

ELCA ENDOWMENT FUND POOLED TRUST – FUND A

FIRST QUARTER 2021 REPORT



ELCA Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FUND A – FIRST QUARTER 2021 SUMMARY

During the first quarter of 2021, Fund A returned 3.13% net. The Modified Target benchmark returned 3.08% on the quarter.

Fund A performed slightly ahead of the Modified Target benchmark return on the back of strong absolute returns from U.S. equities allocation. Fund A's private infrastructure position, which outperformed meaningfully on the full calendar year, continued to add value into the first quarter. From an absolute return standpoint, the equity allocations all enjoyed strong returns on the market recovery. The global real estate securities portfolio underperformed the benchmark but on an absolute-return basis was one of the best performers for the quarter. The core fixed-income allocation saw challenges after interests moved markedly higher in the quarter.

MARKET SNAPSHOT

To kick off 2021, the S&P 500 saw continued gains, the fourth consecutive quarter of strong returns following the one-year anniversary of the March 2020 lows. Equities rallied 6.2% on the quarter, following a quarter in which they gained 12.1%. Equities continued to rally as investors cheered the much-anticipated \$1.9 trillion stimulus package and the continued vaccine distribution, as well as robust economic data and easy monetary policy. U.S. equities outperformed international market equities, both developed and emerging, in the first quarter.

After the S&P 500 sectors finished the fourth quarter posting a strong performance, the sectors finished the first quarter with moderate returns. Energy, Financials and Industrials outperformed for the second consecutive quarter, returning 30.8%, 15.9% and 11.4% respectively, compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, when they returned 27.8%, 23.2% and 15.7%. Laggards included Utilities, Info Tech and Consumer Staples, coming in at 2.8%, 2.0% and 1.2% respectively.

U.S. equities outperformed International in the first quarter of 2021. The MSCI EAFE Index (a benchmark for international developed markets) advanced 3.6% for U.S.-currency investors. In the first quarter, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index gained 2.3% for U.S.-currency investors. The MSCI Europe Index advanced 4.2% for U.S.-currency investors, while the MSCI Japan underperformed, gaining 1.5%.

Emerging-economy equity market indices saw muted returns in the first quarter. The MSCI BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) Index fell -0.1% in U.S. dollar terms, while the MSCI EM Asia Index rose 2.1%.

The bond market fell for the first time in the past three quarters. The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, a general measure of the bond market, fell -3.4%. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note notably increased, closing the quarter above 1.7%, up from the fourth quarter but still down from 1.92% at the end of 2019. The shortest end of the curve fell in the first quarter of 2020 as the Fed cut its Fed funds target rate, with the yield on three-month Treasury bills falling from 1.54% at the start of 2020 to 0.02% as of the first quarter of 2021.

Riskier parts of the bond market, such as U.S. high-yield debt, gained the most in the quarter, buoyed by the market's risk-on sentiment. The Bloomberg Barclays High Yield Index, a measure of lower-rated corporate bonds, gained 0.85%.

EQUITY

U.S.

Fund A's U.S. equity component slightly trailed the benchmark in the first quarter, returning 6.25% compared to the benchmark return of 6.35%. This slight underperformance was driven by not holding certain Tobacco and Aerospace/Defense stocks that have been excluded from the portfolio due to the ELCA social criteria investment screens. Despite the modest underperformance, overall returns were strong as investors remained optimistic about the expanding vaccination programs and a potential return to economic normalcy.

Non-U.S.

The non-U.S. equity component of Fund A turned in a strong quarter with a return of 4.56%, beating the benchmark by 0.79%. This outperformance was driven by strong stock selection within the cheaper-value



stock universe as well as strong returns from the small-cap allocation. Despite the strong relative returns, international markets continue to trail U.S. markets, largely due to a strengthening U.S. dollar and lagging emerging-market returns.

FIXED INCOME

Investment Grade

In the first quarter of 2021, Fund A's fixed-income portfolio returned -3.14%, underperforming the custom-bond benchmark return of -3.07% (-0.07% relative). As of March 31, the portfolio's option-adjusted duration was 6.4 years, about the same level as the benchmark. The portfolio's credit quality was Aa2/AA-, compared to Aa1/AA- for the benchmark.

Treasury yields rose across the curve during the quarter, and the curve steepened, with yields rising most at the long end; the two-year rose 3 bps to yield 0.16%, and the 30-year rose 0.76%, to 2.41%. Corporate credit spreads tightened during the quarter as the overall yield environment moved notably higher, to a yield of 2.28%; Treasury yields rose to 1.74% and the Collateralized segment yields fell to 1.82%.

High-Yield

High-yield bonds outperformed the index in the first quarter of 2021 as credit spreads continued to tighten. Portico's high-yield portfolio outperformed the benchmark, returning 0.59% versus 0.36% for the benchmark (+0.23% relative). The High Yield Bond allocation returned 20.51% for the trailing 12-month period, compared to the benchmark return of 20.68% (-0.17% relative).

Inflation-Indexed

Inflation-indexed bonds outperformed nominal Treasuries in the first quarter of 2021. The portfolio and benchmark returned 0.02% and 0.06% respectively. The portfolio is managed using a full-replication approach.

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE SECURITIES

Fund A's global real estate securities component returned 6.01% in the first quarter of 2021, compared to the custom benchmark return of 6.53%. U.S. REITs returned 10%, while Global ex-U.S. REITs returned 1.45% for the quarter (benchmark returns). Global Real Estate Securities have returned 36.68% in the trailing 12 months, despite a very challenging first quarter in 2020.

The U.S. REIT portfolio is actively managed by a single investment manager, whose portfolio underperformed the benchmark (-0.44%) on a relative basis in the first quarter of 2021. For the quarter, the largest positive contributors to relative performance were security selection within the Self-Storage and Apartment sectors.

Security selection within Data centers and Specialty names were the largest detractors to performance. Overall, security selection detracted 90 bps from the quarterly relative performance, while sector allocation added 58 bps.

The Global ex-U.S. REIT portfolio is passively managed by a single manager, whose portfolio showed relative returns (+0.02%) for the quarter.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

Hedge Funds

The hedge funds portfolio returned -2.5% in the first quarter of 2021. The portfolio was overweight the long/short equity strategy, which experienced losses in the quarter, largely driven by a small number of long/short equity hedge funds that experienced severe drawdowns during January's unprecedented short squeeze and subsequent de-leveraging.

The Credit strategies performed well for the quarter, generating a 6.4% return as all managers within the strategy posted gains.

The Relative Value strategy was modestly positive in the quarter. Fixed income also contributed to performance, with a majority of positive returns coming from rates.

The Multi-Strategy portion had positive performance as positions in the energy and consumer-staples sectors saw modest gains in the quarter.

Private Infrastructure

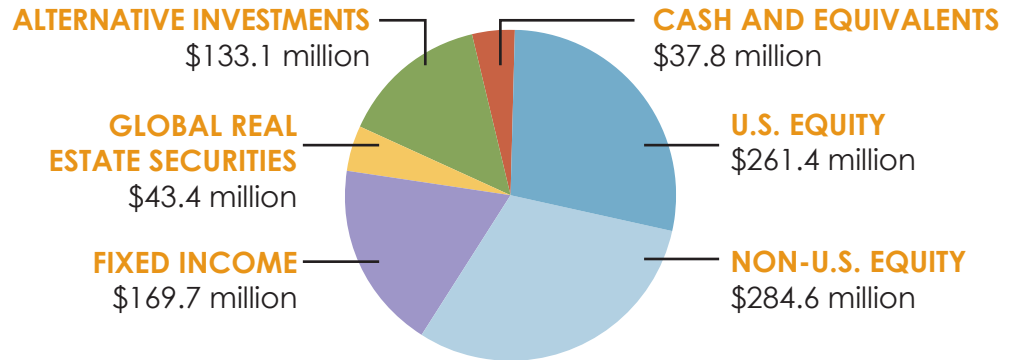
The private infrastructure allocation gained 5.28% for the quarter. Strong portfolio diversification and high operating cash-flow margins, reflecting the essential nature of the infrastructure assets, will continue to support solid performance despite this uncertain backdrop. Turning to 2021, we expect at least another six months of the current operating environment before a gradual return to a new (or next) normal likely in 2022. Current high levels of COVID-19 infection and lockdowns will be alleviated by successful global vaccine distribution alongside continued and improved safety protocols that will allow people to get back to their normal set of activities. This return to normal will be beneficial for infrastructure assets.

Private Markets

From a performance standpoint, the fourth quarter of 2020 was quite strong, with the underlying portfolio being written up 8.5% quarter over quarter. The since-inception return of the underlying portfolio is 19.12% IRR and 1.24x TVPI multiple as of Dec. 31, 2020 (gross of fund fees and expenses).



As of March 31, 2021,
Fund A Net Assets
totaled \$932.7 million*
and Fund A
Investments totaled
\$930.0 million.**



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

FUND A INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE (%) AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

		Q1 (%)	YTD (%)	1 YR (%)	3 YRS (%)	5 YRS (%)	7 YRS (%)	10 YRS (%)	SINCE INCEPTION	INCEPTION DATE
TOTAL FUND A¹		3.13	3.13	36.83	8.84	9.23	7.06	7.36	5.17	07/01/99
Modified Target Benchmark ²		3.08	3.08	38.25	9.07	9.72	7.63	8.00	6.03	
EQUITIES	Social Purpose US Equity Portfolio³	6.25	6.25	62.54	17.13	16.16	12.78	13.42	7.22	07/01/99
	Portico US Equity Benchmark ⁴	6.35	6.35	62.53	17.12	16.64	13.44	13.80	7.54	
	Social Purpose Non-US Equity Portfolio	4.56	4.56	56.63	7.90	11.08	6.80	6.25	7.34	04/01/04
	Portico Non-US Equity Benchmark ⁵	3.77	3.77	51.94	6.51	9.84	5.45	5.15	6.48	
FIXED-INCOME	Social Purpose Investment Grade Bond Portfolio³	-3.14	-3.14	2.10	4.69	3.21	3.35	3.50	4.89	07/01/99
	Portico Investment Grade Benchmark ⁶	-3.07	-3.07	1.68	4.76	3.27	3.44	3.60	5.00	
	Inflation Indexed Bond Portfolio	0.02	0.02	8.14	5.23	3.53	3.19	-	3.06	06/01/11
	Portico Inflation Indexed Benchmark ⁷	0.06	0.06	8.33	5.18	3.46	3.16	-	3.03	
	Social Purpose High Yield Bond Portfolio	0.59	0.59	20.51	5.92	6.87	4.76	5.72	6.95	07/01/03
	Portico High Yield Benchmark ⁸	0.36	0.36	20.60	6.07	7.13	4.81	5.86	7.03	
REAL ESTATE	Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	6.01	6.01	36.66	6.76	4.89	6.20	6.81	7.92	03/01/04
	Portico Real Estate Securities Benchmark ⁹	6.53	6.53	35.26	5.03	3.39	5.32	6.68	7.21	
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS	Hedge Funds	-2.50	-2.50	15.92	3.64	-	-	-	3.96	08/01/17
	HFRX Global Hedge Fund Index	1.29	1.29	16.15	3.46	3.95	1.74	1.36	3.20	
	Private Infrastructure Fund¹⁰	5.28	5.28	8.62	7.23	-	-	-	6.97	10/01/17
	S&P Global Infrastructure Index	3.00	3.00	37.04	5.69	6.75	5.01	6.27	3.71	
	Private Markets Fund¹¹	0.00	0.00	15.07	11.19	-	-	-	10.04	09/01/17
	Cambridge Private Equity Index	0.00	0.00	22.52	9.89	12.85	11.09	12.18	11.78	

- Total Endowment Fund A returns are net of investment-manager and custodian fees and expenses, including the administrative fee of 60 basis points (0.60%). Prior to July 2017, the total fee was 100 basis points (1.00%). Refer to the Disclosure Statement for total fees and expenses. Returns for the subasset classes are net of investment manager and custodian fees and expenses as reported by the investment managers.
- The investor-reporting portfolio benchmark changed from the Static Benchmark, comprising the MSCI All Country World Index (65%) and the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (35%), to the Modified Target Benchmark on Jan. 1, 2021. The strategic asset allocation (SAA) target calls for 10% to be allocated to private markets; however this will be funded over a period of five years, so the Modified Target Benchmark was created to mimic the risk profile of the SAA target by re-weighting the underlying Target Benchmark index weights relative to the current allocation to private markets. The Target Benchmark comprises indices for Russell 3000 (25%), MSCI ACWI xU.S. IMI (29%), Bloomberg Barclays Treasury/Government (2%), Bloomberg Barclays Collateralized (3.2%), Bloomberg Barclays Capital Credit (2.8%), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. High Yield Ba/B 1% Issuer Cap (5%), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. 1-10 Year Inflation Linked (5%), Dow Jones U.S. Select Real Estate Securities (2.4%), Dow Jones Global xU.S. Select Real Estate Securities (1.6%), HFRX Global Hedge Funds (5%), S&P Global Infrastructure (5%), Cambridge Private Equity (10%) and 90 Day T-Bill (4%).
- Endowment Fund A moved from separately managed accounts to the SP Investment Grade Fixed Income Pool as of November 2007 and to the SP U.S. Equity Pools as of December 2007. On July 1, 2019, Endowment Fund A moved the U.S. equity allocation to the SP U.S. Stock Index Pool.
- The U.S. equity benchmark changed from the Dow Jones Total Stock Market Index to the Russell 3000 in October 2011.
- The Non-U.S. Equity pool has been benchmarked to the MSCI All-Country World xU.S. IMI since July 1, 2012; prior to that, the benchmark was the standard MSCI All-Country World xU.S. Index.
- The Investment Grade Fixed Income Benchmark changed from the old Custom FTSE Index (40% Mortgage, 30% Credit, 25% Treasury/Government, 5% Asset-Backed) to the new Custom Bond Benchmark (40% Collateralized, 35% Credit, 25% Treasury/Government) in October 2011. In November 2020 fixed-income benchmarks switched from FTSE to Bloomberg.
- In June 2011, Inflation Indexed Bonds were added as a component of Fund A's asset allocation. The Inflation Index benchmark changed from the FTSE Inflation Linked Securities Index to the FTSE U.S. 1-10 Year Inflation Linked Securities Index as of Dec. 1, 2014. In November 2020 it changed to the Bloomberg Barclays - U.S. TIPS 1-10 Year Index.
- The high-yield benchmark changed from the FTSE High Yield Cash-Pay Capped Index to the FTSE BB/B Cash-Pay Capped Index as of Sept. 1, 2012. In November 2020 it changed to the Bloomberg Barclays - U.S. HY Ba/B 1% Issuer Cap Index.
- Late in 2008, the Real Estate Securities benchmark transitioned from 100% to 60% Wilshire U.S. Real Estate Securities Index, adding 40% Wilshire Ex-U.S. Real Estate Securities Index. In April 2013, the Custom Global Real Estate Securities benchmark transitioned to 60% Dow Jones U.S. Real Estate Securities Index and 40% Dow Jones Global Ex-U.S. Real Estate Securities Index with net dividends.
- Private Infrastructure returns are reported on a quarter lag.
- Private Markets returns reported on the performance table are on a time-weighted basis and on a quarter lag, except for fourth-quarter returns that are on a two-quarter lag. The commentary section may, in addition, reference the Private Markets portfolio's internal rate of return (IRR) and/or multiples such as total value versus paid in capital (TVPI).



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



AT A GLANCE

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

Fund A is administered by the
Endowment Fund of the ELCA dba
ELCA Foundation.

SOCIAL PURPOSE INVESTING

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

ABOUT FUND A

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

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