

## Item 1: Cover Page

# Pathfinder Planning and Investments

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## **Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure**

Dated: April 2026

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Stewart & Associates, PLLC doing business as Pathfinder Planning and Investments. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (406) 541-3733. 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.

Pathfinder Planning and Investments is a registered investment adviser. Registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Pathfinder Planning and Investments also is available on the SEC's website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov), which can be found using the firm's identification number 159486.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Since this is the first filing of the Form ADV Part 2A for Pathfinder Planning and Investments, there are no material changes to report. In the future, any material changes made during the year will be reported here.



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## Item 4: Advisory Business

### **Description of Advisory Firm**

Pathfinder Planning and Investments is an investment adviser registered with the SEC and principally located in the state of Montana. We are a limited liability company founded in October of 2011. Pathfinder Planning and Investments became registered in 2026. Jill Tripp is the principal owner and Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”).

As used in this brochure, the words “PPI”, “we”, “our firm”, “Advisor” and “us” refer to Pathfinder Planning and Investments and the words “you”, “your” and “Client” refer to you as either a client or prospective client of our firm.

### **Types of Advisory Services**

PPI is a fee-only firm, meaning the only compensation we receive is from our Clients for our services. From time to time, PPI recommends third-party professionals such as attorneys, accountants, tax advisors, insurance agents, or other financial professionals. Clients are never obligated to utilize any third-party professional we recommend. PPI is not affiliated with nor does PPI receive any compensation from third-party professionals we may recommend.

### **Wealth Management Services**

Wealth Management encompasses investment management services and financial planning. 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 will 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 risk tolerance and tax considerations.

We primarily advise our Clients regarding investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, ETFs, U.S. government and municipal securities, and cash and cash equivalents. We may also provide advice regarding investments held in Client's portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship and/or other investment types not listed above, at the Client's request.

When we provide investment management services, Clients grant us limited authority to buy and sell securities on a discretionary basis. More information on our trading authority is explained in Item 16 of this Brochure. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions in writing on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors.

At no additional fee and at Client's election, PPI may provide financial planning services. If Client chooses to participate in financial planning, Client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. Clients will be required to provide pertinent information to help complete the following areas of analysis when applicable: net worth, cash flow, credit scores/reports, employee benefits, retirement planning,

insurance, investments, college planning, and estate planning. Once the Client's information is reviewed, then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the client and updated as necessary.

When appropriate, we may utilize the services of one or more independent investment managers or independent investment management programs ("Outside Managers") to assist with the management of Client accounts. The Outside Managers we recommend may engage our firm directly to provide sub-advisory services to client account(s) and/or may be accessible to our firm through an investment platform offered through your Custodian. We will continue to serve as Client's primary advisor for the ongoing monitoring of the account(s) and the determination of the suitability of the Outside Manager's overall investment program and/or strategies. We will recommend adjustments to your account(s) when we believe such changes are in your best interests. Our review process and analysis of Outside Managers is further discussed in Item 8 of this Brochure.

### ***Altruist Model Marketplace***

PPI may participate in the Model Marketplace of Altruist LLC, an SEC registered investment adviser and affiliate of Altruist Financial LLC, CRD No. 299398. PPI may subscribe client accounts to model portfolios available through Altruist LLC's Model Marketplace, including Altruist LLC-generated portfolios and Third-Party Portfolios, for use by PPI to assist it in managing or advising of client accounts.

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

Project-Based Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. 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 report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to help achieve the Client's stated financial goals and objectives.

We provide project-based financial planning services on a limited scope one-time engagement. Financial Planning is available for Clients looking to address specific questions or issues. The Client may choose from one or more of the topics below to cover or other areas as requested and agreed to by PPI. The Client will be ultimately responsible for the implementation of the financial plan. Advisor will not be monitoring or updating the financial plan after the one-time project is complete. If Client wishes to update their plan, they may engage Advisor in either another Project-Based arrangement or under a Wealth Management agreement.

In general, the financial plan will address some or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and PPI will work together to select 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 children and 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, and reviewing employee stock options. 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 the 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.

## **Educational Seminars / Speaking Engagements**

We may provide seminars for groups seeking general advice on investments and other areas of personal finance. These seminars are purely educational in nature and do not involve the sale of any investment products. Information presented will not be based on any individual’s need, nor does PPI provide individualized investment advice to attendees during these seminars. Topics covered during educational seminars will be determined by the Client and PPI.

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

We tailor the delivery of our services to meet the individual needs of our Clients. We consult with Clients initially and on an ongoing basis, through the duration of their engagement with us, to determine risk tolerance, time horizon and other factors that may impact the Clients’ investment and/or planning needs.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any restrictions they would like to place as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account. All such requests must be provided to PPI in writing. PPI will notify Clients if they are unable to accommodate any requests.

## **Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

## **Assets Under Management**

As of March 3, 2026, PPI has \$0 in discretionary and \$0 in non-discretionary assets under management.

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received this brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing an Advisory Contract, the Advisory Contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the Advisory Contract without penalty or incurring any fees. At no time do we require prepayment of \$1,200 or more, six months or more in advance of rendering the services.

How we are paid depends on the type of advisory services we perform. Below is a brief description of our fees, however, you should review your executed Advisory Contract for more detailed information regarding the exact fees you will be paying. Fees are negotiable and some fees may vary by Client for similar services. No increase to the agreed-upon advisory fees outlined in the Advisory Contract shall occur without prior Client consent.

### **Wealth Management Services**

The fee is based on a percentage of assets under management and is negotiable. The annualized fees for investment management services are based on the following fee schedule:

Assets Under Management	Annual Advisory Fee
<b>\$0 - \$500,000</b>	0.85%
<b>\$500,001 - \$1,000,000</b>	0.65%
<b>1,000,001 - 2,500,000</b>	0.55%
<b>\$2,500,001 - \$5,000,000</b>	0.45%
<b>\$5,000,001 and Above</b>	0.40%

The annual advisory fee is paid quarterly in arrears based on the value of Client's account(s) as of the last day of the billing period. The advisory fee is a blended tier. For example, for assets under management of \$1,000,000, a Client would pay 0.85% on the first \$500,000 and 0.65% on the remaining balance. The formula for the quarterly fee is determined by the following calculation:  $((\$500,000 \times 0.85\%) + (\$500,000 \times 0.65\%)) \div 4$ .

In determining the advisory fee, we may allow accounts of members of the same household to be aggregated. PPI relies on the valuation as provided by Client's custodian(s) in determining assets under management. Our advisory fee is prorated for any partial billing periods occurring during the engagement, including the initial and terminating billing periods. Adjustments may be made for deposits and withdrawals during the billing period.

If PPI utilizes an Outside Manager, the above fee schedule does not include the Outside Manager's fee. The Outside Manager's advisory fees, billing schedule, and payment procedures are set forth in their separate written disclosure documents, advisory agreements, and/or the account opening documents of your account Custodian. At no point will the combined advisory fee charged to the Client exceed 2% of assets under management.

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

We charge an hourly fee of \$300 for Project-Based Financial Planning. Fees are negotiable and the final agreed upon fee will be outlined in your Advisory Contract. Fees are due upon completion of the services.

### **Educational Seminars / Speaking Engagements**

Seminars and speaking engagements are offered to organizations and the public on a variety of financial topics. Fees range from \$0 to \$2,500 per seminar. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. Fees are due at the conclusion of the Seminar. Advisor offers its services in a virtual or in-person setting. Should the event require travel arrangements, both parties must agree to the terms of travel (i.e., cost, distance, hotel arrangements) at the start of the engagement.

### **Fee Payment**

For Wealth Management services, we deduct our advisory fee from one or more account(s) held at an unaffiliated third-party custodian, as directed by the Client. Please refer to Item 15 of this Brochure regarding our policy on direct fee deduction.

For Financial Planning services and Educational Seminars / Speaking Engagements, fees are paid by check.

### **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 custodians for Client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

Clients may incur fees from third-party professionals such as accountants and attorneys that PPI may recommend, upon Client request. Such fees are separate and distinct from PPI's advisory fees.

### **Terminations and Refunds**

For Wealth Management services, the Advisory Contract may be terminated with written notice 15 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the Advisory Contract. Clients will be responsible for payment of fees up to the date of termination.

For Project-Based Financial Planning services, this service is not an ongoing engagement, thus upon receipt of the final fees, the Advisory Contract will automatically be terminated. Clients may terminate at any time provided written notice. Client shall be charged a pro-rata fee based upon the number of hours up to the date of termination.

For Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements, Advisor or Clients may cancel the event with 30 days' advance written notice. Should the Client cancel the event within 30 days of the event (with the exception of weather or similar unforeseen causes), the Client will be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred and a prorated fee for any work conducted in preparation of the event, based on the percentage of work done and the flat fee agreed upon by both parties.

### **Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products**

Advisor and its supervised persons 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 and do not engage in side-by-side management.

## Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and wealth management services to individuals, high net-worth individuals and charitable organizations.

Our minimum account size requirement is \$500,000 to open or maintain an account under our management. PPI may reduce or waive the minimum account size requirement on a case-by-case basis.

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

Below is a brief description of our methods of analysis and primary investment strategies.

### **Methods of Analysis**

#### **Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT)**

The underlying principles of MPT are:

- Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.
- Markets are efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.
- The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.
- Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.
- Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

Risks Associated with Modern Portfolio Theory: Market risk is that part of a security's risk that is common to all securities of the same general class (stocks and bonds) and thus cannot be eliminated by diversification.

**Mutual Fund and/or ETF Analysis:** We look at the experience and track record of the manager of the mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated a consistent and resilient investment process over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We also look at the underlying assets in a mutual fund or ETF in an attempt to determine if there is significant overlap in the underlying investments held in other funds in the Client's portfolio. In addition, we monitor the funds or ETFs in an attempt to determine if they are continuing to follow their stated investment strategy.

A risk of mutual fund and/or ETF analysis is that, as in all securities investments, past performance does not guarantee future results. A manager who has been successful may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in a fund or ETF, managers of different funds held by the client may purchase the same security, increasing the risk to the client if that security were to fall in value. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the fund or ETF, which could make the fund or ETF less suitable for the Client's portfolio.

**Use of Outside Managers:** We may refer clients to independent investment managers or independent investment management programs ("Outside Managers") offered by various sub-advisors to manage portions of a client's portfolio. The decision to use an Outside Manager is based on our assessment of the client's needs and objectives, and whether these solutions may be more appropriate than mutual funds or ETFs for certain portfolio allocations. Our due diligence and ongoing monitoring of Outside Managers involves evaluating their experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and historical performance to assess their ability to manage investments over various market cycles. We also review and monitor their underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations, and leverage as part of our periodic risk assessments. As part of our diligence process, we assess compliance infrastructure and enterprise-level business risks to help identify any operational concerns. Clients should be aware that past success by an Outside Manager or sub-advisor does not guarantee future performance. There is also a risk that these managers may deviate from their stated investment mandates, potentially making the strategy less suitable for our clients. Furthermore, because we do not oversee the daily business or compliance operations of these third parties, we may be unaware of deficiencies in internal controls that could lead to business, regulatory, or reputational risks.

## **Investment Strategies**

### **Asset Allocation**

In implementing our Clients' investment strategy, we begin by attempting to identify an appropriate ratio of equities, fixed income, and cash (i.e. "asset allocation") suitable to the Client's investment goals and risk tolerance.

A risk of asset allocation is that the Client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of equities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the Client's goals. We attempt to closely monitor our asset allocation models and make changes periodically to keep in line with the target risk tolerance model.

When a Client holds multiple account types (e.g., taxable brokerage accounts, traditional IRAs, and Roth IRAs), we may employ an "asset location" strategy. This involves placing specific asset classes into the most tax-advantaged account types based on their expected tax treatment. For example, we may prioritize placing tax-inefficient assets, such as high-yield bonds or actively managed funds, into tax-deferred accounts, while placing more tax-efficient assets, like index equity funds or municipal bonds, into taxable accounts.

The primary risk of an asset location strategy is that tax laws and individual tax brackets may change over time, potentially rendering the current location strategy less effective or even disadvantageous. Additionally, focusing on tax efficiency may result in an individual account appearing imbalanced or taking on more risk than the Client's overall target allocation. A Client's total "household" allocation may be balanced, but the performance and risk profile of one specific account may vary significantly from another. We do not provide legal or tax advice, and Clients should consult with a tax professional regarding their specific situation.

### **Passive and Active Investment Management**

We may choose investment vehicles that are considered passive, active, or a combination of both styles.

Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed 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.

Active investing 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. Actively managed funds are also designed to reduce volatility and risk.

We may engage in both passive and active investing in a Client's portfolio. However, we strive to construct portfolios of funds and individual securities that we believe will have the greatest probability for achieving our Clients' personal financial goals with the least amount of volatility and risk rather than attempt to outperform an arbitrary index or benchmark.

Specific investment selections are based on a number of factors that we evaluate in order to select, what we believe to be, the highest quality funds or individual securities for our Clients. These factors include but are not limited to underlying holdings of funds, percentage weighting of holdings within funds, liquidity, tax efficiency, bid/ask spreads, and other smart/strategic beta factors. These factors may or may not result in the lowest cost ETFs and mutual funds available when utilizing funds in a Client's portfolio, but we strive to keep internal fund expenses at a reasonable level.

### **Socially Responsible Investing**

We may utilize various socially conscious investment approaches if a Client requests. PPI may construct portfolios that utilize mutual funds, ETFs, or individual securities with the purpose of incorporating socially conscious principles into a Client's portfolio. These portfolios may sometimes also be customized to reflect the personal values of each individual, family, or organization. This allows our Clients to invest in a way that aligns with their values. PPI may rely on mutual funds and ETFs that incorporate Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") research as well as positive and negative screens related to specific business practices to determine the quality of an investment on values-based merits.

If you request your portfolio to be invested according to socially conscious principles, you should note that returns on investments of this type may be limited and because of this limitation you may not be able to be

as well diversified among various asset classes. The number of publicly traded companies that meet socially conscious investment parameters is also limited, and due to this limitation, there is a probability of similarity or overlap of holdings, especially among socially conscious mutual funds or ETFs. Therefore, there could be a more pronounced positive or negative impact on a socially conscious portfolio, which could be more volatile than a fully diversified portfolio.

### **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.

**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 factors such 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.

**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. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above (premium) or below (discount) their net asset value and an ETF purchased at a premium may ultimately be sold at a discount; (ii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted 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 the Clients invest.

**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.

**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).

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

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

### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

PPI and its management persons have not been involved in any administrative enforcement proceedings.

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

PPI and its management persons have not been involved in any self-regulatory organization (SRO) proceedings.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

### **Broker-Dealer Affiliation**

Neither PPI or its management persons is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

### **Other Affiliations**

Neither PPI or its management persons is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

### **Related Persons**

Jill Tripp is registered as an investment adviser representative of Core Planning and provides advisory services to Clients of that firm. This activity accounts for up to 20 to 40 hours per week during normal trading hours. Advisory services provided to Clients of Core Planning are separate from any services provided to Clients of PPI. It is expected that Jill's time dedicated to Core Planning will decrease significantly or terminate completely after July 1, 2026.

Hannah Santa Cruz is registered as an investment adviser representative of Core Planning and provides advisory services to Clients of that firm. This activity accounts for up to 20 to 40 hours per week during normal trading hours. Advisory services provided to Clients of Core Planning are separate from any services provided to Clients of PPI. It is expected that Hannah's time dedicated to Core Planning will decrease significantly or terminate completely after July 1, 2026.

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

PPI may recommend Clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts. In the event that we recommend an Outside Manager, we do not share in their advisory fee. Our fee is separate and in addition to their compensation (as noted in Item 5 of this brochure). In addition, Clients will receive a copy of the Outside Manager's Form ADV 2A, Firm Brochure, which also describes the Outside Manager's fee. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any Outside Manager we recommend. Moreover, PPI will only recommend an Outside Manager who is properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser.

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

As a fiduciary, our firm has 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 of Ethics does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield our firm or its access persons from liability for misconduct that violates a fiduciary duty to our Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity - Access persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity - Access persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence - Access 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 - Access 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 - Access 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 - Access persons conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence - Access 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 a 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 access persons, 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, principal transaction, among others.

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

Our firm, its access persons, and its related persons may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest, our Code of Ethics may require that we restrict or prohibit access persons' transactions in specific reportable securities. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by PPI's Chief Compliance Officer in advance of the transaction in an account. PPI maintains a copy of access persons' personal securities transactions as required.

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

From time to time our firm, its access persons, or its related persons may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as they buy or sell securities for Clients' account(s). To address this conflict, it is our policy that neither our firm or access persons shall have priority over Clients' accounts in the purchase or sale of securities.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

### **Factors Used to Select Custodians**

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 Altruist Financial, LLC (“Altruist”) and Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“Schwab”), both independent and unaffiliated SEC registered broker-dealer firms and members of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”).

### **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 platforms, Altruist and Schwab may provide us with certain services that may benefit us.

### **Altruist**

PPI offers investment advisory services through the custodial platform offered by Altruist Financial LLC, an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA/SIPC member (“Altruist”). Custody, clearing, and execution services are provided by Altruist as a self-clearing broker-dealer. PPI’s clients establish brokerage accounts through Altruist. PPI maintains an institutional relationship with Altruist whereby Altruist provides certain benefits to PPI, including a fully digital account opening process, a variety of available investments, and integration with software tools that can benefit PPI and its clients. PPI is not affiliated with Altruist.

### **Schwab**

Schwab Advisor Services™ is Schwab’s business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our Clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (trading, custody, reporting and related services), many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our Clients’ accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab’s support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don’t have to request them) and at no charge to us. The benefits received by Advisor or its personnel do not depend on the number of brokerage transactions directed to Schwab. As part of its fiduciary duties to Clients, Advisor at all times must put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor’s choice of Schwab for custody and brokerage services. This conflict of interest is mitigated as Advisor regularly reviews the factors used to select custodians to ensure our recommendation is appropriate. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab’s support services:

1. **Services that benefit you.** Schwab’s institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have

access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our Clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

2. **Services that may not directly benefit you.** Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our Clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our Clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:
  - provide access to Client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
  - facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple Client accounts
  - provide pricing and other market data
  - facilitate payment of our fees from our Clients' accounts
  - assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting
3. **Services that generally benefit only us.** Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:
  - Educational conferences and events
  - Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
  - Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession
4. **Your brokerage and custody costs.** For our Clients' accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account. Certain trades (for example, many mutual funds and ETFs) may not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees.

### **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**

Our firm requires Clients establish account(s) at Altruist or Schwab to execute transactions through. We will assist with establishing your account(s) at Altruist or Schwab, however, we will not have the authority to open accounts on the Client's behalf. Not all investment advisers require their Clients to use their recommended custodian. By requiring that Clients use Altruist or Schwab, we may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of Client transactions, and this practice may cost Clients more money. We base our recommendations on the factors disclosed in Item 12 herein and will only recommend custodians if we believe it's in the best interest of the Client. We do not permit Clients to direct brokerage (direct us to a broker-dealer of your choosing).

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

Aggregating orders, batch trading, or block trading is a process where trades for the same securities are purchased or sold for several clients at approximately the same time. We do not engage in block trading. It should be noted that implementing trades on a block or aggregate basis may be less expensive for client

accounts; however, it is our trading policy to implement all client orders on an individual basis. Therefore, we do not aggregate or “block” client transactions. Considering the types of investments we hold in advisory client accounts, we do not believe clients are hindered in any way because we trade accounts individually. This is because we develop individualized investment strategies for clients and holdings will vary. Our strategies are primarily developed for the long-term and minor differences in price execution are not material to our overall investment strategy.

Outside Managers used by PPI may block Client trades at their discretion. Their specific practices are further discussed in their ADV Part 2A, Item 12.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

### **Periodic Reviews**

Clients who engage us for investment management services will have their account(s) reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Jill Tripp, Owner and CCO and Hannah Santa Cruz, Planner/Advisor. The account(s) are reviewed with regards to the Client’s investment objectives and risk tolerance levels.

### **Triggers of Reviews**

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.

### **Review Reports**

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the custodian(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.

PPI may provide written performance or holdings reports to Wealth Management Clients outside of what is provided directly by their custodian.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

### **Compensation Received by Pathfinder Planning and Investments**

PPI is a fee-only firm that is compensated solely by its Clients. PPI does not receive commissions or other sales-related compensation. Except as mentioned in Item 12 above, we do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients.

### **Client Referrals from Solicitors**

PPI does not, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals.

## Item 15: Custody

PPI does not hold, directly or indirectly, Client funds or securities, or have any authority to obtain possession of them. All Client assets are held at a qualified custodian.

When PPI deducts its advisory fee from Client's account(s), the following safeguards will be applied:

- i. The Client will provide written authorization to PPI, permitting us to be paid directly from Client's accounts held by the custodian.
- ii. The custodian will send at least quarterly statements to the Client showing all disbursements from the accounts, including the amount of the advisory fee.

We urge you to carefully review custodial statements and compare them to the account invoices or reports that we may provide to you and notify us of any discrepancies. Clients are responsible for verifying the accuracy of these fees as listed on the custodian's brokerage statement as the custodian does not assume this responsibility. Our invoices or reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, PPI has discretionary authority and limited power of attorney to determine the securities and the amount of securities to be bought or sold for a Client's account without having to obtain prior Client approval for each transaction. 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(s). Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the Advisory Contract and signed by the Client. Clients may limit our discretion by requesting certain restrictions on investments. However, approval of such requests are at the firm's sole discretion.

If PPI has engaged an Outside Manager to assist with the management of Client's portfolio, PPI has the discretion to direct the Outside Manager to buy or sell securities for Client's portfolio without obtaining prior Client approval for each transaction.

## 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 has any questions 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

We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to our Clients, nor have we been the subject of any bankruptcy proceeding. We do not have custody of Client

funds or securities, except as disclosed in Item 15 above, or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six months or more in advance.