# CLIENT RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY March 5, 2024



Meridian Financial Partners LLC ("MFP") is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment adviser. Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ and it is important for you to understand the differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at <a href="Investor.gov/CRS">Investor.gov/CRS</a>, which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

## What investment services and advice can you provide me?

At MFP we believe we cannot manage your assets without financial planning. Our approach to asset management is based on developing and maintaining a strong relationship with you through regular communication to develop trust and insight to your financial needs. As we get to know you, we develop an understanding of your financial goals to build your financial plan. We then manage assets discretionary basis, meaning you give us the authority to make transactions within your accounts. We manage accounts in your portfolio based on asset allocations we have mutually agreed upon. MFP manages clients' accounts on an individual bases. We do not use models nor limit the type of investment offerings. Clients may place reasonable restrictions on the management of assets, including regarding specific securities or types of securities. Our goal is to keep clients educated and organized, which we believe puts them in the best position to exercise the ongoing financial discipline required to acquire and maintain wealth.

The types of clients we advised may include individuals, families, trusts, charitable organizations and foundations, pensions, and corporations. Meridian does not have an account minimum but does have a minimum fee of \$1,200. (See below)

For more detailed information, please refer to our Disclosure Brochure, the ADV Part 2A, under Item 4 Advisory Business and Item 7 Types of Clients, which can be found by <u>CLICKING HERE</u>.

## What fees will I pay?

Asset management fees vary from 0.50% to 1.00% per annum of the market value of a client's assets managed MPF. Fees are negotiable, and may be higher or lower than this range, based on the nature of the account. The advisory fee is paid monthly, in advance, and the value used for the fee calculation is the gross value as of the last market day of the previous month. This means that if your annual fee is 1.00%, then each month we will multiply the value of your account by 1.00% then divide by the number of days in the year times the number of days in the month to calculate your fee. In calculating the market value of a client's assets, assets allocated to cash or a cash proxy, such as a money market account, will be included in the calculation of assets under management. Once the calculation is made, we will instruct your account custodian to deduct the fee from your account and remit it to MFP. Account fee minimums will apply depending on the level assets we are managing and your *fee schedule*. This fee minimum helps to offset the time it takes for financial planning, which is provided to all clients.

There are a number of other fees that can be associated with holding and investing in securities. Some of these fees includes custodian fees, account maintenance fees, fess related to mutual funds and variable annuities, and other transactional fees and product-level fees.

You will pay fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying.

For more specific information regarding our fees, please refer our Disclosure Brochure, the ADV Part 2A under Item 5 Fees and Compensation by <u>CLICKING HERE</u>.

# What are your legal obligations to me when acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the investment advice we provide you. Here's example to help you understand what this means.

We recommend investment accounts be held in custody by Schwab Advisor Services ("Schwab"), which is a qualified custodian. Schwab offers services that generally benefit only us, not you, the client, intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. An example of these services is access to education or technology. We do not have to pay or maintain a specific amount of business with Schwab to receive these services. However, we may have an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

## How do your financial professionals make money?

We are paid a portion of the asset management and financial planning fees collected from clients and not rewarded sales bonuses or commissions.

## Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?

No. We have no legal or disciplinary history. Feel free to go to <a href="Investor.gov/CRS">Investor.gov/CRS</a> for a simple search.

You may find additional information about us by <u>CLICKING HERE</u> or calling (540)-878-5416 to request up-to-date information and a copy of the relationship summary.

## **Here are recommended Conversation Starters suggested by SEC:**

- Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Should I choose a brokerage service? Should I choose both types of services? Why or why not?
- How will you choose investments to recommend to me?
- What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education, and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?
- Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?
- How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?
- As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history? For what type of conduct?
- Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?

## Item 1: Cover Sheet



### FORM ADV PART 2A: INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

## **Meridian Financial Partners LLC**

39 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Warrenton, VA 20186 (540)-878-5416, meridianfinancialpartners.com Sarah Yakel, Chief Compliance Officer

Version – January 17, 2024

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Meridian Financial Partners LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (540)-878-5416. 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. Our registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Additional information about Meridian Financial Partners LLC is also available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>.

# Item 2: Statement of Material Changes

In this item, we are required to list material changes since the last ADV Update. Since the last update made on February 7, 2023 there have been no material changes.

# Item 3: Table of Contents

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# INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE MERIDIAN FINANCIAL PARTNERS LLC

## Item 4: Advisory Business

Meridian Financial Partners LLC ("Meridian Financial") has been in business since July, 2015. Sarah Yakel and Nathan Gilbert are the firm's principal owners. Jointly, they have more than 50 years of financial experience.

Meridian Financial provides personalized asset management and financial planning services. We strive to build lasting relationships and create an exceptional experience that provides clients with individualized attention and a wealth plan tailored to their needs. Our belief is that making clients feel like they are part of the Meridian Financial family fosters a strong working relationship, with an added personal touch. We attempt to help build, maintain, and preserve the assets that clients have worked so hard to accumulate.

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

Our predominant service is asset management. When a client has at least \$250,000 (subject to our discretion to waive this minimum) we will invest their assets in a manner consistent with their investment objectives. To ascertain these objectives, the client experience begins with a thorough orientation process and continues as we attempt to learn about you and your family over the years.

Meridian Financial's approach to asset management is based on developing and maintaining a strong relationship with each client through regular communication. We want these exchanges to be initiated by both the firm and the client, as needs arise, or even just as communication for the sake of keeping in touch. This is important as Meridian Financial believes successful asset management services can best be provided when there exists a relationship between client and advisor based on That trust is developed over time and maintained through honest and open communication, which is an aspect of our industry Meridian Financial believes, is frequently absent. When advisors and clients only communicate on a superficial level, rather than striving to get to the fundamental drivers of a client's goals or advisor's concerns and strategies, clients come away with cluttered, confused ideas as to where they are going and how to get there. Meridian Financial does not expect, nor want clients to simply trust the firm to take care of the investments without significant input from the client. Rather, it is Meridian Financial's goal to keep clients educated and organized, which we believe puts them in the best position to exercise the ongoing financial discipline required to acquire and maintain wealth. This is why we do not force clients into a specific strategy or product. Instead, we welcome clients to discuss investment preferences or place reasonable restrictions on how we manage their assets. We review each account on its own merits, using the information we have from the client to guide our recommendations.

While Meridian Financial leans toward longer period investments, sometimes asset allocation or underlying security selection needs to change somewhat rapidly in order to protect principal from an unforeseeable market event, or to allow for various changes in asset class performance to be rebalanced in the client's portfolio. Accordingly, we believe we work best when managing assets on a discretionary basis, which means that within the guidelines of a given client's objectives and restrictions, we will make changes in client portfolios without specific consultation with the client prior to the change. We will in limited circumstances work with clients on a non-discretionary basis, in which case we will contact the client prior to making changes in a portfolio. However, if we are unable

to reach a non-discretionary client, the recommended trade will not be made which can compromise the portfolio.

All clients will be required to sign an agreement between the client and Meridian Financial, which outlines the firm's, and the client's responsibilities during the engagement. The agreement will also include a limited power of attorney (which grants Meridian Financial the ability to place trades in a client account, not the ability to execute documents of any kind on your behalf). Client assets will always be maintained with a third party custodian, who will send each client a statement at least quarterly showing the holdings in their portfolio, any transactions made, the costs for those transactions, and any fees debited from their accounts. We encourage clients to thoroughly review those statements and contact Meridian Financial with any questions, concerns, or thoughts.

All clients, but especially those with smaller accounts, should be advised they may receive similar services from other professionals for higher or lower overall costs.

#### FINANCIAL PLANNING

Meridian Financial believes some degree of financial planning is always required in order to manage a client's assets well. The firm will not be able to help a client meet goals if those goals are not well defined, and the rationale behind those goals explained. The financial planning process at Meridian Financial is not necessarily readily distinguishable from the asset management process, in that it continues through the engagement just as asset management does. But at the inception of a relationship, a significant portion of time will be allocated towards information gathering and organizing the client's current circumstances, likely future needs, and aspirations. Separating the client's aspirations from potential realities is done at this stage. Clients will be asked to provide information in the form of documents, such as statements for existing accounts, insurance policies, and tax status. Other background on both income and necessary and desired expenditures is reviewed during discussions with each client. Meridian Financial believes that these discussions are crucial to setting up and maintaining the proper asset allocations for client portfolios, because too often clients focus on a number such as a number they believe they need for retirement, as opposed to a state of affairs, such as maintaining a lifestyle during retirement or other goals. These are not always one and the same, because the number a client believes is the goal is not always the right number to reach their actual goals. Separating the two is most important, and helps clients avoid the ever present noise and focus on what they really want. The planning process must be ongoing, because needs and resources can and do change.

Meridian shall generally provide financial planning and related consulting services regarding non-investment related matters, such as estate planning, tax planning, insurance, etc. inclusive of its advisory fee in Item 5, below. Meridian does not serve as an attorney, accountant or insurance agent, and no portion of our services should be construed as legal, accounting or insurance services. Accordingly, Meridian does not prepare estate planning documents or tax returns, not does it sell insurance products. If you request, Meridian Financial may recommend the services of other professionals for implementation purposes. You are under no obligation to engage the services of any such recommended professional. You retain absolute discretion over all such implementation decisions and are free to accept or reject any recommendation from Meridian Financial. If you engage any professional recommended by Meridian Financial, you agree to seek recourse exclusively from and against the engaged professional.

In performing our services, Meridian counts on the accuracy of information received by you or from other professionals. Moreover, it is your responsibility to promptly let us know if there are ever any

changes in your financial situation or investment objectives for the purpose of reviewing/evaluating/revising our previous recommendations and/or services.

#### ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

As of December 31, 2023, Meridian Financial had a total of \$400,472,593 assets under management across 1,227 accounts. Of that total, there was \$348,627 held in 5 non-discretionary accounts.

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

#### A. Fees Charged

#### ASSET MANAGEMENT

All investment management clients will be required to execute an Investment Management Agreement that will describe the type of management services to be provided and the fees, among other items.

Generally, fees vary from 0.50% to 1.00% per annum of the market value of a client's assets managed by Meridian Financial. The fee range stated is a guide. Fees are negotiable, and may be higher or lower than this range, based on the nature of the account. Factors affecting fee percentages include the size of the account, complexity of asset structures, and other factors.

Assets under Management	Advisory Fee Schedule
First \$2,000,000	1.00%
Next \$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.85%
Next \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	0.70%
Next \$10,000,001 and above	0.50%

\*\$1,200 minimum annual fee per household

\*Generally, Meridian Financial has a \$250,000 account minimum. However, smaller accounts may be accepted but will be charged a minimum fee to offset the static costs of servicing clients, which include the hours spent performing client service and financial planning for our clients. Because this time is the same (and sometimes more) for smaller accounts as well as larger ones, the minimum was created. Clients should be advised that when any account minimum is applied, clients with smaller accounts may pay more in terms of a percentage of assets under management than they would without a minimum fee. Accordingly, clients may pay less with another adviser.

#### FINANCIAL PLANNING

Fees for ongoing financial planning are included in the investment advisory fee. Significant changes to the financial plan (e.g. business succession, divorce allocations, estate settlement) may result in separate billing on an hourly basis, but we will clearly communicate this to you in advance. Additionally, hourly billing is available for projects outside the scope of our ongoing financial planning work. This may include expert witness testimony, divorce mediation, review of private business ventures, and second opinions. Our hourly billing rate is \$200 per hour. A separate agreement will need to be executed outlining the scope of the project.

#### B. Fee Payment

Investment advisory fees will be debited directly from each client's account. The advisory fee is paid monthly, in advance, and the value used for the fee calculation is the gross value as of the last market day of the previous month. This means that if your annual fee is 1.00%, then each month we will multiply the value of your account by 1.00% then divide by the number of days in the year times the number of days in the month to calculate your fee. In calculating the market value of a client's assets, assets allocated to cash or a cash proxy, such as a money market account, will be included in the calculation of assets under management. Once the calculation is made, we will instruct your account custodian to deduct the fee from your account and remit it to Meridian Financial. While almost all of our clients choose to have their fee debited from their account, we will invoice clients upon request.

Clients whose fees are directly debited will provide written authorization to debit advisory fees from their accounts held by a qualified custodian chosen by the client. The client will receive a statement from their account custodian showing all transactions in their account, including the fee.

#### C. Other Fees

There are a number of other fees that can be associated with holding and investing in securities. You will be responsible for any fees charged by the custodian including transaction fees for the purchase or sale of a mutual fund or Exchange Traded Fund, or commissions for the purchase or sale of a stock. Expenses of a fund will not be included in management fees, as they are deducted from the value of the shares by the mutual fund manager. For complete discussion of expenses related to each mutual fund, you should read a copy of the prospectus issued by that fund. Meridian Financial can provide or direct you to a copy of the prospectus for any fund that we recommend to you. Additionally, if you make any special request of the custodian such as trust accounting and reporting, any charges from the custodian will be passed on to you.

Most mutual funds offer different share classes with vary fee structures, including share classes with sales load, sales charges, or 12B-1 fees. 12B-1 fees are deducted from the mutual funds' assets on an ongoing basis, and are paid to broker-dealers and registered representatives whose clients own those shares to cover fund distribution and shareholder services. However, it is Meridian policy that when specific funds offer more than one share class, Meridian will select the lowest-cost share class available to the client, absent circumstances that dictate otherwise.

Additionally, as assets are transitioned from a client's prior advisors to Meridian, clients may hold legacy securities and may place restrictions on individual security types. Legacy securities are those that a client owned prior to or separate from its Meridian portfolio. If a client transitions mutual fund shares to Meridian that are not the lowest-cost share class, and Meridian is not recommending disposing of the security altogether, Meridian will attempt to convert such mutual fund share classes into the lowest-cost share classes the client is eligible for, taking into account any adverse tax consequences associated with such conversion.

Please make sure to read Item 12 of this informational brochure, where we discuss broker-dealer and custodial issues.

#### D. Pro-rata Fees

If you become a client during a month, you will pay a management fee for the number of days left in that month. If you terminate our relationship during a month, you will be entitled to a refund of any management fees for the remainder of the month. Once your notice of termination is received, we will refund the unearned fees to you in whatever way you direct (check, wire back to your account). Meridian Financial will cease to perform services, including processing trades and distributions, upon termination. Assets not transferred from terminated accounts within 30 (thirty) days of termination may be "de-linked", meaning they will no longer be visible to Meridian Financial and will become a retail account with the custodian.

## E. Compensation for the Sale of Securities.

This item is not applicable.

## Item 6: Performance-Based Fees

Meridian Financial will not charge performance based fees.

## Item 7: Types of Clients

Clients advised may include individuals, families, trusts, charitable organizations and foundations, pensions, and corporations. Meridian does not have an account minimum but does have a minimum fee of \$1,200 per household. Please refer back to section 5, Fees and Compensation.

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

It is important for you to know and remember that all investments carry risks. **Investing in securities** involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear.

As each client comes to Meridian Financial, we assist in developing a plan to transition to Meridian Financial's approach. Not all transitions can happen quickly as it may be advantageous for certain existing investments to be held for a period of time for tax or other reasons. Meridian Financial's investment selection process focuses on the idea that asset allocation, meaning the selection of asset classes as opposed to specific securities, is the predominant driver of performance. Using our own research, research made available to us from vendors, custodians or other third parties, what we observe in the markets, news releases and any other publicly available sources at our disposal, Meridian Financial develops a view of different asset classes and what the anticipated returns from that class as likely to be as a whole in the near, medium and longer terms. Based on this judgment, we allocate client assets to the asset classes we believe will perform for the client's needs. For example, a client whose main goal is asset protection may be allocated more assets to a given asset class than a client with a longer time horizon and greater risk tolerance. This does not mean Meridian Financial does a simple analysis that shorter term investors go into bonds and longer term investors to equities.

Rather, there may be times when in the near term, traditional corporate bonds or bond funds may not be a safe haven. This is where Meridian Financial strives to add value: in the judgment of how much to each asset class and when.

Once the main asset allocation is determined, specific securities are selected. Meridian Financial reviews each proposed security taking into consideration anticipated performance, current market conditions, liquidity, costs, and where applicable, management.

It is important to remember that because market conditions can vary greatly, asset allocation guidelines are not necessarily strict rules. Rather, we review accounts individually, and may deviate from the guidelines as we believe necessary.

Meridian has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the client's best interest. As part of its investment advisory services, Meridian reviews client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine if any changes are necessary based upon various factors, including, but not limited to, investment performance, mutual fund manager tenure, style drift, and/or a change in the client's investment objective. Based upon these factors, there may be extended periods of time when Firm determines that changes to a client's portfolio are neither necessary nor prudent.

#### THIRD PARTY RESEARCH

Meridian's Investment Committee may utilize research recommendations from an independent third party whose managers demonstrate knowledge and expertise in a particular investment strategy. Meridian does not allocate client asset to these third parties and they are for research information only. As part of Meridian's diligence process, we will examine the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of independent third parties.

#### RISK OF LOSS

There are always risks to investing. Clients should be aware that all investments carry various types of risk including the potential loss of principal that clients should be prepared to bear. It is impossible to name all possible types of risks. Among the risks are the following:

- **Political Risks.** Most investments have a global component, even domestic stocks. Political events anywhere in the world may have unforeseen consequences to markets around the world.
- **General Market Risks.** Markets can, as a whole, go up or down on various news releases or for no understandable reason at all. This sometimes means that the price of specific securities could go up or down without real reason, and may take some time to recover any lost value. Adding additional securities does not help to minimize this risk since all securities may be affected by market fluctuations.
- **Currency Risk.** When investing in another country using another currency, the changes in the value of the currency can change the value of your security value in your portfolio.
- Regulatory Risk. Changes in laws and regulations from any government can change the value of a given company and its accompanying securities. Certain industries are more susceptible to government regulation. Changes in zoning, tax structure or laws impact the return on these investments.
- Tax Risks Related to Short Term Trading: Clients should note that Meridian Financial may engage in short-term trading transactions. These transactions may result in short term gains or losses for federal and state tax purposes, which may be taxed at a higher rate than long term strategies. Meridian Financial endeavors to invest client assets in a tax efficient manner, but all clients are advised to consult with their tax professionals regarding the transactions in client accounts.

- **Purchasing Power Risk.** Purchasing power risk is the risk that your investment's value will decline as the price of goods rises (inflation). The investment's value itself does not decline, but its relative value does, which is the same thing. Inflation can happen for a variety of complex reasons, including a growing economy and a rising money supply.
- **Business Risk.** This can be thought of as certainty or uncertainty of income. Management comes under business risk. Cyclical companies (like automobile companies) have more business risk because of the less steady income stream. On the other hand, fast food chains tend to have steadier income streams and therefore, less business risk.
- Financial Risk. The amount of debt or leverage determines the financial risk of a company.
- **Default Risk.** This risk pertains to the ability of a company to service their debt. Ratings provided by several rating services help to identify those companies with more risk. Obligations of the U.S. government are said to be free of default risk.
- Margin Risk. "Margin" is a tool used to maximize returns on a given investment by using securities in a client account as collateral for a loan from the custodian to the client. The proceeds of that loan are then used to buy more securities. In a positive result, the additional securities provide additional return on the same initial investment. In a negative result, the additional securities provide additional losses. Margin therefore carries a higher degree of risk than investing without margin. Any client account that will use margin will do so in accordance with Regulation T. Meridian Financial may utilize margin on a limited basis for clients with higher risk tolerances.
- Short Sales. "Short sales" are a way to implement a trade in a security Meridian Financial feels is overvalued. In a "long" trade, the investor is hoping the security increases in price. Thus, in a long trade, the amount of the investor's loss (without margin) is the amount paid for the security. In a short sale, the investor is hoping the security decreases in price. However, unlike a long trade where the price of the security can only go from the purchase price to zero, in a short sale, the prince of the security can go infinitely upwards. Thus, in a short sale, the potential for loss is unlimited and unknown, where the potential for loss in a long trade is limited and knowable. Meridian Financial utilizes short sales only when the client's risk tolerances permit.
- Information Risk. All investment professionals rely on research in order to make conclusions about investment options. This research is always a mix of both internal (proprietary) and external (provided by third parties) data and analyses. Even an adviser who says they rely solely on proprietary research must still collect data from third parties. This data, or outside research is chosen for its perceived reliability, but there is no guarantee that the data or research will be completely accurate. Failure in data accuracy or research will translate to a compromised ability by the adviser to reach satisfactory investment conclusions.
- Small Companies. Some investment opportunities in the marketplace involve smaller issuers. These companies may be starting up, or are historically small. While these companies sometimes have potential for outsized returns, they also have the potential for losses because the reasons the company is small are also risks to the company's future. For example, a company's management may lack experience, or the company's capital for growth may be restricted. These small companies also tend to trade less frequently than larger companies, which can add to the risks associated with their securities because the ability to sell them at an appropriate price may be limited a compared to the markets as a whole. Not only do these companies have investment risk, if a client is invested in such small companies and requests immediate or short term liquidity, these securities may require a significant discount to value in order to be sold in a shorter time frame.
- Concentration Risk. While Meridian Financial selects individual securities, including mutual funds, for client portfolios based on an individualized assessment of each security, this evaluation comes without an overlay of general economic or sector specific issue analysis. This means that a client's equity portfolio may be concentrated in a specific sector, geography, or sub-sector (among other types

of potential concentrations), so that if an unexpected event occurs that affects that specific sector or geography, for example, the client's equity portfolio may be affected negatively, including significant losses.

- Transition risk. As assets are transitioned from a client's prior advisers to Meridian Financial there may be securities and other investments that do not fit within the asset allocation strategy selected for the client. Accordingly, these investments will need to be sold in order to reposition the portfolio into the asset allocation strategy selected by Meridian Financial. However, this transition process may take some time to accomplish. Some investments may not be unwound for a lengthy period of time for a variety of reasons that may include unwarranted low share prices, restrictions on trading, contractual restrictions on liquidity, or market-related liquidity concerns. In some cases, there may be securities or investments that are never able to be sold. The inability to transition a client's holdings into recommendations of Meridian Financial may adversely affect the client's account values, as Meridian Financial's recommendations may not be able to be fully implemented.
- **Restriction Risk**. Clients may at all times place reasonable restrictions on the management of their accounts. However, placing these restrictions may make managing the accounts more difficult, thus lowering the potential for returns.
- Risks Related to Investment Term & Liquidity. Securities do not follow a straight line up in value. All securities will have periods of time when the current price of the security is not an accurate measure of its value. If you require us to liquidate your portfolio during one of these periods, you will not realize as much value as you would have had the investment had the opportunity to regain its value. Further, some investments are made with the intention of the investment appreciating over an extended period of time. Liquidating these investments prior to their intended time horizon may result in losses.
- REITs. Meridian Financial may recommend that significant portions of client portfolios be allocated to real estate investment trusts, otherwise known as "REITs". A REIT is an entity, typically a trust or corporation that accepts investments from a number of investors, pools the money, and then uses that money to invest in real estate through either actual property purchases or mortgage loans. While there are some benefits to owning REITs, which include potential tax benefits, income and the relatively low barrier to invest in real estate as compared to directly investing in real estate, REITs also have some increased risks as compared to more traditional investments such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. First, real estate investing can be highly volatile. Second, the specific REIT chosen may have a focus such as commercial real estate or real estate in a given location. Such investment focus can be beneficial if the properties are successful, but lose significant principal if the properties are not successful. REITs may also employ significant leverage for the purpose of purchasing more investments with fewer investment dollars, which can enhance returns but also enhances the risk of loss. The success of a REIT is highly dependent upon the manager of the REIT. Clients should ensure they understand the role of the REIT in their portfolio.
- MLPs. Meridian Financial may recommend that significant portions of client portfolios be allocated to master limited partnerships, otherwise known as "MLPs." An MLP is a publicly traded entity that is designed to provide tax benefits for the investor. In order to preserve these benefits, the MLP must derive most, if not all, of its income from real estate, natural resources and commodities. While MLPs may add diversification and tax favored treatment to a client's portfolio, they also carry significant risks beyond more traditional investments such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. One such risk is management risk-the success of the MLP is dependent upon the manager's experience and judgment in selecting investments for the MLP. Another risk is the governance structure, which means the rules under which the entity is run. The investors are the limited partners of the MLP, with an affiliate of the manager typically the general partner. This means the manager has all of the control in running the entity, as opposed to an equity investment where shareholders vote on such matters as board composition. There is also a significant amount of risk with the underlying real estate, resources or

commodities investments. Clients should ask Meridian Financial any questions regarding the role of MLPs in their portfolio.

• Excess Cash Balance Risk. Client accounts may have cash balances in excess of \$250,000, which is the insurance limit of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. For cash balances in excess of that amount, there is an enhanced risk that operation related counterparty risk related to the account custodian could cause losses in the account. We mitigate this risk by carrying cash balances in amounts either subject to protection or as limited as you, the client, directs. You may elect to participate in a "cash sweep" program through your account custodian which automatically moves excess cash from your investment account into a cash account and then invests that cash into cash-based investments, such as money market funds. We do not receive compensation of any kinds for facilitating your participation in such cash sweep accounts.

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

There are no disciplinary items to report.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

#### A. Broker-dealer

Neither the principal of Meridian Financial, nor any related persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker dealer or as an associated person of the foregoing entities.

B. Futures Commission Merchant/Commodity Trading Advisor

Neither the principal of Meridian Financial, nor any related persons are registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, a commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities.

C. Relationship with Related Persons

This item is not applicable.

D. Recommendations of Other Advisers

Meridian Financial does not utilize nor select other advisers or third party managers. All assets are managed by Meridian Financial.

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

- A. A copy of our Code of Ethics is available upon request. Our Code of Ethics includes discussions of our fiduciary duty to clients, political contributions, gifts, entertainment, and trading guidelines.
- B. Not applicable. Meridian Financial does not recommend to clients that they invest in any security in which Meridian Financial or any principal thereof has any financial interest.
- C. On occasion, an employee of Meridian Financial may purchase for his or her own account securities which are also recommended for clients. Our Code of Ethics details rules for employees regarding personal trading and avoiding conflicts of interest related to trading in one's own account. To avoid placing a trade before a client (in the case of a purchase) or after a client (in the case of a sale), all employee trades must be reviewed by the Compliance Officer. All employee trades must either take place in the same block as a client trade or sufficiently apart in time from the client trade so the employee receives no added benefit. Employee statements are reviewed to confirm compliance with the trading procedures.
- D. On occasion, an employee of Meridian Financial may purchase for his or her own account securities which are also recommended for clients at the same time the clients purchase the securities. Our Code of Ethics details rules for employees regarding personal trading and avoiding conflicts of interest related to trading in one's own account. To avoid placing a trade before a client (in the case of a purchase) or after a client (in the case of a sale), all employee trades must be reviewed by the Compliance Officer. All employee trades must either take place in the same block as a client trade or sufficiently apart in time from the client trade so the employee receives no added benefit. Employee statements are reviewed to confirm compliance with the trading procedures.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

#### A. Recommendation of Broker-Dealer

Meridian Financial does not maintain custody of client assets, though Meridian Financial may be deemed to have custody if a client grants Meridian Financial authority to debt fees directly from their account (see Item 15 below). Assets will be held with a qualified custodian, which is typically a bank or broker-dealer. Meridian Financial recommends that investment accounts be held in custody by Schwab Advisor Services ("Schwab"), which is a qualified custodian. Meridian Financial is independently owned and operated and is not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when Meridian Financial instructs them to, which Meridian Financial does in accordance with its agreement with you. While Meridian Financial recommends that you use Schwab as custodian/broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. Meridian Financial does not open the account for you, although Meridian Financial may assist you in doing so. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account as described below (see "Your brokerage and custody costs").

#### How we select brokers/custodians

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are, overall, most advantageous when compared with other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including both quantitative (Ex: costs) and qualitative (execution, reputation, service) factors. We do not consider whether Schwab or any other broker-dealer/custodian, refers clients to Meridian Financial as part of our evaluation of these broker-dealers.

#### 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. In addition to commissions, Schwab charges you a flat dollar amount as a "prime broker" or "trade away" fee for each trade that we have executed by a different broker-dealer but where the securities bought or the funds from the securities sold are deposited (settled) into your Schwab account. These fees are in addition to the commissions or other compensation you pay the executing broker-dealer. Because of this, in order to minimize your trading costs, we have Schwab execute most trades for your account. We have determined that having Schwab execute most trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see "How we select brokers/custodians").

## Products and services available to us from Schwab

Schwab Advisor Services™ (formerly called Schwab Institutional®) is Schwab's business serving independent investment advisory firms like Meridian Financial. They provide Meridian Financial and our clients with access to its 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 Meridian Financial manage or administer our clients' accounts, while others help Meridian Financial 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 Meridian Financial. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab's support services:

#### 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.

## 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

#### 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
- Access to employee benefits providers, human capital consultants, and insurance providers

Schwab may provide some of these services itself. In other cases, it will arrange for third-party vendors to provide the services to us. Schwab may also discount or waive its fees for some of these services or pay all or a part of a third party's fees. Schwab may also provide us with other benefits, such as occasional business entertainment of our personnel.

#### Our interest in Schwab's services

The availability of these services from Schwab benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. We don't have to pay for Schwab's services. These services are not contingent upon us committing any specific amount of business to Schwab in trading commissions or assets in custody. We may have an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "How we select brokers/ custodians") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

We do not consider whether Schwab or any other broker-dealer/custodian, refers clients to Meridian Financial as part of our evaluation of these broker-dealers.

#### B. Aggregating Trades

Commission costs per client may be lower on a particular trade if all clients in whose accounts the trade is to be made are executed at the same time. This is called aggregating trades. Instead of placing a number of trades for the same security for each account, we will, when appropriate, execute one trade for all accounts and then allocate the trades to each account after execution. If an aggregate trade is not fully executed, the securities will be allocated to client accounts on a *pro rata* 

basis, except where doing so would create an unintended adverse consequence (For example, if a *pro rata* division would result in a client receiving a fraction of a share, or a position in the account of less than 1%.)

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

All accounts will be reviewed by a senior professional on at least an annual basis. However, it is expected that market conditions, changes in a particular client's account, or changes to a client's circumstances will trigger a review of accounts.

The annual report in writing provided by Meridian Financial is intended to review asset allocation. All clients will receive statements and confirmations of trades directly from Schwab. Additionally, all clients will receive quarterly itemized bills from Meridian Financial. Please refer to Item 15 regarding Custody.

## Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

A. Economic Benefit Provided by Third Parties for Advice Rendered to Client.

Please refer to Item 12, where we discuss recommendation of Broker-Dealers.

B. Compensation to Non-Advisory Personnel for Client Referrals.

Meridian does not directly or indirectly compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for client referrals.

## Item 15: Custody

There are two avenues through which Meridian has custody of client funds; by directly debiting its fees from client accounts pursuant to applicable agreements granting such right, and potentially by permitting clients to issue standing letters of authorization ("SLOAs"). SLOAs permit a client to issue one document that directs Meridian to make distributions out of the client's account(s).

Clients whose fees are directly debited will provide written authorization to debit advisory fees from their accounts held by a qualified custodian chosen by the client. The client will receive a statement from their account custodian showing all transactions in their account, including the fee. We encourage clients to carefully review the statements and confirmations sent to them by their custodian, and to compare the information on your quarterly report prepared by Meridian Financial against the information in the statements provided directly from Schwab. Please alert us of any discrepancies.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

When Meridian Financial is engaged to provide asset management services on a discretionary basis, we will monitor your accounts to ensure that they are meeting your asset allocation requirements. If any changes are needed to your investments, we will make the changes. These changes may involve selling a security or group of investments and buying others or keeping the proceeds in cash. You may at any time place restrictions on the types of investments we may use on your behalf, or on the allocations to each security type. You may receive at your request written or electronic confirmations from your account custodian after any changes are made to your account. You will also receive statements from your account custodian. Clients engaging us on a discretionary basis will be asked to execute a Limited Power of Attorney (granting us the discretionary authority over the client accounts) as well as an Investment Management Agreement that outlines the responsibilities of both the client and Meridian Financial.

When a client engages Meridian Financial to provide investment management services on a non-discretionary basis, the accounts are monitored by Meridian Financial. The difference is that changes to your account will not be made until Meridian Financial has confirmed with you (either verbally or in writing) that the proposed change is acceptable to you.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

Copies of our Proxy Voting Policies are available upon request.

From time to time, shareholders of stocks, mutual funds, exchange traded funds or other securities may be permitted to vote on various types of corporate actions. Examples of these actions include mergers, tender offers, or board elections. Clients are required to vote proxies related to their investments, or to choose not to vote their proxies. Meridian Financial will not accept authority to vote client securities. Clients will receive their proxies directly from the custodian for the client account. Meridian Financial will, upon request, give clients advice on how to vote proxies.

## Item 18: Financial Information

Meridian Financial does not require the prepayment of fees more than six (6) months or more in advance and therefore has not provided a balance sheet with this brochure.

There are no material financial circumstances or conditions that would reasonably be expected to impair our ability to meet our contractual obligations to our clients.



FORM ADV PART 2B: SARAH YAKEL

## **Meridian Financial Partners LLC**

39 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Warrenton, VA 20186 (540)-878-5416, meridianfinancialpartners.com Sarah Yakel, Chief Compliance Officer

Version - January 17, 2024

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Sarah Yakel that supplements the Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact Sarah Yakel at the number above if you did not receive Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement. Registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training. Additional information about Sarah Yakel is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

## Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

## Sarah Yakel, b. 1977

#### EDUCATION:

Campbell University, Bachelor of Business Administration, 1999

#### **BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:**

Meridian Financial Partners LLC, Managing Partner and CCO, 2015 – present
TFB Wealth Management Services, Vice President and Financial Planner, 2004-2015
BB&T, AVP and Personal Trust Specialist, 1999-2004

#### PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS:

#### **Certified Financial Planner**

\*The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP® marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board").

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. Currently, more than 62,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the  $\mathsf{CFP}^*$  marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;

- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two
  years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of
  Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the
  financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP° professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP° certification.

## Item 3: Disciplinary Information

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of each supervised person providing investment advice. No information is applicable to this Item for Ms. Yakel.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Ms. Yakel is a Board Member of Oak View National Bank (OVNB). While Ms. Yakel does not receive referral fees, she receives compensation from OVNB for her time spent (approximately 3 hours monthly). This may create a conflict of interest with Meridian clients. Meridian attempts to mitigate this conflict of interest by disclosing the conflict to clients and advising clients that they are no way required to use OVNB's products or services. Meridian also attempts to mitigate the conflict of interest by requiring employees, including Ms. Yakel, to acknowledge in the firm's Code of Ethics, their individual fiduciary duty to the clients of Meridian, which requires that employees put the interests of clients ahead of their own.

## Item 5: Additional Compensation

Other than salary, annual bonuses, or regular bonuses, Ms. Yakel does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Meridian.

## Item 6: Supervision

Ms. Yakel is a principal of the firm, and the firm's Chief Compliance Officer. She is supervised by the firm's other partner, Nathan Gilbert. In addition, all employees of Meridian are required to follow the supervisory guidelines and procedures manual, which is designed to ensure compliance with securities laws.



Clarify the path. Enjoy the journey.

**FORM ADV PART 2B: Nathan Gilbert** 

## **Meridian Financial Partners LLC**

39 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Warrenton, VA 20186 (540)-878-5416, meridianfinancialpartners.com Sarah Yakel, Chief Compliance Officer

Version - January 17, 2024

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Nathan Gilbert that supplements the Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact Nathan Gilbert at the number above if you did not receive Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement. Registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training. Additional information about Nathan Gilbert is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

## Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

## Nathan Gilbert, b. 1977

#### **EDUCATION:**

James Madison University, Bachelor of Business Administration, 1999

#### **BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:**

Meridian Financial Partners LLC, Managing Partner, Co-Founder, 2015 – present Infinex Investments, Inc., Registered Representative, 2006 – 2015

BI Investments, LLC, Registered Representative, 2003 – 2008

Uvest Financial Services Group, Inc., Registered Representative, 2002 –2003

## **Item 3: Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of each supervised person providing investment advice. No information is applicable to this Item for Mr. Gilbert.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Mr. Gilbert does not participate in any outside business activities.

## Item 5: Additional Compensation

Other than salary, annual bonuses, or regular bonuses, Mr. Gilbert does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Meridian.

## Item 6: Supervision

Mr. Gilbert is a principal of the firm. He is supervised by Sarah Yakel, the firm's other partner and Chief Compliance Officer. In addition, all employees of Meridian are required to follow the supervisory guidelines and procedures manual, which is designed to ensure compliance with securities laws.



## FORM ADV PART 2B: SARAH IRVING

## **Meridian Financial Partners LLC**

39 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Warrenton, VA 20186 (540)-878-5416, meridianfinancialpartners.com Sarah Yakel, Chief Compliance Officer

Version - January 17, 2024

This Brochure Supplement provides information about Sarah Irving that supplements the Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure. You should have received a copy of that Brochure. Please contact Sarah Irving at the number above if you did not receive Meridian Financial Partners LLC Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement. Registration does not imply any certain level of skill or training. Additional information about Sarah Irving is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

## Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

## Sarah Irving, b. 1988

#### EDUCATION:

Elon University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2007

#### **BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:**

Meridian Financial Partners LLC, Financial Advisor, 2017 – present Prospect 33, Service Delivery Manager, 2011 - 2017

#### PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS:

## **Certified Financial Planner**

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The CFP° certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP° certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. Currently, more than 62,000 individuals have obtained CFP° certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination, administered in 10 hours over a two-day period, includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real world circumstances;

- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two
  years, including two hours on the Code of Ethics and other parts of the Standards of
  Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the
  financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The Standards prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP° professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP° certification.

## Item 3: Disciplinary Information

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of each supervised person providing investment advice. No information is applicable to this Item for Ms. Irving.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Ms. Irving does not participate in any outside business activities.

## **Item 5: Additional Compensation**

Other than salary, annual bonuses, or regular bonuses, Ms. Irving does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through Meridian.

## Item 6: Supervision

Ms. Irving reports to Ms. Yakel, the firm's Chief Compliance Officer. Ms. Yakel may be reached at (540)-878-5416. Additionally, all employees of Meridian are required to follow the supervisory guidelines and procedures manual, which is designed to ensure compliance with securities laws.



## **Privacy Notice**

This notice is being provided to you in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rule regarding the privacy of consumer financial information ("Regulation S-P"). Please take the time to read and understand the privacy policies and procedures that we have implemented to safeguard your nonpublic personal information.

#### CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION WE COLLECT

We have collected some or all of the following categories of personal information from individuals within the last twelve (12) months:

- <u>Identifiers</u>, such as name, contact details and address (including physical address, email address and Internet Protocol address), and other identification (including social security number, passport number and drivers' license or state identification card number);
- Other customer records, such as telephone number, signature, bank account number, other financial information (including accounts and transactions with other institutions and anti-money laundering information), and verification documentation and information regarding investors' status under various laws and regulations (including social security number, tax status, income and assets);
- <u>Protected classification characteristics under California or federal law</u>, such as date of birth, citizenship and birthplace;
- <u>Commercial information</u>, such as account data and other information contained in any document provided by investors to authorized service providers (whether directly or indirectly), risk tolerance, transaction history, investment experience and investment activity, information regarding a potential and/or actual investment in the applicable fund(s), including ownership percentage, capital investment, income and losses, source of funds used to make the investment in the applicable fund(s); and
- <u>Internet or other electronic network activity information</u>, such as information regarding your use of our website, fund data room and investor reporting portal (e.g., cookies, browsing history and/or search history), as well as information you provide to us when you correspond with us in relation to inquiries.

Within the last twelve (12) months, we have shared each of the categories of personal information collected with affiliates and third-party service providers as set forth in "Information We Disclose" in the Privacy Notice above, and we collect personal information from the sources set forth in "Information We Collect" in the Privacy Notice above.

## PURPOSES FOR COLLECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

We may collect or share the personal information we collect about you for one or more of the following business or commercial purposes:

- performing services to you, including but not limited to:
  - the administrative processes (and related communication) in preparing for the admission of

investors to the fund(s);

- ongoing communication with potential investors, their representatives, advisors and agents (including the negotiation, preparation and signature of documentation) during the process of admitting potential investors to the fund;
- the performance of obligations under the governing documents of the funds (and all applicable antimoney laundering, KYC and other related laws and regulations) in assessing suitability of potential investors in the applicable fund;
- ongoing operations, administrative, accounting, reporting, account maintenance and other
  processes and communication required to operate the business of the funds in accordance with its
  governing documents and other documentation between the parties, including customer service,
  processing or fulfilling transactions, verifying personal information, processing contributions and
  distributions and financing;
- keeping investors informed about the business of the general partner or managing member of the
  applicable fund and its affiliates generally, including offering opportunities to make investments
  other than to the applicable fund and related advertising;
- auditing and verifications related to investor interactions, including but not limited to, verifying the quality and effectiveness of services and compliance;
- detecting security incidents, protecting against malicious, deceptive, fraudulent, or illegal activity; and
- complying with U.S., state, local and non-U.S. laws, rules and regulations.

## WE DO NOT SELL ANY OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WE COLLECT ABOUT YOU TO THIRD PARTIES.

#### **DELETION RIGHTS**

You have the right to request that we delete any of your personal information that we retain, subject to certain exceptions, including, but not limited to, our compliance with U.S., state, local and non-U.S. laws, rules and regulations.

#### **DISCLOSURE AND ACCESS RIGHTS**

You have the right to request that we disclose to you certain information regarding our collection, use, disclosure and sale of personal information specific to you over the last twelve (12) months. Such information includes:

- The categories of personal information we collected about you;
- The categories of sources from which the personal information is collected;
- Our business or commercial purpose for collecting such personal information;
- Categories of third parties with whom we share the personal information;
- The specific pieces of personal information we have collected about you; and
- Whether we disclosed your personal information to a third party, and if so, the categories of personal information that each recipient obtained.

#### **NO DISCRIMINATION**

We will not discriminate against you for exercising your rights under the CCPA, including by denying service, suggesting that you will receive, or charging, different rates for services or suggesting that you will receive, or providing, a different level or quality of service to you.

#### **HOW TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS**

To exercise any of your rights under the CCPA, or to access this notice in an alternative format, please submit a request using any of the methods set forth below.

Via email: to <a href="mailto:sarah@meridianfinancialpartners.com">sarah@meridianfinancialpartners.com</a>

Telephone: please submit your request and telephone number by email to <a href="mailto:sarah@meridianfinancialpartners.com">sarah@meridianfinancialpartners.com</a> and we will call you between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

We will contact you to confirm receipt of your request under the CCPA and request any additional information necessary to verify your request. We verify requests by matching information provided in connection with your request to information contained in our records. Depending on the sensitivity of the request and the varying levels of risk in responding to such requests (for example, the risk of responding to fraudulent or malicious requests), we may request your investor portal access credentials in order to verify your request. You may designate an authorized agent to make a request under the CCPA on your behalf, provided that you provide a signed agreement verifying such authorized agent's authority to make requests on your behalf, and we may verify such authorized person's identity using the procedures above.

\*Some state laws give residents additional rights to limit sharing. Under these laws, we may not be able to share information of minors who are of a certain age. In some states, this age is 13 years old. In order to share this information, we must first written permission ("opting-in"). If we do not receive permission to share personal information, then we are prohibited from sharing it or processing it for targeted advertising:

I give you permission to snare my personal information:
Signature of Client(s):
Printed Name:

Our goal is to respond to any verifiable consumer request within forty-five (45) days of our receipt of such request. We will inform you in writing if we cannot meet that timeline. Please contact Sarah Yakel, the Chief Compliance Officer of Meridian Financial Partners LLC at sarah@meridianfinancialpartners.com with any questions about this Privacy Notice.