6.15%	6.15%	0.05%	0.00%	0.05%
Emerging Markets Debt	7.21%	0.00%	7.21%	-8.85%	-10.02%	1.17%	-0.34%	0.09%	-0.25%
U.S. High Yield	0.07%	0.00%	0.07%	-5.43%	-4.84%	-0.59%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Cash	2.16%	0.00%	2.16%	0.03%	0.04%	-0.01%	0.13%	0.00%	0.13%
Private Investments	23.72%	0.00%	23.72%	0.80%	-5.54%	6.34%	0.00%	1.47%	1.46%

<sup>1</sup> Global Equity returns do not include Liquid Natural Resources

- Outperformance was driven by the Private Investments portfolio (+146bps).
- Selection within International Equity and overweight in Emerging Markets Debt were the largest detractors (-43bps & -34bps).
  Overweight to Liquid Natural Resources and selection within U.S. Core Fixed Income were the largest contributors (+42bps & +15bps).



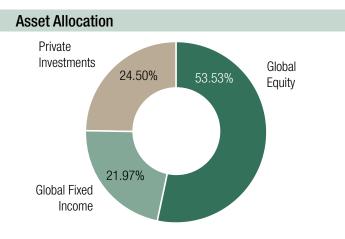




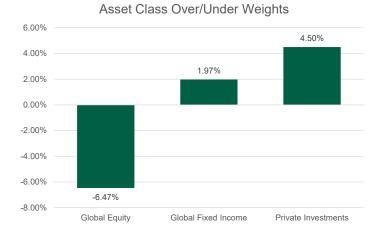
# PORTFOLIO ASSET ALLOCATION



Asset Class	Market Value	% of Fund	Base Allocation	Over/Under Weight	Minimum Allocation	Maximum Allocation
Global Equity	\$7,105,176,608	53.53%	60.00%	-6.47%	30.00%	70.00%
Global Fixed Income	\$2,916,574,192	21.97%	20.00%	1.97%	10.00%	60.00%
Private Investments	\$3,252,537,403	24.50%	20.00%	4.50%	No Minimum	30.00%
Total	\$13,274,288,203	100.00%	100.00%			

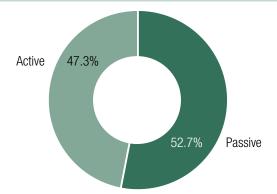


### Asset Class Over/Under Weights



Asset Class	MERS Public Markets <sup>1</sup>	Policy Benchmark <sup>2</sup>	Over/Under Weight
U.S. Equity	31.00%	45.00%	<mark>-14.00</mark> %
International Equity	25.08%	14.34%	10.7 <b>4%</b>
Emerging Market Equity	13.75%	5.66%	8.0 <b>9%</b>
U.S. Treasury	16.83%	20.43%	-3.6 <b>0%</b>
U.S. Investment Grade	0.05%	14.57%	-14.5 <mark>2</mark> %
U.S. High Yield	0.11%	0.00%	0.1 <mark>1</mark> %
Emerging Market Debt	8.88%	0.00%	8.8 <mark>8%</mark>
Cash/Short Duration	3.83%	0.00%	3.8 <mark>3%</mark>

### **MERS Public Markets**



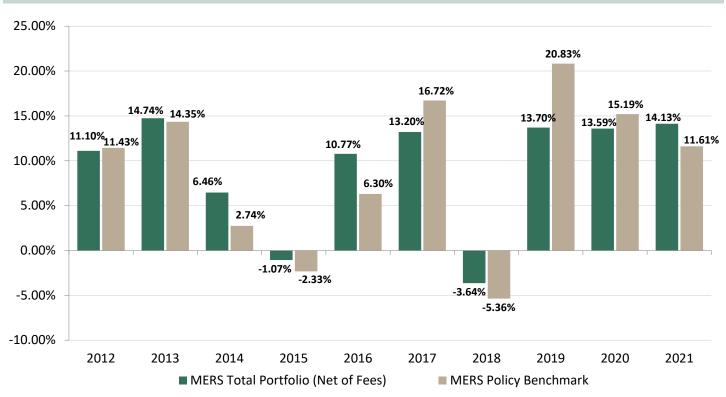
<sup>1</sup> MERS' Public Markets is made up of the Global Equity and Global Fixed Income Asset Classes

<sup>2</sup> 45% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net), 25% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate, and 10% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

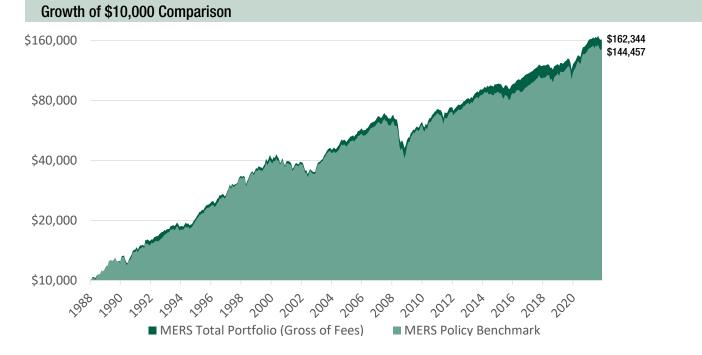
# HISTORICAL PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE



	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	7 Year	10 Year
MERS Total Portfolio - Gross of Fees (%)	-4.14	-4.14	5.45	10.33	8.46	7.73	8.17
MERS Total Portfolio - Net of Fees (%)	-4.17	-4.17	5.26	10.16	8.30	7.54	7.96
Policy Benchmark (%)	-5.54	-5.54	3.17	10.34	9.15	7.56	7.48
Excess (Net) (%)	1.37	1.37	2.09	-0.18	-0.85	-0.02	0.48



### Calendar Year Performance - Last 10 Years

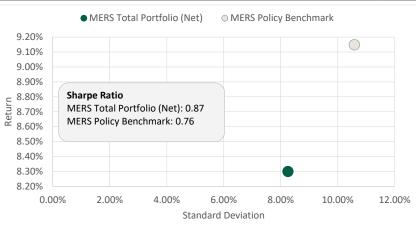


# PORTFOLIO RISK-RETURN PROFILE



### 5-Year

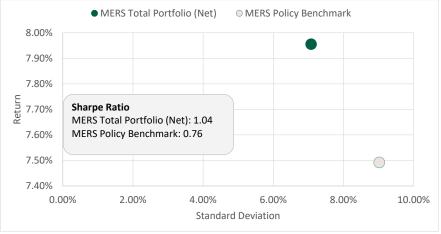
	Return	Standard Deviation	Downside Risk	Beta	R-Squared	Tracking Error
MERS Total Portfolio (Net)	8.30%	8.25%	6.10%	0.76	94.36	3.23%
MERS Policy Benchmark	9.15%	10.58%	7.92%	1.00	100	



	# of Months		Averag	e Return		
	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up Capture	Down Capture
MERS Total Portfolio (Net)	42	18	1.82%	-1.92%	78.60%	74.60%
MERS Policy Benchmark	42	18	2.25%	-2.64%		

### 10-Year

	Return	Standard Deviation	Downside Risk	Beta	R-Squared	Tracking Error
MERS Total Portfolio (Net)	7.96%	7.08%	5.27%	0.75	91.60	3.04%
MERS Policy Benchmark	7.49%	9.02%	6.65%	1.00	100.00	

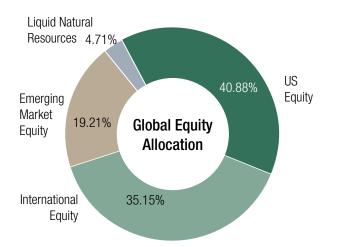


	# of Months		# of Months		Average Return			
	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up Capture	Down Capture		
MERS Total Portfolio (Net)	84	36	1.65%	-1.64%	82.60%	68.60%		
MERS Policy Benchmark	81	39	1.98%	-2.15%				

## **GLOBAL EQUITY**

Market Value	\$7,105,176,608
Assets – % of Portfolio	53.53%

Sub Asset Class	Market Value
US Equity	\$2,904,525,077
International Equity	\$2,497,637,327
Emerging Market Equity	\$1,365,095,041
Liquid Natural Resources	\$337,919,162
Total	\$7,105,176,608



### Performance (Net)

	Market Value	% OF PLAN	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	7 Year	10 Year
Global Equity <sup>1</sup>	\$7,105,176,608	50.98	-6.50	-6.50	3.63	11.01	9.34	8.29	9.78
Global Equity Policy Blend <sup>2</sup>			-5.36	-5.36	7.77	15.01	12.78	10.46	11.37
MSCI ACWI			-5.36	-5.36	7.28	13.75	11.64	9.67	10.00
US Equity	\$2,904,525,077	21.88	-5.19	-5.19	12.45	15.38			
Russell 3000			-5.13	-5.13	13.27	18.71			
US Large Cap Equity	\$2,024,486,485	15.25	-4.50	-4.50	16.04	17.54	15.28	13.62	14.95
Russell 1000			-4.60	-4.60	15.65	18.93	15.99	14.01	14.64
US Mid Cap Equity	\$401,725,902	3.03	-5.00	-5.00	4.41	14.06	11.07	9.41	11.65
Russell Midcap			-5.68	-5.68	6.92	14.89	12.62	10.68	12.85
US Small Cap Equity	\$52,681,237	0.40	-6.03	-6.03	2.32	13.68	10.61	9.74	10.92
Russell 2000			-7.53	-7.53	-5.79	11.74	9.74	8.87	11.04
US Micro Cap Equity	\$425,631,454	3.21	-8.26	-8.26	4.39	13.48	9.42	8.37	11.07
Russell Microcap			-7.60	-7.60	-10.99	13.03	9.86	8.57	11.14
International Equity	\$2,497,637,327	18.82	-7.42	-7.42	-0.99	8.27			
MSCI World ex USA IMI			-5.18	-5.18	2.31	8.69			
International Large Cap Equity	\$1,713,898,416	12.91	-7.47	-7.47	-1.69	7.20	5.92		
MSCI World ex USA			-4.81	-4.81	3.04	8.51	7.42		
International Small Cap Equity	\$783,738,911	5.90	-7.25	-7.25	0.67	10.95	9.36	9.65	10.40
MSCI World ex USA Small Cap			-7.23	-7.23	-1.69	9.55	7.79	7.47	7.78
Emerging Market Equity	\$1,365,095,041	10.28	-7.63	-7.63	-4.87	7.34	5.91	5.64	3.92
MSCI Emerging Markets IMI			-6.65	-6.65	-9.49	5.74	6.19	4.85	3.59
Emerging Market Large Cap Equity	\$779,140,965	5.87	-7.81	-7.81	-12.18	4.80	5.18	4.44	1.49
MSCI Emerging Markets			-6.97	-6.97	-11.37	4.94	5.98	4.69	3.36
Emerging Market Small Cap Equity	\$358,491,837	2.70	-9.55	-9.55	2.49	13.55	8.48	8.75	
MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap			-4.33	-4.33	5.52	11.93	7.81	6.11	
Frontier Market Equity	\$227,462,239	1.71	-3.83	-3.83	6.21	5.17	3.91	3.60	5.05
MSCI Frontier Markets			-7.90	-7.90	9.39	7.28	5.96	4.03	5.89
Liquid Natural Resources	\$337,919,162	2.55	14.60	14.60	22.94				
Policy Benchmark <sup>3</sup>			-5.54	-5.54	3.17				

<sup>1</sup> Global Equity returns do not include Liquid Natural Resources

<sup>2</sup> 70% Russell 3000, 30% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net)

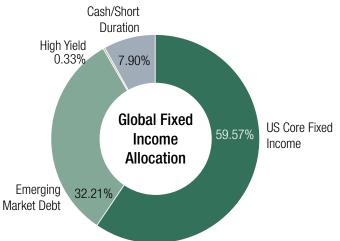
<sup>3</sup> 45% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net), 25% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate, and 10% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

# **GLOBAL FIXED INCOME**



Market Value	\$2,916,574,192
Assets – % of Portfolio	21.97%

Sub Asset Class	Market Value
US Core Fixed Income	\$1,737,488,998
Emerging Market Debt	\$939,319,093
High Yield	\$9,486,112
Cash/Short Duration	\$230,279,988
Total	\$2,916,574,192



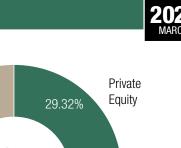
### Performance (Net)

	Market Value	% OF PLAN	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	7 Year	10 Year
Global Fixed Income ex Cash	\$2,686,294,203	20.24	-6.26	-6.26	-4.53	3.60	3.45	3.71	3.50
Global Fixed Income Policy Blend 1			-6.00	-6.00	-5.22	1.17	1.91	1.67	1.39
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate			-6.16	-6.16	-6.40	0.69	1.70	1.58	1.04
US Core Fixed Income	\$1,737,488,998	13.09	-4.81	-4.81	-3.20	1.60	1.98	1.76	2.37
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate			-5.93	-5.93	-4.15	1.69	2.14	1.87	2.24
Emerging Market Debt	\$939,319,093	7.08	-8.89	-8.89	-7.08	1.09	2.04	3.95	3.60
JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified			-10.02	-10.02	-7.44	0.01	1.69	3.05	3.74
High Yield	\$9,486,112	0.07	-5.43	-5.43	-1.93				
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield			-4.84	-4.84	-0.66				
Cash/Short Duration <sup>2</sup>	\$230,279,988	1.73	0.04	0.04	0.73	1.67	1.52	1.32	1.22
91 Day Treasury Bill			0.04	0.04	0.06	0.81	1.13	0.87	0.63

<sup>1</sup> 70% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate, 30% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

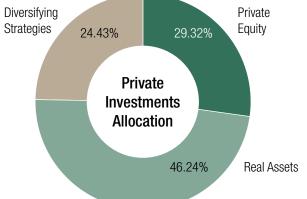
<sup>2</sup> Cash/Short Duration market value reflects collateral for futures positions

# **PRIVATE INVESTMENTS**



Market Value	\$3,252,537,403
Assets – % of Portfolio	24.50%

Sub Asset Class	Market Value
Private Equity	\$953,785,145
Real Assets	\$1,504,026,835
Diversifying Strategies	\$794,725,423
Total	\$3,252,537,403



### Performance (Net)

	Market Value	% OF PLAN	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	7 Year	10 Year
Private Investments	\$3,252,537,403	24.50	0.80	0.80	18.52	13.95			
Public Markets			-5.67	-5.67	1.72	9.22			
Policy Benchmark <sup>1</sup>			-5.54	-5.54	3.17	10.34			
Private Equity	\$953,785,145	7.19	5.25	5.25	42.39	27.52	22.44	17.68	16.10
Private Equity Blend <sup>2</sup>			-8.01	-8.01	-4.62	10.23	8.71	8.25	9.82
Real Assets	\$1,504,026,835	11.33	-2.26	-2.26	10.58	10.75	8.48	8.78	7.11
Real Assets Blend <sup>3</sup>									
Diversified Real Assets	\$1,222,408,236	9.21	-2.75	-2.75	7.34	12.13	7.64		
Real Assets Blend									
Real Estate	\$280,158,571	2.11	0.25	0.25	25.33	9.82	11.12	11.20	12.37
Real Estate Blend <sup>4</sup>									
Timber	\$37,929,852	0.29	-0.28	-0.28	20.28	9.38	11.01	8.81	8.03
S&P Global Timber & Forestry Index Net			-2.77	-2.77	6.28	13.45	10.99	8.98	9.74
Infrastructure	\$328,822,325	2.48	0.69	0.69	21.92	11.86	7.54	7.12	5.89
Private Infrastructure Blend <sup>5</sup>			-0.50	-0.50	9.97	7.43	5.97	5.74	5.37
Commodities	\$266,626,545	2.01	-12.50	-12.50	3.06	7.54	1.06	8.46	2.69
Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return			25.55	25.55	49.25	16.12	9.00	4.33	-0.70
Agriculture & Farmland	\$405,124,142	3.05	0.75	0.75	2.98	16.58	14.51	9.94	
S&P Global Agribusiness Equity Index TR			17.47	17.47	27.24	20.82	14.26	10.91	
Diversifying Strategies	\$794,725,423	5.99	1.72	1.72	12.18	9.16	6.96	5.89	
Diversifying Strategies Blend <sup>6</sup>			-5.73	-5.73	-0.68	6.22	5.62	4.30	

<sup>1</sup> 45% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net), 25% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate, and 10% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S. <sup>2</sup> 50% Russell 2000, 50% MSCI EAFE Small Cap (net)

<sup>3</sup> 100% CPI + 3%

<sup>4</sup> 100% NCREIF ODCE Value Weighted

<sup>5</sup> 50% DJ Brookfield Global Infrastructure Index, 50% Bloomberg Barclays Global Inflation-Linked

<sup>6</sup> 25% Russell 3000, 10% MSCI ACWI ex U.S. IMI (net), 45% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate, 20% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

# PARTICIPANT DIRECTED ACCOUNTS & INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS



PDA Funds					
Program	Assets	Participants	Average Account Size	Weighted Average Fee	Default Option
DC/Hybrid Plan	\$1,161,058,614	30,883	\$37,595	0.38%	Retirement Strategies
HCSP	\$384,551,883	33,442	\$11,499	0.38%	Retirement Strategies
457 Program	\$298,835,707	9,827	\$30,410	0.39%	Retirement Strategies
MERS IRA	\$8,115,012	803	\$10,106	0.39%	Retirement Strategies
TOTAL	\$1,852,561,216	74,955	\$24,716		

# Institutional FundsProgramAssetsMunicipalitiesAverage Account SizeRHFV\$1,396,672,469319\$4,378,284ISP\$56,136,5415\$11,227,308

\$1,452,809,010

### **Investment Allocations**

TOTAL

	PDA	Institutional Funds	Total						
Retirement Strategies	\$1,348,474,557		\$1,348,474,557						
Total Market Fund	\$42,519,656	\$1,451,587,991	\$1,494,107,647						
Asset Allocation Portfolios	\$44,770,222	\$225,507	\$44,995,729						
Asset Specific funds	\$388,998,713	\$995,512	\$389,994,225						
Self-directed Brokerage	\$9,773,630		\$9,773,630						
Other	\$18,024,438		\$18,024,438						
TOTAL	\$1,852,561,216	\$1,452,809,010	\$3,305,370,226						

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### **Program Highlights**

- Added default option for RHFV plan (Total Market Portfolio)
- RHFV full plan reset (completed June 2021)
- Completed Record Keeper RFP by continuing relationship with Alerus Retirement Services
- Entered into relationship with Vergence Institutional Partners to review plans

### **Future Research**

• RFP for Target Date Funds Provider (Q4 2022)

Weighted Average Fee

0.46%

0.46%

- Review investment menu and design (Q4 2022)
- RFP for Stable Value Fund (Q1 2023)

\$4,483,978

• Review options for Managed Account Solution

Retirement Strategies for PDA Accounts						
MERS Retirement Strategies	Assets	Expense Ratio	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Retirement Income Fund	\$19,300,879	0.37%	1.33	5.50	4.83	1.33
MERS 2010 Retirement Strategy	\$25,874,367	0.38%	1.66	5.94	5.33	1.66
MERS 2015 Retirement Strategy	\$83,488,480	0.38%	2.70	7.21	6.36	2.70
MERS 2020 Retirement Strategy	\$103,720,453	0.38%	3.58	8.29	7.24	3.58
MERS 2025 Retirement Strategy	\$221,396,266	0.39%	3.94	9.03	7.86	3.94
MERS 2030 Retirement Strategy	\$177,188,955	0.39%	4.03	9.56	8.39	4.03
MERS 2035 Retirement Strategy	\$176,378,127	0.39%	4.12	10.08	8.92	4.12
MERS 2040 Retirement Strategy	\$160,515,413	0.39%	4.38	10.77	9.49	4.38
MERS 2045 Retirement Strategy	\$132,868,922	0.39%	4.66	11.56	10.03	4.66
MERS 2050 Retirement Strategy	\$110,555,911	0.39%	4.67	11.61	10.07	4.67
MERS 2055 Retirement Strategy	\$82,856,366	0.39%	4.74	11.67	10.11	4.74
MERS 2060 Retirement Strategy	\$49,478,438	0.39%	4.72	11.72	10.14	4.72
MERS 2065 Retirement Strategy	\$4,851,980	0.39%	4.77			
TOTAL	\$1,348,474,557					

	nee Built for fou					
MERS Portfolio Options	Assets	Expense Ratio	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
MERS Total Market Portfolio	\$1,494,107,647	0.56%	4.93	9.75	7.90	7.53
MERS Policy Benchmark			3.17	10.34	9.15	7.48
MERS Global Stock Portfolio (100/0)	\$16,030,822	0.34%	4.69	11.94	10.44	
Blended Benchmark			7.28	13.75	11.64	
MERS Established Market Portfolio (60/40)	\$15,010,394	0.34%	1.62	7.86	7.07	7.16
Blended Benchmark			2.70	9.65	8.66	7.92
MERS Diversified Bond Portfolio (0/100)	\$13,954,514	0.33%	-3.11	0.99	1.60	2.10
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index			-4.15	1.69	2.14	2.24
TOTAL	\$1,539,103,377					

**2022** MARCH

Premium Select Options – Funds to Build Your Own Portfolio						
MERS Portfolio Options	Assets	Expense Ratio	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Large Cap Stock Index Fund	\$196,677,132	0.33%	15.18	18.46	15.59	14.22
S&P 500 Index			15.65	18.93	15.99	14.64
Mid Cap Stock Index	\$39,685,053	0.33%	4.12	13.77	10.77	11.95
S&P 400 Index			4.59	14.14	11.10	12.20
Small Cap Stock Index	\$23,903,968	0.33%	0.56	13.78	10.92	
S&P 600 Index			1.23	13.58	10.89	
International Stock Index	\$16,619,729	0.36%	1.04	7.12	6.24	5.74
MSCI EAFE Net Dividend Index			1.16	7.78	6.72	6.27
Emerging Market Stock	\$4,533,729	0.45%	-10.34	5.21	4.54	
Blended Benchmark			-11.37	4.94	5.80	
Real Estate Stock	\$7,153,045	0.38%	27.57	11.02	10.17	9.57
Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index			27.72	9.90	8.89	9.17
Bond Index	\$18,908,370	0.35%	-4.40	1.86	2.06	1.89
Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index			-4.15	1.69	2.14	2.24
High Yield Bond	\$5,728,916	0.48%	-1.16	3.57	3.89	4.82
Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Net Return Index			9.96	6.39	5.97	6.50
Short-Term Income	\$22,133,585	0.33%	-1.24	1.34	1.29	0.84
Bloomberg U.S. Treasury: 1-3 Year			-3.05	0.84	1.04	0.84
Stable Value	\$54,650,698	0.58%	1.57	2.04	2.00	1.99
ICE BofA US 3 Month Treasury Bill Index G001			0.06	0.81	1.13	0.63
TOTAL	\$389,994,225					

### Premium Select Options – Funds to Build Your Own Portfolio



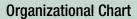
# **APPENDIX**

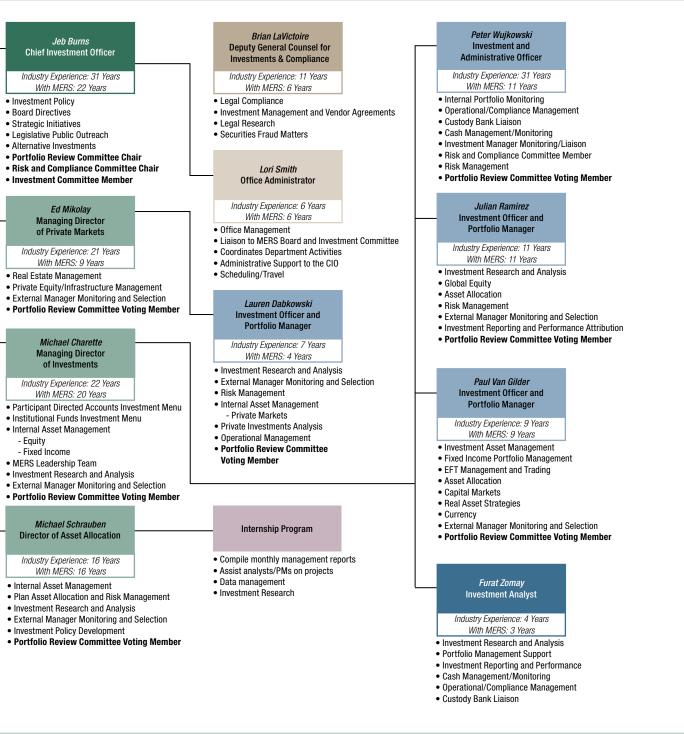
# **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### Investment Decision Making Roles and Responsibilities

MERS BOARD	<ul> <li>Is the System's fiduciary;</li> <li>Appoints public members with investment expertise to serve on the Investment Committee;</li> <li>Appoints one Board member for two years to observe Investment Committee meetings (observer does not have voting privileges);</li> <li>Monitors activity of the Investment Committee;</li> <li>Approves investment governance documents (Investment Guidelines, Defined Benefit Investment Policy Statement, and Participant Directed Accounts &amp; Institutional Funds Investment Policy Statement);</li> <li>Sets the Portfolio's asset class allocation ranges;</li> <li>Establishes the long-term actuarial investment return assumption; and</li> <li>Approves the Portfolio's Policy Benchmark.</li> </ul>
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	<ul> <li>Contains three voting Board members, including two public members with investment expertise;</li> <li>Includes CEO and CIO (both non-voting members);</li> <li>Serves as the Board's investment policy development arm;</li> <li>Monitors investment management activity and policy recommendations developed by the Office of Investments;</li> <li>Approves PRC investment recommendations to hire/terminate investment managers;</li> <li>Approves investments above PRC discretionary size limits;</li> <li>Provides advice on investment activities including: industry best practices, fiduciary duties, and Portfolio risk expectations of the Board; and</li> <li>Monitors Portfolio risk, asset allocation, and investment performance.</li> </ul>
PORTFOLIO REVIEW Committee	<ul> <li>Office of Investment's decision-making body chaired by the CIO and consisting of Office staff;</li> <li>Voting members are appointed by the CIO;</li> <li>Reports decisions and provides recommendations to the Investment Committee;</li> <li>Determines and implements the Portfolio's asset allocation within Board-approved allocation ranges;</li> <li>Approves and implements investments up to discretionary size limits provided in this Policy; and</li> <li>Develops and maintains PRC operating guidelines.</li> </ul>
OFFICE OF INVESTMENTS	<ul> <li>Carries out all investment activity on behalf of the System; including policy documentation for Board approval;</li> <li>Hires/terminates investment consultants, vendors, and the custodial bank with CEO approval;</li> <li>Provides a quarterly report on the Portfolio's investment activities, allocation, and performance;</li> <li>Reports any material changes within the Portfolio to the Investment Committee and the Board;</li> <li>Internally manages a portion of the Portfolio across both Public and Private Investments;</li> <li>Monitors performance and determines courses of action for external investment managers;</li> <li>Monitors compliance with statutory, regulatory, and policy limitations;</li> <li>Trade execution, settlement, and daily cash movements as needed; and</li> <li>Conducts its affairs in a manner that reflects the highest standards of ethical conduct, and complies with CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct (Appendix).</li> </ul>
MERS' INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT RISK AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE	<ul> <li>Provides investment and compliance oversight outside of the Office of Investments;</li> <li>Monitors operational, market, and regulatory issues that may materially impact portfolio performance or put MERS at risk of regulatory sanctions;</li> <li>Promotes cross-office discussion regarding varying potential risks including prevention and solutions; and</li> <li>Consists of CEO, CIO, Financial Officer, Deputy General Counsel for Investments and Compliance, Internal Auditor, Investment and Administrative Officer, and Analysts from the Office of Investments.</li> </ul>

# OFFICE OF INVESTMENTS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





### **Guiding Principles**

- Collaborative team environment
- Robust collegial debate and cognitive diversity is critical
- Progressive and willing to deviate from conventional wisdom
- Commitment to continuous improvement and efficiency gains
- Relentless pursuit of fiduciary excellence

This publication is designed to provide descriptive information only. Investors should research all possible investment choices. Please make independent investment decisions carefully and seek the assistance of independent experts where appropriate. We recommend investors define their goals, risk tolerance, time horizon, and investment objectives to determine whether this fund is appropriate for you.

Investors should read the fund summary sheets and carefully consider the investment objective, risks, and fees of the fund before investing. The fund summary sheets may be found on the MERS website at www.mersofmich.com. To request the fund summary sheets, please contact the MERS Service Center at 800.767.6377.

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