# **Leith Wheeler International Equity Plus Fund**

# INTERIM MANAGEMENT REPORT OF FUND PERFORMANCE June 30, 2023



Quiet Money.®

This interim management report of fund performance contains financial highlights, but does not contain either interim or annual financial statements of the investment fund. You can get a copy of the interim or annual financial statements at your request, and at no cost, by calling 1-888-292-1122, by writing to us at 1500 – 400 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3A6 or by visiting our website at www.leithwheeler.com or SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Securityholders may also contact us using one of these methods to request a copy of the investment fund's proxy voting policies and procedures, proxy voting disclosure record, or quarterly portfolio disclosure.

### **Management Discussion of Fund Performance**

### **Investment Objective and Strategies**

To provide superior long-term investment returns by investing in equity securities trading on the major markets around the world. The Fund will focus on holdings in the EAFE (Europe, Australasia & Far East) markets but may also have some exposure to North American and Emerging Markets. The Fund primarily invests in a broad range of international companies and is not restricted by capitalization or industry sector, although portfolio diversification is a consideration in the selection of securities for the Fund. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will keep its portfolio fully invested, to the greatest extent possible, in equity and equity related securities.

Our strategy employs a value approach to the management of equities. It emphasizes long-term investment and it focuses on the selection of individual securities using a bottom-up, research driven approach. Sector exposure is a residual of this stock selection process. Fund holdings must meet our standards of investment quality, including a history of above average financial performance, a secure financial position, reputable management and a growth opportunity in terms of sales, earnings, and share price.

#### **Risk**

The overall risks of investing in the Fund are as described in the Simplified Prospectus. There were no material changes to the Fund during the year that affected the overall level of risk.

### **Results of Operations**

The Fund's net assets increased by 4.8% in the first half of 2023 to \$39.1 million from \$37.3 million at the end of 2022. Of this change, \$3.7 million was attributable to positive investment performance and \$1.9 million to net outflows from unitholders.

For the six months ended June 30, 2023, Series A of the International Equity Plus Fund returned 9.9% before fees and expenses compared to the MSCI EAFE Index, which returned 9.2%. After fees and expenses, Series B and F returned by 9.0% and 9.3% respectively. (All performance figures are shown in Canadian dollars).

The International Equity Plus Fund is designed for investors seeking a broadly diversified exposure to non-North American equities. As of June 30, 2023, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Germany and the Netherlands accounted for 76.3% of the portfolio's geographic exposure.

In the first quarter, the International Equity Plus Fund outperformed the MSCI EAFE Index. Stock selection was positive during the quarter, most notably in utilities, consumer staples and information technology. Geographically, stock selection was also strongest in South Korea, Germany and Japan. Positive stock selection in energy mitigated but did not fully offset the performance drag from the overweight to energy during this period of oil price weakness.

In the second quarter, the International Equity Plus Fund outperformed the MSCI EAFE Index. Positive drivers of performance included the memory semiconductor companies SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics, which are a significant weight in the portfolio. Both companies benefit from improved sentiment towards the memory market which has been in a prolonged downturn driven by excess capacity and demand normalizing after a boom in 2020-2021. Investor enthusiasm for artificial intelligence (AI) has led to strong performance across the technology value chain and our holdings benefitted. In the quarter, concerns about the banking industry subsided, the US debt ceiling issue was resolved, many companies' first-quarter earnings exceeded consensus estimates, and investors welcomed several central banks' slower pace or pausing of interest-rate hikes. However, concerns remained that improving but still elevated inflation, combined with tight labor markets in many regions, could lead central banks to further tighten monetary policy and hurt economic growth. Driven by investor enthusiasm for AI, although less pronounced than in the US, information technology finished the quarter as the top-performing sector. Despite this, international growth stocks underperformed global value stocks. Developed markets outperformed emerging markets, commodity prices generally declined, and benchmark bond yields mostly rose, as did the US dollar.

### **Recent Developments**

In July 2023, the International Equity Plus Fund returned +4.3% for the month.

As of July 2023, the International Equity Plus Fund became sub-advised by Barrow, Hanley, Mewhinney & Strauss, LLC of Dallas, Texas.

## Management Discussion of Fund Performance (cont.)

### **Related Party Transactions**

Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd. (the "Manager") is the manager and portfolio advisor of the Fund and is responsible for the Fund's day-to-day operations. The Fund pays the Manager a management fee as compensation for managing the investment portfolio of the Fund.

As at June 30, 2023, the Leith Wheeler Balanced Fund owned 2,854,161 Series A units of the Fund, a fund under common management. This holding represents approximately 76.7% of this Fund.

### **Management Fees**

The Manager provides the Fund with investment management services, including fund accounting and unitholder record keeping. In return, the Manager receives a management fee based on the net assets of the Fund, calculated on a daily basis. The annualized management fee for the Series B and Series F units of the Fund are 1.50% and 0.95%, respectively. During the year, the Fund paid the Manager \$5,548 for Series B and \$836 for Series F (exclusive of GST/HST) of its net assets as management fees. The Fund does not reimburse the Manager for operating costs incurred in administering the Fund. The Manager paid all operating expenses except brokerage commissions, transaction charges and taxes. In respect of Series A units, the unitholder pays the Manager a negotiated management fee outside the Fund.

We do not directly or indirectly pay fees, sales commissions or trailing commissions, nor do we provide any non-monetary benefits to registered dealers for distributions of units of the Fund. If a broker charges you a commission or fee, that is a matter between you and the dealer.

# **Financial Highlights**

## The Fund's Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units per Unit

The following tables show selected key financial information about the Fund and are intended to help you understand the Fund's financial performance for the past six months and for the past five years or for the periods since inception. This information is derived from the Fund's unaudited interim financial statements and audited annual financial statements.

Series A	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$9.78	\$10.73	\$10.10	\$10.71	\$10.44	\$11.99
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.24	0.30	0.37	0.21	0.39	0.43
Total expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.07	(0.27)	0.47	(0.18)	0.18	0.49
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.68	(0.52)	0.30	(0.14)	0.16	(1.66)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(1)</sup>	0.99	(0.49)	1.14	(0.11)	0.73	(0.74)
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.24)	(0.37)	(0.41)	(0.26)	(0.37)	(0.36)
From capital gains	-	-	(0.08)	-	(0.07)	(0.40)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Annual Distributions <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.24)	(0.37)	(0.49)	(0.26)	(0.44)	(0.76)
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, end of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$10.51	\$9.78	\$10.73	\$10.10	\$10.71	\$10.44
Series P	June 30,	2022	2021	2020	2010	2019

Series B	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$9.84	\$10.58	\$9.86	\$10.48	\$10.25	\$11.78
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.27	1.11	0.35	0.57	0.37	0.31
Total expenses	(0.07)	(0.15)	(0.16)	(0.18)	(0.17)	(0.44)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.08	(1.00)	0.44	(0.50)	0.17	0.35
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.75	(1.90)	0.29	(0.36)	0.16	(1.20)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(1)</sup>	1.03	(1.94)	0.92	(0.47)	0.52	(0.98)
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.21)	(0.13)	(0.24)	(0.17)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	(0.07)	(0.39)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Annual Distributions <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.21)	(0.13)	(0.31)	(0.56)
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, end of year $^{\left(1\right)}$	\$10.70	\$9.84	\$10.58	\$9.86	\$10.48	\$10.25

# Financial Highlights (cont.)

# The Fund's Net Assets Attributable to Holders of Redeemable Units per Unit (cont.)

Series F (inception May 25, 2016)	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, beginning of year <sup>(1)</sup>	\$9.62	\$10.57	\$9.82	\$10.35	\$10.12	\$11.69
Increase (decrease) from operations:						
Total revenue	0.12	0.33	0.40	1.69	0.31	0.66
Total expenses	(0.05)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.54)	(0.02)	(0.15)
Realized gains (losses) for the year	0.03	(0.30)	0.50	(1.50)	0.15	0.76
Unrealized gains (losses) for the year	0.32	(0.57)	0.33	(1.05)	0.13	(2.55)
Total increase (decrease) from operations <sup>(1)</sup>	0.42	(0.64)	1.12	(1.40)	0.57	(1.28)
Distributions:						
From income (excluding dividends)	-	-	-	-	-	-
From dividends	(0.23)	(0.28)	(0.23)	(0.11)	(0.28)	(0.30)
From capital gains	-	-	-	-	(0.07)	(0.39)
Return of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Annual Distributions <sup>(2)</sup>	(0.23)	(0.28)	(0.23)	(0.11)	(0.35)	(0.69)
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit, end of year $^{(1)}$	\$10.28	\$9.62	\$10.57	\$9.82	\$10.35	\$10.12

(1) Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units and distributions are based on the actual number of units outstanding at the relevant time. The increase/decrease from operations is based on the weighted average number of units outstanding over the financial period.

(2) Distributions are reinvested in additional units of the Fund or paid in cash.

# Financial Highlights (cont.)

## **Ratios and Supplemental Data**

Series A	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units ( $000$ s) $^{(1)}$	38,293	36,446	41,085	37,177	38,146	30,268
Number of units outstanding (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	3,645	3,725	3,831	3,681	3,561	2,898
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.11	0.12
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	23.64	32.70	36.46	28.19	33.03	21.66
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit (\$)	10.51	9.78	10.73	10.10	10.71	10.44

Series B	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units ( $000$ s) <sup>(1)</sup>	327	765	4,553	4,757	5,082	4,934
Number of units outstanding (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	31	78	430	483	485	481
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	1.62	1.59	1.59	1.59	1.59	1.59
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	1.72	1.68	1.68	1.69	1.70	1.71
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	23.64	32.70	36.46	28.19	33.03	21.66
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit (\$)	10.70	9.84	10.58	9.86	10.48	10.25

Series F (inception May 25, 2016)	June 30, 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units ( $000$ s) $^{(1)}$	491	101	108	157	327	321
Number of units outstanding (000s) <sup>(1)</sup>	48	10	10	16	32	32
Management expense ratio (%) <sup>(2)</sup>	1.06	1.04	1.05	1.04	1.03	1.00
Management expense ratio before waivers or absorptions (%)	1.16	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.12
Trading expense ratio (%) <sup>(3)</sup>	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.08
Portfolio turnover rate (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	23.64	32.70	36.46	28.19	33.03	21.66
Net assets attributable to holders of redeemable units - per unit (\$)	10.28	9.62	10.57	9.82	10.35	10.12

(1) This information is provided as at December 31 of the year shown; unless noted otherwise.

(2) Management expense ratio is based on total expenses (excluding commissions and other portfolio transaction costs) for the stated period and is expressed as an annualized percentage of the daily average net asset value during the period.

(3) The trading expense ratio represents total commissions and other portfolio transaction costs expressed as an annualized percentage of daily average net asset value during the period.

(4) The Fund's portfolio turnover rate indicates how actively the Fund's portfolio adviser manages its portfolio investments. A portfolio turnover rate of 100% is equivalent to the Fund buying and selling all of the securities in its portfolio once in the course of the year. The higher a fund's portfolio turnover rate in a year, the greater the trading costs payable by the fund in the year, and the greater the chance of an investor receiving taxable capital gains in the year. There is not necessarily a relationship between a high turnover rate and the performance of a fund.

# **Past Performance**

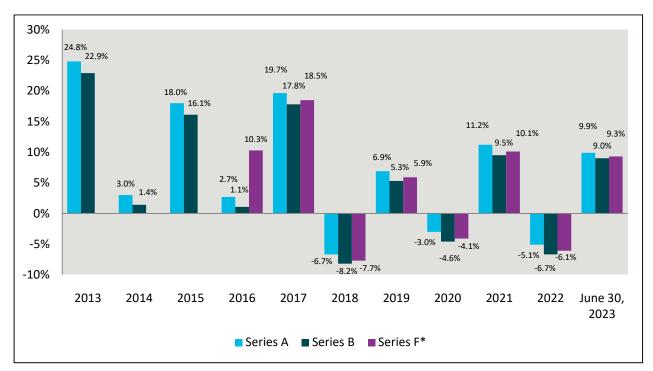
### General

The Fund's performance assumes all distributions made by the Fund in the years shown were reinvested in units of the Fund and is based on net asset value per unit. If you hold the Fund outside a Registered Plan, you will be taxed on these distributions.

The performance information does not take into account sales charges, other charges or taxes that, if applicable, would have reduced returns or performance; but includes management fees and other expenses borne directly by the Fund. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund may perform in the future.

### Year-by-Year Returns

The following bar chart shows the Fund's historical return, which changes each year and illustrates how the Fund's performance has changed from year to year. The bar chart shows, in percentage terms, how much an investment made on the first day of each financial year would have grown or decreased by the last day of each year.



\* Series F units were created on May 25, 2016. Return from May 25, 2016 to December 31, 2016, not annualized.

# **Summary of Investment Portfolio**

### As at June 30, 2023

### **Top 25 Positions**

lssuer	% of Net Asset Value
Cash & Other Net Assets	6.9%
Shell PLC	4.3%
BP PLC	4.2%
Deutsche Telekom AG	3.8%
TotalEnergies SE	3.6%
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	3.5%
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc	3.1%
Veolia Environnement SA	3.0%
Hitachi Ltd	2.9%
LG Chem Ltd	2.9%
Lloyds Banking Group PLC	2.9%
Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize NV	2.9%
Sanofi	2.8%
Tesco PLC	2.7%
Unilever PLC	2.6%
ING Groep NV	2.6%
AstraZeneca PLC	2.5%
DNB Bank ASA	2.5%
Honda Motor Co Ltd	2.5%
Cie Generale des Etablissements Michelin SCA	2.3%
Smith & Nephew PLC	2.3%
SK Hynix Inc	2.2%
Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	2.1%
Sony Group Corp	2.1%
Siemens AG	2.0%

### **Portfolio Allocation**

Portfolio Breakdown	% of Net Asset Value
Europe - Ex. U.K.	40.3%
U.K.	20.1%
Japan	14.0%
Emerging Markets	12.3%
Cash & Other Net Assets	6.9%
North America	4.6%
Pacific - Ex. Japan	1.8%

The Fund held no short positions as at June 30, 2023.

The Summary of Investment Portfolio may change due to ongoing portfolio transactions of the Fund and a quarterly update is available at www.leithwheeler.com.