Item 1: Cover Page



#### Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning

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#### Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

Dated September 11, 2023

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning, "PPWP". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at 270-945-1404. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning is registered as an Investment Adviser with the States of KY & IN. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about PPWP is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the firm's identification number 287623.

# Item 2: Material Changes

The following changes have been made to this version of the Disclosure Brochure since the last annual update on March 21, 2023:

• Items 12 & 14: Updated to reflect the merger of "TD Ameritrade" with "Charles Schwab"; any previous mention of TD Ameritrade was replaced with Charles Schwab

#### **Future Changes**

From time to time, we may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations and routine annual updates as required by the securities regulators. This complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to each Client annually and if a material change occurs in the business practices of PPWP

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure on-line at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov by searching for our firm name or by our CRD number 287623.

You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time, by contacting us at 270-945-1404.

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

#### **Description of Advisory Firm**

Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning is registered as an Investment Adviser with the States of KY & IN. We were founded in January 2017. The firm was approved to conduct business as an investment adviser in March 2017. Ryan Stith is the principal owner of PPWP. PPWP currently reports \$13,992,387 in discretionary and \$1,820,148 in non-discretionary Assets Under Management as of December 31, 2022.

#### **Types of Advisory Services**

#### Investment Management Services (PPWP manages accounts)

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We may also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

Please see the below types of securities that PPWP may recommend while performing Investment Management Services, and the corresponding risks associated with those securities.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

**Corporate Bonds** are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Municipal Bonds** are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds.

However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected.

**Mutual Funds**. When a client invests in open end mutual funds or ETFs, the client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives). ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which client's invest.

#### **Project-Based Financial Planning**

We provide project-based financial planning services. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address any or all of the following areas of concern. The client and advisor will work together to select the specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.
- Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.

- **College Savings**: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).
- Employee Benefits Optimization: We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.
- **Estate Planning**: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts.

We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.

- **Financial Goals**: We will help clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.
- **Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home and automobile.
- Investment Analysis: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- **Retirement Planning**: Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

- Risk Management: A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").
- **Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a upfront fee, clients get continuous access to a planner who will work with them to design their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes and ensure the plan is up to date.

Upon desiring a comprehensive plan, a client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefit, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning and estate planning. Once the client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the client. Clients subscribing to this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow up meeting is required, we will meet at the client's convenience. The plan and the client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the client to confirm that any agreed upon action steps have been carried out. On an annual basis there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time.

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

PPW provides employee benefit plan services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's

participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure and participant education.

In providing employee benefit plan services, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets").

All retirement plan consulting services shall be in compliance with the applicable state laws regulating retirement consulting services. This applies to client accounts that are retirement or other employee benefit plans ("Plan") governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and our firm accepts appointments to provide services to such accounts, our firm acknowledges its fiduciary standard within the meaning of Section 3(21) or 3(38) of ERISA as designated by the Retirement Plan Consulting Agreement with respect to the provision of services described therein.

#### **Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We offer the same suite of services to all of our clients. However, specific client financial plans and their implementation are dependent upon the client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and is used to construct a client specific plan to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

#### Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

### Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a client has received the firm's disclosure brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory contract, the investment advisory contract may be terminated by the client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we are performing. Please review the fee and compensation information below.

#### **Investment Management Services (PPWP Manages)**

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management and is calculated as follows:

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$0 - \$500,000	1.25%
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.75%
\$3,000,001 and Above	0.50%

The annual fees are negotiable and are pro-rated and paid in advance on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a tiered fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart, and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Advisory fees are directly debited from client accounts, or the client may choose to pay by check or electronic transfer of funds through a secure third party payment processor. Account balance(s) on the itemized client invoices may differ from custodial account statements based on trade settlements and reporting delays of certain securities, but will indicate the total account value used to calculate the advisory fee.

Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Upon termination of the account, any unearned fee will be refunded to the client.

If comprehensive financial planning clients engage PPWP for investment management services, PPWP may offset all or a portion of its fees for those investment management services based upon the amount paid for the financial planning and/or consulting services.

#### **Project Based Financial Planning Fee (Fixed Fee)**

Project Based Financial Planning may be offered on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee can range between \$250 - \$750 based on complexity and scope of the engagement and is due upon completion of the engagement. The fee is negotiable. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. In the event of early termination the client will be billed for any earned but unpaid fees.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

Comprehensive Financial Planning consists of an upfront charge of \$500-\$5,000 based on complexity and needs of the client, and an ongoing fee that is paid monthly, in advance, at a rate of \$100 - \$500 per month based on complexity and needs of the client. PPWP requires a minimum annual fee of \$1,200 (\$100 / month).

The upfront fee is due upon delivery of the initial financial plan. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. This service may be terminated with 30 days' notice. Upon termination of the agreement, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the client.

If the client also participates in investment management services and has at least \$100,000 in assets under management, the financial planning fee is waived and the client will pay the investment management fee in accordance with the above fee schedule.

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management and is calculated as follows:

Account Value	PPWP's Fee
\$0 - \$3,000,000	0.50%
\$3,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.40%
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	0.30%
\$10,000,000 and Above	Negotiable

The annual fees are negotiable and are pro-rated and paid in arrears on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a tiered fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart, and applying the fee to the value of plan assets as of the last day of the previous quarter. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without prior written consent from the client/plan sponsor by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current agreement.

Fees may be directly debited from plan assets by the Custodian, or the client may choose to pay by check or electronically via ACH, if desired. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of days serviced in the billing period. Services may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance.

Sample Advisory Fee Calculation:

For a Plan valued at \$2,000,000, as of the last day of the previous quarter, the advisory fee would be calculated as follows:

 $2,000,000 \ge 0.50\% / 4$  Quarters = 2,500 due for the quarter

#### Third-Party Services

This does not include fees to other Third-Party Services, such as RecordKeepers, Custodians, or Third-Party-Administrators.

#### **Other Types of Fees and Expenses**

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do 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.

# Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

We do not offer performance-based fees.

# Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services to individuals, high net-worth individuals, pension and profiting sharing plans, corporations or other businesses.

We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

PPWP was founded in January 2017.

# Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

When clients have us complete an Investment Analysis (described in Item 4 of this brochure), our primary methods of investment analysis are fundamental, technical, cyclical and charting analysis.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Technical analysis** involves using chart patterns, momentum, volume, and relative strength in an effort to pick sectors that may outperform market indices. However, there is no assurance of accurate forecasts or that trends will develop in the markets we follow. In the past, there have been periods without discernible trends and similar periods will presumably occur in the future. Even where major trends develop, outside factors like government intervention could potentially shorten them.

Furthermore, one limitation of technical analysis is that it requires price movement data, which can translate into price trends sufficient to dictate a market entry or exit decision. In a trendless or erratic market, a technical method may fail to identify trends requiring action. In addition, technical methods may overreact to minor price movements, establishing positions contrary to overall price trends, which may result in losses. Finally, a technical trading method may under-perform other trading methods when fundamental factors dominate price moves within a given market.

#### **Passive Investment Management**

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are comprised of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve a desired relationship between correlation, risk and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are typically index mutual funds or exchange traded funds.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), and relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal).

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark. Academic research indicates most active managers underperform the market.

#### **Material Risks Involved**

All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear. Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

Strategy Risk: The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the client's portfolio.

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

**Concentration Risk:** Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Legal or Legislative Risk**: Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation**: Inflation may erode the buying-power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

#### **Risks Associated with Securities**

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

**Corporate Bonds** are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Bank Obligations** including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

**Municipal Bonds** are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds.

However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Options and other derivatives** carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While PPWP does not trade Options and other derivatives, these securities may factor into particular mutual fund purchase and sell recommendations.

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected.

**Investment Companies Risk**. When a client invests in open end mutual funds or ETFs, the client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives). ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which client's invest.

# **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

PPWP and its management have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

#### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

PPWP and its management have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

#### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

PPWP and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of PPWP or the integrity of its management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

No PPWP employee is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

No PPWP employee is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

PPWP does not have any related parties. As a result, we do not have a relationship with any related parties.

PPWP only receives compensation directly from clients. We do not receive compensation from any outside source. We do not have any conflicts of interest with any outside party.

#### **Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers**

PPWP does not recommend clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts.

# Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each client. Our clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

#### **Code of Ethics Description**

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to clients.
- Competence Associated persons shall provide services to clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality Associated persons shall not disclose confidential client information without the specific consent of the client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Associated persons' conduct in all matter shall reflect credit of the profession.

• Diligence - Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide of copy of its Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

# Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest

Neither our firm, its associates or any related person is authorized to recommend to a client, or effect a transaction for a client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, etc.

# Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Our firm and its "related persons" may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates' transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

#### Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities

From time to time, our firm or its "related persons" may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. We will not trade non-mutual fund securities 5 days prior to the same security for clients.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

#### Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers

Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning does not have any affiliation with any broker-dealers or custodians recommended. Specific custodian recommendations are made to client based on their need for such services. We recommend custodians based on the reputation and services provided by the firm.

In recommending custodians, we have an obligation to seek the "best execution" of transactions in Client accounts. The determinative factor in the analysis of best execution is not the lowest possible commission cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of the custodian's services. The factors we consider when evaluating a custodian for best execution include, without limitation, the custodian's:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody);
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades (buy and sell securities for your account);

- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.);
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), etc.);
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services;
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices;
- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability;
- Prior service to us and our clients.

With this in consideration, our firm recommends Charles Schwab & Co., Inc., a registered broker-dealer, member FINRA and SIPC ("Schwab"). Although Clients may request us to use a custodian of their choosing, we generally recommend that Clients open brokerage accounts with Schwab. We are not affiliated with Schwab. The Client will ultimately make the final decision of the custodian to be used to hold the Client's investments by signing the selected custodian's account opening documentation.

#### **Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits**

We do not have any soft-dollar arrangements with custodians whereby soft-dollar credits, used to purchase products and services, are earned directly in proportion to the amount of commissions paid by a client. However, as a result of being on their institutional platform, Schwab may provide us with certain services and products that may benefit us. All such soft dollar benefits are consistent with the safe harbor contained in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

#### **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We receive no referrals from a custodian, broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that custodian, broker-dealer or third party.

#### **Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use**

We do recommend a specific custodian for clients to use, however, clients may custody their assets at a custodian of their choice. Clients may also direct us to use a specific custodian to execute transactions. By allowing clients to choose a specific custodian, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions and this may cost clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

#### Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

The rebalancing system utilized to perform investment management services may combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees.

# Item 13: Review of Accounts

Client accounts with the Investment Management Service will be reviewed regularly on no less than an annual basis by Ryan Stith, Owner and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels. Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or deletions of client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per client's needs.

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the broker(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest.

PPWP will not provide written reports to Investment Management clients.

# Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We receive a non-economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors whose clients maintain their accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12—Brokerage Practices). The availability to us of Schwab's products and services is not based on us giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

# Item 15: Custody

PPWP can establish standing letter of instructions or other similar asset transfer authorization arrangements ("SLOA") with qualified custodians in order for us to disburse funds to accounts as specifically designated by the client. With a SLOA a client can typically authorize first-party and/or third-party transfers. If transfers are third-party, PPWP complies with each of the requirements and conditions enumerated below:

- 1. The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
- 2. The client authorizes PPWP, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
- 3. The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
- 4. The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.

- 5. PPWP has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
- 6. PPWP maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of PPWP or located at the same address as PPWP.
- 7. The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

For client accounts in which PPWP directly debits their advisory fee:

- 1. PPWP will have written authorization from the client to deduct advisory fees from the account;
- 2. Each time a fee is directly deducted from a client account, PPWP will (1) concurrently send the qualified custodian notice of the amount of the fee to be deducted, and (2) send the client an invoice itemizing the fee, including the formula used to calculate the fee, the amount of assets under management that the fee is based, and the time period covered by the fee; and;
- 3. At least quarterly, the qualified custodian sends to the client an account statement identifying the amount of funds and each security in the account at the end of the period and setting forth all transactions in the account during that period

We urge you to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the account statements or reports that we may provide to you. Our invoices or reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, trade settlement requirements, or other valuation methodologies of certain securities.

### Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those client accounts where we provide investment management services, we maintain discretion over client accounts with respect to securities to be bought and sold and the amount of securities to be bought and sold. Investment discretion is explained to clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account. Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the advisory contract and signed by the client.

### **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

We do not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless

you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward you any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## Item 18: Financial Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients, and we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client six months in advance.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

#### **Ryan Stith**

Born: 1985

#### **Educational Background**

• 2008 – BBA in Finance & Management, University of Kentucky

#### **Business Experience**

- 03/2017 Present, Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning, Owner and CCO
- 05/2008 02/2017, Foresters Financial Services, Inc., Registered Representative/Investment Adviser Representative

#### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

- Series 7, Series 66 These are examinations, and not licenses or designations
- CFP<sup>®</sup> (Certified Financial Planner): CFP<sup>®</sup> certificants must have a minimum of three years' workplace experience in financial planning and develop their theoretical and practical financial planning knowledge by completing a comprehensive course of study approved by CFP<sup>®</sup> Board. They must pass a comprehensive 2-day, 10-hour CFP<sup>®</sup> Certification Examination that tests their ability to apply financial planning knowledge in an integrated format. As a final step to certification, CFP<sup>®</sup> practitioners agree to abide by a strict code of professional conduct.

#### **Other Business Activities**

Ryan Stith does not participate in any outside business activities.

#### Performance Based Fees

PPWP is not compensated by performance-based fees.

#### **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

#### Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities

Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning, nor Ryan Stith, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

#### **Additional Compensation**

Ryan Stith does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through PPWP.

#### Supervision

Ryan Stith, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of PPWP, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

#### **Requirements for State Registered Advisers**

Ryan Stith has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.



#### Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning

512 Hillcrest Drive, Suite D Brandenburg, KY 40108 270-945-1404 ryan@pivotpointwealth.com

#### Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

March 22, 2023

#### For

#### Ryan Stith CRD# 5532764

#### Owner, and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Ryan Stith that supplements the Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning ("PPWP") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Ryan Stith if the PPWP brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Ryan Stith is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 287623.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

#### **Ryan Stith**

Born: 1985

#### **Educational Background**

• 2008 – BBA in Finance & Management, University of Kentucky

#### **Business Experience**

- 03/2017 Present, Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning, Owner and CCO
- 05/2008 02/2017, Foresters Financial Services, Inc., Registered Representative/Investment Adviser Representative

#### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

- Series 7, Series 66 These are examinations, and not licenses or designations
- CFP (Certified Financial Planner)<sup>®</sup>: CFP<sup>®</sup> certificants must have a minimum of three years' workplace experience in financial planning and develop their theoretical and practical financial planning knowledge by completing a comprehensive course of study approved by CFP<sup>®</sup> Board. They must pass a comprehensive 2-day, 10-hour CFP<sup>®</sup> Certification Examination that tests their ability to apply financial planning knowledge in an integrated format. As a final step to certification, CFP<sup>®</sup> practitioners agree to abide by a strict code of professional conduct.

# **Item 3: Disciplinary Information**

No management person at Stith Financial Planning, LLC dba Pivot Point Wealth Planning has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

# Item 4: Other Business Activities

Ryan Stith does not participate in any outside business activities

# Item 5: Additional Compensation

Ryan Stith does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through PPWP.

## Item 6: Supervision

Ryan Stith, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of PPWP, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Ryan Stith has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.