

APRIL 2025

MARKET MINUTE

An investment report from the Kansas Methodist Foundation

Rate of Return:

As of April 30, 2025, net-of-investment fees

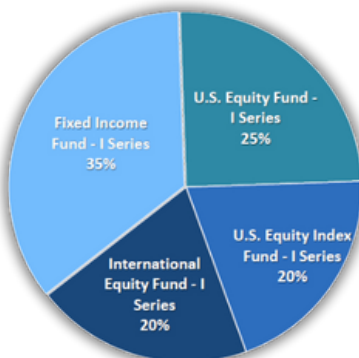
Fund Name	Apr' 25	YTD	Annualized				
			1 Yr	2 Yrs	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs
Balanced Fund	0.22%	-0.34%	7.22%	8.10%	5.50%	7.77%	6.19%
Benchmark	0.58%	0.25%	9.85%	10.12%	6.86%	8.61%	6.60%
Equity Fund	-0.15%	-2.44%	7.75%	11.32%	7.57%	11.19%	7.96%
Benchmark	0.66%	-1.33%	11.41%	14.50%	9.92%	13.02%	8.69%
U.S. Equity Index Fund	-0.84%	-5.47%	11.20%	16.71%	11.30%	15.07%	--
Benchmark	-0.67%	-5.36%	11.40%	16.72%	11.41%	15.12%	11.68%
Fixed Income Fund	0.77%	3.33%	8.19%	5.10%	3.39%	1.40%	2.44%
Benchmark	0.37%	2.93%	7.91%	3.98%	2.59%	0.22%	2.10%
Short Term Income Fund	0.35%	1.31%	4.81%	4.60%	3.79%	2.81%	2.05%

*Historical returns are not indicative of future performance. The Balanced Fund returns represent the historical return for the Wespeth Multiple Asset Fund (100%) until October 2024, when the asset allocation changed to Wespeth U.S. Equity Fund (25%), Wespeth U.S. Equity Index Fund (20%), Wespeth International Equity Fund (20%), and Wespeth Fixed Income Fund (35%). The Equity Fund returns represent the historical data for the Wespeth U.S. Equity Fund (55%) and the Wespeth International Equity Fund (45%) until October 2022, when the asset allocation changed to Wespeth U.S. Equity Fund (45%), Wespeth U.S. Equity Index Fund (20%), and Wespeth International Equity Fund (35%), and subsequently changed October 2024 to Wespeth U.S. Equity Fund (40%), Wespeth U.S. Equity Index Fund (30%), and Wespeth International Equity Fund (30%). The U.S. Equity Index Fund is the Wespeth U.S. Equity Index Fund. The Fixed Income Fund performance is the Wespeth Fixed Income Fund. More information about the funds and benchmarks can be found at <https://www.wespeth.com/funds>. The Short Term Income Fund is a combination of multiple investment instruments of the Foundation. The Foundation hired Wespeth Institutional Investments on November 1, 2019. The Administration Fee of the Foundation is not included.

KMF Funds:*

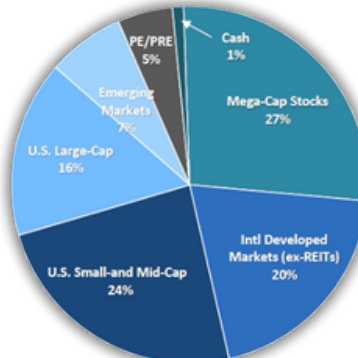
Balanced Fund

65% Equities
35% Fixed Income



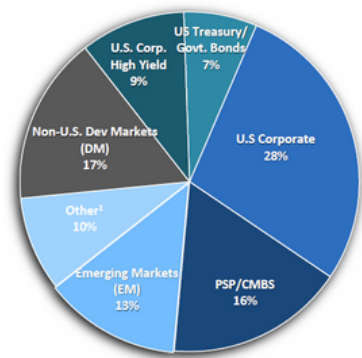
Equity Fund

40% US Equities
30% US Equity Index Fund
30% International Equities



Fixed Income Fund

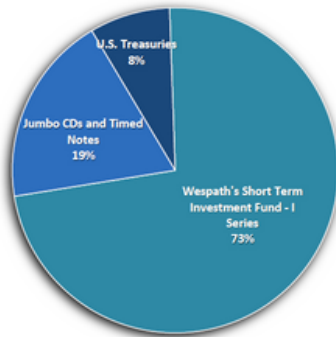
100% Fixed Income



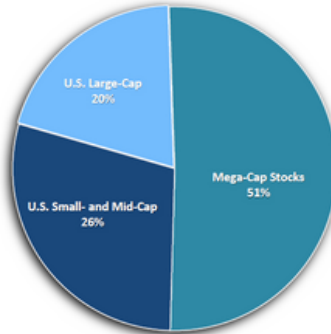
*Fund allocations as of March 31, 2025. Investors can choose a mix of their choice from the funds provided by KMF.

KMF Funds cont'd:*

Short Term Income Fund**



US Equity Index Fund (Track Russell 3000)



Certificate of Participation

A Certificate of Participation provides the security of a fixed income type vehicle at competitive rates for 1-year and 2-year investments. Certificates of Participation are the funding source of KMF's Church Development Loan Fund, providing loans throughout the Great Plains Conference.

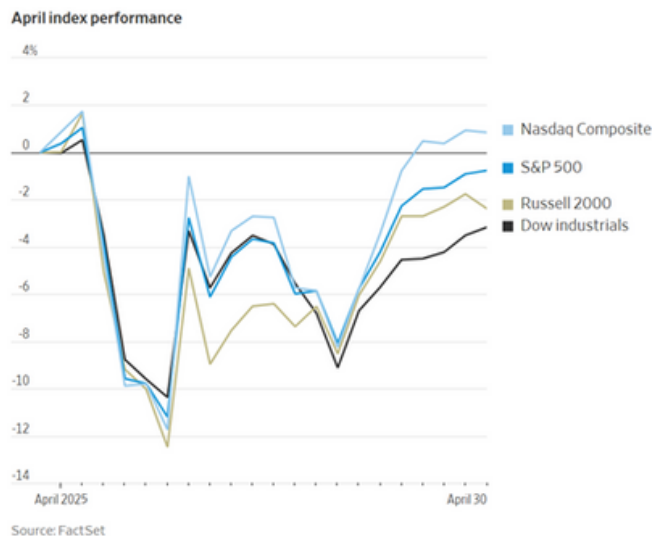
The current rates KMF is offering for our Certificates of Participation are:

- 2.25% for one year
- 2.00% for two years

*Fund allocations as of March 31, 2024. Investors can chose a mix of their choice from the funds provided by KMF. WII stands for Wespath Institutional Investments. .

April Highlights

- Investors were caught off guard and major indices tumbled at the start of the month as the Trump administration unveiled its reciprocal tariff strategy on "Liberation Day" (April 2nd). The S&P 500 fell 11% over just three trading days around this announcement.
- The market rebounded quickly as the administration paused reciprocal tariffs on April 9th, spurred by signs of mounting stress in the bond market.
- Despite the extreme volatility, the overall month-to-date impact to the major indices was muted, with the S&P 500 falling less in April than it did in March.



International Equity

- The European Central Bank (ECB) cut its benchmark interest rate to 2.25%, citing a worsening growth outlook due to rising trade tensions and uncertainty.
- Japanese stocks rose supported by a weaker yen and strong corporate earnings. Recent broad-based dollar weakness has provided some support to the yen, but the Bank of Japan's gradual approach to interest rate hikes to address inflation has maintained pressure on the yen.
- Escalating tariff pressure impacted China's manufacturing sector, with factory activity contracting according to China's manufacturing PMI, which dipped below 50. Beijing responded with stimulus measures to support its 5% annual growth target.

Performance YTD

- -5.4% US Equities
- +11.8% Non-US Developed Equities
- +3.2% Emerging Market Equities
- Large > Small, Value > Growth
- Crude (WTI) -18.8%
- Bitcoin +0.7%

YTD As of 4/30/2025			
	US Market-Cap/Style Returns		
Large	-0.98%	-5.06%	-8.37%
Mid	-4.54%	-4.40%	-4.00%
Small	-11.45%	-11.57%	-11.68%
	Value	Blend	Growth

4/30/2025		
US Sector Returns - YTD	Absolute	Relative
Consumer Staples (value)	6.21%	11.58%
Utilities (value)	5.45%	10.81%
Health Care (growth)	1.74%	7.10%
Real Estate (value)	0.64%	6.00%
Financials (value)	0.49%	5.85%
Materials (value)	-0.62%	4.74%
Industrials (value)	-1.75%	3.61%
Russell 3000	-5.36%	0.00%
Communications (growth/value)	-5.58%	-0.22%
Energy (value)	-6.41%	-1.05%
Technology (growth)	-11.41%	-6.05%
Consumer Discretionary (growth)	-14.20%	-8.84%

Wespath Blog

A Pause in U.S. Exceptionalism: Shifting Dynamics in Global Markets



By Joe Halwax, CAIA, CIMA
Senior Managing Director, Institutional Investment Services



By Raj Khan, CFA
Director, Investment Research

The prolonged dominance of the United States in global equity markets appears to have hit a pause. From the beginning of the year through the end of April, the S&P 500 Index of U.S. stocks underperformed the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. Index by more than 16%. This marks a notable break from the long-standing trend of U.S. outperformance since the Great Financial Crisis in 2008. This development raises questions about whether the era of U.S. exceptionalism is undergoing a temporary pause or a more fundamental shift.

The Foundations of U.S. Exceptionalism

The U.S. exceptionalism has been rooted in several key characteristics: a massive, unified market with a single currency and language, relatively wealthy consumers, and a business-friendly regulatory environment. Wall Street has provided unparalleled access to debt and equity financing, while an entrepreneurial culture has attracted global talent, leading to world-leading companies. Silicon Valley's venture capital ecosystem has further boosted technological innovation.

However, U.S. dominance has also been bolstered by weaknesses elsewhere. Europe's population growth is stagnating, and the E.U. generally offers a stricter regulatory environment. China's centralization of power and overinvestment in its housing market have constrained its economic growth. Brexit diminished the U.K.'s global relevance, while Australia and Canada focused on housing market growth at the expense of broader economic priorities.

Against this backdrop, global capital naturally gravitated toward the United States, driving U.S. equities to represent approximately 65% of global market capitalization in 2025 (MSCI All Country World Index). This is up from 45% in 2009.

[Read the Rest of the Article Here!](#)

Let's Connect

If you have questions about your account or fund performance, contact Dustin Petz, President and CEO of the Kansas Methodist Foundation.

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Phone: 620-664-9623



"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

- 2 Corinthians 9:11