INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES CONTACT



Flash Update

2024 Outlook: Global Equities

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Keep Calm & Carry On

KEY POINTS

- 1. We remain focused on company-specific fundamentals. While market conditions and macro events change year-to-year, company fundamentals drive share price appreciation over the long-term, which, across portfolio holdings, have largely remained healthy and in-line with our expectations.
- 2. We believe our companies are poised for growth. Many companies that suffered sharp declines in their share prices last year made the most of this slump by refocusing on the best opportunities and achieving profitability faster. In our view, these businesses have essentially de-risked themselves and yet these improvements are not reflected in their current share prices.
- **3.** We continue to assess the long-term implications of a higher cost of capital. We believe many companies that did not build sustainable businesses will start to run out of cash, thus reducing competition and benefiting companies that have already established valuable businesses and brands.

What We Are Seeing:

High yields have driven record inflows into money market funds. As investors crowd into money market funds while outflows from equities steepen, it seems the whole world has become content with earning the ~5% yield that Treasurys provide. But as history and human behavior have shown, envy and fear of missing out will inevitably creep back into the minds of market participants, who will start searching elsewhere for higher returns.

We believe our companies are poised for growth. Many of our companies that suffered sharp declines in their share prices last year made the most of this slump by refocusing on the best opportunities and achieving profitability faster. These companies are now starting to witness the fruits of their hard labor, are poised for growth, and more focused on execution than ever. In our view, these businesses have essentially de-risked themselves — and yet these improvements are not reflected in their current share prices.

Opportunistic buying of debt has been a common theme. Several of our companies bought back their debt for cents on the dollar given the selloff of their bonds. This is a transfer of wealth to equity holders and not only deleverages our companies but is akin to share repurchases at attractive prices (which we also love!).

Share price volatility, especially in the small and mid-cap space has been excessive. Several companies witnessed a 20-30% drawdown on the back of a single quarter's earnings release. As business owners, we believe true intrinsic value does not change that much quarter to quarter. However, guidance-obsessed market participants seem to be selling first and asking questions later.

Concerns over mega-cap mania. Given just a few companies are driving the majority of index returns year-to-date (the Magnificent 7), we worry about a new Nifty-Fifty era where market participants continue buying "safe," high quality stocks at any price. Market-cap-weighted indexes are great, until they aren't — especially when a handful of companies surge to new heights and increase concentration risks. Furthermore, index flows, driving performance, driving flows make prospective returns weaker. This reflexive dynamic weakens the system, yet this weakness does not seem apparent to investors at the moment.

What We Are Doing:

We maintain our belief that equities will be the best-performing asset class over the long-term. Equities provide ownership in the creativity, ingenuity, and productivity of hundreds of thousands of talented workers. While money can be inflated, talent cannot.

We remain highly invested alongside clients. We continue to allocate a significant

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Important Risks and ETF Information

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Parametric Equity Premium Income ETF (PAPI) Diversification does not eliminate risk of loss. There is no assurance that a fund will achieve its investment objective. Funds are subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of securities owned by the fund will decline. Market values can change daily due to economic and other events (e.g. natural disasters, health crises, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) that affect markets, countries, companies or governments. It is difficult to predict the timing, duration, and potential adverse effects (e.g. portfolio liquidity) of events. Accordingly, you can lose money investing in this fund. Please be aware that this fund may be subject to certain additional risks. In general, equities securities' values also fluctuate in response to activities specific to a company. Income Risk. The Fund's ability to distribute income to shareholders will depend on the yield available on the equity securities held by the Fund and the premiums received by the Fund with respect to its written call options. The amount of the Fund's distributions for any period may exceed the amount of the Fund's income and gains for that period. In that case, some or all of the Fund's distributions may constitute a return of capital to shareholders. Call Option Writing Risk. Writing call options involves the risk that the Fund may be required to sell the underlying security or instrument (or settle in cash an amount of equal value) at a disadvantageous price or below the market price of such underlying security or instrument, at the time the option is exercised. As the writer of a call option, the Fund forgoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the underlying security or instrument covering the option above the sum of the premium and the exercise price, but retains the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security or instrument decline. Additionally, the Fund's call option writing strategy may not fully protect it against declines in the value of the market. In rising markets, a fund with a call writing strategy could significantly underperform the same fund without such an options writing strategy. The Fund will also incur a form of economic leverage through its use of call options, which could increase the volatility of the Fund's returns and may increase the risk of loss to the Fund. There are special risks associated with uncovered option writing which expose the Fund to potentially significant loss. FLEX Options. The Fund utilizes FLEX Options guaranteed for settlement by the Options Clearing Corporation ("OCC"). The Fund bears the risk that the OCC will be unable or unwilling to perform its obligations under the FLEX Options contracts. In the unlikely event that the OCC becomes insolvent or is otherwise unable to meet its settlement obligations, the Fund could suffer significant losses. FLEX Options are subject to the risk that they may be less liquid than certain other securities, such as standardized options. Additionally, in connection with the creation and redemption of Fund shares, to the extent market participants are not willing or able to enter into FLEX Option transactions with the Fund, the Fund's NAV and, in turn the share price of the Fund, could be negatively impacted. The value of a FLEX Option may not directly correlate to its underlying reference security or index. The Fund may experience losses from certain FLEX Option positions and certain FLEX Option positions may expire with little to no value. Illiquid Securities. The fund may make investments in securities that are or become illiquid or less liquid and which may be more difficult to sell and value (liquidity risk). Derivative instruments may disproportionately increase losses and have a significant impact on performance. They also may be subject to counterparty, liquidity, valuation, correlation and market risks. Active Management Risk. In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, the adviser and/or subadviser has considerable leeway in deciding which investments to buy, hold or sell on a day-to-day basis, and which trading strategies to use. For example, the adviser and/or subadviser, in its discretion, may determine to use some permitted trading strategies while not using others. The success or failure of such decisions will affect the Fund's performance. New Fund Risk. A new fund's performance may not represent how the fund is expected to or may perform in the long term. In addition, there is a limited operating history for investors to evaluate and the fund may not attract sufficient assets to achieve investment and trading efficiencies. Clearing Member Risk. Transactions in some types of derivatives, including FLEX Options, are required to be centrally

cleared ("cleared derivatives"). In a transaction involving cleared derivatives, the Fund's counterparty is a clearing house, such as the OCC, rather than a bank or broker.

Since the Fund is not a member of clearing houses and only members of a clearing house ("clearing members") can participate directly in the clearing house, the Fund will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at clearing members. In cleared derivatives positions, the Fund will make payments to and receive payments from a clearing house through their accounts at clearing members. The Fund is also subject to the risk that a limited number of clearing members are willing to transact on the Fund's behalf, which heightens the risks associated with a clearing member's default. If a clearing member defaults, the Fund could lose some or all of the benefits of a transaction entered into by the Fund with the clearing member. The loss of a clearing member for the Fund to transact with could result in increased transaction costs and other operational issues that could impede the Fund's ability to implement its investment strategy. If the Fund cannot find a clearing member to transact with on the Fund's behalf, the Fund may be unable to effectively implement its investment strategy. Counterparty. Counterparty risk generally refers to the risk that a counterparty on a derivatives transaction may not be willing or able to perform its obligations under the derivatives contract, and the related risks of having concentrated exposure to such a counterparty. If an OCC clearing member or OCC becomes insolvent, the Fund may have its positions closed or experience delays or difficulties in closing or exercising its FLEX Options positions and the Fund could suffer significant losses. Tax Risk. The Fund intends to limit the overlap between its stock holdings and the stock holdings of the underlying ETF or underlying index of options to less than 70% on an ongoing basis in an effort to avoid being subject to the "straddle rules" under federal income tax law. The Fund expects that the option contracts it writes will not be considered straddles. Under certain circumstances, however, the Fund may enter into options transactions or certain other investments that may constitute positions in a straddle. The straddle rules may affect the character of gains (or losses) realized by the Fund. Authorized Participant Concentration Risk. The Fund has a limited number of intermediaries that act as authorized participants and none of these authorized participants is or will be obligated to engage in creation or redemption transactions. As a result, shares may trade at a discount to net asset value ("NAV") and possibly face trading halts and/or delisting. Trading Risk. The market prices of shares of the Fund are expected to fluctuate, in some cases materially, in response to changes in the Fund's NAV, the intra-day value of holdings, and supply and demand for Shares. The Adviser and Subadviser cannot predict whether shares will trade above, below or at their NAV. Buying or selling shares in the secondary market may require paying brokerage commissions or other charges imposed by brokers as determined by that broker.

Eaton Vance Intermediate Municipal Income ETF (EVIM) Diversification does not eliminate risk of loss. There is no assurance that a portfolio will achieve its investment objective. Portfolios are subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of securities owned by the portfolio will decline. Market values can change daily due to economic and other events (e.g. natural disasters, health crises, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) that affect markets, countries, companies or governments. It is difficult to predict the timing, duration, and potential adverse effects (e.g. portfolio liquidity) of events. Accordingly, you can lose money investing in this portfolio. Please be aware that this portfolio may be subject to certain additional risks. Active Management Risk. In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, the Adviser has considerable leeway in deciding which investments to buy, hold or sell on a day-to-day basis, and which trading strategies to use. For example, the Adviser, in its discretion, may determine to use some permitted trading strategies while not using others. The success or failure of such decisions will affect the Fund's performance. Fixed-income securities are subject to the ability of an issuer to make timely principal and interest payments (credit risk), changes in interest rates (interest-rate risk), the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity (market risk). In a rising interest-rate environment, bond prices may fall and may result in periods of volatility and increased portfolio redemptions. In a declining interest-rate environment, the portfolio may generate less income. Longer-term securities may be more sensitive to interest rate changes. By investing in municipal obligations, the Fund may be susceptible to political, economic, regulatory or other factors affecting their issuers. While interest earned on municipal securities is generally not subject to federal income tax, any interest earned on taxable municipal securities is fully taxable at the federal level and may be subject to state and/or local income tax. Certain U.S. government securities purchased by the portfolio, such as those issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. It is possible that these issuers will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. Illiquid securities may be more difficult to sell and value than publicly traded securities (liquidity risk). Derivative instruments may disproportionately increase losses and have a significant impact on performance. They also may be subject to counterparty, liquidity, valuation, correlation and market risks. High yield securities ("junk bonds") are lower rated securities that may have a higher degree of credit and liquidity risk. By investing in investment company securities, the portfolio is subject to the underlying risks of that investment company's portfolio securities. In addition to the Portfolio's fees and expenses, the Portfolio generally would bear its share of the investment company's fees and expenses. New Fund Risk. A new portfolio's performance may not represent how the portfolio is expected to or may perform in the long term. In addition, there is a limited operating history for investors to evaluate and the portfolio may not attract sufficient assets to achieve investment and trading efficiencies. Authorized Participant Concentration Risk. The Portfolio has a limited number of intermediaries that act as authorized participants and none of these authorized participants is or will be obligated to engage in creation or redemption transactions. As a result, shares may trade at a discount to net asset value ("NAV") and possibly face trading halts and/or delisting. Trading Risk. The market prices of Shares are expected to fluctuate, in some cases materially, in response to changes in the Portfolio's NAV, the intra-day value of holdings, and supply and demand for Shares. The Adviser cannot predict whether Shares will trade above, below or at their NAV. Buying or selling Shares in the secondary market may require paying brokerage commissions or other charges imposed by brokers as determined by that broker.

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