## ITEM 1 COVER PAGE



# GREEN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, INC.

# Firm Brochure

(Part 2A of Form ADV)

March 28, 2025

 $500~West~7^{th}~Street,~Ste.~827$  Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Phone: (800) 950-8004 or (817) 335-1178

www.GIMLink.com

This Form ADV 2A ("Disclosure Brochure") provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Green Investment Management, Inc. ("GIM"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Disclosure Brochure, please contact us at the phone number listed above or email us at compliance@gimlink.com. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by any state securities authority.

GIM is registered as an investment adviser with its home state, the State of Texas. GIM is also registered in the States of Maryland, and California. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an adviser.

Additional information about GIM also is available at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching for our firm or by our CRD#109695.

## ITEM 2 MATERIAL CHANGES

#### **UPDATE**

This section of the brochure summarizes any significant changes that have been made to the brochure since its last release. This is necessary to keep you up to date with any changes to our policies, practices, or potential conflicts of interest. This section will help you decide whether to review each new release of the brochure in its entirety or contact us with questions about any changes.

#### **SUMMARY OF MATERIAL CHANGES**

Material changes in this brochure since our last Annual ADV Amendment filed on March 28, 2024, are as follows:

- 1. On page 8, under "Assets Under Management", an update was made to the number of discretionary assets under management as of December 31, 2024.
- 2. On page 10, under "Other Fees and Expenses", descriptions of other fees charged by custodians, broker-dealers and other third parties are updated.
- 3. On pages 13, 14 and 15, three new models offered by Green Investment Management are described. The models are the: Guardian Equity Managed Risk, GIM Strategic Global Equity and Guardian Crypto Plus.
- 4. On page 18, under "Risks", disclosures have been updated largely reflecting the risks associated with the newly introduced models.

We will ensure that clients receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent brochures within 120 days of the close of our fiscal year. We will further provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary without charge.

#### REQUEST A BROCHURE

If you would like to receive the latest copy of this brochure, please contact us by telephone at (800) 950-8004 or (817) 335-1178, or by email at Compliance@GIMlink.com. Additional information about Green Investment Management and persons affiliated with us is also available at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> by searching for our firm or by our CRD#109695.

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## ITEM 4 ADVISORY BUSINESS

#### FIRM DESCRIPTION & PRINCIPAL OWNERS

At Green Investment Management, Inc. (GIM), managing assets has been our business since our founding in 1984. As a privately-owned corporation based in Fort Worth, Texas, we are known for our asset allocation strategies and risk-sensitive investment philosophy. Our clients are generally referred to us through representatives of broker-dealer firms and investment adviser firms ("Advisors"). In cases where clients come to us with no Advisor, we will work with them directly. We engage an unaffiliated investment manager, or "Outside Strategist", to assist us with the management of some of our investment strategies (the "Outside Strategist" provide information only, as GIM maintains management and has discretion over the strategies). We believe our firm's long-term success comes from a conservative investment philosophy and a recognition that we can only grow by serving our clients' needs effectively. Our company is directly owned by the President and founder, Byron Green.

GIM registered with the State of California, Department of Business Oversight in 2017.

## **TYPES OF ADVISORY SERVICES OFFERED**

Our firm provides continuous advice to our clients regarding the investment of their funds based on their individual needs.

Because we believe that asset allocation is the most important determinant of your portfolio's return, we offer a wide choice of asset allocation and investment strategies, which we refer to as "Models." These Models, while varying in their asset allocation approaches and risk/return profiles, consistently apply sound investment processes and disciplined thinking.

We believe the optimum asset allocation mix will change over time as the markets and the economies of the world change. So many of the Models we offer are managed using a sensible blend of fundamental and technical investment analysis to guide ongoing changes in their composition. The investment strategy followed by each Model is explained in more detail in the section titled "Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss".

Just as your objectives and risk tolerance are unique to you as a client, each Model offered through GIM has a unique risk/return profile. You can select an existing model that fits your risk/return needs or customize your strategy further by combining multiple Models within one or more investment accounts (each an "Account") or collective Accounts to create a "Portfolio" that is unique to your requirements.

As a client, your Advisor will guide you in these decisions and contact you at least annually to ascertain if your Portfolio remains suitable for your specific situation. GIM manages your Portfolio according to the Model or selected mix of Models you have chosen.

We offer several different Models. Each Model is diversified among one or more asset classes, such as: (1) domestic stocks, (2) international stocks, (3) domestic bonds (4) international bonds, (5) cash investments such as money market mutual funds, and (6) alternative assets.

Depending on the Model(s) you choose and any limitations you may impose on your Account, our Models typically invest in mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), exchange traded notes (ETNs), closed-end funds, variable annuity sub-accounts or other investment products whose values are determined on at least a daily basis, including money market mutual funds, interest bearing accounts and cash.

Generally, each Model will differ in two primary ways:

- 1. By the diversity and relative weights of the asset classes included in the Model, and,
- 2. The strategy and constraints used to adjust the mix of assets.

The differences in Models reflect varying tradeoffs between expected returns and acceptable risks. You may prefer to maximize expected returns by investing in riskier assets, while others may prefer to minimize risk. Most select a Model or combination of models somewhere in between that reflects the most appropriate risk/return tradeoff for their situation. With the assistance of your Advisor, you can customize an investment strategy by selecting one or more Models to include in your Portfolio.

Prior to engaging us to provide our investment services, you will be required to enter into a formal investment advisory agreement with GIM setting forth the terms and conditions under which we will manage your assets. The

investment advisory agreement between GIM, you and your Advisor (when applicable) will continue in effect until terminated by either party by written notice in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

This is how it works:

We offer Models which GIM manages directly as well as those we manage with the input of a reputable Outside Strategist, Saratoga Capital Management. In this way, you are given access to a broad array of investment options and management styles.

GIM has two roles, we administer or manage the entire investment program, plus we are one of the Strategists involved in managing individual Models available through the program.

GIM monitors the performance of the Outside Strategist and exercises final discretion over all the Models available in the program, even those bearing the name of the Outside Strategist. The Strategist provides us with ongoing recommendations and investment advice regarding the Models bearing its name. They do not take your individual objectives into consideration and GIM is solely responsible for the decision to implement the Strategist's recommendations.

GIM faces a potential conflict of interest because we are unlikely to remove our own Models from a program that we ourselves manage. The Outside Strategist might be removed if they are not meeting performance expectations or providing consistent direction. To deal with this conflict, we give you and your Advisor easy-to-read risk and return statements so you can compare all the Models offered through the program on an objective basis and decide for yourselves which to include in your portfolio.

We manage your assets within a custodial, or third party, account. So when you invest with us, you open an account with either Charles Schwab & Company ("Schwab"), AXOS Advisor Services ("AXOS"), or another qualified independent Custodian you have selected. You deposit or transfer your funds into that account for GIM to manage. The Custodian you have selected shall hold your securities and cash and send you account statements at least quarterly detailing your individual Account(s), including portfolio holdings and market prices, all transactions (such as trades, cash contributions and withdrawals, in kind transfers of securities, interest and dividend or capital gains payments) and fee deductions for each individual Client Account. We then purchase and sell securities through the selected custodian(s) on your behalf.

Clients can inquire about their current holdings and the value of their Accounts daily by web-based access. The Custodian may also send a Transaction Acknowledgement to the Client for all cash contributions, withdrawals and in-kind transfers as they occur.

GIM provides you with quarterly statements detailing the market value of your holdings, the positions you hold, your returns for the quarter and the advisory fees due for the next quarter. Additionally, we make daily account statements available via <a href="https://www.GIMLink.com">www.GIMLink.com</a> with secure login.

The Custodians will mail a letter of acknowledgement confirming the establishment of an Account and receipt of assets, separately to the Account's address of record. Clients are strongly encouraged to review all statements, acknowledgements and correspondence sent by the Custodian.

If your assets are held at AXOS or SCHWAB and you select Models that are investing in:

- Mutual funds Your Account will be invested in no-load and/or load-waived mutual funds. The Model(s) will be invested consistent with the allocations provided by GIM or the Outside Strategist. The Outside Strategist composes its Models utilizing only those mutual funds managed by them or an affiliate of their firm.
- ETFs, ETNs or closed-end funds (called collectively Exchange Traded Product "ETPs") Your Account will be invested in one or more of these ETPs consistent with the allocations provided by GIM or the Outside Strategist. ETPs are traded daily at market determined prices on a national exchange in a similar manner to stocks. GIM's trading practices are discussed further in the Brokerage Practices section.

In some cases, your account may be invested in a combination of ETFs, ETNs or closed-end funds (called collectively Exchange Traded Product "ETPs") and no-load and/or load-waived mutual funds. Unless otherwise restricted by you, the Account may also include non-mutual fund or non-ETF investments, as applicable. For example, non-mutual fund investments could be cash equivalents held by your Account.

In some cases, you may already own investments which are suitable to be managed, but that are not held at AXOS or SCHWAB. We may be able work with these types of investments if they are held with a qualified custodian as listed

in our product guide. You will simply need to execute the documents required to grant us discretion to trade these securities, subject to any written limitations you may want to impose. GIM will additionally be able to buy, sell and trade for your Account any of the other investments mentioned above. Since, in this instance, you already own the investments, they may or may not have been subject to a sales charge, but any subsequent additions into load investments may incur sales charges. This would be the case whether GIM is providing its management service or not. Also, depending on the person involved in the original sale, an Advisor responsible for referring the client to GIM might receive commissions on the additional investment.

If you have an existing investment in a variable annuity, we may be able to manage the allocation of its annuity sub-accounts within one of our Models. GIM may have the ability to select among those specific variable annuity sub-accounts included in the prospectus delivered to you by the variable annuity issuer. But GIM has not selected the sub-accounts available in the variable annuity, and GIM is unable to add or remove sub-accounts. The list of sub-accounts may be revised by each variable annuity issuer.

In cases where a client does not have an Advisor, GIM serves as both the Advisor and Manager for the client and is compensated for both roles by its management fee listed in Item 5.

#### Retirement Rollovers - Conflict of Interest

As a registered investment adviser, GIM is a fiduciary to every client. This means we are always obligated to act in your best interests. When our firm provides advice to you regarding your employer-sponsored retirement plan, Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or other qualified retirement plan, we may also be considered by the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service to be acting as a fiduciary under Title I of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code.

If you have left the employment of a former employer and would like GIM to evaluate your options regarding retirement plan assets, GIM can do so. Typically you have four options regarding the existing retirement plan (and may engage in a combination of these options): (1) leave the money in the former employer's plan, if permitted, (2) roll over the assets to the new employer's plan, if one is available and rollovers are permitted, (3) roll over to an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"), or (4) cash out the account value (which could, depending upon your age, result in adverse tax consequences). Upon your request for an evaluation, if GIM recommends that you rollover your retirement plan assets into an account to be managed by GIM, such a recommendation creates a conflict of interest if GIM will earn new (or increase its current) compensation because of the rollover. As a fiduciary this would be prohibited, but GIM relies on an exemption provided by the Department of Labor's "Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2020-02", adopted in December 2020. Under this special rule's provisions, GIM is required to do the following on your behalf:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations by providing prudent advice;
- Never put our financial interests ahead of yours when making recommendations;
- Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that we give advice that is in your best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for our services; and
- Give you basic information about conflicts of interest.

These fiduciary obligations include requirements that we disclose our services and fees, and the reasons our recommendations are in your best interests.

We consider advice to you about 'rollovers' includes any guidance we give about account types, investments, or investment strategies with respect to the assets to be rolled over. Our duty to monitor extends to all personalized advice we provide to you, including an evaluation of whether the selected account or program type continues to be in your best interest.

In most cases, GIM does not advise regarding rollovers. Any recommendation is made by your introducing investment adviser or broker-dealer representative. In such an event, the introducing broker-dealer or investment adviser shall have the responsibility for compliance with the above disclosure obligation and the fiduciary requirements applicable to recommending rollovers.

You are under no obligation to roll over retirement plan assets to an account managed by GIM, whether it is from an employer's plan or an existing IRA. GIM's Chief Compliance Officer, Byron Green, is available during normal business

hours to address any questions you may have regarding the conflict of interest presented by such rollover recommendation.

#### **NEWSLETTER**

As a client, you will have access to our periodic newsletter reviewing the current economic and investment climate and discussing the outlook for the future.

## **OPENING AN ACCOUNT**

The process of opening an account generally begins after your Advisor consults with you to assess your financial situation, investing history, tolerance for risk, and to identify your investment objectives. You and your Advisor then select one or more of GIM's Models that best meet your financial needs and objectives.

## **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

As a client you may impose restrictions upon GIM from investing in certain securities or types of securities for your account that are reasonable considering the advisory services being provided. These restrictions must be submitted in writing to us as part of the investment advisory agreement. Requests for such restrictions are reviewed by GIM to ensure that they are reasonable and will not unduly impair our ability to achieve your stated investment objectives or cause your investment performance to significantly deviate from other clients holding the same Model.

## **ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT**

As of December 31, 2024, GIM managed \$60,659,991 in client assets on a discretionary basis and \$0.00 in client assets on a non-discretionary basis. GIM has 143 clients.

## ITEM 5 FEES AND COMPENSATION

## **STANDARD FEE SCHEDULE**

Management fees vary depending upon the investment program and the Model(s) chosen. The standard management fee schedules for accounts held at AXOS Advisor Services and Charles Schwab & Company are shown on the following charts:

	Management Fees						
Client Account Value	GIM Cash Plus Model	Confident Retirement Plan Models	GIM Guardian Models	GIM Tax-Aware Models	Saratoga Models	GIM Global Strategic Models *	All Models Managed at Mutual Fund Co.'s and Annuities
First \$250,000	0.25%	0.50%	0.95%	0.55%	0.65%	0.50%	1.00%
Next \$250,000	0.25%	0.50%	0.85%	0.55%	0.65%	0.50%	1.00%
Next \$500,000	0.25%	0.50%	0.75%	0.45%	0.55%	0.45%	.75%
Next \$4 million	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%	0.45%	0.40%	.50%
Over \$5 million	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.35%	0.40%	0.35%	.50%

<sup>\*</sup> Restricted Availability

The management fees charged by GIM vary based on the strategies/models that are chosen by the client or recommended by GIM, its supervised persons or independent advisors. Since compensation can vary based upon the strategies chosen, this can present a conflict of interest. This conflict of interest is disclosed here, within this disclosure document and directly below the fee schedule on the advisory agreement signed by the client. (Item 4, discusses the use of no-load funds)

## **BILLING METHOD**

GIM's management fee and your Advisor's fee (if applicable) for an existing Account are based upon your Account values as of the last day of the preceding quarter and are payable quarterly, in advance, for the upcoming calendar quarter at the annual rates indicated above.

For the initial deposit to your Account and for any subsequent, additional amounts deposited, GIM's management fee and your Advisor's fee (if applicable) will be based on your Account valuation on the date the Custodian receives your money and/or securities and will be payable in advance for the remainder of the current quarter on a pro rata basis.

Initial and any renewal billings will be invoiced to you and subsequently deducted from your Account (unless you elect to pay the fee by check) for payment to GIM and your Advisor (if applicable). GIM will handle the billing and payment of all fees collected for GIM and the Advisor (if applicable).

GIM and your Adviser (if applicable) reserve(s) the right to negotiate their respective fees at their own discretion and as a result, clients with similar assets may have differing fee schedules and pay different fees. Advisor's fees generally mirror GIM's Standard Management Fees but have in practice ranged from 0 to 1.25%. Clients who negotiate a flat fee schedule may or may not pay a higher fee than those who pay under a tiered schedule, depending on asset levels. GIM may offer reduced fees to employees and their families. GIM hereby advises you that similar or more comprehensive services may, from time to time, be available to you at a lower cost from other investment advisers. We further advise you that investments purchased on your behalf in most cases could be purchased by you directly without incurring GIM's management fee and your Advisor's Fee (if applicable).

Generally, if you invest in one or more Models and/or have multiple Accounts comprising your Portfolio, you will be given credit for the aggregate billable balances of your entire Portfolio when computing the fees applicable across Models and accounts.

At the discretion of GIM, the values of related Accounts you have under management with us may be grouped together for purposes of reducing the overall management fee being charged to your related Accounts.

GIM may reduce its fees for advisers who maintain a significant level of assets under management with GIM. This arrangement could affect GIM's willingness to negotiate fees with you or other Clients.

Payment of GIM's management fee and your Advisor Fee (if applicable) to GIM may be made by a qualified custodian only when the following criteria are met: 1) Your funds are held with the qualified custodian, 2) You have provided written authorization to GIM permitting the fees to be paid directly from their Account, 3) The qualified custodian sends at least a quarterly statement to Client showing the advisory fees paid directly to GIM as well as any other disbursements from the Account.

GIM's compensation is 100% derived from Management Fees. GIM is not compensated by commissions. GIM does not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products, including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

## **TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

You can rescind GIM's advisory agreement for a complete refund of GIM's management fee and the Advisor's Fee (if applicable) within five (5) business days after execution of the agreement. After this, either party can terminate the advisory agreement by giving at least ten (10) days prior notice in writing to the other party. Collected but unearned GIM management fees and Advisor fees (if applicable) are refundable to you on a pro rata basis if this happens. If your Account is to be liquidated as a result of a termination notice, we may take up to five (5) trading days to complete the liquidation following the date the liquidation request was received by GIM. If a transaction occurs during this period within the normal scope of managing your Account, your Account may or may not be reallocated, for which GIM will not be held responsible. Thereafter, we will not change the invested position of your investments unless instructed by you or your Advisor. Proceeds will be payable to you within five (5) business days of liquidation. (Note: You are not required to terminate any variable annuity contract or liquidate a mutual fund account to terminate our management service. Should you decide to terminate such a contract or account, a surrender/redemption charge or penalty may be imposed by your annuity or fund provider.)

## **OTHER FEES AND EXPENSES**

Besides the management fees you pay, AXOS Advisor Services ("AXOS") and Charles Schwab & Company ("SCHWAB") will charge you extra fees. These additional fees can be based on the assets in your account or based on individual transactions. The extra fees cover custodial services, which involve holding your assets, as well as execution services for carrying out trades.

GIM may keep some cash available in your account instead of being fully invested. This allows them to make income payments to you or reallocate your portfolio as needed. However, keeping that cash buffer means the uninvested portion will earn less than if it were fully invested, providing a potentially lower return. Some expenses are inherent within the investments held in your Accounts. Mutual funds, ETPs and variable annuities pay management fees to their investment advisers, and certain funds and bank money market accounts have other types of fees or charges, including 12b-1, administrative or shareholder servicing fees, bank servicing or certain other fees, which may be reflected in the net asset value of these types of investments held in your Accounts. These expenses are borne by all investors holding such securities in their Accounts and are separate from GIM's management fee, and your Advisor's fee (if applicable) or other charges.

Saratoga Capital Management, LLC is currently the only available Outside Strategist in GIM's investment program. Saratoga receives compensation from the internal management fees charged on mutual funds held within Saratoga Models as disclosed in the Saratoga Advantage Trust Prospectus. These expenses are borne by all investors holding such securities in their Accounts and are separate from GIM's management fee and you Advisor's fee (if applicable) or other charges.

Some mutual funds or variable annuity sub-accounts may charge short-term redemption fees. Currently, GIM seeks to avoid investing in such funds to the extent practicable, but avoidance of these fees is not guaranteed.

In addition to our management or program fees, you will incur separate fees and expenses charged by custodians, broker-dealers, and other third parties. These may include brokerage commissions, transaction fees, custodial fees, wire transfer fees, and other related costs. These fees are separate from and in addition to the advisory fees charged by GIM. You should review all fees charged by our firm, custodians, and others to fully understand the total cost of services. Information regarding custodial fees can be obtained directly from the custodian. Upon request, we can assist you in obtaining the custodian's current fee schedule

You should be aware that the management or program fees charged by GIM or your Advisor's fee, separately or collectively may be higher or lower than those charged by others in the industry and that it may be possible to obtain the same or similar services from other investment advisers at lower or higher rates. You may be able to obtain some or all of the types of services available through GIM on an "unbundled" basis through other firms and, depending on the circumstances, the aggregate of any separately-paid fees may be lower or higher than the annual fees shown above. Clients may be able to purchase these products from other brokers or agents who are not affiliated with GIM.

You should also be aware that the Advisors recommending GIM's advisory services may receive compensation as a result of Clients' contracting with GIM for these services. As discussed on page 9, Advisers reserve the right to negotiate their respective fees at their own discretion and as a result, clients with similar assets may have differing fee schedules and pay different fees.

You should be aware that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources. You should also be aware that you have the option to purchase investment products that are recommended through other brokers or agents that are not affiliated with GIM.

GIM may pay registered investment advisor firms for providing investment advisor representative services on behalf of GIM. Clients will pay no more for GIM's services as a result of this. Compensation is paid from GIM's management fees.

GIM discourages what would be deemed excessive fees, combined Management and Advisory fees should not exceed 3% annually. Management and Advisory fees billed may be either deducted from the client's account or paid by check. This decision is made at the discretion of the client(s).

## ITEM 6 PERFORMANCE BASED FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT

GIM does not charge any performance-based fees in which we receive a share of the capital gains on your assets. We feel these types of fees encourage excessive risk-taking by managers.

## ITEM 7 TYPES OF CLIENTS

GIM provides investment advice for many different types of clients, including individuals, pension and profit-sharing plans, trusts or estates, charitable organizations, corporations, business entities and outside Registered Investment Advisors.

## **ACCOUNT REQUIREMENTS**

A minimum of \$25,000 of assets per account and per Model selected by you is required for starting and maintaining this service. In addition, there is a limit of three (3) Models that you may select per account (i.e., each account having a different Custodial account number) maintained with AXOS and a limit of one (1) Model that you may select per account at SCHWAB in order to build your portfolio. Under certain circumstances the minimum account size, minimum Model size and maximum Model count may be waived at GIM's discretion.

If for any reason your Account value falls below GIM's required minimums, GIM may request you to correct the deficiency.

Since our investment strategies are designed for long-term investors, you may request a change in the proportion of their Account allocated to one or more Models once every 90 calendar days. This limitation may be waived at GIM's sole discretion. This does not restrict you from taking distributions, making contributions or closing your accounts at any time. Requests for model changes provided to GIM by 11:00 AM Central Standard Time will be completed on a best-efforts basis by GIM as soon as practical, usually on the same day.

## ITEM 8 METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

#### **METHODS OF ANALYSIS**

Because we believe that asset allocation is the most important determinant of your portfolio's return, we offer a wide choice of asset allocation and investment strategies, which we refer to as "Models." These Models, while varying in their asset allocation approaches and risk/return profiles, consistently apply sound investment processes and disciplined thinking.

We believe the optimum asset allocation mix will change over time as the markets and the economies of the world change. So many of the Models we offer are managed using a sensible blend of fundamental, technical and quantitative investment analysis to guide the changes in their composition.

To aid us in our investment decisions, we monitor fundamental, technical and quantitative data and independent research from multiple sources. We analyze this to determine if there should be any changes to the Models under management in response to changing market or economic conditions.

In addition to the Models managed by GIM, we provide access to expertise outside of our own with the availability of Models advised by an Outside Strategist. This Strategist makes recommendations to us regarding how their Models should be invested. The frequency of these recommendations varies depending on market and economic conditions. GIM remains solely responsible for the decision to implement the recommendations of the Outside Strategist.

Most of the Models offered through GIM have both strategic targets and tactical ranges that the different asset classes comprising the Model may span within. The strategic target is the base or normal allocation of the portfolio. The tactical ranges are the minimum and maximum exposure that each Model may have in each asset class. For example, the strategic targets and tactical ranges for the GIM Guardian Conservative Balanced Model are listed below:

Asset Class	Strategic	Tactical
Domestic Equities	35%	10%-40%
Foreign Equities	15%	5%-20%
Domestic Bonds	50%	10%-60%
Foreign Bonds		0%-10%
Money Market		0%-75%
Other		0%-20%

Asset class changes will stay within the tactical ranges. For example, considering the tactical range for domestic equities in the strategy is 10% to 40%, GIM may reduce the exposure of the Model to 10% domestic equities if conditions are less favorable for equities. Similarly, when economic and market conditions improve and the risk of holding equities is relatively low, and the potential rewards are correspondingly high, we may increase the exposure in domestic equities to the maximum of 40% allowed in the tactical allocation. The goal of asset class changes is to add value to a Model by balancing relative risks and opportunities. GIM adjusts within the tactical ranges in each

portfolio to take advantage of market conditions. Regardless of the outlook for the investment markets, positions taken on behalf of clients will be within the constraints of their stated investment objectives and risk tolerances.

#### **INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

## **GIM Models**

Models we manage ourselves are divided among the GIM Cash Plus Model, GIM Confident Retirement Plan ('CRP') Models, GIM Guardian Models, GIM Strategic Global Models and GIM Tax Aware Models.

Because of the nature of investment markets, there is no assurance that we will always be able to achieve our objectives in managing these Models and our past performance at this cannot guarantee any specific future performance. Investing involves a risk of loss and you can incur losses.

Below is the full roster of GIM Models:

**GIM Cash Plus Model** – This model invests in a portfolio of ETFs and mutual funds that are diversified across government and credit sectors to vary its sources of returns, limit interest rate risk and optimize client outcomes in a risk-managed framework. Typically, with a 1 to 3-year duration range, the model offers the potential for an attractive yield advantage over money market funds. The Model seeks lower volatility than longer term bond funds through its approach to liquidity management and diversification across multiple bond ETF and mutual fund sectors.

<u>Our Guardian Models</u> are for investors who are concerned about substantial losses that could occur during difficult market periods. We monitor the asset allocation framework of each strategy in this category regularly to ensure the allocation is aligned with evolving investment views amid changing market and economic conditions. We seek to position Guardian Models in a way to minimize significant losses during difficult periods while still providing favorable long-term risk-adjusted returns. We currently offer twelve different Guardian Models:

**Guardian Fixed Income Model** - This Model is diversified mostly among domestic bond funds with a small allocation to foreign bonds periodically. It is a flexible fixed-income strategy tactically allocated in bonds between one end of the yield curve and credit quality spectrum to the other, commensurate with the economy's position in the interest rate cycle. We actively monitor and alter it in an attempt to maximize returns within moderate risk parameters. This allocation is designed for clients who seek relatively high current income while also seeking good risk-adjusted total returns. It may also be suitable for clients requiring higher income with safety and stability. This allocation often uses high yield bond funds. Such funds generally contain non-investment grade bonds (sometimes called "junk bonds".) These usually offer better yields than higher rated bonds with similar maturities. But they are also considered speculative and can involve greater price volatility and risk of loss.

**Guardian Global Balanced Models** (listed below) are global balanced tactical asset allocation strategies that employ a disciplined process to improve the risk and return profile of a diversified mix of both domestic and international stock and bond funds. The strategies seek capital appreciation and income by tactically allocating assets to markets that are, in our opinion, more attractive on a risk adjusted basis. The strategies are implemented predominantly with exchange traded funds and mutual funds. The available Guardian Balanced Models are as follows:

**Guardian Balanced Income Model** - This Model has a strategic target of 70% equities and 30% bonds and is designed to provide a moderate level of current income and moderate growth.

**Guardian Balanced Retirement Income Model** – This Model emphasizes income producing bond and equity investments but also seeks capital appreciation. It has a strategic target of 55% equities and 45% bonds.

**Guardian Conservative Balanced Model** - This Model has a strategic target of 50% equities and 50% bonds and is designed to provide conservative long-term growth with some current income, though less than the Guardian Fixed Income, Guardian Balanced Income and Guardian Balanced Retirement Income allocations.

**Guardian Balanced Model** - This Model has a strategic target of 60% equities and 40% bonds and is designed to provide long-term wealth accumulation with moderate risk and purchasing power protection.

**Guardian Balanced Growth Model** - This Model has a strategic target of 75% equities and 25% bonds and is designed to provide long-term wealth accumulation and purchasing power protection.

**Guardian Balanced Mosaic Model** - This Model has a strategic target of 75% equities and 25% bonds and in addition, 30% of this model is allocated to a domestic sector allocation strategy (described under the

Guardian Sector Model below) to provide a 'mosaic' of investing styles. This Model is designed to provide long-term growth for clients who have some tolerance for variable returns.

**Guardian Global Stock Model** - This Model is a tactical strategy offering diversified exposure to stock markets around the globe, including the United States, developed foreign markets, and emerging markets by investing in a diversified mix of domestic and foreign stock funds. In addition to stock market risk, the fund is also subject to currency risk and country risk. Long-term investors seeking global equity exposure who are comfortable with the volatility inherent in stock market investing may wish to consider this model.

**Guardian Equity Mosaic Model** - This Model is a tactical strategy offering diversified exposure to stock markets around the globe, including the United States, developed foreign markets, and emerging markets by investing in a diversified mix of domestic and foreign stock funds. In addition, 40% of this model is allocated to a domestic sector allocation strategy (described under the Guardian Sector Model below) to provide a 'mosaic' of investing styles. This allocation is designed to provide moderately aggressive long-term growth for clients who have a reasonable tolerance for variable returns.

**Guardian Sector Model** - The Guardian Sector model is an active strategy investing into U.S. equity sector funds based upon a blend of cyclical trends, relative strength, and valuation. The goal is to gain alpha for portfolios by capitalizing on the differing phases of the economic cycle. This strategy is most suitable for clients who have a high tolerance for variable returns who seek aggressive long-term growth.

**Guardian Country Model** - This Model follows an aggressive strategy that involves foreign country or region-specific exchange-traded funds that we believe are demonstrating risk-adjusted relative strength or represent unusual value. The allocation generally invests in equities from 5 to 15 different foreign countries. The objective is to provide foreign equity diversification with enhanced risk-adjusted returns compared to broad foreign equity indexes.

**Guardian Alternatives Model** – This Model offers a comprehensive solution for investors seeking returns through exposure to alternative investments and strategies. The portfolio is invested in ETFs, ETNs, closed-end funds or mutual funds that have been carefully selected with the goal of providing low correlation to traditional stock and bond asset classes. The securities selected invest in non-traditional assets, such as commodities, currencies, Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs), real estate and infrastructure or employ strategies that invest in traditional assets using non-traditional methods, such as short-selling, and leverage. The securities selected may also invest in equities issued by commodity or natural resource companies. The goal of the strategy is to enhance the overall risk and return characteristics of a portfolio by using alternative strategies that have historically exhibited low correlations with traditional asset classes like stocks and bonds.

**Guardian Disruptive Technologies Model** - This model is an active strategy that invests in exchange traded funds that are invested in domestic and international stocks that are engaged in developing, manufacturing, or distributing new technologies that have the potential to alter the way consumers, industries, or businesses operate. Some of the disruptive technologies that may be included in the portfolio are 3D Printing technology, 5G and Improved Connectivity, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Automation and Robotics, Cyber Security Advances, Electric Cars & Battery Technology, Virtual and Augmented Reality, Renewable Technologies, and others. The objective of this strategy is to provide a diversified way for investors to gain exposure to the growth that these new technologies may provide.

**Guardian Equity Managed Risk Model** – This model utilizes buffer exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that are designed to provide equity market exposure while seeking to reduce downside risk. These buffer ETFs typically offer predetermined downside protection (commonly 9-15%) during specific outcome periods, along with capped upside potential that varies based on market conditions and protection levels.

GIM selects and manages buffer ETFs based on protection levels, cap rates, underlying indices, and remaining days in outcome periods. Our approach includes actively adjusting allocations based on market conditions and volatility forecasts, while continuously monitoring buffer levels and cap rates as market conditions evolve.

Clients should understand that protection is limited to the stated buffer amounts, and losses exceeding these levels will affect portfolio value. Additionally, upside potential is capped, potentially limiting returns during strong market rallies. Performance may differ for investors who do not hold for the full outcome period, and the strategy does not eliminate market risk.

This strategy may be appropriate for Clients seeking reduced equity market volatility, those approaching or in retirement who need growth with enhanced risk management, or portfolios requiring a more measured approach to equity exposure. While buffer ETFs offer potential advantages over traditional structured products (including greater transparency, improved liquidity, and reduced counterparty risk), all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Buffer ETFs limit losses only up to stated buffer amounts and do not protect against losses beyond these levels.

Guardian Crypto Plus Model (GC Plus) – This model is an investment strategy designed to provide investors with exposure to the cryptocurrency market through a diversified portfolio of exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The GC Plus Model employs a strategic asset allocation approach, targeting approximately 70% in Direct Crypto ETFs—investing in cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, either through physical holdings or futures contracts—and 30% in Crypto-Related ETFs, which focus on companies within the cryptocurrency ecosystem, such as blockchain developers, mining operations, and exchanges. This blend aims to create a well-balanced crypto allocation, capturing the growth potential of digital assets while diversifying across the broader crypto economy. GIM actively monitors and periodically rebalances the Model, adapting to market conditions, regulatory shifts, and technological advancements to align with its objectives of diversification, risk management, and accessibility via the ETF structure.

#### **Potential Benefits**

The GC Plus Model offers several advantages, including diversified exposure to both leading cryptocurrencies and innovative crypto-related companies, providing a comprehensive stake in the sector's growth potential. The ETF structure enhances liquidity, transparency, and ease of access, eliminating the complexities and security concerns of direct cryptocurrency ownership. Professional management by GIM simplifies navigating the dynamic crypto landscape, while the regulated nature of ETFs may appeal to investors seeking a structured approach to this emerging asset class. Historically, the cryptocurrency market has shown significant long-term growth opportunities, which may benefit investors with a tolerance for volatility.

#### **Potential Risks**

Investing in the GC Plus Model carries substantial risks due to the speculative nature of cryptocurrencies. High volatility can lead to extreme price swings and significant short-term losses, while the nascent crypto market remains susceptible to speculative bubbles, technological disruptions, and regulatory uncertainty, all of which could adversely affect performance. Concentration risk persists despite diversification efforts, as the Model focuses solely on the crypto sector, and liquidity risks may arise during market stress, impacting ETF trading efficiency. Additional risks include emerging technology vulnerabilities (e.g., blockchain security breaches), counterparty risks in derivative-based ETFs, and potential tracking errors, all of which could result in a partial or total loss of principal.

#### Suitability and Allocation Considerations

The GC Plus Model is best suited for investors with a high-risk tolerance, a long-term investment horizon (5+ years), and a desire to diversify their portfolios with crypto exposure as a satellite position. Given its volatility and speculative nature, investors should limit allocations to a small portion of their total investable assets—typically 1% to 10%, depending on individual circumstances—to balance potential rewards with inherent risks. GIM advises Clients to assess their financial goals, risk capacity, and overall portfolio composition, consulting with their Advisor or directly with GIM to determine an appropriate allocation, if any, to this high-risk strategy. Performance is expected to be volatile, with significant drawdowns possible, making the Model suitable only for those prepared to withstand fluctuations in pursuit of long-term growth in the evolving cryptocurrency and blockchain sectors.

<u>CRP Income Bucket Model</u> – This Model is part of an offering we call 'The Confident Retirement Plan'. It is based on a proven strategy used for years by advisors assisting clients with their critical income needs. With the help of your advisor, your investment portfolio is divided into two "buckets," the 'Income Bucket' (i.e., CRP Income Bucket Model) and the 'Growth Bucket'. The Income Bucket holds the portion of your wealth that is intended to fund your retirement income or some other predictable future need. This bucket is designed to provide both a predictable stream of income and a defined maturity to match your liabilities. The Growth Bucket is designed with the goal to be the growth engine of your portfolio. Since it will not be needed to fund your retirement income needs or other

important future liabilities for a predetermined period of years, these assets can be invested with an emphasis toward growth. In addition, growth from this bucket is intended to replace any funds depleted from the Income Bucket over the predetermined period.

Because of the critical importance of the income the Income Bucket provides, this Model is comprised of high quality, diversified and relatively conservative investments. It is invested in multiple, investment grade, defined-maturity bond ETFs (sometimes called DMFs) and personalized to fit your specific needs. DMFs combine key features of both individual bonds and bond funds. Like individual bonds, DMFs have a known maturity date, yet like traditional bond funds or exchange traded funds they provide greater diversification potential than individual bonds. Because each DMF has a predefined maturity date designed to coincide with your annual retirement income needs or other liabilities, both interest rate risk and liquidity risk are reduced. Essentially, you can have a DMF maturing each year for a predetermined number of years, to coincide with your liabilities. This is often called a bond ladder. Bond ladders are how institutional investors, such as insurance companies and pension plans, have been matching their investment flows with their cash needs for years.

Building a bond ladder in individual bonds can be expensive and time-consuming for retail investors. However, DMFs solve many of these problems. They may reduce costs by trading over the exchanges and minimize credit risk by spreading your investment over numerous issuers. And because bond ladder ETFs have small purchase minimums, they are very easy to tailor to your specific income and diversification needs. GIM will work with you and your Advisor to tailor an Income Bucket specifically to your needs.

The Growth Bucket does not refer to a specific Model but can be comprised of one or more of the investment models available through GIM. Keep in mind it is intended to be the growth engine of your portfolio. Since it will not be needed to fund your retirement income needs or other important future liabilities for a predetermined period of years, these assets can be invested with an emphasis toward growth. In addition, growth from this bucket is intended to replace any funds depleted from the Income Bucket over the predetermined period, so it should be selected thoughtfully with the guidance of your advisor.

<u>Our Strategic Models</u> are for long-term, cost conscious, value-oriented investors. They are broadly diversified and designed to be strategic rather than tactical in nature, and therefore holdings are not altered as frequently in response to short term changes in the markets. We currently offer two different Strategic Models on a <u>restricted</u> basis:

**Strategic Global Balanced Model -** We designed this Model for investors seeking to benefit over the long term from a diverse combination of investment approaches, including passive holdings around an active core. As the name implies, the positions are global in nature and comprise a balance of stock and fixed income as well as a small cash component. We provide rebalancing services for the Model relative to its neutral position weightings. Because it usually remains fully invested through various market environments, it is best suited for investors who have moderate risk tolerance.

**Strategic Global Balanced Tax Aware Model –** We designed this Model for investors seeking to benefit over the long term from a diverse combination of investment approaches including passive holdings around an active core. It is like the Strategic Global Balanced Model but managed for tax efficiency using investments such as municipal securities. We will provide rebalancing services for the Model relative to its neutral position weightings. Because it will usually remain fully invested in various market environments, it is best suited for investors with moderate risk tolerance.

**Strategic Global Equity Model -** We designed this Model for investors seeking to benefit over the long term from a diverse combination of investment approaches, including passive holdings around an active core. As the name implies, the positions are global in nature and comprise a balance of domestic and foreign stocks as well as a small cash component. We provide rebalancing services for the Model relative to its neutral position weightings. Because it usually remains fully invested through various market environments, it is best suited for investors who have moderate risk tolerance.

<u>Our Tax Aware Models</u> are for investors who want a Model managed with an eye toward tax benefits and focused on post-tax, rather than pre-tax, earnings. We currently offer four different Tax Aware Models:

**GIM Tax-Free Bond Model –** This strategy seeks to provide current income exempt from federal income tax by investing in a diversified mix of domestic tax-free bond funds of varying maturities. This strategy may be suitable for investors that are in a high-income tax bracket and are seeking tax-free income.

**GIM Tax Aware 50-50 Model** (50% stock/50% fixed income) is for investors who want a strategy that is managed with an eye toward post-tax, rather than pre-tax, returns. Its fully tax-aware strategy is about more than simply holding municipal bonds. For instance, turnover is an important consideration since short term gains are taxed more heavily than long term ones. Qualified dividends are taxed at a lower rate than income distributions, and stock funds may have both taxable and tax-deferred shareholders. The Tax Aware 50/50 is managed with these considerations in mind. We designed it for investors who seek long term growth in after-tax wealth. Since it generally maintains a significant exposure to stocks, it is for the investor who can tolerate moderate risk.

**GIM Tax Aware 60-40 Model** (60% stock/40% fixed income) is for investors who want a strategy that is managed with an eye toward post-tax, rather than pre-tax, returns. Its fully tax-aware strategy is about more than simply holding municipal bonds. For instance, turnover is an important consideration since short term gains are taxed more heavily than long term ones. Qualified dividends are taxed at a lower rate than income distributions, and stock funds may have both taxable and tax-deferred shareholders. The Tax Aware 60/40 is managed with these considerations in mind. We designed it for investors who seek long term growth in after-tax wealth. Since it generally maintains a majority exposure to stocks, it is for the investor who can tolerate some risk.

**GIM Tax Aware 75-25 Model** (75% equity/25% fixed income) is for investors who want a strategy that is managed with an eye toward post-tax, rather than pre-tax, returns. Its fully tax-aware strategy is about more than simply holding municipal bonds. For instance, turnover is an important consideration since short term gains are taxed more heavily than long term ones. Qualified dividends are taxed at a lower rate than income distributions, and stock funds may have both taxable and tax-deferred shareholders. The Tax Aware 75/25 is managed with these considerations in mind. We designed it for investors who seek long term growth in after-tax wealth. Since it generally maintains a heavy exposure to equities, it is for the investor who can tolerate risk.

## **OUTSIDE STRATEGIST MODELS**

Following is the current list of Models we manage with input from Outside Strategists:

## Strategist - Saratoga Capital Management, LLC ("Saratoga")

Saratoga Capital Management, LLC ("Saratoga"), founded in 1994, believes that asset allocation strategies in a recession should be different than those used in a full growth economy. They recognize that the economy is a fluid process made up of numerous sectors. So Saratoga regularly evaluates how individual sectors are affecting the overall economy. Saratoga employs a team approach with managers who focus on one asset class (e.g., small capitalization stocks) each.

**Saratoga Dynamic Moderate Balanced** Model is a diversified mix of stock, bond and money market mutual funds. It is for the moderately conservative investor.

**Saratoga Dynamic Aggressive Balanced** Model is a diversified mix of stock, stock sector, bond and money market mutual funds for more aggressive investors who seek higher returns than the Dynamic Moderate Balanced Model.

## **LISTING OF ALL AVAILABLE MODELS**

**GIM Cash Plus** 

GIM Guardian Fixed Income

GIM Guardian Balanced Income

GIM Guardian Balanced Retirement Income

GIM Guardian Conservative Balanced

GIM Guardian Balanced

GIM Guardian Balanced Growth

GIM Guardian Balanced Mosaic

**GIM Guardian Global Stock** 

GIM Guardian Equity Mosaic

**GIM Guardian Sector** 

**GIM Guardian Country** 

**GIM Guardian Alternatives** 

**GIM Guardian Disruptive Technologies** 

GIM Guardian Equity Managed Risk

GIM Guardian Crypto Plus

**CRP Income Bucket Model** 

GIM Strategic Global Balanced\*

GIM Strategic Global Balanced Tax-Aware\*

GIM Strategic Global Equity\*

**GIM Tax-Free Bond** 

GIM Tax Aware 50/50

GIM Tax Aware 60/40

GIM Tax Aware 75/25

Saratoga Dynamic Moderate Balanced

Saratoga Dynamic Aggressive Balanced

## **GENERAL RISK OF LOSS STATEMENT**

Prior to entering into an agreement to have your account managed with GIM, you should carefully consider:

- 1. Investing in securities involves risk of loss which you should be prepared to bear;
- 2. Securities markets experience varying degrees of volatility;
- 3. Over time your assets may fluctuate and be worth more or less than the amount you invested; and
- 4. Commit only those assets that you believe will not be needed for current purposes and can be invested on a long-term basis, usually a minimum of five to seven years.

#### **RISKS**

## **Model-Specific Risks**

**Concentrated Investment Risk**: Models focusing on specific market segments (sectors, regions, countries) or investment styles may experience greater volatility and market risk than more diversified portfolios. Models potentially subject to this risk include GIM Guardian Sector, GIM Guardian Country, GIM Guardian Alternatives, GIM Guardian Crypto Plus, GIM Guardian Equity Managed Risk, GIM Guardian Disruptive Technologies and the GIM Confident Retirement Plan Income Bucket Model.

**International Investment Risk**: Models with significant non-U.S. exposure face additional risks including political instability, currency fluctuations, and differing accounting standards. Most GIM Models include international investments.

**Alternative Investment Risk**: Most of the Models offered through GIM have exposure to securities that internally invest in alternative investment strategies, such as real estate, commodities and hedged or absolute return strategies. One common theme to alternative investments is that they are generally expected to have low correlations with traditional investments to increase the diversification benefits to your portfolio. While the allocation to these investments is expected to reduce portfolio risk over time, we cannot be certain that their inclusion in a Model will achieve that objective.

**Index and Leverage Risk**: Most of the Models offered through GIM have some exposure to strategies that internally utilize inverse indexes and leveraged instruments, such as short sales, and options and futures contracts (so-called derivative investments), both on a long and short basis that are designed to have a targeted positive or negative correlation to an underlying index. All these investment strategies introduce risks which are in addition to the traditional market risks of equity or income investing. These strategies are often employed to decrease overall Model downside risk, but GIM and the outside Strategist can offer no guarantee that these strategies will be able to achieve their stated objectives.

**Limited Performance History Risk**: Models with track records under five years may not demonstrate performance across varying market conditions. The GIM Guardian Equity Managed Risk Model, GIM Guardian

<sup>\*</sup>Restricted Availability

Crypto Plus Model, GIM Strategic Global Equity Model, GIM Guardian Balanced Retirement Income Model and the GIM Cash Plus Model have less than five years of actual performance history.

**Fixed Income Risk**: Income investments used in GIM strategies are subject to multiple risks including:

- Interest Rate Risk: Rising rates typically decrease fixed-income values
- Credit/Default Risk: Issuers may fail to meet payment obligations
- Call/Prepayment Risk: Early principal repayment during falling rate environments
- High Yield ("Junk Bond") Risk: Below-investment-grade securities face greater price volatility, liquidity challenges, and default risk

**Buffer ETF Risk**: (Buffer ETFs are used within the Guardian Equity Managed Risk Model) Investments in buffer ETFs face market risk where underlying securities may decline due to economic conditions or volatility despite these products' downside protection features. This protection is limited to the predefined 'buffer' amount during a specific outcome period, and losses exceeding this level will impact investors directly. Buffer ETFs also cap potential gains, meaning returns in strong markets will likely underperform direct market investments. Importantly, the stated buffer and cap only apply when held for the entire outcome period—typically one year—and entering or exiting mid-period may result in outcomes significantly different from the intended profile.

These specialized ETFs often experience lower trading volumes than traditional ETFs, potentially causing liquidity challenges during market stress, wider bid-ask spreads, and increased trading costs. Investment models utilizing buffer ETFs rely on market behavior assumptions that, if incorrect, may lead to underperformance. Additionally, buffer ETFs typically carry higher expense ratios due to their structured nature, and management fees will further reduce overall returns. The derivatives used to achieve buffer objectives introduce counterparty risk where the failure of financial institutions involved in these contracts could undermine the ETF's ability to deliver promised protection.

Tax implications for buffer ETF investments may differ from traditional equity investments, potentially resulting in unique short-term capital gains or losses that affect after-tax returns. Finally, these specialized investment vehicles may not suit all investors, as they're designed for specific risk tolerances and investment goals that may not align with changing financial situations or objectives.

**Disruptive Technologies Risk**: These investments face heightened volatility, concentration in specific technology sectors, unproven business models, evolving regulatory challenges, premium valuations, intense competition, potential liquidity constraints, rapid obsolescence risk, and global market exposure. Selection and allocation decisions by the portfolio manager may significantly impact performance.

**Crypto Currency Risk:** Investing in crypto currency ETFs carries substantial risks due to their speculative nature. High volatility can lead to extreme price swings and significant short-term losses, while the nascent crypto market remains susceptible to speculative bubbles, technological disruptions, and regulatory uncertainty, all of which could adversely affect performance. Additional risks include emerging technology vulnerabilities (e.g., blockchain security breaches), counterparty risks in derivative-based ETFs, and potential tracking errors, all of which could result in a partial or total loss of principal

#### **General Investment Risks**

**Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)**/ **Exchange Traded Notes (ETNs)** Risk: Exchange-traded products may trade at prices above or below their net asset value, particularly during periods of market stress or low trading volume. ETNs additionally carry issuer credit risk as unsecured debt securities.

Third-Party Risk: GIM relies on various third parties (brokers, custodians, fund companies) for services, systems, and data. While believed reliable, GIM cannot guarantee their performance, making all trading on a "best efforts" basis.

Tax Considerations: Some GIM Models involve above-average portfolio turnover that may impact after-tax returns in taxable accounts. Advisory fees paid directly from variable annuities may be treated as taxable distributions by the IRS, potentially incurring taxes, penalties, and additional costs. Clients should consult their tax advisors regarding these implications.

## ITEM 9 DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION

Our firm and its employees face no legal or disciplinary proceedings that would be relevant to clients' or prospective clients' evaluation of us.

In 1986, Byron Green signed a letter of acceptance, waiver and consent in connection with complaint No. TEX-437-AWC. Without admitting or denying the existence of any violative activity, Simmons-Green Financial Services, Inc., Royce D. Simmons and Byron D Green, Jr accepted and consented to the findings of certain events and activities which were in violation of Article III, Section 1,27(C) and 33, Appendix E, Section 20(A) of the NASD's Rules of Fair Practice, and MSRB Rule G-27(C), and consented to a sanction of censure and \$1,000.00 fine, jointly and severally. The DBCC for District #6 and the NBCC accepted the letter of acceptance, waiver and consent on 8/27/86. The fine of \$1,000.00 was paid by Simmons-Green Financial Services, Inc. on 9/15/86.

## ITEM 10 OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

## **ACTIVITIES**

GIM offers strategies/models which GIM manages directly as well as those we manage with the input of an outside strategist, Saratoga Capital Management. GIM does not receive compensation from Saratoga for its guidance on the Saratoga Dynamic Moderate Balanced or Saratoga Dynamic Aggressive Balanced allocations. GIM charges a management fee for our oversight on these strategies, as disclosed in our fee schedule. The management fees charged by GIM vary based on the strategies/models that are chosen by the client or recommended by GIM, its supervised persons or independent advisors. Since compensation can vary based upon the strategies chosen, this can present a conflict of interest. This conflict of interest is disclosed here, within this disclosure document and directly below the fee schedule on the advisory agreement signed by the client. The two Saratoga strategies/models (referenced immediately above) may be available for purchase through other advisors at a lower cost.

#### **AFFILIATIONS**

GIM and/or its management personnel are not affiliated with any other financial institution including banks and broker-dealers. GIM and/or GIM management persons are not registered, or do not have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities. It is not GIM's and/or GIM's management personnel's intention to affiliate with the institutions in the future.

# ITEM 11 CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS AND PERSONAL TRADING

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

We follow a Code of Ethics describing a high standard of business conduct and fiduciary duty to you, to be followed by all our employees. This Code includes guidelines relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts as well as personal trading procedures. All GIM employees must acknowledge and comply with this code and all applicable laws and regulations governing investment advisors.

We anticipate that, in appropriate circumstances and consistent with your objectives, it may sometimes occur that we recommend to you the purchase or sale of investments that we, related persons, our affiliates or other clients already have a position in. Subject to the Code of Ethics and any applicable laws, our employees, officers and directors may themselves invest in securities we also recommend to clients. This could create a conflict of interest, GIM's Code helps ensure that this does not interfere with our making decisions in your best interest and successfully implementing those decisions.

Some types of investments are exempt from the Code based on a determination that these would not materially interfere with the best interest of clients. In other cases, the Code may require pre-clearance of transactions and restrict trading near client trading activity. Nonetheless, because the Code permits employees to invest in the same securities as clients in some circumstances, there is a possibility that employees could benefit from market activity by your account. So, employee trading is monitored to reasonably prevent conflicts of interest between us and our clients.

Some affiliated accounts may also trade in the same investments with client accounts on an aggregated basis when consistent with our obligation of best execution. In these cases, the affiliated and client accounts share commission costs on a pro rata basis and receive the investments at a total average price. We retain record of the trade order (specifying each participating account) and its allocation, to be completed prior to the entry of the aggregated order. We allocate completed orders as specified in the initial trade order. We allocate partially filled orders on a pro rata basis. Any exceptions will be explained on the order. In the event of a partial fill of an order, if GIM deviates from our stated allocation methodology, related and proprietary accounts will not be filled until all client accounts have received the appropriate allocation. For a full copy of our Code of Ethics, contact Byron Green at (800)-950-8004 ext. 104.

## ITEM 12 BROKERAGE PRACTICES

#### **DIRECTED BROKERAGE AND SOFT DOLLARS**

GIM has a fiduciary duty to achieve best execution when it places trades with broker-dealers. GIM will attempt to achieve best executions for you so that your total costs or proceeds in a transaction are the most favorable under the circumstances. Our business model is such that you choose your custodian and broker- dealer depending upon the investment program you select. Brokerage choices and program attributes are outlined in this Form ADV Part 2A above.

GIM is always subject to our duty to seek to achieve best execution, some brokerage firms or trust companies that we use to execute transactions may provide us with certain brokerage and research services. Brokerage services include various communication services related to the execution, clearing and settlement of transactions, such as access to client account data (trade confirmations and account statements); the ability to allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts; and research, pricing information and other market data. Some of these services generally may be used to service all or a substantial number of our accounts, including accounts not maintained at the brokerage firm or trust company providing the service. In addition, some brokerage firms and trust companies provide us access to their institutional trading and custody services which are typically not available to retail investors. We may have an incentive to select or recommend broker dealers or trust companies based on our interest in receiving the services or products which could differ from a client's interest in receiving most favorable execution. Advisor receives a benefit because Advisor does not have to pay for research, products or services. However, the products and services that we currently receive are not based on the amount of transactions directed or assets managed through a specific brokerage firm. Products and services received from brokerage firms and trust companies are reviewed periodically to determine if the products or services are needed, whether such products or services provide legitimate assistance in the investment decision making process, and the reasonableness of the commissions paid in relation to the value of the products or services.

From time to time an investment advisor may instruct us to use a specific broker-dealer for managing their customers. If a sufficient trading system can be established with that broker-dealer we will honor the advisors' choice. In these situations, we are not ensuring best execution, but we will look at the full range and quality of a broker's services in placing brokerage including, among other things, the value of research provided as well as execution capability, commission rate, financial responsibility and responsiveness to the money manager. It will be the Advisor's responsibility to disclose this information to the client. In the course of establishing a trading system with a new broker-dealer requested by an advisor we may receive certain software and or access to research services

- we are not recommending this broker-dealer to any other clients and are not ensuring best execution, so we do not treat these services as soft dollars.

GIM is a money manager who has formed relationships with banks, trust companies and broker-dealers to offer management services. The nature of GIM's business is that in the process of managing customer accounts we purchase and sell annuity subaccounts held within an insurance company product, or we purchase and sell mutual funds, exchange traded funds and/or exchange traded notes through two primary custodians. Great time, effort and due diligence was expended in the process of selecting both Charles Schwab & Company (Schwab) and AXOS Advisor Services (AXOS) to serve in that role. We generally find it easier to work with AXOS for most of our customers because of AXOS's superior software capabilities to facilitate the use of multiple models or strategies within one customer account. The choice of AXOS may result in simplifying both the number of accounts and the paperwork required from customers that desire a multiple strategy portfolio. Therefore, we generally direct clients to use AXOS's services if they wish to open a new account with us, but we believe our clients receive competitive rates, comparable execution and similar custodial services from each custodian. Attached to this section are outlines of the criteria we used in both our selection process and for our periodic reviews.

## **CUSTODIAL FEES CHARGED DIRECTLY TO CLIENT'S ACCOUNT BY CUSTODIAN:**

## **AXOS Advisor Services Fees:**

Quarterly Asset-Based Fees: First \$249,999: 0.038% Next \$750,000: 0.015% \$1,000,000 & over: 0.008% Minimum: \$18.75 per quarter Maximum: \$375 per quarter

**Account Activity Fees:** 

Express Delivery: \$20 ACH Transfers: Free

Outgoing Wire Transfers: \$25

Returned Check: \$25 Stop Payment: \$25

Paper Statements (per statement per client account): \$5

IRA Setup: Free

Solo 401K Quarterly Maintenance: \$50

Solo 401K Loan: \$100 per loan

Account Closing/Transfer Out: \$150 per account Non-Traditional Asset Custody: \$12.50 per quarter

AXOS Advisor Services determines these fees and may adjust them periodically.

## **Charles Schwab Fees:**

Most GIM clients use transaction-based pricing at Schwab. Details are in Schwab's Pricing Guide (<a href="https://www.schwab.com/legal/schwab-pricing-guide-for-advisor-services">https://www.schwab.com/legal/schwab-pricing-guide-for-advisor-services</a>) or available from GIM.

Asset-Based Pricing Alternative:

0.20% annually on chargeable assets

\$20 minimum monthly fee

No maximum fee

Account Activity Fees Applicable to Both Transaction Based pricing and Asset Based Pricing:

Express Delivery: \$8.50 ACH Transfers: Free Outgoing Wires: Free

Returned Check/Stop Payment: \$25

IRA Setup: Free

Account Closing/Transfer Out: \$50 per account

Non-Traditional Asset Custody: \$250 annually per position

Schwab determines these fees and may change them. Refer to the Pricing Guide for a full list.

Mutual funds are purchased at NAV and generally class A shares or institutional shares are purchased. It is our intention to provide best execution by monitoring the services provided by selected custodians, and to monitor competitive custodians for services and pricing not currently available to our clients. The monitoring will consist of the President evaluating on an annual basis the current level of services provided and reviewing the factors we deem important for working with custodians (see below). In addition, the Compliance Department, as part of an internal audit of all trading procedures, will audit the trading activity quarterly for accuracy, correct pricing, and overall efficiency. Particular attention will be paid to ETF transactions.

## FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SELECTING BROKER-DEALERS FOR CLIENT TRANSACTIONS

When selecting broker-dealers for client transactions, the Company evaluates multiple factors to ensure optimal service. These considerations include the quality and promptness of execution services, dedicated communication lines, and the broker-dealer's creditworthiness and reputation. The Company also assesses the accuracy and timeliness of execution reports and confirmation statements, as well as the broker-dealer's willingness to correct trade errors. Additional factors include market access capabilities, technological infrastructure, specialized expertise for particular security types, and commission structures (both current and historical rates). The Company values reliability, the ability to utilize Electronic Communication Networks (ECNs) for improved liquidity and pricing, and considers the broker-dealer's operational capabilities, clearing firm quality, and overall financial condition when making these selections.

GIM will aggregate (block) trades for multiple clients in some cases when it is deemed in the best interest of all the clients and consistent with our obligation of best execution. Trade aggregation is the process of adding together trade orders to purchase and sell the same security as one large order. GIM frequently aggregates orders for administrative convenience and to reduce overall execution costs typically associated with larger orders. When GIM aggregates a trade order, the order is allocated to the various accounts/clients participating in the aggregated trade. GIM will ensure that any aggregated trade meets all required criteria prior to placing the trade.

Some affiliated accounts may also trade in the same investments with client accounts on an aggregated basis when consistent with our obligation of best execution. In these cases, the affiliated and client accounts share commission costs on a pro rata basis and receive the investments at a total average price. We retain record of the trade order (specifying each participating account) and its allocation, to be completed prior to the entry of the aggregated order. We allocate completed orders as specified in the initial trade order. We allocate partially filled orders on a pro rata basis. Any exceptions will be explained on the order. In the event of a partial fill of an order, if GIM deviates from our stated allocation methodology, related and proprietary accounts will not be filled until all client accounts have received the appropriate allocation.

Trade Rotation Policies - Equity trades are aggregated based on a fair and equitable method of allocating trades among accounts with no client or group of clients being favored. Depending on the number of shares traded, the different custodians or program sponsors may participate in a trade rotation process. The submission process for each custodian is done in an efficient timely manner. Accounts in an aggregated transaction will receive the same average price per share; noting that trades are aggregated with each custodian separately, therefore, clients at different custodians may receive different execution prices for transactions in the same security.

## **REVIEWING TRANSACTIONS AND PRICES**

As outlined above, as part of an internal audit of all trading practices, the Chief Compliance Officer will review a random selection of trades chosen from the quarterly trading activity report and will look for such things as accuracy, efficiency, correct pricing, comparable pricing (ETF), and commission charged (if any).

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**

When selecting broker-dealers to execute client trades, the Company will be sensitive to any conflicts of interest, and where necessary, will address such conflicts by disclosure, client consent or other appropriate action.

## ITEM 13 REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

#### MANAGED ACCOUNT REVIEWS

Our portfolio manager, Byron Green, will monitor the investment markets and the economy on an ongoing basis. Based on changes in the economic and market outlook as well as any changes in the client's stated priorities, goals and objectives, your portfolio may need to be reallocated or rebalanced at any given time. So, any material event in the markets or the economy can trigger a change in your portfolio. Portfolio accounting software enables our staff to monitor the effects of market changes on your investments and to reallocate within the tolerances of the investment Models involved.

#### **ACCOUNT REPORTING**

GIM provides secure access daily to statement on Manager's website. In addition to statements sent to you by your account Custodian (SCHWAB, AXOS, etc.), you will receive a quarterly report from GIM or a notice by email letting you know your account statement is available online. This will provide the current status of your account(s) and its performance for the most recent period, year-to-date and since inception. We also send you a periodic "Market Commentary" newsletter that gives you the Manager's views on the state of the economy, markets and the outlook for the future.

Annually, we send out our Privacy Policy which states that we do not disclose nonpublic personal information about you with any other party unless (1) we receive your prior written consent, (2) we believe the recipient is you or your authorized representative, (3) the recipient is a financial service provider who requires that information to provide products or services to you under our programs, or (4) we are required by law to release the information to the recipient.

Upon request, you may also receive an annual Cost Basis Report from us or your Custodian to assist you in computing capital gains and losses for tax purposes. Our disclosures can be found online at <a href="https://www.GIMLink.com">www.GIMLink.com</a>.

## ITEM 14 CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

Additional Compensation - Certain mutual funds pay a portion of their management fee or Rule 12b-1 fees to Custodian, an affiliate of the Custodian, or an Investment Advisor Representative. To the extent that an Investment Advisor Representative is receiving 12b-1 fees they are doing so in their capacities as registered representatives. GIM does not share in 12b-1 fees, if any, charged by the fund. Since such payments are made to Custodian, its affiliates, or an Investment Advisor Representative by a mutual fund based on the amount of assets invested in the mutual fund by GIM, we may face a potential conflict of interest in determining whether to invest or maintain an investment in each mutual fund. Additionally, Custodian may receive Rule 12b-1 fees and/or other fees on money market mutual funds or other interest-bearing accounts that it makes available to Client. Such payments may serve to reduce the fees that Custodian charges GIM for account custodial and/or transaction services, producing a potential conflict of interest. Certain mutual funds charge redemption fees for redeeming fund shares. Redemption fees are deducted directly from the redemption proceeds and as such are a direct expense to you. GIM does not receive any portion of these redemption fees.

GIM has entered into agreements with certain funds to waive redemption fees in some circumstances. However, this does not guarantee that all redemption fees will be waived. Manager selects funds for Clients based on several criteria, including the fund's willingness to waive redemption fees.

Transactions in mutual fund shares or variable annuities may be subject to payment of commissions and other transaction costs as may be imposed by the funds, their distributors, or by broker-dealers through which such transactions are placed. Moreover, ongoing compensation in the form of "trail commissions", asset-based distribution fees, or "12b-1 fees", may be paid to such distributors or dealers with respect to investments held by you. Commissions paid with respect to investments purchased by Client directly at a specific mutual fund family or variable annuity company are not negotiable and GIM has no responsibility to negotiate such commissions. GIM may receive other types of ongoing compensation in addition to management fees in the form of shareholder service expenses that are not included in the "Distribution [and/or Service] (12b-1) Fees" category; custodial expenses; legal expenses; accounting expenses; transfer agent expenses; and other administrative or due diligence expenses, all of which may cause a potential conflict of interest.

GIM may compensate unaffiliated third parties (Outside Advisors) as reimbursement for marketing expenses (for example fees for a meeting room, a portion of a catering bill or printing services for invitations, postcards, etc.) for events or campaigns that would include information concerning GIM. Such third parties may be RIA firms or broker-dealers of the Outside Advisors. Reimbursements could be paid thru the RIA or B/D firms or directly to the venue or company to cover a portion of a bill.

GIM has a Revenue Sharing Agreement with Rhodes Securities Advisors, Inc. (RSA) whereas GIM agrees to pay RSA 10% of GIM's Program Manager's Fees in order to have some access to RSA's Advisors. You should be aware that a Client pays no more or no less as a result of this Agreement.

GIM has existing solicitor agreements with both investment advisory and broker-dealer firms that has permitted qualified, properly registered, persons ("Solicitors") to solicit Clients for GIM's advisory programs. For more than a decade, GIM has not used qualified persons to solicit new Clients on GIM's behalf. Client agreements exist that were sold under such previous arrangements and, in most cases, a portion of the management fee received by GIM continues to be to be paid to the solicitors. The management fees (and all other fees) the Client paid initially were the same as the fees of other Clients of GIM regardless of whether a Solicitor received a share of the management fee or not. Accordingly, the referral fee did not cause Clients to pay any additional fees at that time. Whenever a Client has been referred to GIM pursuant to such an arrangement, the relationship between GIM and the Representative, including the nature and the amount of any compensation paid by GIM to the Representative, was disclosed in writing to Client. In the years since GIM ceased accepting referrals from solicitors and as our advisory offerings have changed, Clients referred by solicitors may pay more or less to obtain GIM's advisory services than do other clients. In situations where Client pays more, the engagement shall result in an additional charge in excess of what the Client would have paid if Client were to engage the services of GIM independent of the Solicitor's introduction.

GIM has agreements with some properly registered investment advisors and their representatives (collectively called "Advisor") who refer Clients to GIM and agree to provide substantial services to such Clients on behalf of GIM. By written agreement between Advisor and GIM, Advisor has agreed to charge such Clients for its separate services that it provides to them. The Advisor will have the exclusive right to determine the advisory fees ("Advisor's Fee") it will charge for this service and you may pay less or more than other clients receiving the same services. The Advisor's Fee schedule will be provided to Clients by Advisor on or before Clients execute GIM's Joint Services Agreement. Advisor agrees to provide at least the following services to Clients in exchange for its advisory fee: (1) be responsible for assisting Clients in determining the most appropriate Custodian and Model(s) for them based on their investment goals, risk tolerance, limitations and financial circumstances and providing GIM with that information, (2) contact Clients at least annually to determine whether their financial situations, investment objectives, or instructions have changed and inform GIM of such changes, (3) be reasonably available to consult with Clients, as they request consultation, (4) periodically monitor and review the performance and risk parameters of the Models chosen by Clients and notify them of any recommended changes that may be indicated, and (5) provide Clients a copy of GIM's and Advisor's Form ADV Part 2 (or other written disclosure statement complying with Section 275.204.1(b) under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940) on or before execution of GIM's Joint Services Agreement and annually thereafter.

GIM offers strategies/models to outside registered investment advisers for their client's accounts which GIM manages directly as well as those we manage with the input of an outside strategist, Saratoga Capital Management. GIM does not receive compensation from Saratoga for its guidance on the Saratoga Dynamic Moderate Balanced or Saratoga Dynamic Moderate Aggressive allocations. The management fees charged by Green Investment Management vary based on the strategies/models that are chosen by the client or recommended by GIM, its supervised persons or independent advisors. Since compensation can vary based upon the strategies chosen, this can present a conflict of interest. This conflict of interest is disclosed here, within this disclosure document and directly below the fee schedule on the advisory agreement signed by the client. The two Saratoga strategies/models (referenced immediately above) may be available for purchase through other advisors at a lower cost.

Advisor may provide any additional services that it deems appropriate for Clients, including investment management consulting services or financial planning services. GIM acknowledges and agrees that it will not be entitled to any compensation or benefit from any of these additional services provided by the Advisor. Advisors and their Representatives have a financial interest in the selection of GIM to the extent they receive advisory fees collected by GIM.

Management and Advisor's Fees (if applicable) will be payable quarterly in advance of GIM's service based on your Account values on the last day of the preceding calendar quarter. GIM will collect its management fee and your Advisors' Fee (if applicable) from you and, if applicable, make payment to your Advisor shortly thereafter. Collected but unearned fees are refundable to you on a pro-rata basis if GIM's advisory agreement is terminated by any party to the agreement. Commissions, if and when applicable, are not advisory fees and may not be refunded. No billing adjustment shall be made for interim market fluctuations; however, GIM shall adjust the billing with regard to material interim additions or withdrawals from your Account.

GIM discourages what would be deemed excessive fees, combined Management and Advisory fees should not exceed 3% annually.

## ITEM 15 CUSTODY

#### **ACCOUNT STATEMENTS**

Clients should receive at least quarterly statements directly from the independent custodian (unaffiliated broker-dealer, bank or other qualified institution) that holds and maintains the client's investment assets. GIM does not provide custodial services itself. We strongly encourage all clients to carefully review the custodian's statements and compare them to any account statements received from GIM. There may be differences between our statements and the custodian's statements due to factors like accounting methods, reporting dates, or valuation approaches used for certain investments. Please contact us if you have any questions about discrepancies.

GIM will send clients an invoice or statement that itemizes the advisory fee, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the value of assets under management on which the fee is based, and the time period covered.

Payment of GIM's management fee and any applicable advisor fee to GIM is made directly from the client's account at the qualified custodian, but only if the following criteria are met: 1) Client funds are held at a qualified custodian, 2) The client has provided written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from their account, 3) The qualified custodian sends at least quarterly statements to the client showing the advisory fees paid to GIM as well as any other disbursements from the account.

The qualified custodian will not verify the accuracy of GIM's fee calculations; therefore, it is the client's responsibility to verify that GIM has computed the fees correctly. Because GIM deducts fees directly from client accounts, GIM is deemed to have custody of client funds by the Texas State Securities Board, although client assets are always held by the qualified custodian chosen by the client.

## **ITEM 16** INVESTMENT DISCRETION

#### DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY FOR TRADING

For accounts custodied at SCHWAB or AXOS, GIM has full discretion to determine which securities are to be bought or sold within your Account. However, this discretion is subject to specific restrictions imposed by you in writing to us and upon which Model is chosen. For other Custodians, GIM has discretion to determine which mutual funds or variable annuity sub-accounts are to be bought or sold within a specific mutual fund family or variable annuity product that has been previously designated by you. However, this discretion is subject to specific restrictions imposed by you in writing to GIM and upon the type of Allocation chosen.

Subject to the size of the account, specific restrictions imposed by you in writing to us and based upon the Model chosen, GIM has full authority to determine the amount of the securities to be bought or sold. You have the right to request that we refrain from purchasing certain types of securities. GIM is willing to accept such limitations on its investment discretion.

Clients authorize GIM to establish a custodial account for the Client's benefit with Charles Schwab & Company or AXOS Advisor Services.

Clients authorize GIM to change the Custodian to any qualified custodian bank or trust company or broker-dealer selected by GIM upon 30 days written notice from GIM. A conflict of interest may exist in the selection of a Custodian to use and are detailed under the "Client Referrals and Other Compensation" sub-heading above. At no time may GIM withdraw funds to itself or another third party, except for management or advisory fees.

## ITEM 17 VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

#### **PROXY VOTES**

We do not have the authority to vote proxies on your behalf as a client. You will receive proxies directly from your custodian and you are responsible for voting your proxies. You are entitled to receive a copy of the Prospectus for each mutual fund, and confirmations of each security purchased and sold for your Account (either separately or as part of the periodic custodial statement) and copies of all annual and periodic reports issued by the mutual funds your Account holds. You retain the right to receive shareholder materials if your Account is invested in mutual funds, ETPs or Variable Annuities or in any non-managed Account. In addition, you retain all rights of ownership, including, all voting power and other rights as a security holder in each of the funds held in your Account. Variable annuity subaccounts will be held pursuant to the terms and conditions contained in a variable annuity Prospectus delivered to you by the specific variable annuity issuer.

Upon request, we may provide you with advice regarding the voting of your proxies.

## ITEM 18 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### **FINANCIAL CONDITION**

WE FACE NO FINANCIAL CONDITIONS LIKELY TO IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO MEET CONTRACTUAL OR FIDUCIARY COMMITMENTS TO OUR CLIENTS, NOR HAS GIM EVER BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDING. A BALANCE SHEET IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED BECAUSE GIM DOES NOT SERVE AS A CUSTODIAN FOR CLIENT FUNDS OR SECURITIES AND DOES NOT REQUIRE PREPAYMENT OF FEES OF MORE THAN \$500 PER CLIENT AND SIX MONTHS OR MORE IN ADVANCE.

## **DISASTER RECOVERY**

In the event of a significant business disruption, GIM has developed a plan to secure the safety of its employees, protect client assets and information and work to continue essential business operations. Although no plan can provide absolute assurance that negative consequences will not ensue from a crisis or event to the best of our knowledge, GIM has created a business recovery plan consistent with contemporary industry standards.

#### **PRIVACY POLICY**

To secure and protect the personal information of our clients, GIM has developed a comprehensive privacy policy designed to allow us to comply with all State and Federal law pertaining to the security and protection of client personal information. A copy of GIM's Privacy Notice is provided to each new client and to all clients annually and is posted at www.GIMLink.com.

# ITEM 19 REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE-REGISTERED ADVISORS

See Part 2B of Form ADV for information concerning GIM's officers and management personnel. Management personnel are as follows: Byron D Green, President, Portfolio Manager and Chief Compliance Officer.

See Part 2B of Form ADV for information concerning outside business activities management personnel may be involved in.

Part 2B of Form ADV is attached to the end of this document.

Supervised personnel are not compensated for advisory services with performance-based fees.

GIM and/or GIM's Management personnel do not have an arrangement or relationship with any issuer of securities.

GIM believes that all material conflicts of interest have been disclosed.