

# QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT December 2022





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Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." – Seneca, The Elder



#### MERS' Portfolio Characteristics

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

#### MERS' Office of Investments Goals

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

#### **Economic and Market Summary**

Financial markets experienced a rebound in the fourth quarter of 2022 to complete a tumultuous year. The S&P 500 returned 7.55% as investors focused on decelerating inflation data despite efforts by the Federal Reserve to tame markets through their insistence that they will keep interest rates higher for longer. Year-over-year inflation has declined every month from 9.10% in June to 6.50% in December. Robust labor markets helped fuel this rally as unemployment remains at a 50-year low of 3.50% despite companies undergoing margin pressures and rising borrowing costs. 223,000 jobs were created in the month of December, exceeding expectations. Q4 GDP came in a 2.90%, marking two straight guarters of growth. As economic data continued to surprise to the upside during the quarter, this has also led to strong performance by mid and small cap companies. These stocks have outperformed large cap by 3.21% and 1.61% during the quarter. Value stocks have continued to outperform growth stocks as tightening monetary policy has impacted growth companies the most. The S&P 500 value index outperformed the growth index by 24.16% on the year. In the Eurozone, due to a mild winter, fears of an energy crisis have been subdued, which paved the way for the MSCI Europe index to return 19.92% during the quarter. In emerging markets, the index returned 9.64%. The reopening of China and a weakening U.S. dollar were the main contributors to strong performance in emerging markets. While Q4 was an excellent quarter for financial markets, 2022 on the year still produced historically negative returns. Due to surging interest rates, high inflation, and geopolitical events, markets sold off. 2022 was the sixth time since 1926 that both the S&P 500 and Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate declined. It is the only time in history when they each fell by more than 10%. Going into 2023, the labor market, inflation, and financial conditions will be monitored closely to gauge the next step in Federal Reserve policy.

#### Portfolio Performance Review

MERS' Total Portfolio returned 6.86% (net) for the fourth quarter, underperforming the Policy Benchmark by 44 bps. The Global Equity Portfolio returned 11.65%, outperforming the Global Equity Policy Blend by 227 bps primarily due to its underweight in U.S. equities and overweight in international and emerging market equities. The MERS U.S. Equity Portfolio outperformed the Russell 3000 benchmark by 158 bps. Being overweight to U.S. Mid, Small, and Micro Cap added value to the portfolio and selection within U.S. Large Cap. The MERS International Equity Portfolio underperformed its benchmark by 104 bps as an underweight to Europe detracted. The Emerging Market Equity Portfolio outperformed its benchmark by 118 bps. The Global Fixed Income Portfolio returned 3.72% on the guarter, beating the Global Fixed Policy Blend by 45 bps. An underweight to interest rate duration and an overweight to emerging market debt, and high yield contributed to the outperformance. The Private Investments Portfolio delivered a return of 0.40%, which contributed to the underperformance of the Total Market Portfolio during the quarter. The Total Market Portfolio will often underperform during strong up markets, as there is a time lag before private market values update to reflect this market strength. MERS' Defined Benefit (DB) portfolio assets are \$10.85 billion, and MERS' total assets are \$13.96 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 active 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

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

#### **Asset Class Valuation Summary**

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

| Asset Class         | Overvalued | l Undervalued |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| US Equity           | -48.41%    |               |
| Europe Equity       | -16.20%    |               |
| Asia Pacific Equity |            | 44.35%        |
| EM Equity           |            | 37.54%        |
| US Treasury         | -4.38%     |               |
| EMD                 | -3.79%     |               |
| US HY               | -10.76%    |               |

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**

- Valuation multiples are still historically elevated in the U.S., and current earnings remain above estimated trend earnings contributing to that market's overvaluation.
- 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 Asia Pacific and Emerging Markets.
- Asia Pacific 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**

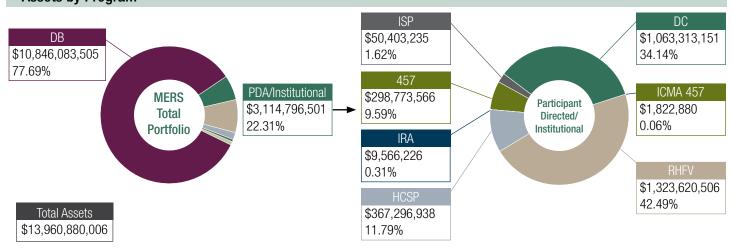
- All fixed income asset classes are currently overvalued on MERS valuation models
- Rising cash rates throughout 2022 has increased discount rates for longer duration assets such as US Treasuries and EM Debt
- EM Debt is the most attractively priced fixed income segment, with spreads above long term
- US high yield credit is overvalued due to spreads that are below historical averages, and the absence of a meaningful risk premium being priced into that market as of year-end.

#### Chart of the Quarter Source: Callan

| 2003         | 2004            | 2005       | 2006             | 2007         | 2008         | 2009         | 2010             | 2011       | 2012             | 2013       | 2014       | 2015       | 2016       | 2017            | 2018          | 2019             | 2020            | 2021       | 2022           |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Emerging     | Real            | Emerging   | Real             | Emerging     | U.S.         | Emerging     | Small Cap        | U.S.       | Real             | Small Cap  | Real       | Large      | Small Cap  | Emerging        | Cash          | Large            | Small Cap       | Large      | Cash           |
| Market       | Estate          | Market     | Estate           | Market       |              | Market       | Equity           | Fixed      | Estate           | Equity     | Estate     | Cap        | Equity     |                 | Equivalent    | Cap              | Equity          | Cap        | Equivalent     |
| Equity       |                 | Equity     |                  | Equity       |              | Equity       |                  | Income     |                  |            |            | Equity     |            |                 |               | Equity           |                 | Equity     |                |
| 55.82%       | 37.96%          | 34.00%     | 42.12%           | 39.38%       | 5.24%        | 78.51%       | 26.85%           | 7.84%      | 27.73%           | 38.82%     | 15.02%     | 1.38%      | 21.31%     | 37.28%          | 1.87%         | 31.49%           | 19.96%          | 28.71%     | 1.46%          |
| Small Cap    |                 | Real       | Emerging         | Dev ex-      |              | High Yield   | Real             | High Yield | Emerging         | Large      | Large      | U.S.       | High Yield |                 |               | Small Cap        | Large           | Real       | High Yield     |
| Equity       |                 | Estate     | Market           |              |              |              | Estate           |            | Market           | Cap        | Cap        | Fixed      |            |                 |               | Equity           | Cap             | Estate     |                |
|              |                 |            | Equity           |              | Fixed        |              |                  |            | Equity           | Equity     | Equity     | Income     |            |                 |               |                  | Equity          |            |                |
| 47.25%       | 25.55%          | 15.35%     | 32.17%           | 12.44%       | 4.39%        | 58.21%       | 19.63%           | 4.98%      | 18.23%           | 32.39%     | 13.69%     | 0.55%      | 17.13%     | 24.21%          | 0.01%         | 25.52%           | 18.40%          | 26.09%     | -11.19%        |
| Real         |                 | Dev ex-    | Dev ex-          | Glbl ex-     | Cash         | Real         |                  | Glbl ex-   | Dev ex-          | Dev ex-    |            | Cash       | Large      | Large           | High Yield    |                  | Emerging        | Small Cap  | U.S.           |
| Estate       |                 | U.S.       |                  | U.S.         | Equivalent   | Estate       |                  | U.S.       | U.S.             | U.S.       |            | Equivalent | Cap        | Cap             |               |                  | Market          | Equity     | Fixed          |
|              | Equity          | Equity     | Equity           | Fixed        | 2000         |              |                  | Fixed      | Equity           | Equity     |            | 1000000    | Equity     | Equity          |               | Equity           | Equity          |            | Income         |
| 40.69%       | 20.38%          | 14.47%     | 25.71%           | 11.03%       | 2.06%        | 37.13%       | 18.88%           | 4.36%      | 16.41%           | 21.02%     | 5.97%      | 0.05%      | 11.96%     | 21.83%          | -2.08%        | 22.49%           | 18.31%          | 14.82%     | -13.01%        |
|              | Small Cap       | Large      | Small Cap        | U.S.         | High Yield   | Dev ex-      |                  | Large      | Small Cap        | High Yield | Small Cap  | Real       | Emerging   | Small Cap       | Glbl ex-      | Real             | GlbI ex-        | Dev ex-    | Dev ex-        |
| U.S.         | Equity          | Cap        | Equity           | Fixed        |              | U.S.         |                  | Cap        | Equity           |            | Equity     | Estate     | Market     | Equity          |               | Estate           |                 | U.S.       | U.S.           |
| Equity       |                 | Equity     |                  | Income       |              | Equity       |                  | Equity     |                  |            |            |            | Equity     |                 | Fixed         |                  | Fixed           | Equity     | Equity         |
| 39.42%       | 18.33%          | 4.91%      | 18.37%           | 6.97%        | -26.16%      | 33.67%       | 15.12%           | 2.11%      | 16.35%           | 7.44%      | 4.89%      | -0.79%     | 11.19%     | 14.65%          | -2.15%        | 21.91%           | 10.11%          | 12.62%     | -14.29%        |
| High Yield   | GlbI ex-        | Small Cap  | Large            | Large        | Small Cap    |              | Large            | Cash       | Large            | Real       | High Yield | Dev ex-    | Real       | Glbl ex-        | Large         | Emerging         |                 | High Yield | Large          |
|              |                 | Equity     | Cap              | Cap          | Equity       | Equity       | Cap              | Equivalent | Cap              | Estate     |            | U.S.       | Estate     |                 | Cap           | Market           |                 |            | Сар            |
| 28.97%       | Fixed<br>12.54% | 4.55%      | Equity<br>15.79% | Equity 5.49% | -33.79%      | 27.17%       | Equity<br>15.06% | 0.10%      | Equity<br>16.00% | 3.67%      | 2.45%      | -3.04%     | 4.06%      | Fixed<br>10.51% | Equity -4.38% | Equity<br>18.44% | Equity<br>7.59% | 5.28%      | Equity -18,11% |
|              | High Yield      | Cash       | High Yield       | Cash         |              |              |                  | Small Cap  | High Yield       | Cash       | Cash       | Small Cap  | Dev ex-    | Real            | Real          |                  | U.S.            | Cash       | Glbl ex-       |
| Large<br>Cap |                 |            | High Yield       |              | Large<br>Cap | Large<br>Cap | Dev ex-<br>U.S.  |            | High Yield       |            |            |            | U.S.       |                 |               | High Yield       | Fixed           |            | U.S.           |
| Equity       |                 | Equivalent |                  | Equivalent   | Equity       | Equity       | Equity           | Equity     |                  | Equivalent | Equivalent | Equity     | Equity     | Estate          | Estate        |                  | Income          | Equivalent | Fixed          |
| 28.68%       |                 | 3.07%      |                  | 5.00%        | -37.00%      | 26.47%       | 8.95%            | -4.18%     | 15.81%           | 0.07%      | 0.03%      | -4.41%     | 2.75%      | 10.36%          | -5.63%        | 14.32%           | 7.51%           | 0.05%      | -18.70%        |
| Glbl ex-     | Large           | High Yield | Glbl ex-         | High Yield   | Dev ex-      | Glbl ex-     | U.S.             | Real       | U.S.             | U.S.       | Emerging   | High Yield | U.S.       | High Yield      | Small Cap     | U.S.             | High Yield      | U.S.       | Emerging       |
|              |                 | 1777       |                  | 170          | U.S.         |              |                  | Estate     | Fixed            | Fixed      | Market     | 170        |            |                 | Equity        | Fixed            | 370             |            | Market         |
|              | Equity          |            |                  | 0.000        | Equity       |              |                  |            | Income           | Income     | Equity     |            |            |                 |               | Income           | 100000000       |            | Equity         |
| 19.36%       | 10.88%          | 2.74%      | 8.16%            | 1.87%        | -43.56%      | 7.53%        | 6.54%            | -6.46%     | 4.21%            | -2.02%     | -2.19%     | -4.47%     | 2.65%      | 7.50%           | -11.01%       | 8.72%            | 7.11%           | -1.54%     | -20.09%        |
| U.S.         |                 | U.S.       |                  | Small Cap    | Real         | U.S.         |                  | Dev ex-    |                  | Emerging   |            |            |            |                 |               |                  | Cash            | Emerging   | Small Cap      |
| Fixed        |                 | Fixed      | Equivalent       | Equity       | Estate       | Fixed        |                  | U.S.       |                  | Market     |            |            |            |                 |               |                  | Equivalent      | Market     | Equity         |
| Income       |                 | Income     |                  |              |              | Income       |                  | Equity     |                  | Equity     |            |            |            |                 |               |                  | 100             | Equity     |                |
| 4.10%        | 4.34%           | 2.43%      | 4.85%            | -1.57%       | -48.21%      | 5.93%        | 4.95%            | -12.21%    | 4.09%            | -2.60%     | -3.09%     | -6.02%     | 1.49%      | 3.54%           | -14.09%       | 5.09%            | 0.67%           | -2.54%     | -20.44%        |
| Cash         |                 |            |                  | Real         | Emerging     | Cash         |                  | Emerging   | Cash             |            | Dev ex-    | Emerging   | Cash       |                 | Emerging      |                  | Real            |            | Real           |
| Equivalent   |                 |            |                  | Estate       | Market       | Equivalent   |                  | Market     | Equivalent       |            | U.S.       | Market     | Equivalent | Equivalent      |               | Equivalent       | Estate          |            | Estate         |
| 20000        |                 | Fixed      |                  |              | Equity       | 0.000        |                  | Equity     | 2000000          | Fixed      | Equity     | Equity     |            |                 |               |                  |                 | Fixed      |                |
| 1.15%        | 1.33%           | -8.65%     | 4.33%            | -7.39%       | -53.33%      | 0.21%        | 0.13%            | -18.42%    | 0.11%            | -3.08%     | -4.32%     | -14.92%    | 0.33%      | 0.86%           | -14.57%       | 2.28%            | -9.04%          | -7.05%     | -25.10%        |

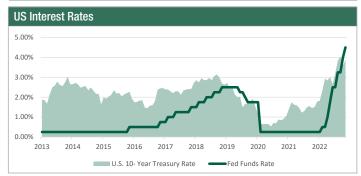
Most major markets entered bear market territory in 2022. Factors such as rapidly escalating inflation, rising interest rates, recession fears, frothy starting valuations, and the war in Ukraine negatively impacted returns. The Callan Periodic Table of Investment Returns conveys a strong case for diversification across various asset classes. A year after large cap equities, real estate equities, and small cap equities were the top-performing asset classes; they were among the worst-performing in 2022. MERS continues to maintain a diversified portfolio to protect itself from the uncertainty of capital markets, as mean reversion remains

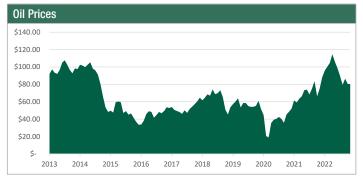
#### **Assets by Program**



| Market Indicators                 | Current        | Prior Quarter  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 10 Year Treasury Yield            | 3.87%          | 3.83%          |
| Fed Funds Rate                    | 4.50%          | 3.25%          |
| Crude Oil                         | \$80.3 /barrel | \$79.5 /barrel |
| Gold                              | \$1,824.0 /oz. | \$1,660.6 /oz. |
| 30 Year Fixed Mortgage Rates      | 6.66%          | 7.06%          |
| US Investment Grade Credit Spread | 1.30%          | 1.59%          |
| US High Yield Credit Spread       | 4.69%          | 5.52%          |
| US Leading Economic Indicators    | -6.00%         | -1.60%         |

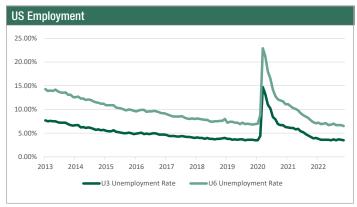
| VIX Volat | ility Inc | lex    |      |          |      |      |      |            |      |
|-----------|-----------|--------|------|----------|------|------|------|------------|------|
| 60.0      |           |        |      |          |      |      |      |            |      |
| 50.0      |           |        |      |          |      |      |      |            |      |
| 40.0      |           |        |      |          |      |      | +    | 1          |      |
| 30.0      |           |        | \    |          |      |      | -\   | A          |      |
| 20.0      | A 4       | . 4. 4 | 4    | <u> </u> | A.   | A    | ┫    | <b>.</b> . |      |
| 10.0      |           |        |      |          |      |      |      |            |      |
| 2013      | 2014      | 2015   | 2016 | 2017     | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021       | 2022 |

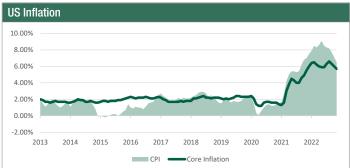




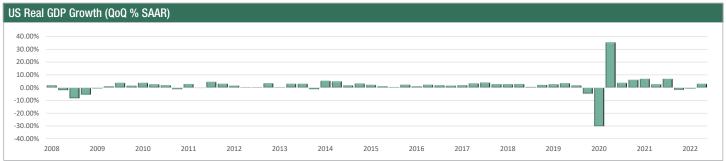
| Economic Releases         | Current | Prior Quarter |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|
| ISM Manufacturing         | 48.40   | 50.90         |
| ISM Non-Manufacturing     | 49.60   | 56.70         |
| U of M Consumer Sentiment | 59.70   | 58.60         |
| US Real GDP*              | 1.90%   | 1.80%         |
| Eurozone Real GDP*        | 2.30%   | 4.30%         |
| UK GDP*                   | 1.90%   | 4.00%         |
| Japan GDP*                | 1.50%   | 1.60%         |
| China GDP*                | 3.90%   | 0.40%         |

\* All GDP data is lagged 1 quarter

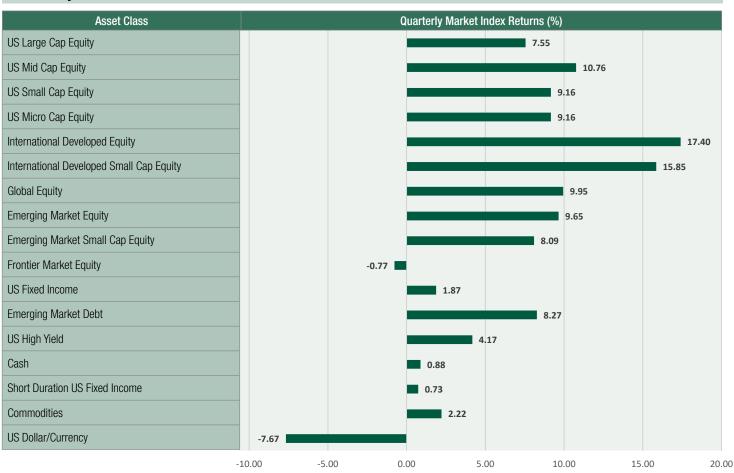






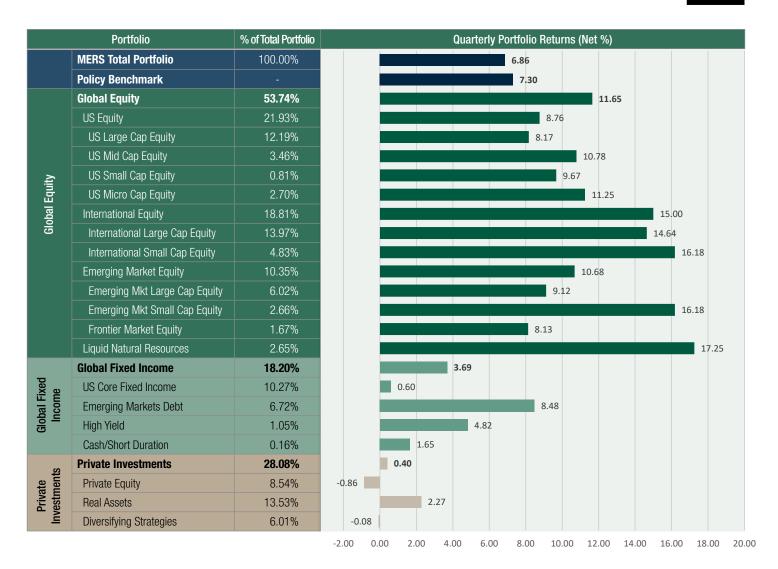


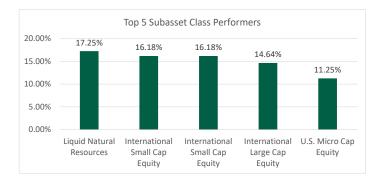
#### **Quarterly Market Performance Review**

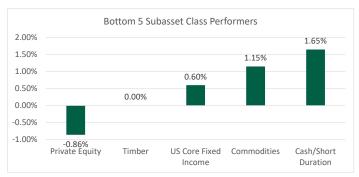


#### **Market Index Returns**

| Market Index                             | Asset Class                              | QTD   | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 7 Year | 10 Year |
|--|--|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| S&P 500                                  | US Large Cap Equity                      | 7.55  | -18.13 | -18.13 | 7.64   | 9.41   | 11.47  | 12.55   |
| S&P 400                                  | US Mid Cap Equity                        | 10.76 | -13.10 | -13.10 | 7.20   | 6.68   | 9.92   | 10.76   |
| S&P 600                                  | US Small Cap Equity                      | 9.16  | -16.15 | -16.15 | 5.74   | 5.83   | 9.60   | 10.77   |
| Russell Microcap                         | US Micro Cap Equity                      | 4.71  | -21.98 | -21.98 | 4.02   | 3.69   | 7.25   | 8.86    |
| MSCI EAFE                                | International Developed Equity           | 17.40 | -13.92 | -13.92 | 1.44   | 2.13   | 5.12   | 5.27    |
| MSCI EAFE Small Cap                      | International Developed Small Cap Equity | 15.85 | -21.01 | -21.01 | -0.52  | 0.36   | 4.85   | 6.59    |
| MSCI ACWI IMI                            | Global Equity                            | 9.95  | -18.00 | -18.00 | 4.39   | 5.51   | 8.55   | 8.53    |
| MSCI Emerging Markets                    | Emerging Market Equity                   | 9.65  | -19.91 | -19.91 | -2.41  | -1.09  | 5.53   | 1.78    |
| MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap          | Emerging Market Small Cap Equity         | 8.09  | -17.87 | -17.87 | 5.38   | 1.33   | 5.64   | 3.46    |
| MSCI Frontier Markets Index              | Frontier Market Equity                   | -0.77 | -26.15 | -26.15 | -3.47  | -2.37  | 2.66   | 3.25    |
| Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate                 | US Fixed Income                          | 1.87  | -13.01 | -13.01 | -2.71  | 0.02   | 0.89   | 1.06    |
| JPMorgan EMBI Global Diversified Index   | Emerging Market Debt                     | 8.27  | -17.43 | -17.43 | -5.34  | -1.63  | 1.38   | 1.19    |
| ICE BofA Merrill Lynch Global High Yield | US High Yield                            | 4.17  | -11.19 | -11.19 | 0.05   | 2.31   | 5.05   | 4.03    |
| 91 Day Treasury Bill                     | Cash                                     | 0.88  | 1.52   | 1.52   | 0.70   | 1.22   | 1.03   | 0.73    |
| Bloomberg 1-3 Year Treasury              | Short Duration US Fixed Income           | 0.73  | -3.81  | -3.81  | -0.46  | 0.74   | 0.71   | 0.65    |
| Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return   | Commodities                              | 2.22  | 16.09  | 16.09  | 12.65  | 6.44   | 6.49   | -1.28   |
| Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index              | US Dollar/Currency                       | -7.67 | 8.21   | 8.21   | 7.40   | 2.36   | 0.69   | 2.64    |



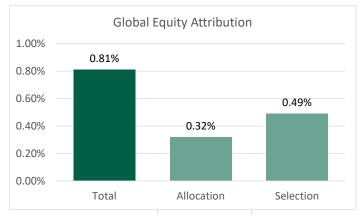


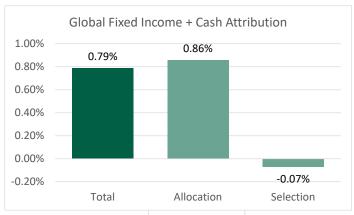


|                          |           | Avg Weight |            | ı         | Return (Net) |            | Att        | ribution Totals | ;      |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------|
|                          | Portfolio | Benchmark  | Difference | Portfolio | Benchmark    | Difference | Allocation | Selection       | Total  |
| Total Plan               | 100.00%   | 100.00%    | 0.00%      | 6.87%     | 7.36%        | -0.49%     | 1.16%      | -1.65%          | -0.49% |
| Public Markets           | 71.26%    | 100.00%    | -28.74%    | 9.59%     | 7.36%        | 2.23%      | 1.18%      | 0.42%           | 1.59%  |
| Global Equity            | 53.10%    | 65.00%     | -11.90%    | 11.61%    | 9.47%        | 2.14%      | 0.32%      | 0.49%           | 0.81%  |
| U.S. Equity              | 22.45%    | 45.00%     | -22.55%    | 8.73%     | 7.18%        | 1.55%      | -0.06%     | 0.34%           | 0.29%  |
| International Equity     | 18.30%    | 15.00%     | 3.30%      | 14.96%    | 16.04%       | -1.08%     | 0.27%      | -0.19%          | 0.07%  |
| Emerging Market Equity   | 9.84%     | 5.00%      | 4.84%      | 10.66%    | 9.50%        | 1.16%      | 0.11%      | 0.10%           | 0.21%  |
| Liquid Natural Resources | 2.51%     | 0.00%      | 2.51%      | 17.01%    | 7.30%        | 9.71%      | 0.00%      | 0.24%           | 0.24%  |
| Global Fixed Income      | 18.32%    | 35.00%     | -16.68%    | 3.69%     | 3.27%        | 0.42%      | 0.83%      | -0.11%          | 0.72%  |
| U.S. Core Fixed Income   | 10.52%    | 25.00%     | -14.48%    | 0.60%     | 1.87%        | -1.27%     | 0.76%      | -0.14%          | 0.63%  |
| Global Agg ex USD        | 0.00%     | 10.00%     | -10.00%    | 0.00%     | 6.81%        | -6.81%     | 0.04%      | 0.00%           | 0.04%  |
| Emerging Markets Debt    | 6.71%     | 0.00%      | 6.71%      | 8.42%     | 8.11%        | 0.31%      | 0.05%      | 0.02%           | 0.08%  |
| U.S. High Yield          | 1.08%     | 0.00%      | 1.08%      | 4.82%     | 4.17%        | 0.65%      | -0.04%     | 0.01%           | -0.03% |
| Cash                     | -0.15%    | 0.00%      | -0.15%     | 11.97%    | 0.85%        | 11.12%     | 0.03%      | 0.04%           | 0.07%  |
| Private Investments      | 28.74%    | 0.00%      | 28.74%     | 0.39%     | 7.30%        | -6.91%     | -0.02%     | -2.07%          | -2.08% |

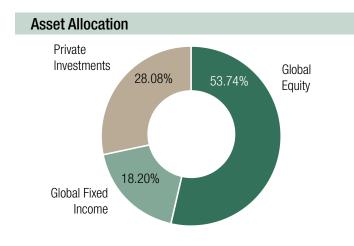
- Underperformance was driven by the Private Investments Portfolio (-208bps) due to a lag in mark to market gains.
- The Global Equity and Global Fixed income portfolios added value (+81bps & +72bps).
- Underweight to U.S. Core fixed income Selection was the largest sub-asset class contributor (+76bps).
- Selection in U.S. Equity and overweight to International Equity also added value (+34bps & +27bps).

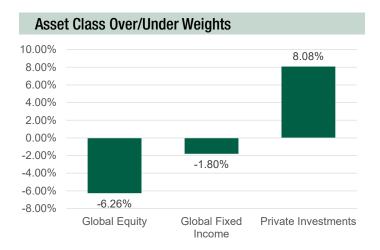




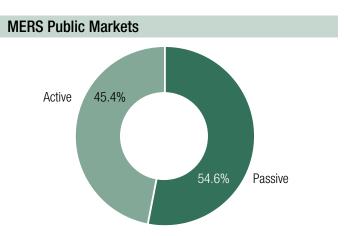


| Asset Class         | Market Value     | % of Fund | Base Allocation | Over/Under Weight | Minimum Allocation | Maximum Allocation |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Global Equity       | \$6,583,284,507  | 53.74%    | 60.00%          | -6.26%            | 30.00%             | 70.00%             |
| Global Fixed Income | \$2,227,899,982  | 18.20%    | 20.00%          | -1.80%            | 10.00%             | 60.00%             |
| Private Investments | \$3,439,636,658  | 28.08%    | 20.00%          | 8.08%             | No Minimum         | 30.00%             |
| Total               | \$12,250,821,147 | 100.00%   | 100.00%         |                   |                    |                    |





| Asset<br>Class         | MERS Public<br>Markets <sup>1</sup> | Policy<br>Benchmark <sup>2</sup> | Over/Under<br>Weight  |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| U.S. Equity            | 34.18%                              | 45.00%                           | -10.82%               |
| International Equity   | 25.15%                              | 14.40%                           | 10.75%                |
| Emerging Market Equity | 14.39%                              | 5.60%                            | 8.79%                 |
| U.S. Treasury          | 14.26%                              | 20.81%                           | - <mark>6.54</mark> % |
| U.S. Investment Grade  | 0.02%                               | 14.19%                           | -14.17%               |
| U.S. High Yield        | 1.46%                               | 0.00%                            | 1.4 <b>6</b> %        |
| Emerging Market Debt   | 9.35%                               | 0.00%                            | 9.3 <b>5%</b>         |
| Cash/Short Duration    | 0.19%                               | 0.00%                            | 0.19%                 |



 $<sup>^{\</sup>mbox{\tiny 1}}$  MERS' Public Markets is made up of the Global Equity and Global Fixed Income Asset Classes

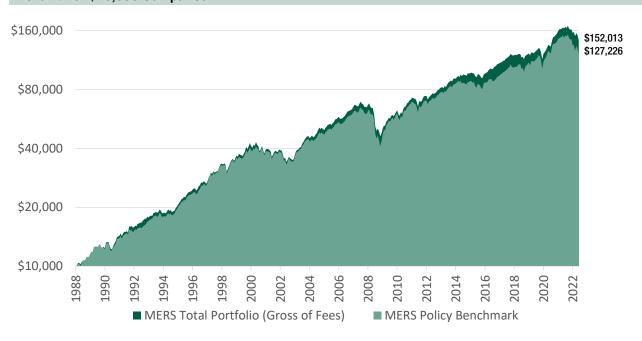
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 45% Russell 3000, 20% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net), 25% Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate, and 10% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

|  | QTD   | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 7 Year | 10 Year |
|--|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| MERS Total Portfolio - Gross of Fees (%) | 6.91  | -10.24 | -10.24 | 5.30   | 5.10   | 7.09   | 6.99    |
| MERS Total Portfolio - Net of Fees (%)   | 6.86  | -10.37 | -10.37 | 5.13   | 4.95   | 6.91   | 6.79    |
| Policy Benchmark (%)                     | 7.30  | -16.81 | -16.81 | 2.26   | 4.11   | 6.14   | 5.70    |
| Excess (Net) (%)                         | -0.44 | 6.44   | 6.44   | 2.87   | 0.84   | 0.77   | 1.09    |

#### Calendar Year Performance - Last 10 Years 25.00% 20.83% 20.00% 16.72% 14.74% 15.19% 15.00% 14.35% 13.70% 13.59% 14.13% 13.20% **1**1.61% 10.77% 10.00% 6.46% 6.30% 5.00% 2.74% 0.00% -2.33% -5.00% -3.64% -5.36% -10.00% -10.37% -15.00% -16.81% -20.00% 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

■ MERS Policy Benchmark

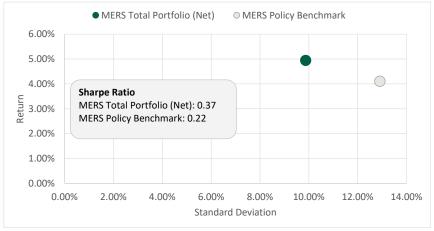
#### Growth of \$10,000 Comparison



■ MERS Total Portfolio (Net of Fees)

#### 5-Year

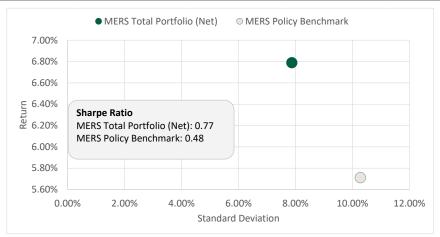
|                            | Return | Standard Deviation | Downside Risk | Beta | R-Squared | Tracking Error |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------|------|-----------|----------------|
| MERS Total Portfolio (Net) | 4.94%  | 9.87%              | 7.32%         | 0.75 | 95.63     | 3.86%          |
| MERS Policy Benchmark      | 4.11%  | 12.90%             | 9.62%         | 1.00 | 100       |                |



|                            | # of | Months | Averag | e Return |            |              |
|----------------------------|------|--------|--------|----------|------------|--------------|
|                            | Up   | Down   | Up     | Down     | Up Capture | Down Capture |
| MERS Total Portfolio (Net) | 37   | 23     | 2.16%  | -2.32%   | 77.80%     | 74.10%       |
| MERS Policy Benchmark      | 37   | 23     | 2.68%  | -3.26%   |            |              |

#### 10-Year

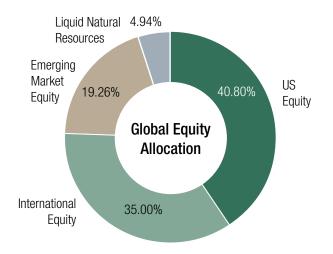
|                            | Return | Standard Deviation | Downside Risk | Beta | R-Squared | Tracking Error |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|---------------|------|-----------|----------------|
| MERS Total Portfolio (Net) | 6.79%  | 7.87%              | 5.91%         | 0.74 | 92.96     | 3.40%          |
| MERS Policy Benchmark      | 5.71%  | 10.27%             | 7.69%         | 1.00 | 100.00    |                |



|                            | # of | Months | Averag | e Return |            |              |
|----------------------------|------|--------|--------|----------|------------|--------------|
|                            | Up   | Down   | Up     | Down     | Up Capture | Down Capture |
| MERS Total Portfolio (Net) | 81   | 39     | 1.75%  | -1.87%   | 81.20%     | 68.40%       |
| MERS Policy Benchmark      | 79   | 41     | 2.11%  | -2.59%   |            |              |

| Market Value            | \$6,583,284,507 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets – % of Portfolio | 53.74%          |

| Sub Asset Class          | Market Value    |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| US Equity                | \$2,686,270,038 |
| International Equity     | \$2,304,073,582 |
| Emerging Market Equity   | \$1,267,916,877 |
| Liquid Natural Resources | \$325,024,010   |
| Total                    | \$6,583,284,507 |



#### Performance (Net)

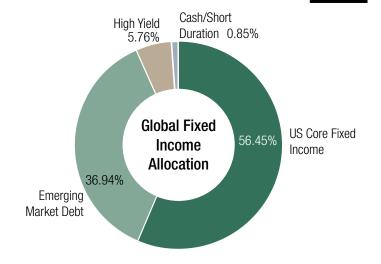
|                                  | Market Value    | % OF PLAN | QTD   | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 7 Year | 10 Year |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Global Equity                    | \$6,583,284,507 | 53.74     | 11.65 | -16.10 | -16.10 | 3.86   | 4.15   | 7.36   | 8.25    |
| Global Equity Policy Blend 1     |                 |           | 9.38  | -18.29 | -18.29 | 5.00   | 6.36   | 8.91   | 9.30    |
| MSCI ACWI                        |                 |           | 9.76  | -18.36 | -18.36 | 4.00   | 5.23   | 8.10   | 7.98    |
| US Equity                        | \$2,686,270,038 | 21.93     | 8.76  | -16.44 | -16.44 | 6.90   |        |        |         |
| Russell 3000                     |                 |           | 7.24  | -19.13 | -19.13 | 7.35   |        |        |         |
| US Large Cap Equity              | \$1,493,052,796 | 12.19     | 8.17  | -16.90 | -16.90 | 7.52   | 8.88   | 11.44  | 12.97   |
| Russell 1000                     |                 |           | 7.56  | -18.11 | -18.11 | 7.66   | 9.42   | 11.48  | 12.56   |
| US Mid Cap Equity                | \$423,323,627   | 3.46      | 10.78 | -13.32 | -13.32 | 7.06   | 6.68   | 8.94   | 10.28   |
| Russell Midcap                   |                 |           | 9.18  | -17.32 | -17.32 | 5.88   | 7.10   | 9.61   | 10.96   |
| US Small Cap Equity              | \$99,719,421    | 0.81      | 9.67  | -15.18 | -15.18 | 6.64   | 6.11   | 9.63   | 9.51    |
| Russell 2000                     |                 |           | 6.23  | -20.44 | -20.44 | 3.10   | 4.13   | 7.90   | 9.01    |
| US Micro Cap Equity              | \$330,985,345   | 2.70      | 11.25 | -14.81 | -14.81 | 8.67   | 5.57   | 8.55   | 9.60    |
| Russell Microcap                 |                 |           | 4.72  | -21.96 | -21.96 | 4.05   | 3.69   | 7.26   | 8.86    |
| International Equity             | \$2,304,073,582 | 18.81     | 15.00 | -16.87 | -16.87 | 0.71   |        |        |         |
| MSCI World ex USA IMI            |                 |           | 16.04 | -15.26 | -15.26 | 1.05   |        |        |         |
| International Large Cap Equity   | \$1,712,029,794 | 13.97     | 14.64 | -16.19 | -16.19 | 0.04   | 1.64   |        |         |
| MSCI World ex USA                |                 |           | 16.18 | -14.29 | -14.29 | 1.27   | 1.79   |        |         |
| International Small Cap Equity   | \$592,043,788   | 4.83      | 16.18 | -18.62 | -18.62 | 2.37   | 1.86   | 6.96   | 8.33    |
| MSCI World ex USA Small Cap      |                 |           | 15.21 | -20.59 | -20.59 | -0.15  | 0.45   | 4.90   | 5.77    |
| Emerging Market Equity           | \$1,267,916,877 | 10.35     | 10.68 | -20.29 | -20.29 | 0.80   | -0.49  | 5.08   | 2.68    |
| MSCI Emerging Markets IMI        |                 |           | 9.50  | -19.83 | -19.83 | -1.82  | -1.10  | 5.16   | 1.64    |
| Emerging Market Large Cap Equity | \$737,740,284   | 6.02      | 9.12  | -22.26 | -22.26 | -3.43  | -2.18  | 4.43   | 0.53    |
| MSCI Emerging Markets            |                 |           | 9.70  | -20.09 | -20.09 | -2.69  | -1.40  | 5.17   | 1.44    |
| Emerging Market Small Cap Equity | \$326,010,536   | 2.66      | 16.18 | -17.75 | -17.75 | 8.35   | 3.52   | 8.26   |         |
| MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap  |                 |           | 8.20  | -18.02 | -18.02 | 5.11   | 1.06   | 5.38   |         |
| Frontier Market Equity           | \$204,166,057   | 1.67      | 8.13  | -13.18 | -13.18 | 2.48   | -0.83  | 3.64   | 3.62    |
| MSCI Frontier Markets            |                 |           | -0.83 | -26.34 | -26.34 | -3.65  | -2.47  | 2.57   | 3.23    |
| Liquid Natural Resources         | \$325,024,010   | 2.65      | 17.25 | 7.99   | 7.99   |        |        |        |         |
| Policy Benchmark <sup>2</sup>    |                 |           | 7.30  | -16.81 | -16.81 |        |        |        |         |

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  70% Russell 3000, 30% MSCI ACWI ex USA IMI (net)

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

| Market Value            | \$2,227,899,982 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets – % of Portfolio | 18.19%          |

| Sub Asset Class      | Market Value    |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| US Core Fixed Income | \$1,257,625,378 |
| Emerging Market Debt | \$822,922,421   |
| High Yield           | \$128,352,748   |
| Cash/Short Duration  | \$18,999,435    |
| Total                | \$2,227,899,982 |



#### Performance (Net)

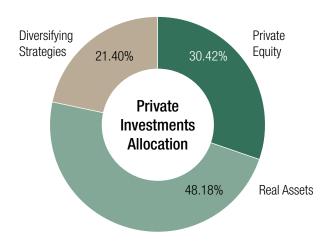
|  | Market Value    | % OF PLAN | QTD  | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 7 Year | 10 Year |
|--|-----------------|-----------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Global Fixed Income ex Cash                  | \$2,208,900,547 | 18.03     | 3.69 | -12.55 | -12.55 | -0.79  | 1.43   | 2.60   | 2.33    |
| Global Fixed Income Policy Blend 1           |                 |           | 3.27 | -14.64 | -14.64 | -3.62  | -0.85  | 0.46   | -0.01   |
| Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate          |                 |           | 4.55 | -16.25 | -16.25 | -4.48  | -1.66  | 0.12   | -0.44   |
| US Core Fixed Income                         | \$1,257,625,378 | 10.27     | 0.60 | -10.96 | -10.96 | -2.49  | 0.27   | 0.94   | 1.20    |
| Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate            |                 |           | 1.87 | -13.01 | -13.01 | -2.71  | 0.02   | 0.89   | 1.06    |
| Emerging Market Debt                         | \$822,922,421   | 6.72      | 8.48 | -16.75 | -16.75 | -4.33  | -0.48  | 2.97   | 1.37    |
| JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified            |                 |           | 8.11 | -17.78 | -17.78 | -5.28  | -1.31  | 1.85   | 1.59    |
| High Yield                                   | \$128,352,748   | 1.05      | 4.82 | -10.57 | -10.57 |        |        |        |         |
| Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield |                 |           | 4.17 | -11.19 | -11.19 |        |        |        |         |
| Cash/Short Duration <sup>2</sup>             | \$18,999,435    | 0.16      | 1.65 | 3.88   | 3.88   | 1.97   | 2.19   | 1.62   | 1.18    |
| 91 Day Treasury Bill                         |                 |           | 0.85 | 1.47   | 1.47   | 0.73   | 1.27   | 1.07   | 0.77    |

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  70% Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate, 30% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate ex U.S.

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

| Market Value            | \$3,439,636,658 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Assets – % of Portfolio | 28.08%          |

| Sub Asset Class         | Market Value    |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Private Equity          | \$1,046,327,716 |
| Real Assets             | \$1,657,528,451 |
| Diversifying Strategies | \$736,140,128   |
| Currency Hedge          | (\$359,638)     |
| Total                   | \$3,439,636,658 |



#### **Performance (Net)**

|   | Market Value    | % OF PLAN | QTD   | YTD    | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 7 Year | 10 Year |
|---|-----------------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Private Investments                     | \$3,439,636,658 | 28.08     | 0.40  | 4.41   | 4.41   | 12.72  |        |        |         |
| Public Markets                          |                 |           | 9.57  | -14.91 | -14.91 | 2.92   |        |        |         |
| Policy Benchmark <sup>1</sup>           |                 |           | 7.30  | -16.81 | -16.81 | 2.26   |        |        |         |
| Private Equity                          | \$1,046,327,716 | 8.54      | -0.86 | 10.66  | 10.66  | 25.45  | 20.77  | 16.80  | 16.14   |
| Private Equity Blend <sup>2</sup>       |                 |           | 11.12 | -20.71 | -20.71 | 1.24   | 2.18   | 6.34   | 7.78    |
| Real Assets                             | \$1,657,528,451 | 13.53     | 2.27  | 3.60   | 3.60   | 10.24  | 9.37   | 9.64   | 7.46    |
| Real Assets Blend <sup>3</sup>          |                 |           | 0.73  | 9.45   | 9.45   | 7.92   | 5.80   | 6.19   | 4.84    |
| Diversified Real Assets                 | \$1,328,038,163 | 10.84     | 1.71  | 1.29   | 1.29   | 10.30  | 8.52   |        |         |
| Real Assets Blend                       |                 |           | 0.73  | 9.45   | 9.45   | 7.92   | 5.80   |        |         |
| Real Estate                             | \$328,537,468   | 2.68      | 4.65  | 14.59  | 14.59  | 12.39  | 10.96  | 11.92  | 12.62   |
| Real Estate Blend <sup>4</sup>          |                 |           | -4.97 | 7.47   | 7.47   | 9.93   | 8.99   | 8.84   | 8.92    |
| Timber                                  | \$36,654,976    | 0.30      | 0.00  | -1.53  | -1.53  | 8.54   | 8.09   | 9.50   | 7.73    |
| S&P Global Timber & Forestry Index Net  |                 |           | 10.93 | -19.40 | -19.40 | 4.22   | 2.12   | 7.75   | 6.68    |
| Infrastructure                          | \$366,629,195   | 2.99      | 4.01  | 19.67  | 19.67  | 18.03  | 11.37  | 9.52   | 8.39    |
| Private Infrastructure Blend⁵           |                 |           | 6.97  | -14.60 | -14.60 | -0.53  | 2.13   | 3.05   | 3.49    |
| Commodities                             | \$305,073,340   | 2.49      | 1.15  | -20.23 | -20.23 | 1.36   | 1.50   | 7.76   | 1.25    |
| Bloomberg Commodity Index Total Return  |                 |           | 2.22  | 16.09  | 16.09  | 12.65  | 6.44   | 6.49   | -1.28   |
| Agriculture & Farmland                  | \$409,258,091   | 3.34      | 1.72  | 0.45   | 0.45   | 11.63  | 15.99  | 11.81  |         |
| S&P Global Agribusiness Equity Index TR |                 |           | 8.01  | 2.15   | 2.15   | 11.49  | 7.81   | 9.92   |         |
| Diversifying Strategies                 | \$736,140,128   | 6.01      | -0.08 | -1.76  | -1.76  | 6.38   | 4.96   | 5.27   | 5.99    |
| Diversifying Strategies Blend 6         |                 |           | 5.49  | -15.82 | -15.82 | -0.33  | 1.95   | 2.92   | 3.54    |

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 50% Russell 2000, 50% MSCI EAFE Small Cap (net)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 100% CPI + 3%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 100% NCREIF ODCE Value Weighted

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 | \$1,063,313,151 | 33,145       | \$32,081             | 0.38%                | Retirement Strategies |
| HCSP           | \$367,296,938   | 36,464       | \$10,073             | 0.37%                | Retirement Strategies |
| 457 Program    | \$300,596,446   | 10,893       | \$27,595             | 0.39%                | Retirement Strategies |
| MERS IRA       | \$9,566,226     | 880          | \$10,871             | 0.39%                | Retirement Strategies |
| TOTAL          | \$1,740,772,760 | 81,382       | \$21,390             |                      |                       |

| Institutional Funds |                 |                |                      |                      |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Program             | Assets          | Municipalities | Average Account Size | Weighted Average Fee |
| RHFV                | \$1,323,620,506 | 322            | \$4,110,623          | 0.46%                |
| ISP                 | \$50,403,235    | 5              | \$10,080,647         | 0.46%                |
| TOTAL               | \$1,374,023,741 | 327            | \$4,201,907          |                      |

| Investment Allocations      |                 |                     |                 |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|--|
|                             | PDA             | Institutional Funds | Total           |  |  |
| Retirement Strategies       | \$1,278,870,226 |                     | \$1,278,870,226 |  |  |
| Total Market Fund           | \$41,128,353    | \$1,373,021,055     | \$1,414,149,408 |  |  |
| Asset Allocation Portfolios | \$37,349,770    | \$184,087           | \$37,533,857    |  |  |
| Asset Specific funds        | \$354,472,285   | \$818,599           | \$355,290,884   |  |  |
| Self-directed Brokerage     | \$8,822,084     |                     | \$8,822,084     |  |  |
| Other                       | \$20,130,043    |                     | \$20,130,043    |  |  |
| TOTAL                       | \$1,740,772,760 | \$1,374,023,741     | \$3,114,796,501 |  |  |

#### **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 (Q1 2023)
- Review investment menu and design (Q1 2023)
- RFP for Stable Value Fund (Q1 2023)
- 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                 | \$20,532,203      | 0.38%         | -10.86 | 0.82   | 2.21   | -10.86  |
| MERS 2010 Retirement Strategy          | \$22,800,959      | 0.37%         | -11.29 | 0.99   | 2.39   | -11.29  |
| MERS 2015 Retirement Strategy          | \$74,045,067      | 0.38%         | -12.31 | 1.55   | 2.92   | -12.31  |
| MERS 2020 Retirement Strategy          | \$89,479,681      | 0.39%         | -13.49 | 1.92   | 3.30   | -13.49  |
| MERS 2025 Retirement Strategy          | \$196,560,321     | 0.39%         | -14.31 | 2.19   | 3.54   | -14.31  |
| MERS 2030 Retirement Strategy          | \$167,869,981     | 0.39%         | -15.06 | 2.25   | 3.73   | -15.06  |
| MERS 2035 Retirement Strategy          | \$168,627,422     | 0.40%         | -15.72 | 2.40   | 3.93   | -15.72  |
| MERS 2040 Retirement Strategy          | \$155,410,155     | 0.40%         | -16.24 | 2.71   | 4.17   | -16.24  |
| MERS 2045 Retirement Strategy          | \$127,793,705     | 0.40%         | -16.69 | 3.14   | 4.49   | -16.69  |
| MERS 2050 Retirement Strategy          | \$108,478,884     | 0.40%         | -16.90 | 3.16   | 4.51   | -16.90  |
| MERS 2055 Retirement Strategy          | \$84,411,164      | 0.40%         | -16.88 | 3.21   | 4.53   | -16.88  |
| MERS 2060 Retirement Strategy          | \$53,871,461      | 0.40%         | -16.85 | 3.26   | 4.57   | -16.85  |
| MERS 2065 Retirement Strategy          | \$8,989,223       | 0.40%         | -16.64 |        |        |         |
| TOTA                                   | J \$1,278,870,226 |               |        |        |        |         |

| Premium Select Options – Portfolios Built for You |                 |               |        |        |        |         |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| MERS Portfolio Options                            | Assets          | Expense Ratio | 1 Year | 3 Year | 5 Year | 10 Year |
| MERS Total Market Portfolio                       | \$1,414,149,408 | 0.56%         | -10.67 | 4.71   | 4.55   | 6.44    |
| MERS Policy Benchmark                             |                 |               | -16.81 | 2.26   | 4.11   | 5.70    |
| MERS Global Stock Portfolio (100/0)               | \$13,720,163    | 0.34%         | -17.98 | 3.13   | 4.34   |         |
| Blended Benchmark                                 |                 |               | -18.36 | 4.00   | 5.23   |         |
| MERS Established Market Portfolio (60/40)         | \$12,105,711    | 0.34%         | -14.91 | 1.07   | 2.86   | 5.67    |
| Blended Benchmark                                 |                 |               | -16.02 | 2.03   | 4.01   | 6.24    |
| MERS Diversified Bond Portfolio (0/100)           | \$11,707,983    | 0.33%         | -10.69 | -2.98  | -0.24  | 0.83    |
| Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index               |                 |               | -13.01 | -2.71  | 0.02   | 1.06    |
| TOTAL   | \$1,451,683,265 |               |        |        |        |         |

0.77

1.27

#### Premium Select Options - Funds to Build Your Own Portfolio **MERS Portfolio Options** Assets **Expense Ratio** 1 Year 3 Year 5 Year 10 Year 0.33% 7.23 12.15 Large Cap Stock Index Fund \$167,039,681 -18.34 9.06 S&P 500 Index -18.11 7.66 9.42 12.56 Mid Cap Stock Index \$36,643,810 0.33% -13.34 6.82 6.42 10.51 S&P 400 Index -13.06 7.23 10.78 6.71 **Small Cap Stock Index** \$21,354,169 0.33% -16.30 5.90 5.91 S&P 600 Index -16.10 5.80 5.88 3.96 International Stock Index \$14,933,930 0.36% -15.49 0.01 0.79 MSCI EAFE Net Dividend Index -14.45 0.87 1.54 4.67 **Emerging Market Stock** \$3,922,578 0.45% -21.78 -2.31 -2.18 Blended Benchmark -20.09 -2.69 -1.48 **Real Estate Stock** \$5,819,933 0.38% -26.41 -0.67 3.18 6.18 Dow Jones U.S. Select REIT Index -1.37 5.74 -25.96 2.50 **Bond Index** \$16,714,175 0.35% -13.37 -2.48 -0.08 0.72 Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index -13.01 -2.71 0.02 1.06 3.13 **High Yield Bond** \$5,299,975 0.48% -12.00 -1.26 1.36 Bloomberg U.S. High Yield Net Return Index -13.60 -0.70 1.49 3.61 **Short-Term Income** 0.01 0.60 \$18,977,608 0.33% -3.64 0.91 0.74 0.65 Bloomberg U.S. Treasury: 1-3 Year -3.82 -0.46 Stable Value \$64,585,025 0.58% 1.69 1.93 1.99 1.93

1.47

0.73

ICE BofA US 3 Month Treasury Bill Index G001

TOTAL

\$355,290,884

# **APPENDIX**

#### **Investment Decision Making Roles and Responsibilities**

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|---|--|
| 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<br>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<br>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>   |

#### **Organizational Chart**

#### Brian LaVictoire Jeb Burns Lori Smith **Deputy General Counsel for Chief Investment Officer** Office Administrator **Investments & Compliance** Industry Experience: 32 Years Industry Experience: 12 Years Industry Experience: 7 Years With MERS: 7 Years With MERS: 23 Years With MERS: 7 Years · Investment Policy · Office Management • Legal Compliance Board Directives . Liaison to MERS Board and Investment Committee . Investment Management and Vendor Agreements · Strategic Initiatives · Legal Research . Coordinates Department Activities Legislative Public Outreach . Securities Fraud Matters • Administrative Support to the CIO Alternative Investments · Scheduling/Travel • Portfolio Review Committee Chair • Risk and Compliance Committee Chair • Investment Committee Member Peter Wujkowski Lauren Dabkowski Investment and **Investment Officer and** Portfolio Manager Administrative Officer Ed Mikolay **Managing Director** Industry Experience: 32 Years Industry Experience: 8 Years of Private Markets With MERS: 12 Years With MERS: 5 Years Internal Portfolio Monitoring Industry Experience: 22 Years • Investment Research and Analysis Operational/Compliance Management With MERS: 10 Years • External Manager Monitoring and Selection · Custody Bank Liaison Real Estate Management Risk Management · Cash Management/Monitoring • Internal Asset Management · Private Equity/Infrastructure Management • Investment Manager Monitoring/Liaison - Private Markets • External Manager Monitoring and Selection • Risk and Compliance Committee Member • Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member · Private Investments Analysis Risk Management • Operational Management • Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member Paul Van Gilder Senior Investment Officer and Ryan Torgerson Michael Charette Portfolio Manager **Investment Analyst Managing Director** Industry Experience: 10 Years of Investments Industry Experience: 3 Years With MERS: 10 Years Industry Experience: 23 Years With MERS: 1 Years • Investment Asset Management With MERS: 21 Years • Investment Research and Analysis • Fixed Income Portfolio Management • Participant Directed Accounts Investment Menu • External Manager Monitoring and Selection • EFT Management and Trading Institutional Funds Investment Menu · Risk Management Asset Allocation . Internal Asset Management . Internal Asset Management Capital Markets - Equity - Private Markets Real Asset Strategies - Fixed Income · Private Investments Analysis Currency . MERS Leadership Team · Operational Management · External Manager Monitoring and Selection • Investment Research and Analysis • Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member • External Manager Monitoring and Selection • Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member Furat Zomay **Investment Analyst** Michael Schrauben Internship Program **Director of Asset Allocation** Industry Experience: 5 Years With MERS: 4 Years · Compile monthly management reports Industry Experience: 17 Years Investment Research and Analysis · Assist analysts/PMs on projects With MERS: 17 Years · Portfolio Management Support · Data management · Internal Asset Management . Investment Reporting and Performance · Investment Research · Plan Asset Allocation and Risk Management · Cash Management/Monitoring • Investment Research and Analysis · Operational/Compliance Management • External Manager Monitoring and Selection · Custody Bank Liaison

#### **Guiding Principles**

Investment Policy Development

• Portfolio Review Committee Voting Member

- 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.

This publication contains a summary description of MERS benefits, policies or procedures. MERS has made every effort to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date as of 12/31/2022. If this publication conflicts with the relevant provisions of the Plan Document, the Plan Document Controls. MERS, as a governmental plan, is exempted by state and federal law from registration with the SEC. However, it employs registered investment advisors to manage the trust fund in compliance with Michigan Public Employee Retirement System Investment Act. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Please make independent investment decisions carefully and seek the assistance of independent experts when appropriate.

