Form ADV Part 2A: Firm Brochure

Item 1 - Cover Page

Vision Financial Management, LLC 122 Broad Boulevard Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 330-929-9900 www.visionfinancialmanagement.net

Date of Disclosure Brochure: January 2023

This disclosure brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Vision Financial Management, LLC (also referred to as we, us and Vision Financial Management throughout this disclosure brochure). If you have any questions about the contents of this disclosure brochure, please contact Robert Winston at 330-929-9900 or robert.winston@lpl.com. The information in this disclosure brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Vision Financial Management is also available on the Internet at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. You can view our firm's information on this website by searching for Vision Financial Management, LLC or our firm's CRD number 170003.

*Registration as an investment adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 - Material Changes

Since our last annual amendment brochure was filed in January of 2022, there are no material changes to report in our brochure.

We will ensure that you receive a summary of any material changes to this and subsequent disclosure brochures within 120 days after our firm's fiscal year ends. Our firm's fiscal year ends on December 31, so you will receive the summary of material changes no later than April 30 each year. At that time we will also offer or provide a copy of the most current disclosure brochure. We may also provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

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Item 4 - Advisory Business

Vision Financial Management is an investment adviser registered with the State of Ohio and is a limited liability company (LLC) formed under the laws of the State of Ohio.

- Robert Winston is the Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) and Managing Member of Vision Financial Management. Robert Winston owns 100.00% of Vision Financial Management. Full details of the education and business background of Robert Winston are provided at *Item 19* of this Disclosure Brochure.
- Vision Financial Management filed its initial application to become registered as an investment adviser in April 2014.

Introduction

The investment advisory services of Vision Financial Management are provided to you through an appropriately licensed and qualified individual who is an investment adviser representative of Vision Financial Management (referred to as your investment adviser representative throughout this brochure).

Description of Advisory Services

The following are descriptions of the primary advisory services of Vision Financial Management. Please understand that a written agreement, which details the exact terms of the service, must be signed by you and Vision Financial Management before we can provide you the services described below.

Vision Financial Asset Management Program

We are the sponsor of the Vision Financial Asset Management Program ("Vision Financial Asset Management Program"), a wrap fee asset management program developed through an arrangement using LPL Financial Corporation's (referred to as "LPL" and "LPL Financial" throughout this brochure) Strategic Wealth Management platform. Through the Vision Financial Asset Management Program, we provide investment management services, including providing continuous investment advice to and making investments for you based on your individual needs. Through this service, we offer a customized and individualized investment program. A specific asset allocation strategy and suitability profile is crafted to focus on your specific goals and objectives. Your information should be updated regularly, but at a minimum every 2 years.

Vision Financial Asset Management Program accounts are custodied at LPL in its capacity as a registered broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. LPL is also an investment advisor registered with the SEC but does not serve as an investment advisor for you through the Vision Financial Asset Management Program. LPL provides clearing, custody and other brokerage services for accounts established through the Vision Financial Asset Management Program. Therefore, you are required to establish a brokerage account(s) through LPL's Strategic Wealth Management platform. Separate accounts are maintained for you, and you retain all rights of ownership of you accounts (e. g., the right to withdraw securities or cash, exercise or delegate proxy voting, and receive transaction confirmations). Please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices for more information.

Vision Financial Asset Management Program accounts allow you to authorize us to purchase and sell, on either a discretionary basis or non-discretionary basis, portfolios consisting of securities and investments.

We may limit our discretion with respect to your account and the securities eligible to be purchased for your account.

(See, Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments under Item 4 - Advisory Business, relative to possible securities and investments utilized. See Item 16 - Investment Discretion, for information concerning discretionary authority.)

During any month that there is activity in the Vision Financial Asset Management Program account, you receive a monthly account statement from LPL showing account activity as well as positions held in the account at month end. Additionally, you receive a confirmation of each transaction that occurs within the Vision Financial Asset Management Program account unless the transaction is the result of a systematic purchase, redemption or exchange. You also receive a detailed quarterly report showing performance, positions, and activity. All account data and statements are also available on-line through the account view portal through LPL.

Financial Planning Services - Vision Financial Management offers financial planning services, which involve preparing a written financial plan covering specific or multiple topics. We provide full written financial plans, which typically address the following topics:

- ✓ Retirement Planning,
- ✓ Insurance Planning,
- ✓ Asset Allocation,
- ✓ Cash Flow Analysis,
- ✓ Estate Planning, and
- ✓ Debt Management.

When providing financial planning services, the role of your investment adviser representative is to find ways to help you understand your overall financial situation and help you set financial objectives. Written financial plans prepared by us do not include specific recommendations of individual securities.

Our financial planning services do not involve implementing any transaction on your behalf or the active and ongoing monitoring or management of your investments or accounts. You have the sole responsibility for determining whether to implement our financial planning recommendations. To the extent that you would like to implement any of our investment recommendations through Vision Financial Management or retain Vision Financial Management to actively monitor and manage your investments, you must execute a separate written agreement with Vision Financial Management for our asset management services.

Referral of Third-Party Money Managers - Vision Financial Management offers advisory services by referring clients to a third-party money manager offering asset management and other investment advisory services. The third-party managers are responsible for continuously monitoring client accounts and making trades in client accounts when necessary. As a result of the referral, we are paid a portion of the fee charged and collected by the third-party money managers in the form of solicitor fees. Each solicitation arrangement is performed pursuant to a written solicitation agreement and is in compliance with SEC Rule 206(4)-3 and applicable state securities rules and regulations.

Under this program, we assist you with identifying your risk tolerance and investment objectives. We recommend third-party money managers in relation to your stated investment objectives and risk tolerance, and you may select a recommended third-party money manager or model portfolio based upon

your needs. You must enter into an agreement directly with the third-party money manager who provides your designated account with asset management services.

We are available to answer questions that you may have regarding your account and act as the communication conduit between you and the third-party money manager. The third-party money manager may take discretionary authority to determine the securities to be purchased and sold for your account. We do not have any trading authority with respect to your designated account managed by the third-party money manager.

Although we review the performance of numerous third-party investment adviser firms, we enter into only a select number of relationships with third-party investment adviser firms that have agreed to pay us a portion of the overall fee charged to our clients. Therefore, Vision Financial Management has a conflict of interest in that it will only recommend third-party investment advisors that will agree to compensate us for referrals of our clients.

Clients are advised that there may be other third-party managed programs not recommended by our firm, that are suitable for the client and that may be more or less costly than arrangements recommended by our firm. No guarantees can be made that a client's financial goals or objectives will be achieved by a third-party investment adviser recommended by our firm. Further, no guarantees of performance can ever be offered by our firm (*Please refer to Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss for more details.*)

Referral of LPL Model Wealth Portfolios - We have entered into an arrangement with LPL to provide services through the Model Wealth Portfolios ("MWP") program, a wrap-fee program sponsored by LPL. If you contract for this service you must establish a brokerage account through LPL which serves as the broker/dealer and qualified custodian. MWP offers clients a professionally managed mutual fund asset allocation program in which LPL, in its capacity as an investment advisor, and we direct and manage specified client assets. A minimum account value of \$100,000 is required for MWP.

We obtain your necessary financial data and assist you in determining the suitability of MWP and in setting an appropriate investment objective. We assist you in opening an account and determining an investment portfolio designed by LPL's Research Department. LPL's Research Department is responsible for selecting the mutual funds within a portfolio and for making changes to the mutual funds selected. In certain cases a portfolio may consist only of mutual funds within the same fund family. In such a portfolio, LPL's Research Department will select only those mutual funds within the fund family.

You must grant Vision Financial Management discretionary authority to select the portfolios suitable for you and must grant LPL discretionary authority to select investments held within portfolios and rebalance positions within the portfolios.

LPL follows a dynamic asset allocation investment style in constructing portfolios for MWP clients. Asset allocation methodology is implemented by combining investments representing various asset classes that respond differently to varying market conditions. Thus, if one asset class reacts negatively to certain market events, the potential exists for another asset class to react positively. However, there is no guarantee that the use of an asset allocation strategy will produce favorable results. We are responsible for providing you with information about the investment strategy and the portfolios selected for you.

You receive quarterly account statements (monthly when activity occurs in the account), confirmations, and performance reports directly from LPL.

Limits Advice to Certain Types of Investments

Vision Financial Management provides investment advice on the following types of investments:

- Mutual Funds
- Exchange-listed Securities
- Variable Annuities
- Variable Life Insurance
- US Government Securities

Although we generally provide advice only on the products previously listed, we reserve the right to offer advice on any investment product that may be suitable for each client's specific circumstances, needs, goals and objectives.

When providing asset management services, Vision Financial Management typically constructs each client's account holdings using Stocks and Bonds to build diversified portfolios. It is not our typical investment strategy to attempt to time the market, but we may increase cash holdings modestly as deemed appropriate based on your risk tolerance and our expectations of market behavior. We may modify our investment strategy to accommodate special situations such as low basis stock, stock options, legacy holdings, inheritances, closely held businesses, collectibles, or special tax situations.

(Please refer to Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss for more information.)

Participation in Wrap Fee Programs

Vision Financial Management offers services through both wrap fee programs and non-wrap fee programs. A wrap fee program is defined as any advisory program under which a specified fee or fees not based directly upon transactions in a client's account is charged for investment advisory services (which may include portfolio management or advice concerning the selection of other investment advisers) and the execution of client transactions. Whenever a fee is charged to a client for services described in this brochure (whether wrap fee or non-wrap fee), we will receive all or a portion of the fee charged.

Tailor Advisory Services to Individual Needs of Clients

Vision Financial Management's advisory services are always provided based on your individual needs. Our financial planning services are always provided based on your individual needs. When providing financial planning services, we work with you on a one-on-one basis through interviews and questionnaires to determine your investment objectives and suitability information.

We will not enter into an investment adviser relationship with a prospective client whose investment objectives may be considered incompatible with our investment philosophy or strategies or where the prospective client seeks to impose unduly restrictive investment guidelines.

Client Assets Managed by Vision Financial Management

As of December 28, 2022, the assets managed by our firm are \$69,778,961 all under a discretionary basis.

Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

In addition to the information provided in *Item 4 – Advisory Business*, this section provides additional details regarding our firm's services along with descriptions of each service's fees and compensation arrangements. It should be noted that lower fees for comparable service may be available from other sources. The exact fees and other terms will be outlined in the agreement between you and Vision Financial Management.

Fees for Vision Financial Asset Management Program

The annual investment advisory fee charged to clients will vary between 1.00% and 2.00% of the assets held in the account and is negotiable depending on the market value of the account, asset types, complexity of your portfolio and trading activity. The annual fee is divided and paid quarterly in advance through a direct debit to your account. LPL is responsible for calculating and debiting all fees from your accounts. You must provide LPL with written authorization to debit advisory fees from your accounts and pay the fees to Vision Financial Management. Fees are based on the account's asset value as of the last business day of the prior calendar quarter. Fees for accounts opened at any time other than the beginning of a quarter are prorated based on the number of days remaining in the initial quarter.

Prior to engaging Vision Financial Management to provide investment management services, you are required to enter into a formal investment advisory agreement with us setting forth the terms and conditions, including the amount of investment advisory fees, under which we manage your assets and also separate custodial/clearing agreement with LPL.

Our Vision Financial Asset Management Program is a wrap fee account, meaning you do not pay transaction charges associated with trade execution.

You may incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than Vision Financial Management in connection with investments made through the account including, but not limited to, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges, and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees. Our management fees (which include transaction and execution fees charged by LPL for Vision Financial Asset Management Program accounts) are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by investment company securities that may be recommended to you. A description of these fees and expenses are available in each investment company security's prospectus. Our representatives, in their separate capacity as registered representatives of LPL, may retain a portion of the commissions charged to you. These commissions may include 12b-1 fees, surrender charges and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees.

Our Vision Financial Asset Management Program may cost you more or less than if the assets were held in a traditional brokerage account. In a brokerage account, you are charged commissions for each transaction, and the representative has no duty to provide ongoing advice with respect to the account. If you plan to follow a buy and hold investment strategy for the account or do not wish to purchase ongoing investment advice or management services, you should consider opening a brokerage account rather than a Vision Financial Asset Management Program account.

Either party may terminate the agreement for services at any time. If services are terminated within five business days of executing the agreement, services are terminated without penalty and a full refund of all fees paid in advance is provided. If services are terminated after the initial five day period, we provide you with a prorated refund of fees paid in advance. The refund is based on the number of days service is actually provided during the final billing period. Termination is effective from the time the other party receives written notification or such other time as may be mutually agreed upon, subject to the settlement of transactions in progress and the final refund of advisory fees. There is no penalty charge on termination.

This section is intended to be a summary of the Vision Financial Asset Management Program. If you contract for Vision Financial Asset Management Program services you are provided with a copy of the Vision Financial Asset Management Program Form ADV Part 2A Appendix disclosure brochure.

Fees for Financial Planning Services

Vision Financial Management provides financial planning services under a fixed fee arrangement. A mutually agreed upon fixed fee is charged for financial planning services under this arrangement. There is a range in the amount of the fixed fee charged by Vision Financial Management for financial planning services. The minimum fixed fee is generally \$750, and the maximum fixed fee is generally no more than \$2,000. The amount of the fixed fee for your engagement is specified in your financial planning agreement with Vision Financial Management. You are required to pay in advance 100% of the fixed fee at the time you execute an agreement with Vision Financial Management; however, at no time will Vision Financial Management require payment of more than \$500 in fees more than six months in advance.

Fees charged for our financial planning services are negotiable based upon the complexity of the client's overall situation and the topics covered in a plan.

Financial planning services terminate thirty (30) days following the delivery of the written financial plan or either you or Vision Financial Management providing the other party with written notice.

If you terminate financial planning services before presentment of the financial plan or are unsatisfied with our services, you will receive a full refund of the fixed fee. However, in such a situation, Vision Financial Management retains intellectual property rights over any written financial plan prepared by Vision Financial Management, and the written financial plan must be returned to Vision Financial Management.

You may pay the investment advisory fees owed for the financial planning services by submitting payment directly via check.

To the extent Vision Financial Management engages an outside professional (i.e. attorney, independent investment adviser or accountant) while providing financial planning services to you, Vision Financial Management will be responsible for the payment of the fees for the services of such an outside professional, and you will not be required to reimburse Vision Financial Management for such payments. To the extent that you personally engage such an outside professional, you will be responsible for the payment of the fees for the services of such an outside professional, and Vision Financial Management will not be required to reimburse Client for such payments. Fees for the services of an outside professional (i.e. attorney, independent investment adviser or accountant) will be in addition to and separate from the fees charged by Vision Financial Management, and you will be responsible for the payment of the fees for the services of such an outside professional. In no event will the services of an outside professional be engaged without your express approval.

All fees paid to Vision Financial Management for services are separate and distinct from the commissions, fees and expenses charged by insurance companies associated with any disability insurance, life insurance and annuities subsequently acquired by you. If you sell or liquidate certain existing securities positions to acquire any insurance or annuity, you may also pay a commission and/or deferred sales charges in addition to the financial planning and consulting fees paid to Vision Financial Management and any commissions, fees and expenses charged by the insurance company for subsequently acquired insurance and/or annuities.

If you retain Vision Financial Management to implement the recommendations provided under this service, Vision Financial Management may recommend load or no-load mutual funds that charge you 12(b)-1 fees. Your investment adviser representative may receive a portion of these 12(b)-1 fees in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of a securities broker-dealer. The receipt of 12(b)-1 fees could represent an incentive for Vision Financial Management or your investment adviser representative to recommend mutual funds with 12(b)-1 fees or higher 12(b)-1 fees over mutual funds with no 12(b)-1 fees or lower 12(b)-1 fees and therefore creates a conflict of interest.

All fees paid to Vision Financial Management for financial planning services are separate and distinct from the commissions charged by a broker-dealer or asset management fees charged by an investment adviser to implement such recommendations.

It should be noted that lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

Fees for Third-Party Money Managers

Third-party investment money managers recommend by Vision Financial Management generally have different fee schedules that will vary among the different firms. If you choose to engage a firm we recommend, you will be charged a fee by that firm based on their standard fee arrangements. Vision Financial Management will not charge or assess an advisory fee directly to you. However, we will receive a solicitor or referral fee from the third-party money manager.

Specifically, we will receive a portion of the overall fee charged by the third-party investment advisory firm. Most investment advisory firms charge a fee based on the percentage of assets under management. Vision Financial Management may receive up to $\frac{1}{2}$ (50%) of the management fee charged to you. For example, if the third-party investment advisory firm charges a fee of 1.25% of the fees under management, we will receive 0.625% of that fee.

All fees are calculated and collected by the third-party money manager who will be responsible for delivering our portion of the fee paid by you to Vision Financial Management. A complete description of the third-party money manager's services, fee schedules and account minimums will be disclosed in the third-party investment money manager's disclosure brochure which will be provided to you prior to or at the time an agreement for services is executed and the account is established. You will also receive a Solicitor Disclosure Statement from me which details the exact fee arrangement between Vision Financial Management and the third-party money manager.

Please note that you may incur charges in addition to the fees assessed by third-party investment advisory firms including but not limited to, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges, and IRA and qualified retirement plan fees.

Fees for LPL Model Wealth Portfolios Program

The maximum annual fee charged through the program is 2.5% of the total value of assets held in your account(s). Fees are negotiable depending on the market value of the account, asset types, your financial situation and trading activity. The annual fees are divided and paid quarterly in advance through a direct debit in your account(s). LPL is responsible for calculating and debiting all fees from your accounts. You must provide LPL written authorization to debit advisory fees from you accounts and pay those fees to us. Fees are based on the account's asset value as of the last business day of the prior calendar quarter. Fees for accounts opened at any time other than the beginning of a quarter are prorated based on the number of days remaining in the initial quarter. If you participate in MWP, you must execute the MWP Client Agreement.

We receive 55% to 85% of the fee charged to you. The portion we receive is based on the fees that LPL charges and they consider the amount of money in the program and the costs of trading and other internal expenses. Fees are not negotiable. We may also receive other compensation for participating in MWP such as bonuses, awards, or other things of value offered by LPL. The amount of this compensation may be more or less than if you had participated in our other advisory programs or if you paid separately for investment advice, brokerage and other client services. Therefore, we have an incentive to recommend MWP over other programs.

You may also incur certain charges imposed by LPL or third parties other than us in connection with investments made through MWP accounts, including among others, the following types of charges: mutual fund management fees and administrative servicing fees, omnibus processing fees, sub-transfer agent fees, networking fees, other transaction charges and service fees, IRA and Qualified Retirement Plan fees, administrative servicing fees for trust accounts, and other charges required by law. LPL and our representatives, in their capacity as LPL registered representatives, will receive a portion of these third party fees.

You may incur certain charges imposed by third parties other than us in connection with investments made through the account, including but not limited to, mutual fund sales loads, 12b-1 fees and surrender charges. Our representatives, in their separate capacities as registered representatives of LPL, may retain 12b-1 fees paid. However, unless otherwise stated in the MWP client agreement, advisory fees charged in retirement accounts are reduced by 12b-1 fees paid to LPL and our representatives in their capacity as LPL registered representatives.

You can terminate an MWP account by providing written notice to LPL. Upon termination, you are entitled to a prorated refund of any pre-paid quarterly fees based upon the number of days remaining in the quarter after termination. If you close the account within the first six months as a result of withdrawals bringing the account value below the required minimum, both Vision Financial Management and LPL reserve the right to retain the pre-paid quarterly fees for the current quarter in order to cover the administrative cost of establishing an MWP account. The fees may include costs to transfer positions into and out of the account, data entry costs to open the account, costs associated with reconciling positions in order to issue quarterly performance reports and the cost of re-registering positions.

This section is intended as a summary of MWP. If you contract for MWP services, you receive the MWP Form ADV Part 2A Appendix 1 providing detailed information regarding MWP.

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

Performance-based fees are defined as fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets held in a client's account. *Item 6* is not applicable to this Disclosure Brochure because we do not charge or accept performance-based fees.

Item 7 - Types of Clients

Vision Financial Management generally provides investment advice to the following types of clients:

- Individuals
- High net worth individuals
- Trusts, estates, or charitable organizations
- Corporations and other small business entities

You are required to execute a written agreement with Vision Financial Management specifying the particular advisory services in order to establish a client arrangement with Vision Financial Management.

Minimum Investment Amounts Required

There are no minimum investment amounts or conditions required for establishing an account managed by Vision Financial Management. However, all clients are required to execute an agreement for services in order to establish a client arrangement with Vision Financial Management and/or the third-party money manager or the sponsor of third-party money manager platforms.

The minimum fixed fee generally charged for financial planning services on a fixed fee basis is \$750.

Third-party money managers may have minimum account and minimum fee requirements in order to participate in their programs. Each-third party money manager will disclose its minimum account size and fees in its Form ADV Part 2A Disclosure Brochure.

Item 8 - Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

Methods of Analysis

Vision Financial Management uses the following methods of analysis in formulating investment advice:

<u>Charting</u> - This is a set of techniques used in technical analysis in which charts are used to plot price movements, volume, settlement prices, open interest, and other indicators, in order to anticipate future price movements. Users of these techniques, called chartists, believe that past trends in these indicators can be used to extrapolate future trends.

Charting is likely the most subjective analysis of all investment methods since it relies on proper interpretation of chart patterns. The risk of reliance upon chart patterns is that the next day's data can always negate the conclusions reached from prior days' patterns. Also, reliance upon chart patterns bears the risk of a certain pattern being negated by a larger, more encompassing pattern that has not shown itself yet.

<u>Cyclical</u> – This method analyzes the investments sensitive to business cycles and whose performance is strongly tied to the overall economy. For example, cyclical companies tend to make products or provide services that are in lower demand during downturns in the economy

and in higher demand during upswings. Examples include the automobile, steel, and housing industries. The stock price of a cyclical company will often rise just before an economic upturn begins and fall just before a downturn begins. Investors in cyclical stocks try to make the largest gains by buying the stock at the bottom of a business cycle, just before a turnaround begins.

While most economists and investors agree that there are cycles in the economy that need to be respected, the duration of such cycles is generally unknown. An investment decision to buy at the bottom of a business cycle may actually turn out to be a trade that occurs before or after the bottom of the cycle. If done before the bottom, then downside price action can result prior to any gains. If done after the bottom, then some upside price action may be missed. Similarly, a sell decision meant to occur at the top of a cycle may result in missed opportunity or unrealized losses.

<u>Fundamental</u> – This is a method of evaluating a security by attempting to measure its intrinsic value by examining related economic, financial and other qualitative and quantitative factors. Fundamental analysts attempt to study everything that can affect the security's value, including macroeconomic factors (like the overall economy and industry conditions) and individually specific factors (like the financial condition and management of a company). The end goal of performing fundamental analysis is to produce a value that an investor can compare with the security's current price in hopes of figuring out what sort of position to take with that security (underpriced = buy, overpriced = sell or short). Fundamental analysis is considered to be the opposite of technical analysis. Fundamental analysis is about using real data to evaluate a security's value. Although most analysts use fundamental analysis to value stocks, this method of valuation can be used for just about any type of security.

The risk associated with fundamental analysis is that it is somewhat subjective. While a quantitative approach is possible, fundamental analysis usually entails a qualitative assessment of how market forces interact with one another in their impact on the investment in question. It is possible for those market forces to point in different directions, thus necessitating an interpretation of which forces will be dominant. This interpretation may be wrong and could therefore lead to an unfavorable investment decision.

<u>Technical</u> – This is a method of evaluating securities by analyzing statistics generated by market activity, such as past prices and volume. Technical analysts do not attempt to measure a security's intrinsic value, but instead use charts and other tools to identify patterns that can suggest future activity. Technical analysts believe that the historical performance of stocks and markets are indications of future performance.

Technical analysis is even more subjective than fundamental analysis in that it relies on proper interpretation of a given security's price and trading volume data. A decision might be made based on a historical move in a certain direction that was accompanied by heavy volume; however, that heavy volume may only be heavy relative to past volume for the security in question, but not compared to the future trading volume. Therefore, there is the risk of a trading decision being made incorrectly since future trading volume is an unknown. Technical analysis is also done through observation of various market sentiment readings, many of which are quantitative. Market sentiment gauges the relative degree of bullishness and bearishness in a given security, and a contrarian investor utilizes such sentiment advantageously. When most traders are bullish, then there are very few traders left in a position to buy the security in question, so it becomes advantageous to sell it ahead of the crowd. When most traders are bearish, then there are very few traders left in a position, so it becomes

advantageous to buy it ahead of the crowd. The risk in utilization of such sentiment technical measures is that a very bullish reading can always become more bullish, resulting in lost opportunity if the money manager chooses to act upon the bullish signal by selling out of a position. The reverse is also true in that a bearish reading of sentiment can always become more bearish, which may result in a premature purchase of a security.

Investment Strategies

Vision Financial Management uses the following investment strategies when managing client assets and/or providing investment advice:

- Long term purchases. Investments held at least a year.
- Short term purchases. Investments sold within a year.
- <u>Frequent trading.</u> This strategy refers to the practice of selling investments within 30 days of purchase.

Risk of Loss

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Therefore, you should never assume that future performance of any specific investment or investment strategy will be profitable. Investing in securities (including stocks, mutual funds, and bonds, etc.) involves risk of loss. Further, depending on the different types of investments there may be varying degrees of risk. You should be prepared to bear investment loss including loss of original principal.

Because of the inherent risk of loss associated with investing, our firm is unable to represent, guarantee, or even imply that our services and methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate you from losses due to market corrections or declines. There are certain additional risks associated with investing in securities through our investment management program, as described below:

- <u>Market Risk</u> Either the stock market as a whole, or the value of an individual company, goes down resulting in a decrease in the value of client investments. This is also referred to as systemic risk.
- <u>Equity (stock) market risk</u> Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market
 fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and
 perceptions of their issuers change. If you held common stock, or common stock
 equivalents, of any given issuer, you would generally be exposed to greater risk than if
 you held preferred stocks and debt obligations of the issuer.
- Company Risk. When investing in stock positions, there is always a certain level of
 company or industry specific risk that is inherent in each investment. This is also referred
 to as unsystematic risk and can be reduced through appropriate diversification. There is
 the risk that the company will perform poorly or have its value reduced based on factors
 specific to the company or its industry. For example, if a company's employees go on
 strike or the company receives unfavorable media attention for its actions, the value of
 the company may be reduced.

- <u>Fixed Income Risk</u>. When investing in bonds, there is the risk that the issuer will default
 on the bond and be unable to make payments. Further, individuals who depend on set
 amounts of periodically paid income face the risk that inflation will erode their spending
 power. Fixed-income investors receive set, regular payments that face the same inflation
 risk.
- <u>ETF and Mutual Fund Risk</u> When investing in an ETF or mutual fund, you will bear additional expenses based on your pro rata share of the ETF's or mutual fund's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF or mutual fund generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities the ETF or mutual fund holds. You will also incur brokerage costs when purchasing ETFs.
- <u>Management Risk</u> Your investment with our firm varies with the success and failure of our investment strategies, research, analysis and determination of portfolio securities. If our investment strategies do not produce the expected returns, the value of the investment will decrease.

Item 9 - Disciplinary Information

Item 9 is not applicable to this Disclosure Brochure because there are no legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of our business or integrity.

Item 10 - Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Vision Financial Management is **not** and does **not** have a related person that is a broker/dealer, municipal securities dealer, government securities dealer or broker, an investment company or other pooled investment vehicle (including a mutual fund, closed-end investment company, unit investment trust, private investment company or "hedge fund," and offshore fund), another investment adviser or financial planner, a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor, a banking or thrift institution, an accountant or accounting firm, a lawyer or law firm, an insurance company or agency, a pension consultant, a real estate broker or dealer, and a sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

We are an independent registered investment registered adviser and only provide investment advisory services. We are not engaged in any other business activities and offer no other services except those described in this Disclosure Brochure. However, while we do not sell products or services other than investment advice, our representatives may sell other products or provide services outside of their role as investment adviser representatives with us.

Registered Representative of a Broker-Dealer - LPL Financial

Our representatives are also registered representatives of LPL Financial, a securities broker-dealer. You may work with your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of LPL Financial. When acting in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative, your investment adviser representative may sell, for commissions, general securities products such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and variable annuity and variable life products to you. As such, your investment adviser representative may suggest that you implement investment advice by purchasing securities products through a commission-based brokerage account in addition to or in lieu of a fee-based investment-advisory account. This receipt of commissions creates an incentive to recommend those products for which your investment adviser representative will receive a

commission in his or her separate capacity as a registered representative of a securities broker-dealer. Consequently, the objectivity of the advice rendered to you could be biased.

You are under no obligation to use the services of our representatives in this separate capacity or to use LPL Financial and can select any broker/dealer you wish to implement securities transactions. If you select our representatives to implement securities transactions in their separate capacity as registered representatives, they must use LPL Financial. Prior to effecting any such transactions, you are required to enter into a new account agreement with LPL Financial. The commissions charged by LPL Financial may be higher or lower than those charged by other broker/dealers. In addition, the registered representatives may also receive additional ongoing 12b-1 fees for mutual fund purchases from the mutual fund company during the period that you maintain the mutual fund investment.

Third-Party Money Managers

Vision Financial Management has developed arrangements, previously described in *Item 5* of this disclosure brochure, designed to allow us to recommend and select third-party money managers for you. Once you select the third-party money manager to manage all or a portion of your assets, the third-party money manager will pay us a portion of the fees you are charged. Please refer to *Items 4 and 5* for full details regarding the programs, fees, conflicts of interest and materials arrangements when Vision Financial Management selects other investment advisers.

Insurance Agent

You may work with your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent. When acting in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent, the investment adviser representative may sell, for commissions, general disability insurance, life insurance, annuities, and other insurance products to you. As such, your investment adviser representative in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent may suggest that you implement recommendations of Vision Financial Management by purchasing disability insurance, life insurance, annuities, or other insurance products. This receipt of commissions creates an incentive for the representative to recommend those products for which your investment adviser representative will receive a commission in his or her separate capacity as an insurance agent. Consequently, the advice rendered to you could be biased. You are under no obligation to implement any insurance or annuity transaction through your investment adviser representative.

Item 11 - Code of Ethics, Participation in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

Code of Ethics Summary

An investment adviser is considered a fiduciary and has a fiduciary duty to all clients. Vision Financial Management has established a Code of Ethics to comply with the requirements of the securities laws and regulations that reflects its fiduciary obligations and those of its supervised persons. The Code of Ethics also requires compliance with federal securities laws. Vision Financial Management's Code of Ethics covers all individuals that are classified as "supervised persons". All employees, officers, directors and investment adviser representatives are classified as supervised persons. Vision Financial Management requires its supervised persons to consistently act in your best interest in all advisory activities. Vision Financial Management imposes certain requirements on its affiliates and supervised persons to ensure that they meet the firm's fiduciary responsibilities to you. The standard of conduct required is higher than ordinarily required and encountered in commercial business.

This section is intended to provide a summary description of the Code of Ethics of Vision Financial Management. If you wish to review the Code of Ethics in its entirety, you should send us a written request and upon receipt of your request, we will promptly provide a copy of the Code of Ethics to you.

Affiliate and Employee Personal Securities Transactions Disclosure

Vision Financial Management or supervised persons of the firm may buy or sell for their personal accounts, investment products identical to those recommended to clients. This creates a conflict of interest. It is the express policy of Vision Financial Management that all persons associated in any manner with our firm must place clients' interests ahead of their own when implementing personal investments. Vision Financial Management and its supervised persons will not buy or sell securities for their personal account(s) where their decision is derived, in whole or in part, by information obtained as a result of employment or association with our firm unless the information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry.

We are now and will continue to be in compliance with applicable state and federal rules and regulations. To prevent conflicts of interest, we have developed written supervisory procedures that include personal investment and trading policies for our representatives, employees and their immediate family members (collectively, supervised persons):

- Supervised persons cannot prefer their own interests to that of the client.
- Supervised persons cannot purchase or sell any security for their personal accounts prior to implementing transactions for client accounts.
- Supervised persons cannot buy or sell securities for their personal accounts when those
 decisions are based on information obtained as a result of their employment unless that
 information is also available to the investing public upon reasonable inquiry.
- Supervised persons are prohibited from purchasing or selling securities of companies in which any client is deemed an "insider".
- Supervised persons are discouraged from conducting frequent personal trading.
- Supervised persons are generally prohibited from serving as board members of publicly traded companies unless an exception has been granted to the Chief Compliance Officer of Vision Financial Management.

Any supervised person not observing our policies is subject to sanctions up to and including termination.

Item 12 – Brokerage Practices

Clients are under no obligation to act on the financial planning recommendations of Vision Financial Management. If the firm assists in the implementation of any recommendations, we are responsible to ensure that the client receives the best execution possible. Best execution does not necessarily mean that clients receive the lowest possible commission costs but that the qualitative execution is best. In other words, all conditions considered, the transaction execution is in your best interest. When considering best execution, we look at a number of factors besides prices and rates including, but not limited to:

- Execution capabilities (e.g., market expertise, ease/reliability/timeliness of execution, responsiveness, integration with our existing systems, ease of monitoring investments)
- Products and services offered (e.g., investment programs, back office services, technology, regulatory compliance assistance, research and analytic services)
- Financial strength, stability and responsibility

- Reputation and integrity
- Ability to maintain confidentiality

We exercise reasonable due diligence to make certain that best execution is obtained for all clients when implementing any transaction by considering the back office services, technology and pricing of services offered.

Broker/Dealer Affiliation with LPL Financial

If you wish to implement our advice you are free to select any broker you wish. If you wish to establish an account through our Vision Financial Asset Management Program or have our representatives implement the advice in their separate capacity as registered representatives, LPL is used. Our representatives are registered representatives of LPL and we are required to use the services of LPL when acting in this capacity. LPL has a wide range of approved securities products for which it performs due diligence prior to selection. LPL's registered representatives are required to adhere to these products when implementing securities transactions through LPL. Commissions charged for these products may be higher or lower than commissions clients may be able to obtain if transactions were implemented through another broker/dealer.

Because our representatives are also registered representatives of LPL, LPL provides compliance support to them. LPL also provides our representatives, and therefore us, with back-office operational, technology and other administrative support.

If you wish to implement our advice through any of the programs described in this Disclosure Brochure, LPL will be used as the broker/dealer and/or custodian. LPL will be the primary broker/dealer and custodian recommended due to the relationship our representatives have with LPL. We recommend broker/dealers and custodians that we feel provide services in a manner and at a cost that will allow us to meet our duty of best execution. However, we may be limited in the broker/dealer or custodians that we are allowed to use due to our representatives' relationship with LPL. LPL may limit or restrict the broker/dealer or custodial platforms for its registered representatives that are also independently licensed due to its duty to supervise the transactions implemented by these individuals.

While there is no direct linkage between the investment advice given to you and our recommendation of LPL, economic benefits may be provided to us by LPL that are not provided if you select another broker/dealer or account custodian. These benefits may include:

- Negotiated costs for transaction implementation
- A dedicated trade desk that services LPL Financial participants exclusively
- A dedicated service group and an account services manager dedicated to our accounts
- Access to a real-time order matching system
- Electronic download of trades, balances and position information
- Access, for a fee, to an electronic interface with the account custodian's software
- Duplicate and batched client statements, confirmations and year-end reports

Please also see *Item 5, Fees and Compensation*, for additional information about advisory services and implementing recommendations.

Block Trading Policy

We may elect to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time. This process is referred to as aggregating orders, batch trading or block trading and is used by our firm when Vision Financial Management believes such action may prove advantageous to clients. If and when we aggregate client orders, allocating securities among client accounts is done on a fair and equitable basis. Typically, the process of aggregating client orders is done in order to achieve better execution, to negotiate more favorable commission rates or to allocate orders among clients on a more equitable basis in order to avoid differences in prices and transaction fees or other transaction costs that might be obtained when orders are placed independently.

Vision Financial Management uses the average price allocation method for transaction allocation.

Under this procedure Vision Financial Management will calculate the average price and transaction charges for each transaction included in a block order and assign the average price and transaction charge to each allocated transaction executed for the client's account.

If and when we determine to aggregate client orders for the purchase or sale of securities, including securities in which Vision Financial Management or our supervised persons may invest, we will do so in accordance with the parameters set forth in the SEC No-Action Letter, *SMC Capital, Inc.* Neither we nor our supervised persons receive any additional compensation as a result of block trades.

No Client Directed Brokerage

Clients should understand that not all investment advisors require the use of a particular broker/dealer or custodian. Some investment advisors allow their clients to select whichever broker/dealer the client decides. By requiring clients to use a particular broker/dealer, Vision Financial Management may not achieve the most favorable execution of client transactions and the practice requiring the use of specific broker/dealers may cost clients more money than if the client used a different broker/dealer or custodian. However, for compliance and operational efficiencies, Vision Financial Management has decided to require our clients to use broker/dealers and other qualified custodians determined by Vision Financial Management.

Item 13 - Review of Accounts

Account Reviews and Reviewers

Investments held in managed accounts are reviewed at least quarterly. While the calendar is the main triggering factor, reviews can also be conducted at your request. Account reviews will include investment strategy and objectives review and making a change if strategy and objectives have changed. Reviews are conducted by Robert Winston and Donald Wagner, with reviews performed in accordance with your investment goals and objectives.

Accounts established and maintained with other third-party money managers are reviewed at least quarterly, usually when statements and/or reports are received from the money manager.

Our financial planning services terminate upon thirty (30) days following the delivery of the written financial plan. Our financial planning services do not include monitoring the investments of your account(s), and therefore, there is no ongoing review of your account(s) under such services.

Statements and Reports

Whether reports by an outside money manager are provided to you will depend upon the outside money manager.

Financial planning clients do not receive any report other than the written plan originally contracted for and provided by Vision Financial Management.

You are encouraged to always compare any reports or statements provided by us, a sub-adviser or third-party money manager against the account statements delivered from the qualified custodian. When you have questions about your account statement, you should contact our firm and the qualified custodian preparing the statement.

Item 14 - Client Referrals and Other Compensation

Vision Financial Management does not directly or indirectly compensate any person for client referrals.

The only compensation received from advisory services is the fees charged for providing investment advisory services as described in *Item 5* of this Disclosure Brochure. Vision Financial Management receives no other forms of compensation in connection with providing investment advice. *Please see Item 5, Fees and Compensation, Item 10, Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations and Item 12, Brokerage Practices, for additional discussion concerning other compensation.*

We may from time to time receive expense reimbursement for travel and/or marketing expenses from distributors of investment and/or insurance products. Travel expense reimbursements are typically a result of attendance at due diligence and/or investment training events hosted by product sponsors. Marketing expense reimbursements are typically the result of informal expense sharing arrangements in which product sponsors may underwrite costs incurred for marketing such as client appreciation events, advertising, publishing, and seminar expenses. Although receipt of these travel and marketing expense reimbursements are not predicated upon specific sales quotas, the product sponsor reimbursements are typically made by those sponsors for which sales have been made or for which it is anticipated sales will be made. This creates a conflict of interest in that there is an incentive to recommend certain products and investments based on the receipt of this compensation instead of what is in the best interest of our clients. We attempt to control for this conflict by always basing investment decisions on the individual needs of our clients.

Item 15 - Custody

Custody, as it applies to investment advisors, has been defined by regulators as having access or control over client funds and/or securities. In other words, custody is not limited to physically holding client funds and securities. If an investment adviser has the ability to access or control client funds or securities, the investment adviser is deemed to have custody and must ensure proper procedures are implemented. According to this definition, Vision Financial Management does **not** have custody of client funds or securities.

Item 16 - Investment Discretion

When providing asset management services, Vision Financial Management maintains trading authorization over your Account and can provide management services on a **discretionary** basis. When discretionary authority is granted, we will have the authority to determine the type of securities and the

amount of securities that can be bought or sold for your portfolio without obtaining your consent for each transaction.

If you decide to grant trading authorization on a **non-discretionary** basis, we will be required to contact you prior to implementing changes in your account. Therefore, you will be contacted and required to accept or reject our investment recommendations including:

- The security being recommended
- The number of shares or units
- Whether to buy or sell

Once the above factors are agreed upon, we will be responsible for making decisions regarding the timing of buying or selling an investment and the price at which the investment is bought or sold. If your accounts are managed on a non-discretionary basis, you need to know that if we are not able to reach you or you are slow to respond to our request, it can have an adverse impact on the timing of trade implementations and we may not achieve the optimal trading price.

You will have the ability to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments that may be purchased in your Account. You may also place reasonable limitations on the discretionary power granted to Vision Financial Management so long as the limitations are specifically set forth or included as an attachment to the client agreement.

Item 17 - Voting Client Securities

Vision Financial Management does not vote proxies on behalf of Clients. We have determined that taking on the responsibilities for voting client securities does not add enough value to the services provided to you to justify the additional compliance and regulatory costs associated with voting client securities. Therefore, it is your responsibility to vote all proxies for securities held in Account.

You will receive proxies directly from the qualified custodian or transfer agent; we will not provide you with the proxies. You are encouraged to read through the information provided with the proxy-voting documents and make a determination based on the information provided. Although we do not vote client proxies, if you have a question about a particular proxy feel free to contact us. However, you will have the ultimate responsibility for making all proxy-voting decisions.

With respect to assets managed by a third-party money manager, we will not vote the proxies associated with these assets. You will need to refer to each third-party money manager's disclosure brochure to determine whether the third-party money manager will vote proxies on your behalf. You may request a complete copy of third-party money manager's proxy voting policies and procedures as well as information on how your proxies were voted by contacting the third-party money manager or by contacting Vision Financial Management at the address or phone number indicated on Page 1 of this disclosure document.

Item 18 - Financial Information

This *Item 18* is not applicable to this brochure. Vision Financial Management does not require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client, six months or more in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a balance sheet for the most recent fiscal year. We are not subject to a financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to clients. Finally, Vision Financial Management has not been the subject of a bankruptcy petition at any time.

Item 19 - Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

Executive Officer and Management Personnel

✓ Robert Winston

Educational Background:

West Virginia University, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: 1984

Business Experience:

- Vision Financial Management, LLC, Managing Member, Chief Compliance Officer and Investment Advisor Representative, 04/2014 to Present;
- LPL Financial, Registered Representative, 10/2004 to Present;
- LPL Financial, Investment Advisor Representative, 10/2004 to 10/2015.

✓ Donald Wagner

Educational Background:

- Indiana University, Master of Business Administration: 1984
- Wabash College, Bachelor of Arts: 1982

Business Experience:

- Vision Financial Management, LLC, Investment Advisor Representative, 06/2016 to Present:
- LPL Financial, Registered Representative, 09/2002 to Present
- Tyler-Stone Wealth Management, LLC, Investment Advisor Representative, 01/2015 to 06/2016.

Other Business Activities

See Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

No Performance Based Fees

As disclosed in Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations, Robert Winston and Donald Wagner are also registered representatives of LPL Financial and independently licensed insurance agents. They spend approximately 80% of their time on those activities.

No Arbitrations

Vision Financial Management or any of its supervised persons have not been the subject of any client arbitrations or similar legal disputes.

Relationship with Issuer of Securities

We do not have any relationship with "issuers of securities". However, please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices for a description of our brokerage arrangements.

Customer Privacy Policy Notice

The information contained in this section will also be disclosed in Vision Financial Management's Privacy Policy Statement. This statement will be provided to all clients in accordance with the rules and regulations of the *Gramm-Leach-Biley Act of 1999*.

As a registered investment advisor, Vision Financial Management, LLC and its investment adviser representatives will gather and develop personal information regarding our clients. This information will be gathered and developed by us for the following purposes:

- 1. To determine the client's financial goals and objectives
- 2. To determine the level of advisory services needed and desired by the client
- 3. To provide the client with specific recommendations regarding advisory services
- 4. To provide the client with specific recommendations regarding financial products
- 5. To provide ongoing support and recommendations regarding financial products held in the client's account

Client information that Vision Financial Management, LLC will collect may include, but not be limited to the following:

- Information received from clients on financial inventories through consultations with its
 representatives. This information may include personal and household information such as
 income, spending habits, investment objectives, financial goals, statements of account and other
 records concerning the clients' financial conditions and assets, together with information
 concerning employee benefits and retirement plan interests, wills, trusts, mortgages and tax
 returns
- Information developed as part of financial plans, analyses or investment advisory services.
- Information concerning investment advisory account transactions, such as wrap account transactions.
- Information about clients' financial products and services transactions with Vision Financial Management, LLC

When a client account is closed, Vision Financial Management, LLC will continue to keep all client information confidential in accordance with the principles stated in its privacy policy.

A copy of the Privacy Policy Notice will be delivered to all clients in writing by at least one of the following methods:

- By hand delivering a copy to the client
- Mailing a copy to the client's address on record
- If business is conducted electronically, a notice may be posted on an electronic site as long as the client acknowledges receipt of the Privacy Policy Notice prior to the client obtaining any services or products from Vision Financial Management, LLC

A copy of the Privacy Policy Notice will be provided to the client no later than the time a client establishes a relationship with Vision Financial Management, LLC, unless this situation would cause a delay in the client obtaining services and the client agrees to accept the notice at a later date. When this situation applies, a copy of the Privacy Policy Statement will be delivered to the client within a reasonable time period following the transaction.

Any time a change is made to the Privacy Policy, the statement to clients will be revised. The revised statement will be given to all affected clients prior to any disclosure of information. In addition, Vision Financial Management, LLC will provide a copy of its Privacy Policy Statement to all current and existing clients at least annually.

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