# MARKET UPDATE TOWNHALL MEETING FIRST QUARTER 2021

New York, New York

May 4, 2021





#### United Church Funds — Welcome!

## Townhall Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions Charles Buck, President & CEO
- UCF Organizational Updates Matt Wagner, VP Institutional Relationships
- Responsible Investing Overview –Matthew Illian, Director of Responsible Investing
- Market & Fund Updates Stacey Pettice, Institutional Relationships Executive
- Investment Strategy: Looking Ahead David Klassen, UCF Chief Investment Strategist
- Q&A with Townhall Participants



## UCF – An Experienced Team of Partners

#### **Management Team**

Charles Buck President & CEO

Matthew W. Wagner Vice President, Institutional Relationships

Karen Sherman-Chang Director, Finance & Administration
Matthew Illian Director, Responsible Investing

#### **Institutional Relationships & Marketing/Communications Team**

Stacey L. Pettice Executive, Institutional Relationships

Debbie Wibowo Associate, Marketing & Communications

Adam Sank Associate, Communications & Administration

#### **Client Services Team**

Milagros Hernandez Client Services Team Leader & Planned Giving

**Associate** 

Crysta Seelal Client Services Representative

Gaylord Tang Administrative Assistant

#### **Finance & Administration Team**

Deborah Cho Senior Accountant
Michele Hamilton Staff Accountant

#### **Investment Team (Shared with the UCC Pension Boards)**

David A. Klassen Chief Investment Strategist

Lan Cai Senior Portfolio Manager and Strategist

Minoti Dhanaraj Analyst - External Investments

Azim Ahmed Junior Analyst





#### Board of Directors & Investment Committee

#### **Board of Directors**

Ms. Edith Guffey, Chair

Mr. Jiakai Chen

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, ex officio

Ms. Barbara Everett

Ms. Lisa Hinds

The Honorable Brian F. Holeman

Mr. Nesa Joseph

Rev. Gwendolyn V. Kirkland

Ms. Connie Lindsey

Rev. Penny L. Lowes

Mr. William Morgan

Rev. Stephen R. Silver

Ms. Darlene Y. Sowell

Mr. Bryan A. Thomas

Ms. Yvette Wynn, ex officio

Mr. Wade Zick

#### **Investment Committee**

Ms. Lisa Hinds\*, Chair

Rev. Dr. Charles Buck, ex officio

Mr. Dennis Bushe

Mr. Jiakai Chen\*

Ms. Fran M. Coopersmith

Ms. Edith Guffey\*

Mr. Douglas S. Hatfield

Mr. Nesa Joseph\*

Rev. Gwendolyn V. Kirkland\*

Mr. Bryan A. Thomas\*

Mr. Timothy Hachfeld

\* Member of the Board of Directors

Biographical information on UCF's Board Members and Investment Committee Members is available at www.ucfunds.org.



#### United Church Funds — Our Mission

# Investing with a Mission: Performance Beyond the Numbers

- ➤ **Experience** For over 100 years, UCF has invested wisely to help our clients achieve their financial goals for their ministries.
- Expertise UCF partners with clients to provide a range of resources and services to strengthen their portfolios, their endowment management structures, and ultimately, the ministries they value.
- ➤ Values-Aligned UCF provides responsible investment options that align portfolios to progressive Christian values regarding environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.
- Non-Profit Structure UCF offers professional investment management services exclusively for churches and faith-based ministries in a not-for-profit structure, reducing costs and providing more money for the ministries of our clients.

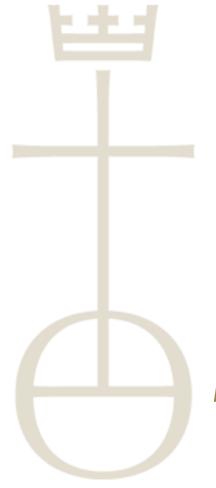


# United Church Funds — Organizational Updates, Q1 2021

- UCF Surpasses \$1 Billion in Total Assets under Management
- UCF Announces Lower Expense Ratios (Fees) for all Funds in 2021
- UCF to Be Gold-level Sponsor of 2021 UCC General Synod Meeting
  - Will host workshop at GS33 on responsible and sustainable investing strategies
- UCF Adds New Managers to Funds:
  - Channing Capital Small Cap Equity Fund, Value
  - Lumos Capital Alternatives Fund, Impact
- UCF supports UCC Conferences in their Efforts on COVID and Racial Justice through Brown Endowment
  - Grants of nearly \$150,000 distributed to conferences and national setting



# Responsible Investing — Our Mission

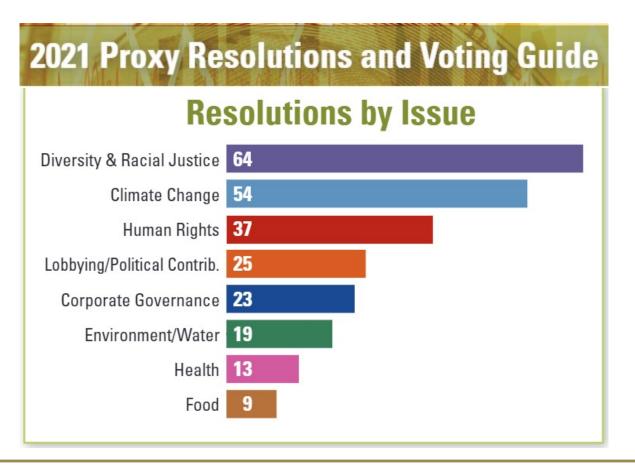


Investing with a Mission:

Performance Beyond the Numbers

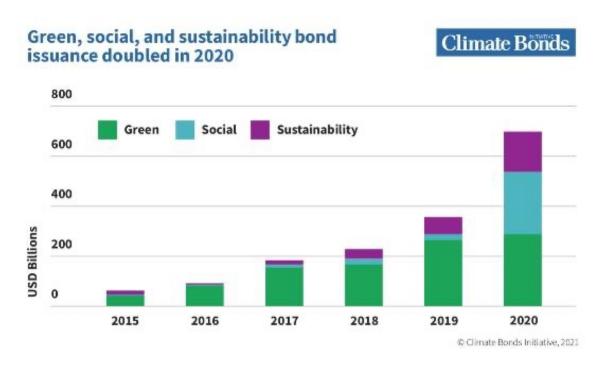
Matthew Illian, Director of Responsible Investing

 Racial Equity is Top Priority Among ICCR Members' Shareholder Resolutions in 2021





2. Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Issuance Doubled in 2020



Social and sustainable bonds help finance COVID recovery.



# 3. U.S. Government Rejoins the Paris Accord



President Biden pledges to cut greenhouse gas pollution in half by 2030.



**John Kerry**Special Presidential Envoy for Climate



**Gina McCarthy**National Climate Advisor



#### 4. Race to Zero Gains Momentum



129 U.S. companies now have credible net zero commitments by 2050.



## **Ford Motor Company**

First U.S. car manufacturer to set credible, "science-based" target.



## NRG Energy, Inc.

First U.S. utility company to set credible, "science-based" target.



# 5. Green Economy – A Just Transition





# Poll Questions



## Investment Performance — Themes

- Markets improve with the Economy: Global equity markets had a good first quarter, led by the U.S., but with a shift to smaller company and economically sensitive stocks. Fixed income returns were mixed, with returns being negatively impacted as rates increased.
- **Economic Growth:** The economy continues to show signs of improvement. The increase in vaccinations, economic recovery and unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus packages around the globe have kept markets elevated.
- **Dynamic Allocations**: We continue to be vigilant about increased risks and potential opportunities from market volatility. We maintain an overweight to equities but continue to be nimble.
- Macro Risks: Beyond the resurgence of the pandemic, other macro risks exist. These include U.S.-China trade tensions and social and political unrest.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** We continue to focus on long-term investment results, balancing the need for liquidity and returns through asset allocation decisions and manager selection.



## Investment Performance — Selected Index Returns

Public Markets Performance (USD)												
	Q1 2021	2020	3 <u>Yr</u>	5 <u>Yr</u>	10 Yr							
MSCI World	4.9%	15.9%	12.8%	13.4%	9.9%							
ACWI IMI	5.1%	16.3%	11.9%	13.2%	9.1%							
S&P 500	6.2%	18.4%	16.8%	16.3%	13.9%							
MSCI EAFE	3.5%	7.8%	6.0%	8.8%	5.5%							
Russell 2000	12.7%	19.9%	14.7%	16.3%	11.7%							
MSCI World ex-US Small Cap	4.9%	12.8%	6.9%	10.5%	7.1%							
MSCI EM Equity	2.3%	18.3%	6.5%	12.1%	3.7%							
Barclays Global Aggregate	-4.5%	9.2%	2.8%	2.6%	2.2%							
Barclays US Long Treasury	-13.5%	17.7%	5.9%	3.1%	6.3%							
Barclays US Long Corporate	-8.5%	13.9%	7.7%	6.9%	7.3%							
JPM EM Debt	-4.5%	5.3%	4.0%	5.0%	5.6%							
JPM EM Debt Local	-6.7%	2.7%	-0.8%	3.1%	0.5%							
Barclays Global High Yield	-1.0%	7.0%	4.7%	6.8%	5.9%							
FTSE/NAREIT Global	5.9%	-8.9%	5.3%	4.1%	5.9%							
GSCI Commodities	13.5%	-23.7%	-4.9%	1.2%	-8.6%							



	Mar 2021	Δ1 mth	Δ3 mth	Δ1 <u>yr</u>
Risk Free (Treasuries)				
2Y	0.16	0.02	0.04	(0.07)
10Y	1.75	0.29	0.84	1.06
30Y	2.43	0.24	0.79	1.08
10Y Swap	1.78	0.27	0.86	1.06
Barclays Long Corporate Spread	1.25	(0.06)	(0.15)	(1.49)
Moody's Long AA Corporate	3.21	0.22	0.79	0.12

As of 31-March-2021. Source: MAS, Plot Tool. Plot tool is a proprietary analytical tool and database representing developed and emerging markets including the US, Europe, Asia, and Latin America for their respective Fixed Income, Equity, Foreign Exchange, Commodities, and Credit Markets covering thousands of cash, forward, futures, options, and swap instruments. Plot tool houses over 20 years of economic data. Indices are unhedged. Past performance does not guarantee future results, which may vary.



# Investment Performance — Q1 2021 UCF Managed Fund Highlights

- International Equity Fund: The International Equity Fund continued its strong performance in Q1 2021, returning 3.80% for the quarter vs. benchmark return of 3.49% and Lipper Peer group of 4.06%. Developed Markets manager Ballie Gifford led the significant outperformance in 2020; in Q1 2021, LSV Asset Management (Int'l Developed) and RBC Global (Emerging Market Equity) led. For the past five years (annualized), the International Equity Fund has returned 11.17%, vs. benchmark of 9.76% and Lipper Peer group of 8.47%.
- Small Cap Equity Fund: Small Cap U.S. stocks led markets higher in Q4 2020 and into Q1 2021, resulting in a 10.32% return in the Small Cap Equity Fund, but lagged benchmark and Lipper Peer group. For the past five years (annualized), the Small Cap Equity Fund averaged a 16.52% return, slightly behind benchmark but ahead of Lipper Peer group (12.72%). Westfield celebrates 10 years as a UCF manager in April 2021 and has averaged an annualized return of over 15% since inception.
- **Domestic Core Equity Fund:** After trailing benchmark in 2020, UCF's large cap fund bounced back in Q1 2021 to return 7.09%, ahead of benchmark (6.18%) and Lipper Peer Group (6.31%). Returns in Q1 were led by Quantitative Management Associates.
- Fixed Income Lag: UCF's Fixed Income Fund beat benchmark for Q1 2021 but provided a negative return due in part to rising rate environment. The Fund returned 3.28%, ahead of benchmark at -3.75%.



# Investment Performance — Managed Funds as of March 31, 2021

TOTAL RATES OF RETURN AS OF 3/31/21					A	NNUAL IZE	D	
Returns on UCF's funds are presented net of fees	Inception	Ou a who w	Year	One	Three	Five	Ten	Current
Retuins on oct s luitus are piesenteu net of lees	Date	Quarter	To Date	Year	Years	Years	Years	Yield
Fixed Income Fund	10/1/1994	-3.28%	-3.28%	3.55%	3.75%	3.00%	2.99%	2.58%
Fixed Income Policy Index 85% Barclays US Gov't/Credit Aggregate, 5% J PM GBI-EM Global Diversified, 10% S &P LSTA Performing Loan		-3.75%	-3.75%	3.38%	4.80%	3.63%	3.68%	
Lipper Core Plus Fixed Income		-2.94%	-2.94%	6.64%	5.03%	3.93%	3.85%	
Domestic Core Equity Fund	10/1/2005	7.09%	7.09%	55.81%	14.60%	14.69%	12.95%	1.45%
S &P 500 Index		6.18%	6.18%	56.35%	16.78%	16.29%	13.91%	
Lipper Large Cap Core  Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund		6.31%	6.31%	54.95%	15.47%	15.24%	12.60%	
Beyond Fossil Fuels Fund	11/3/2014	7.95%	7.95%	59.41%	10.01%	12.37%	N/A	2.22%
S &P 500/MS CI ACWI IMI net, linked		5.14%	5.14%	57.58%	11.90%	12.95%		
Lipper Global Equity		5.08%	5.08%	55.21%	10.32%	11.68%		
Small Cap Equity Fund	10/1/2005	10.32%	10.32%	92.25%	16.94%	16.52%	10.96%	0.82%
Russell 2000 Index		12.70%	12.70%	94.85%	14.76%	16.35%	11.68%	
Lipper Small Cap Core		15.31%	15.31%	89.19%	11.27%	12.72%	10.18%	
International Equity Fund		3.80%	3.80%	59.91%	8.29%	11.17%	5.47%	2.01%
MSCI ACWI ex US net/Custom Index, linked		3.49%	3.49%	49.41%	6.51%	9.76%	5.12%	
Lipper International Equity		4.06%	4.06%	47.31%	5.28%	8.47%	5.10%	
Alternatives Fund	7/1/2010	-1.25%	-1.25%	6.74%	4.27%	4.09%	4.49%	N/A
Custom Index 70% HFRI Funds of Funds Composite Index, 30% NCREIF Fund Index		1.31%	1.31%	16.29%	5.12%	5.71%	5.29%	

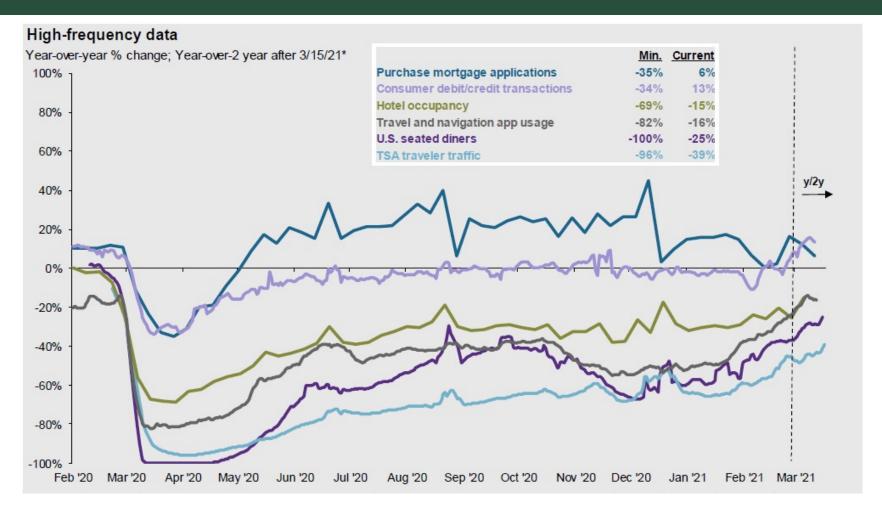


# Investment Performance — Funds of Funds as of March 31, 2021

TOTAL RATES OF RETURN AS OF 3/31/21					A	NNUAL IZE	D	
Returns on UCF's funds are presented net of fees		Ougustan	Year	One	Three	Five	Ten	Current
Returns on OCT's lunds are presented her or rees	Date	Quarter	To Date	Year	Years	Years	Years	Yield
Total Equity Fund	10/1/1994	5.86%	5.86%	60.36%	11.55%	12.040/	9.06%	1.61%
45.80% Domestic Core Equity, 12.10% Small Cap Equity and 42.10% International Equity	10/1/1994	3.00 %	<b>3.00</b> %	00.30%	11.33 %	13.04%	9.06%	1.01 %
MS CI ACWI IMI net/Policy Index, linked		5.14%	5.14%	57.58%	11.90%	13.21%	9.45%	
Lipper Global Equity		5.08%	5.08%	55.21%	10.32%	11.68%	8.69%	
Conservative Balanced Fund	1/1/2006	0.22%	0.22%	21.17%	6.42%	6.44%	5.17%	2.07%
38.60% Equity, 56.40% Fixed Income and 5.00% C&E		0.22 /0	0.22 /0	21.17 /0	0.42 /0	0.44 76	3.17 %	2.07 76
Current Policy Index 35% MSCI ACWI IMI net, 65% Fixed Income Policy Index		-0.69%	-0.69%	20.23%	7.61%	7.14%	5.91%	
Lipper Mixed Asset Target Allocation Conservative		0.64%	0.64%	20.61%	6.23%	6.04%	5.32%	
Moderate Balanced Fund	circa 1958	2.52%	2.52%	35.25%	8.57%	0.050/	6.73%	1.82%
63.70% E quity, 30.70% Fixed Income and 5.60% C&E	CIICa 1930	2.52%	2.52%	35.25%	<b>6.5</b> /%	9.05%	6./3%	1.82%
Current Policy Index 60% MSCI ACWI IMI net, 40% Fixed Income Policy Index		1.53%	1.53%	33.62%	9.41%	9.55%	7.37%	
Lipper Mixed Asset Target Allocation Moderate		2.60%	2.60%	31.75%	8.39%	8.44%	7.00%	
Aggressive Balanced Fund	1/1/2006	3.87%	3.87%	44.56%	9.67%	10.58%	7.59%	1.69%
77.70% E quity, 16.90% Fixed Income and 5.40% C&E		3.0/ 7/0	<b>3.0</b> / 70	44.30%	9.07 70	10.30%	7.39%	1.09 %
Current Policy Index 75% MSCI ACWI IMI net, 25% Fixed Income Policy Index		2.87%	2.87%	42.22%	10.40%	10.95%	8.18%	
Lipper Mixed Asset Target Allocation Aggressive		3.88%	3.88%	41.79%	10.41%	10.60%	8.46%	
Beyond Fossil Fuels Balanced Fund	11/3/2014	2.660/	2.660/	24 500/	0.540/	0.470/	NI/A	2.110/
64.50% BFF, 29.90% Fixed Income and 5.60% C&E		3.66%	3.66%	34.59%	8.54%	9.17%	N/A	2.11%
Current Policy Index 60% MS CI ACWI IMI net, 40% Fixed Income Policy Index		1.53%	1.53%	33.62%	9.41%	9.55%		
Lipper Mixed Asset Target Allocation Moderate		2.60%	2.60%	31.75%	8.39%	8.44%		
Alternatives Balanced Fund	7/1/2010	1 070/	1 070/	20.420/	7 770/	0.460/	6.470/	NI/A
54.8% Equity, 17.7% Fixed Income, 25.2% Alternatives, 2.3% C&E		1.87%	1.87%	30.42%	7.77%	8.46%	6.47%	N/A
Current Policy Index 50% MS CI ACWI IMI net, 30% Fixed Income Policy and 20% Alternatives Policy		1.66%	1.66%	31.13%	8.73%	9.00%	7.15%	



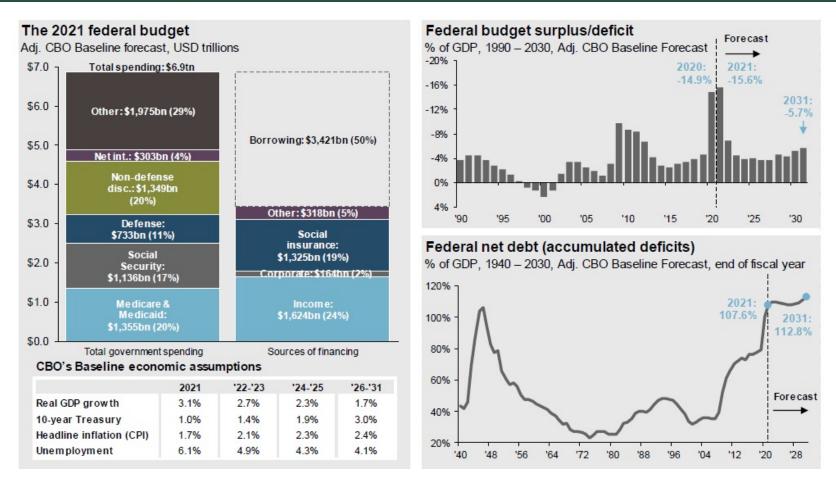
# Strategy and Positioning — Markets Versus The Economy



Leisure and entertainment is improving as the economy continues to open, and unemployment dropped to 6.0%.



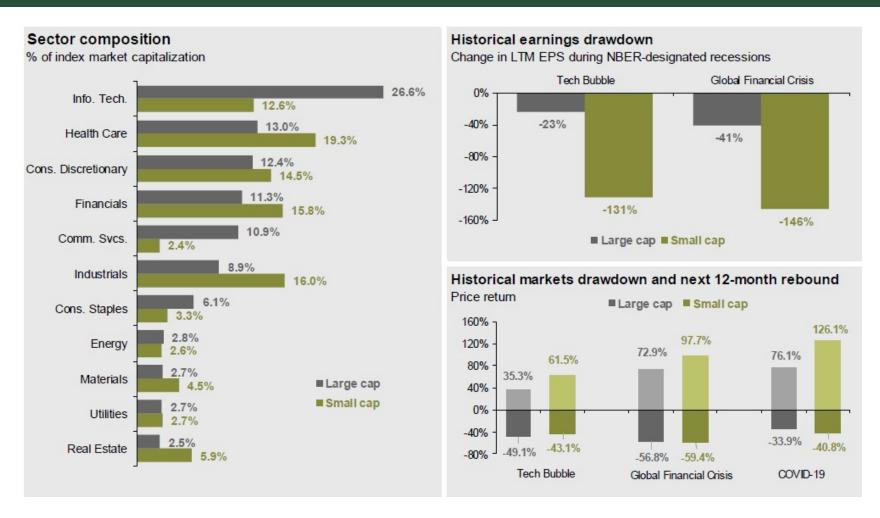
# Strategy and Positioning — Economic Recovery



The increase in vaccinations, economic recovery, and unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus packages around the globe have kept markets elevated.



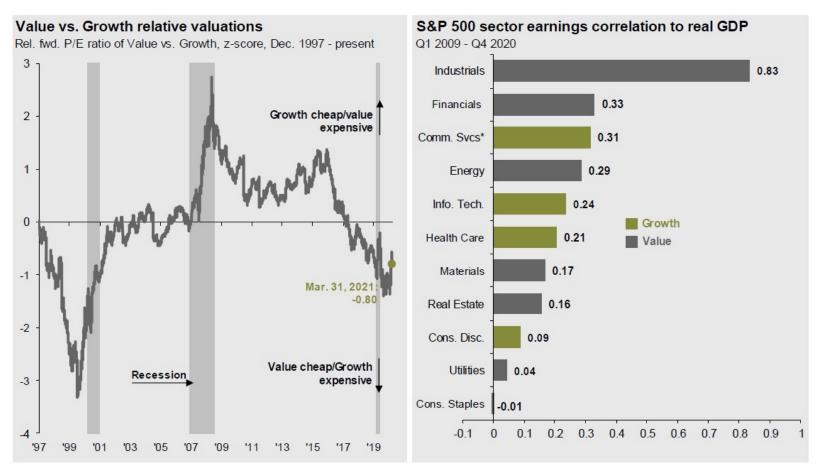
## Strategy and Positioning — Dynamic Allocations (Small Cap Equities)



As the U.S. economy is recovering, small company stocks are benefiting the most.



## Strategy and Positioning — Dynamic Allocations (Value vs. Growth)



Growth has outperformed value over the past decade. Value has the potential to outpace growth as the economy recovers and interest rates rise.



# Strategy and Positioning — Dynamic Allocations (Fixed Income)

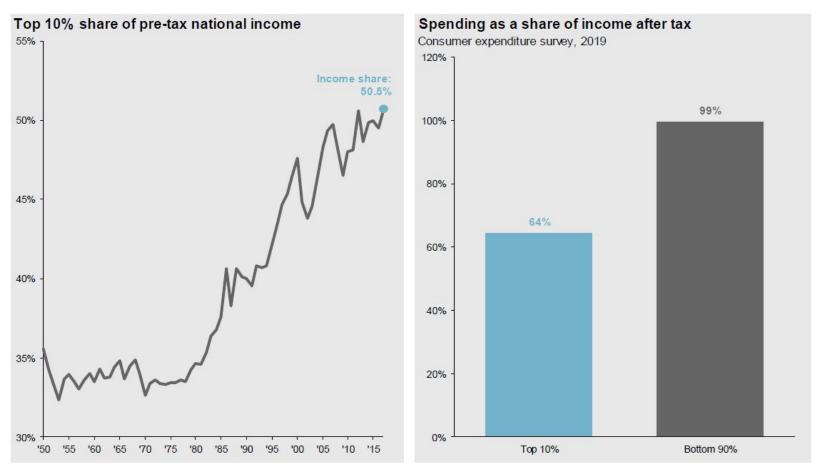
U.S. Treasuries  2-Year  5-Year	0.16%	<b>12/31/2020</b> 0.13%	2021 YTD			Correlation
2 1000	0.1070	0.13%		,	to 10-year	to S&P 500
5-Year			-0.04%	2 years	0.67	-0.39
	0.92%	0.36%	-2.46%	5	0.92	-0.36
TIPS	-0.63%	-1.06%	-1.47%	10	0.57	0.19
10-Year	1.74%	0.93%	-7.02%	10	1.00	-0.33
30-Year	2.41%	1.65%	-15.84%	30	0.93	-0.33
Sector						
IG corps	2.28%	1.74%	-4.65%	12.0	0.42	0.38
U.S. Aggregate	1.61%	1.12%	-3.37%	8.4	0.85	0.02
Convertibles	4.44%	4.91%	-0.14%	-	-0.30	0.89
U.S. HY	4.23%	4.18%	0.85%	6.5	-0.25	0.73
Municipals	1.18%	1.07%	-0.35%	12.9	0.38	0.10
MBS	1.82%	1.25%	-1.10%	5.6	0.81	-0.15
ABS	2.23%	2.87%	0.58%	2.2	-0.11	0.32
Floating rate	0.44%	0.54%	0.22%	1.9	-0.21	0.44



Fixed income looks less compelling as prices decline with rising rates.



# Strategy and Positioning — Macro Risk (Income Inequality)



Aside from ongoing concerns regarding China-U.S. trade, a growing concern has been income inequality. The top 10% earners receive over 50% of the wealth. This could reduce the need for financial assets.



# Strategy and Positioning — Factor Performance

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	YTD	Ann.	Vol.
High Div.	Momen.	Min. Vol.	Value	Small Cap	High Div.	Cyclical	Value	Value	Momen.	Small Cap	Momen.	Min. Vol.	Cyclical	Momen.	Value	Momen.	Small Cap
21.1%	17.8%	-25.7%	38.8%	26.9%	14.3%	20.1%	43.2%	17.7%	9.3%	21.3%	37.8%	1.5%	36.3%	29.6%	18.5%	11.7%	22.6%
Value	Defens.	Defens.	Cyclical	Multi- Factor	Min. Vol.	Value	Small Cap	Min. Vol.	Min. Vol.	High Div.	Cyclical	Momen.	Quality	Cyclical	Small Cap	Quality	Value
19.7%	17.7%	-26.7%	36.9%	18.3%	12.9%	16.8%	38.8%	16.5%	5.6%	16.3%	27.3%	-1.6%		27.8%	12.7%	10.7%	20.3%
Small Cap	Quality	High Div.	Multi- Factor	Momen.	Defens.	Small Cap	Multi- Factor	High Div.	Quality	Value	Quality	High Div.	Momen.	Small Cap	Multi- Factor	Cyclical	Cyclical
18.4%	10.1%	-27.6%	29.8%	18.2%	10.1%	16.3%	37.4%	14.9%	4.6%	15.9%	22.5%	-2.3%	28.1%	20.0%	8.0%	10.4%	19.8%
Multi- Factor	Multi- Factor		Small Cap	Cyclical		Multi- Factor	Cyclical	Multi- Factor	Cyclical	Cyclical	Value	Defens.	Min. Vol.	Quality	High Div.	Min. Vol.	Momen.
16.6%	5.5%	-31.2%	27.2%	17.9%	7.5%	15.7%	35.0%	14.8%	2.6%	14.0%	22.2%	-2.9%	28.0%	17.1%	7.8%	10.1%	17.9%
Defens.	Min. Vol.	Small Cap	Quality	High Div.	Multi- Factor	Momen.	Momen.	Momen.	High Div.	Multi- Factor	Multi- Factor	Cyclical	Value	Multi- Factor	Cyclical	Multi- Factor	Multi- Factor
15.9%	4.3%	-33.8%		15.9%	7.3%	15.1%	34.8%	14.7%	0.7%	13.7%	21.5%	-5.3%	27.7%	11.4%	5.7%	9.6%	17.5%
Cyclical	Value	Value	High Div.	Min. Vol.	Momen.	Quality	Quality	Cyclical	Multi- Factor	Min. Vol.	High Div.	Quality	Multi- Factor	Min. Vol.	Quality	High Div.	Quality
15.0%	1.1%	-36.9%	18.4%	14.7%	6.1%	12.8%		13.6%	0.4%	10.7%	19.5%	-5.6%	26.6%	5.8%		9.4%	15.6%
Min. Vol.	High Div.	Multi- Factor	Min. Vol.		Value	Min. Vol.	High Div.	Defens.	Defens.	Quality	Min. Vol.	Multi- Factor	Small Cap	Defens.	Defens.	Small Cap	High Div.
15.0%	0.0%	-39.3%	18.4%	14.2%	-2.7%	11.2%	28.9%	13.0%	-0.9%	9.4%	19.2%	-9.7%	25.5%	5.2%	4.7%	8.9%	15.0%
Quality	Cyclical	Momen.	Momen.	Value	Cyclical	Defens.	Defens.		Small Cap	Defens.	Small Cap	Small Cap	High Div.	High Div.	Min. Vol.	Defens.	Defens.
12.8%	-0.8%	40.9%	17.6%	12.7%	-3.4%	10.7%	28.9%	10.7%	4.4%	7.7%	14.6%	-11.0%	22.5%	1.7%	2.3%	8.6%	13.7%
Momen.	Small Cap	Cyclical	Defens.	Defens.	Small Cap	High Div.	Min. Vol.	Small Cap	Value	Momen.	Defens.	Value	Defens.	Value	Momen.	Value	Min. Vol.
10.7%	-1.6%	-44.8%	16.5%	12.0%	4.2%	10.6%	25.3%	4.9%	-6.4%	5.1%	12.3%	-11.1%	21.4%	-0.2%	-0.2%	8.6%	13.1%

Active investment managers will tilt allocations within a diversified portfolio to take advantage or avoid certain asset classes or strategies. Staying diversified is key to long-term returns.



# Strategy and Positioning — Looking Ahead for Investors

- ➤ Vaccine Deployment and Economic Recovery Vaccine roll-out continues to move forward, but supply chain issues persist in some regions, and COVID-19 is mutating into different strains. Real economic bounce-back in hospitality, travel and retail sectors will require a more consistent vaccine plan for the next 4-6 months, and if that happens, expect robust GDP growth in Q3 and Q4 2021.
- ➤ **Democrats in Charge** Democrats now own slim majorities in the House and Senate and, with the inauguration of President Biden, have a complete mandate to push forward with a progressive agenda on environmental issues, taxation and regulation, trade, minimum wage, infrastructure improvements and more. What will the administration prioritize for Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer to push through Congress?
- ➤ Market Returns vs. Sector Risk Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM) is predicting high single-digit global equity returns for 2021 as the global economy recovers. Which sectors or investment strategies will win out, and how should prudent investors position portfolios for future volatility?
- ➤ Inflation and Interest Rates The Federal Reserve has been clear about holding interest rates low for the foreseeable future to aid in economic recovery. If the U.S. economy sharply recovers, inflation could be a factor for investors to consider in their strategy, albeit more than likely for a short period.



# Thank you!

United Church Funds appreciates the opportunity to share in and support the mission of your ministry.



**Q** & A

Investing involves risk. Consider the funds' investment objectives, risks and other factors, which are discussed in the Funds Description Statement. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

