

BRIDGEWATER FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC

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FORM ADV PART 2A
FIRM BROCHURE
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This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC. If you have any question about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at (330) 998-2519. 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.

Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC is available on the SEC's website www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. You can search this site by a unique identifying number, known as a CRD number. Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC's CRD number is 305547.

ITEM 2 - MATERIAL CHANGES

We do not have any material changes to report since our inception date on August 27, 2019.

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ITEM 4 – ADVISORY BUSINESS

OWNERSHIP/ADVISORY HISTORY

Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC (“we”) is an Ohio Limited Liability Company formed in August 2003. We became registered as an investment adviser in November 2019. Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC is owned by Christopher S. Hamm. Mr. Hamm is our Managing Member and Chief Compliance Officer. Additional information about Mr. Hamm can be found under Item 19 along with his Supplemental Brochure.

ADVISORY SERVICES OFFERED

FINANCIAL PLANNING

For our financial planning services, we offer comprehensive financial planning and financial consulting services.

Our comprehensive financial planning service involves a review of your financial situation, goals and risk tolerance. Through a series of personal interview and/or the use of questionnaires we will collect pertinent data, identify goals, objectives, financial problems, and potential solutions. With this information, we tailor your financial plan and advice we give to you. Our advice may cover any of the following topics: net worth statement; cash flow analysis, tax analysis, insurance and long-term care analysis; tax planning; retirement projection; 401k review; or other needs as identified during our meetings with you. You will receive a written financial plan following our meetings.

For our financial consulting services, we focus on single topic or multiple topics as identified between us and you. We will present recommendations and give our advice over the chosen topics written in the financial planning and consulting agreement. Upon completion of this presentation the engagement is concluded, unless you choose to continue the agreement on an ongoing basis over a 12-month period.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Our portfolio management services are offered to assist with the ongoing management of your investment accounts. We work with you to understand your investment objectives, time frame, and risk tolerance. Once we have this information, we will create an individualized portfolio based on a combination of model portfolios or investment strategies that we will manage on a discretionary basis. We actively monitor your accounts and provide advice regarding buying, selling, reinvesting or holding securities, cash or other investments of the account.

RECOMMENDATION OF THIRD-PARTY INVESTMENT ADVISER SERVICES

When deemed appropriate, we recommend the services of a third-party investment adviser (“Third-Party Adviser”) to manage your account(s). We work with you to select a model portfolio based upon your objectives, time frame, risk parameters and other investment considerations. Once we have this suitability information, we recommend one of the Third-Party Adviser’s model portfolios to you. The portfolio’s implementation is then initiated by the Third-Party Adviser.

Under these arrangements, the Third-Party Adviser is responsible for portfolio management, best execution, portfolio reporting, trading, trade error resolution, management fee calculation,

management fee collection and custodian reconciliations. We regularly monitor your portfolio and adjust it as determined by the stock market and world events. We also do a semi-annual portfolio review to determine if the Third-Party Adviser and model portfolio continues to be appropriate or if adjustments should be made. All questions regarding the Third-Party Adviser's services and performance should be directed to us.

TAILORED SERVICES

The goals and objectives for each client are documented before any investing takes place. Clients may impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

WRAP PROGRAM

We do not sponsor a wrap fee program.

CLIENT ASSETS MANAGED

As of March 2020, we manage \$1,200,000 in client assets on a discretionary basis.

ITEM 5 – FEES AND COMPENSATION

FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES

Comprehensive financial planning services are offered on fixed fee basis that ranges from \$2,500 to \$6,000. The fixed fee is negotiable and will vary depending on the nature and complexity of your individual circumstances and the number of areas covered by the written financial plan. Your financial planning agreement will show what you will be charged to complete the scope of services as defined in the agreement. We will collect the first half of the agreed upon fee upon engagement and the second half at the delivery of the written financial plan.

Consulting services are provided at an hourly rate that ranges between \$150 and \$300. At the beginning of engagement, we will provide you with a written estimate of the number of hours we believe the services will take. However, we will track the time we spend collecting your information, analyzing and research the chosen topics, and time presenting the findings to you. We will collect the first half of the estimated fee and the remaining balance upon completion of the plan. With our ongoing services, the estimated number of hours and fee will be defined in the agreement and collected at the end of each quarter.

You may terminate Financial planning services for any reason within the first five (5) business days after signing an advisory contract, without any cost or penalty. Thereafter, the advisory contract may be terminated at any time by giving ten (10) days' written notice. To cancel the agreement, you must notify us in writing to Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC, 9821 Olde Eight Road, Unit K, Northfield Center, OH 44067. Upon receipt of written notice of termination, the client will receive a prorated refund of any unearned fees based on the percentage of work completed on the plan.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THIRD-PARTY INVESTMENT ADVISERS

Our annual management fee is based on a percentage of assets under management your account. The annual management fee is up to 1.50%. The management fee is negotiable. The fee will be calculated and collected quarterly, in arrears, meaning we will collect the management

fee at the end of the quarter's billing period. The management fee calculation will be based on the custodian reported account value as of the last business day of the quarter. You will be asked to authorize us with the ability to instruct the custodian to deduct our management fee from your account.

When we use the services of a Third-Party Adviser, our fee is separate and distinct from Third-Party Adviser's management fee. The Third-Party Adviser will collect the fee and pay us our portion. You will be asked to authorize the Third-Party Adviser with the ability to instruct the custodian to deduct our management fee from your account.

Additionally, you may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as fees charged by ticket charges, managers, custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual funds and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees and commissions are exclusive of, and in addition to, our fee and we will not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs. For more information about our brokerage practice please see Item 12.A.

TERMINATION OF PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

You may terminate any service for any reason within the first five (5) business days after signing an advisory contract, without any cost or penalty. Thereafter, the advisory contract may be terminated at any time by giving ten (10) days' written notice. To cancel the agreement, the you must notify us in writing at Bridgewater Financial Group, LLC, 9821 Olde Eight Road, Unit K, Northfield Center, OH 44067.

OTHER SECURITIES COMPENSATION

We do not receive any additional securities compensation.

ITEM 6 – PERFORMANCE-BASED FEES AND SIDE BY SIDE MANAGEMENT

We do not charge any performance-based fees (fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client) or provide side by side management.

ITEM 7 – TYPES OF CLIENTS

We offer our services to individuals, high net worth individuals, corporations and other business entities, charities, and pension and profit-sharing plans. We do not require a minimum account size.

ITEM 8 – METHODS OF ANALYSIS, INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS

METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

We will begin by creating your portfolio with an asset-based allocation. After the asset allocation is created, we will manage the portfolio using Modern Portfolio Theory. Modern Portfolio Theory is a mathematical approach to asset allocation developed by the 1900 Nobel Laureate Harry Markowitz, to balance the levels of risk and return. The investment technique is a form of

diversification where an investment portfolio is allocated with a number of asset classes, countries, and industries in order to help maximize returns while limiting risk exposure. Thus, a global diversification would allow for the same portfolio return with a reduced risk. However, as with every investment strategy, there is a risk associated with Modern Portfolio Theory, and despite being diversified there is no guarantee that an account will grow.

Additionally, with respect to our recommendation of Institutional Strategists and Third-Party Investment Advisers, we attempt to match your individualized needs, goals, and objectives with the Third-Party Adviser's method of investment analysis and investment strategies. Please refer to the Third-Party Adviser's ADV Part 2A – Item 8.A for a full description of the Third-Party Adviser's methods of analysis and investment strategies.

INVESTMENT RISKS

All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the client and **investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear**. Our goal is to reduce the risk of loss, but not at the expense of portfolio growth. Recommended investment strategies seek to balance risks and rewards to achieve investment objectives. To manage risk, we rebalance model portfolios on an as needed basis to bring the asset allocations back to their intended balances. The client should feel free to ask questions about risks that he or she does not understand; we would be pleased to discuss them.

RECOMMENDED SECURITIES

We do not recommend securities to you. However, the Third-Party Adviser will make recommendations. While not an exhaustive list, most Third-Party Advisers use equities (stocks), exchange traded funds (ETFs), mutual funds, and bonds. Risks associated with these types of securities include:

- **Credit Risk:** This is the risk that an issuer of a bond could suffer an adverse change in financial condition that results in a payment default, security downgrade, or inability to meet a financial obligation.
- **Inflation Risk:** This is the risk that inflation will undermine the performance of an investment and/or the future purchasing power of a client's assets.
- **Interest Rate Risk:** The chance that bond prices overall will decline because of rising interest rates.
- **International Investing Risk:** Investing in the securities of non-U.S. companies involves special risks not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. Foreign securities tend to be more volatile and less liquid than investments in U.S. securities, and may lose value because of adverse political, social or economic developments overseas or due to changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. In addition, foreign investments are subject to settlement practices, as well as regulatory and financial reporting standards, that differ from those of the U.S.
- **Investment Style Risk:** Different investment styles tend to shift in and out of favor, depending on market conditions and investor sentiment. Growth stocks tend to be more

volatile than value stocks and their prices usually fluctuate more dramatically than the overall stock market. A stock with growth characteristics can have sharp price declines due to decreases in current or expected earnings and may lack dividends that can help cushion its share price in a declining market.

- **Manager Risk:** The chance that the proportions allocated to the various securities will cause the client's account to underperform relevant to benchmarks or other accounts with a similar investment objective.
- **Principal Risk:** There is no guarantee that a stock will go up in value. A stock's price fluctuates, which means a client could lose money by investing in an equity security.
- **Stock Market Risk:** The change that stock prices overall will decline. Stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising stock prices and periods of falling stock prices.
- **Mutual Fund Manager:** the chance that the proportions allocated to the various mutual funds will cause the client's account to underperform relevant to benchmarks or other accounts with similar investment objectives.

ITEM 9 – 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. We do not have information applicable to this item.

ITEM 10 – OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

BROKER DEALER AFFILIATION

Neither us nor our management persons are affiliated with a broker-dealer.

FUTURES/COMMODITIES FIRM AFFILIATION

Neither us nor our management persons are affiliated with a futures or commodities broker.

OTHER INDUSTRY AFFILIATIONS

Our owner, Mr. Hamm, is a licensed insurance agent and may recommend the purchase of insurance to you. This other business activity pays Mr. Hamm commissions that are separate from the fees described above. This is a conflict of interest because the commissions give him a financial incentive to recommend and sell to you the insurance products. However, Mr. Hamm attempts to mitigate any conflicts of interest to the best of his ability by placing your interests ahead of his own and through the implementation of policies and procedures that address the conflict. Additionally, you are informed that you always have the right to choose whether to act on the recommendation and you have the right to purchase recommended insurance through any licensed insurance agent.

RECOMMENDATION OF THIRD-PARTY INVESTMENT ADVISER

We may utilize the services of a Third-Party Adviser to manage some or all of a client's assets on a discretionary basis and in accordance with the client's state investment objectives. We will

ensure that other advisers are properly registered as an investment adviser prior to recommending other advisers to clients. A detailed description of these services can be found under Item 4 and Item 5 above.

ITEM 11 – CODE OF ETHICS, PARTICIPATION OR INTEREST IN CLIENT TRANSACTION AND PERSONAL TRADING

DESCRIPTION

Our Code of Ethics establishes ideals for ethical conduct based upon fundamental principles of openness, integrity, honesty, and trust. We will provide a copy of our Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

Our Code of Ethics covers all supervised persons and it describes our high standard of business conduct and fiduciary duty to our clients. The Code of Ethics includes, among other things, provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a prohibition on rumor mongering, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures. All supervised persons must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually or as amended.

MATERIAL INTEREST IN SECURITIES

We do not have a material interest in any securities.

INVESTING IN OR RECOMMENDING THE SAME SECURITIES

We do not buy or sell the same securities.

ITEM 12 – BROKERAGE PRACTICES

RECOMMENDATION CRITERIA

We participate in the institutional advisor program (the “Program”) offered by TD Ameritrade Institutional. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade Inc., member FINRA/SIPC (“TD Ameritrade”), an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA member. TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment advisers services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. We receive some benefits from TD Ameritrade through our participation in the Program, which are described in Item 14.

Please Note: You may be able to obtain lower commissions and fees from other brokers, and the value of products, research and services given to the applicant is not a factor in determining the selection of broker-dealers or the reasonableness of their commissions.

TRADE AGGREGATION

We do not aggregate or block trades.

ITEM 13 – REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS

PERIODIC REVIEWS

Our owner, Mr. Hamm will meet with you at least annually either in person or by telephone to conduct a review of your account(s).

For our financial planning clients, Mr. Hamm will review your financial plan and update it, if necessary, on an annual basis.

OTHER REVIEWS

Additional reviews are conducted periodically depending on market conditions, economic or political events, or by changes in a client's financial situation (such as retirement, termination of employment, physical move or inheritance).

REPORTS

If stated in the financial planning agreement, we will provide you with a written financial plan. You will receive at least quarterly account-statements from the account's custodian. Third-Party Advisers may send their own quarterly statements in addition to the custodian's statement.

ITEM 14 – CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION

OTHER COMPENSATION

We participate in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and we may recommend TD Ameritrade to you for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between our participation in the program and the investment advice we give to you, although we receive economic benefits through our participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving our participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from your accounts; access to an electronic communications network for client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transactions fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to us by third-party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by our related persons. Some of the products and services available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit us but may not benefit your accounts. These products or services may assist us in managing and administering your accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. The benefits received by us or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of our fiduciary duties to you, our endeavors at all times are to put the interests of our clients first. You should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by us or our related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence our choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

CLIENT REFERRALS

We do not pay client referrals or use solicitors.

ITEM 15 – CUSTODY

All client funds, securities, and accounts are held by Third-Party Custodians. We do not take possession of your securities. However, you will be asked to authorize the Third-Party Adviser to instruct the custodian to deduct our management fee from your account. This authorization will apply to our management fee only. This is considered a limited form of custody. You may terminate this authorization at any time by contacting us or the Third-Party Adviser. You will receive at least quarterly account statements from the custodian that holds and maintains your assets. We urge you to carefully review these account statements.

ITEM 16 – INVESTMENT DISCRETION

We offer discretionary and non-discretionary investment management services. With discretionary investment management services, you must sign the investment management agreement to grant us discretionary power over your account. Our investment management agreement contains a limited power of attorney that allows us to select the security, the amount, and the time of the purchase or sale in your account. It also allows us to place each trade without your prior approval. In addition to our investment management agreement, your custodian may request that you sign the custodian's limited power of attorney. This varies with each custodian. We discuss all limited powers of attorney with you prior to their execution. In all cases, however, our discretion will be exercised in a manner consistent with the state investment objectives for your account and any other investment policies, limitations or restrictions.

ITEM 17 – VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES

We do not vote proxy votes for any client. All proxy materials are mailed or emailed directly to the client from the custodian. Any proxy materials received by us will be forwarded to clients for response and voting. In the event the client has a question about a proxy solicitation, the client should feel free to contact us.

ITEM 18 – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

BALANCE SHEET

We do 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 provide a balance sheet.

FINANCIAL CONDITION

We are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition if we have a financial commitment that impairs our ability to service you. We do not have a financial commitment that impairs our ability to service our clients.

BANKRUPTCY

We have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

ITEM 19 – REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE-REGISTERED ADVISERS

We have one principal executive officer Christopher S. Hamm, (“Mr. Hamm”). Mr. Hamm’s biographical information is provided in the attached Brochure Supplement document.

Mr. Hamm is required to disclose additional information if he has other business activities. He is a licensed independent insurance agent and may receive commissions for the sale of insurance products. These activities and any conflicts of interest associated therewith are discussed in Item 10 of this brochure and his brochure supplement. Additionally, he is a board member of two organizations; Jesuit Retreat Center and Fair Housing Rights & Research Center.

Mr. Hamm is also required to disclose additional information if he receives performance-based fees, has any relationship or arrangement with an issuer of securities, or was ever found liable in an arbitration, civil, self-regulatory organization or administrative proceeding. Mr. Hamm has no information to report on these topics because none apply to him.

Alternate offices are identified to support ongoing operations in the event the main office is unavailable. The client’s custodian may also assist, depending on the type of disaster, with back office and trading assistance for accounts held in custody by them. The client’s custodian has its own disaster recovery plans with backup facilities in different parts of the U.S. It is the firm’s intention to contact all clients within five days of a disaster that dictates moving its office to an alternate location for a period of time.