

# Covered Call Transition

## Strategy

For investors seeking a systematic way to sell equity holdings in a legacy portfolio that does not match their current investment objectives. The legacy portfolio may be the result of an inheritance, a change in investment advice or price appreciation over time. The Covered Call Transition strategy provides a disciplined approach to selling existing equity holdings at a price above the current market price while enhancing income and allowing investors to participate in potential stock gains up to an established price. The call premium acts as a source of income. Investors may customize their desired income levels, call-strike prices, and timeline for transition.



**Enhanced Income Potential**

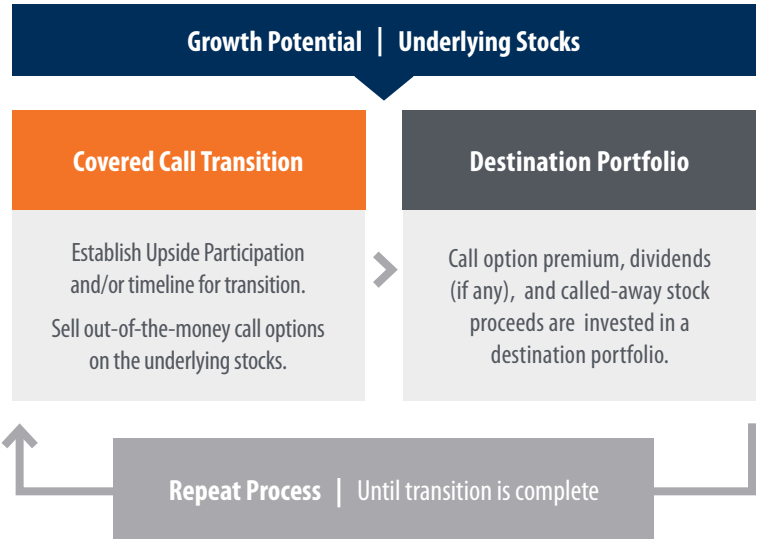


**Growth Potential**



**Diversification Potential\***

## Investment Process



## How Covered Calls Work

For investors interested in enhancing income, the strategy sells a call on the underlying stock. The investor will receive a premium for the call option sold and participate in potential price gains up to the call strike price.

## Potential Return Scenarios of the Covered Call Transition Strategy

### Stock Price Moves Higher

If the price of the underlying stock increases, the strategy will participate in gains up to the strike price. The profit potential is equal to the strike price plus call option premium and dividends paid on the underlying stock.

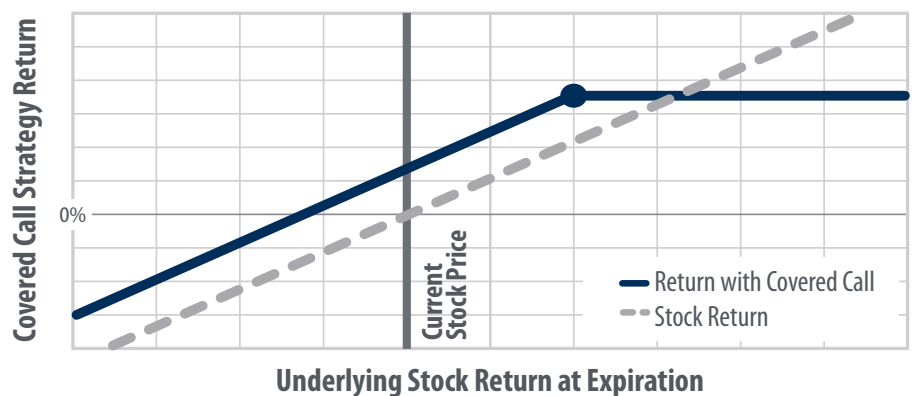
### Stock Price Remains Unchanged

If the underlying stock remains unchanged, the profit potential is equal to the option premium received plus any stock dividends.

### Stock Price Declines

If the stock price declines, the return is equal to the loss in the stock plus the call option premium and any dividends received.

### Covered Call Illustration



The chart is for illustrative purposes only and not indicative of any actual investment. You could lose money by investing in the strategy. **Options trading is not appropriate for all investors.** There can be no assurance that the strategy will achieve its investment objectives.

\*Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

## Why Choose First Trust?

- ▶ We work with financial professionals and their clients to help manage their concentrated stock positions and potentially improve outcomes.
- ▶ Our suite of custom solutions offer the potential for yield enhancement, hedging, diversification and tax-mitigating strategies.
- ▶ We utilize state-of-the-art option analytics tools taking into account an option's delta, skew, and moneyness.
- ▶ We customize strategies to each client blending options analysis and client expectations.
- ▶ We draft and adhere to a tailored Investment Policy Statement for each client based on their needs, goals, tax budget, risk tolerance and timeline.

### For additional information, please refer to First Trust Advisor L.P.'s Form ADV Part 2A.

This is not an offer to buy or sell any security and does not include a complete list of all securities purchased or sold in the period or for all clients. Actual holdings will vary and there is no guarantee that any client will hold any mentioned positions. No security or discipline is profitable all the time and there is always the possibility of loss.

There is no assurance that a separately managed account ("SMA") will achieve its investment objective. Accordingly, you can lose money investing in an SMA. SMAs are subject to market risk, which is the possibility that the market values of the securities in an account will decline and that the value of the securities may therefore be less than what you paid for them. The value of investments held by the strategy may increase or decrease in response to economic, financial, and political events (whether real, expected, or perceived) in the U.S. and global markets. It is difficult to predict the timing, duration, and potential adverse effects (e.g., portfolio liquidity) of events.

An SMA strategy with significant exposure to a single asset class, country, region, industry, or sector may be more affected by an adverse economic or political development than a broadly diversified strategy.

High portfolio turnover may result in higher levels of transaction costs and may generate greater tax liabilities for shareholders.

While SMAs can be customized, accounts with smaller balances may struggle to achieve optimal diversification across multiple asset classes due to the higher cost of individual securities.

Fees associated with SMAs can be higher than mutual funds and ETFs that include manager, service, and advisory fees. Being able to withdraw cash from an SMA may be delayed due to the amount and type of positions to be sold. Withdrawals may negatively impact the SMA's performance.

**This summary is not intended to be tax or legal advice. This summary cannot be used by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. This summary is being used to support the promotion or marketing of the transactions herein. The taxpayer should consult an independent tax advisor.**

**Investors or financial professionals should consult with a tax professional regarding the potential application of loss deferral regimes, such as wash sales and straddles, to these securities and potential transactions along with other securities and transactions in the broader portfolio.**

The information presented is not intended to constitute an investment recommendation for, or advice to, any specific person. By providing this information, First Trust is not undertaking to give advice in any fiduciary capacity within the meaning of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any other regulatory framework. Financial professionals are responsible for evaluating investment risks independently and for exercising independent judgment in determining whether investments are appropriate for their clients.

**Key Options Risks:** Writing and buying options are speculative activities and entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost would suggest, meaning that a small investment in an option could have a substantial impact on performance. The use of call and put options can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying stock, index, or other asset, which may be magnified by certain features of the options. These risks are heightened when options are used to enhance a client's return or as a substitute for a position or security. When selling a call or put option, a client will receive a premium; however, this premium may not be enough to offset a loss incurred by the client if the price of the underlying asset is above or below, the strike price, respectively, by an amount equal to or greater than the premium. The value of an option may be adversely affected if the market for the option becomes less liquid or smaller and will be affected by changes in the value or yield of the option's underlying asset, an increase in interest rates, a change in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market or the underlying asset and the remaining time to expiration.

Writing a call or put option can lead to an assignment upon an exercise of a call or put option. In the case of a short call, an assignment can lead to a forced sale of the underlying security being held as collateral. Being short a put can lead to a forced purchase of the underlying security for which additional capital may have to be contributed by the account holder (i.e., "margin call"). Such involuntary sale and purchase transaction may occur at inopportune market times, which could result in losses to an account.

In the case of an option purchase (long call or long put), a client's entire initial investment of premium can be lost. In the case of a covered option short sale (short call or short put), upside gains can be limited by the sale of a short call against an underlying stock position and a forced purchase of stock can occur in the case of a short cash covered put sale. In the case of a naked call or put sale (a call with no underlying stock position and a put with no cash to cover the possibility of a forced stock purchase) there is the risk of unlimited loss in the call position and substantial loss in the put position.

Options trading is not appropriate for all investors. Please refer to Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options, also known as the options disclosure document (ODD), which discusses potential risks of options issued by the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC), which are typically listed on an exchange. Visit <https://www.theocc.com/Company-Information/Documents-and-Archives/Options-Disclosure-Document>.

The strategy was previously managed by First Trust Investment Solutions (FTIS). Effective October 31, 2024, FTIS merged into First Trust Advisors L.P. ("FTA"). All business activities, including portfolio management and business records are now performed under FTA.

Kevin Erndl is the portfolio manager for the First Trust Advisors L.P. custom options investment strategies. Mr. Erndl is also registered with an unaffiliated investment advisor, CWA Asset Management Group, LLC ("CWA"). Mr. Erndl is allowed to remain an investment adviser representative with CWA in order to service his current CWA client accounts ("CWA clients") during a transition period of up to 20 months beginning August 31, 2023 ("transition period"). Mr. Erndl receives compensation from CWA in exchange for providing his CWA clients advisory services through CWA during the transition period. Mr. Erndl will not seek any new CWA clients. In addition, during this transition period, Mr. Erndl's activities, as they relate to his CWA clients, will be limited to providing financial planning and guidance on asset allocation. He will not make any investment decisions on behalf of his CWA clients. The assets of Mr. Erndl's CWA clients invested in a custom options investment strategy managed by Mr. Erndl will be deducted from strategy assets under management when calculating advisory fees so that CWA clients will not be charged twice for advisory services.

### Definitions

An **option** is a contractual obligation between a buyer and a seller. There are two types of options known as "calls" and "puts." The buyer of a **call option** has the right, but not the obligation, to purchase an agreed upon quantity of an underlying asset from the writer (seller) of the option at a predetermined price (the strike price) within a certain window of time (until the option's expiration), creating a long position.

An option is **out-of-the-money** when the current price of the underlying asset (for a call option) is below the strike price or (for a put option) is above the strike price.

A **covered call** refers to a financial transaction in which the investor selling call options owns an equivalent amount of the underlying security.

**Delta** measures an option's price movement for every \$1 change in the price of the underlying security or index.

An **option skew** refers to the level of implied volatility for options with different strike prices.

**Moneyness** refers to the relationship between the current price of the underlying asset and the strike price of the option.

A **premium** is the income received by an investor who sells the option contract to another party.

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