

PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC  
Form S-3ASR  
January 23, 2017  
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 23, 2017

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
***UNDER***  
***THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933***  
**PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, INC.**  
**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Tennessee**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of**  
**incorporation or organization)**

**150 Third Avenue South**

**Suite 900**

**62-1812853**  
**(I.R.S. Employee**  
**Identification Number)**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37201**

**(615) 744-3700**

**(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)**

**M. Terry Turner**

**President and Chief Executive Officer**

**Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.**

**150 Third Avenue South**

**Suite 900**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37201**

**(615) 744-3700**

**(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number including area code, of agent for service)**

*Copy to:*

**D. Scott Holley**

**Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**

**150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800**

**Nashville, Tennessee 37201**

**(615) 742-6200**

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: **From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.**

Edgar Filing: PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC - Form S-3ASR

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box:

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

**Table of Contents**

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box:

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box:

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
 Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Shares to be Registered	Amount to be Registered (1)(2)	Proposed	
		Offering Price (1)(2)	Maximum Aggregate Amount of Registration Fee (2)(3)
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (4)			
Preferred Stock, no par value per share (4)			
Warrants			
Debt Securities (5)			
Depository Shares (4)(6)			
Units (7)			

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units or represented by Depository Shares. In accordance with General Instruction II.E. to Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 (the Securities Act), information as to each class of securities to be registered is not specified. The securities covered by this Registration Statement may be sold or otherwise distributed separately or together with any other securities covered by this Registration Statement.
- (2) In accordance with Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (3) In connection with the filing of the Registrant's registration statement on Form S-3, File no. 333-185566, filed on December 19, 2012 (the Prior Registration Statement), the Registrant submitted registration fees of \$27,280 to

register such indeterminate principal amount, liquidation amount or number of each identified class of securities as may from time to time have been issued thereunder at indeterminate prices. The Registrant did not sell any securities under the Prior Registration Statement; therefore, in accordance with Rule 457(p) of the Securities Act, the Registrant is carrying forward all of the \$27,280 of the unused registration fees paid under the Prior Registration Statement.

- (4) Shares of preferred stock, common stock and depositary shares of the registrant may be issuable for separate consideration or upon conversion of other securities registered hereunder.
- (5) If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then such greater amount as may be sold for an initial aggregate offering price up to the proposed maximum aggregate offering price.
- (6) In the event that Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. elects to offer to the public fractional interests in shares of preferred stock registered hereunder, depositary shares, evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to a deposit agreement, will be distributed to those persons purchasing such fractional interests, and the shares of preferred stock will be issued to the depositary under any such agreement.
- (7) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will represent an interest in two or more securities, which may or may not be separable from one another.

**Table of Contents**

**PROSPECTUS**

**PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, INC.**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Warrants**

**Debt Securities**

**Depository Shares**

**Units**

Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately, in one or more offerings any combination of (i) our common stock, (ii) our preferred stock, which we may issue in one or more series, (iii) warrants, (iv) senior or subordinated debt securities, (v) depository shares and (vi) units. The debt securities may consist of debentures, notes, or other types of debt. The debt securities, preferred stock and warrants may be convertible, exercisable or exchangeable for common or preferred stock or other securities of ours. The preferred stock may be represented by depository shares. The units may consist of any combination of the securities listed above.

We may offer and sell these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of the offering.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and any free writing prospectus that we may issue, as well as the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, carefully before you make your investment decision. Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market and trades on that exchange under the symbol PNF. On January 20, 2017, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$63.30 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of the common stock. Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may offer to sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis, through agents, dealers or underwriters, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. If our agents or any dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of the securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the names of the agents, dealers or underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts. Our net proceeds from the sale of securities will also be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see Plan of Distribution in this prospectus.

**Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors referred to on page 4 of this prospectus and set forth in the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference herein together with any information set forth in a Risk Factors section of any applicable prospectus supplement before making any decision to invest in our securities.**

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**The securities are not savings accounts, deposits or obligations of any bank and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.**

**The date of this prospectus is January 23, 2017.**

Table of Contents

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, INC.</u>	2
<u>PINNACLE BANK</u>	2
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	4
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	5
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	7
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	7
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTIONS OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u>	9
<u>DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	19
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	29
<u>DESCRIPTION OF UNITS</u>	32
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	33
<u>EXPERTS</u>	36
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	37



Table of Contents

**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is a part of an automatic shelf registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, as a well-known seasoned issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including the exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. The registration statement, including the exhibits and the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated herein by reference, can be read on the SEC website or at the SEC offices as described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Each time we sell securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering by us. The prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in this prospectus. If the information in the prospectus is inconsistent with a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read carefully both this prospectus and, if applicable, any prospectus supplement together with the documents we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. See **Where You Can Find More Information** for more information.

We have not authorized any dealer, salesman or other person to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus prepared by us or on our behalf as to which we may have referred you in connection with any particular offering. We take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information others may give you. This prospectus and any prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do this prospectus and any prospectus supplement constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate on any date subsequent to the date set forth on the front of such document or that any information we have incorporated by reference is correct on any date subsequent to the date of the document incorporated by reference, even though this prospectus and any prospectus supplement is delivered or securities are sold on a later date.

*Unless this prospectus indicates otherwise or the context otherwise requires, the terms we, our, us, Pinnacle Financial or the Company as used in this prospectus refer to Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Pinnacle Bank, which we sometimes refer to as Pinnacle Bank, the bank, our bank subsidiary or our bank, except that such terms refer to only Pinnacle Financial and not its subsidiaries in the sections entitled Description of Common Stock, Description of Preferred Stock, Description of Warrants, Description of Debt Securities, Description of Depositary Shares, and Description of Units.*

**Table of Contents**

**PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, INC.**

Pinnacle Financial, a financial holding company under the laws of the United States, is a Tennessee corporation that was incorporated on February 28, 2000. Pinnacle Financial is the parent company of Pinnacle Bank and owns 100% of Pinnacle Bank's capital stock. The primary business of Pinnacle Financial is conducted by Pinnacle Bank. Pinnacle Financial and Pinnacle Bank also collectively hold a 49% interest in Bankers Healthcare Group, LLC, or BHG, a full-service commercial loan provider to healthcare and other professional practices. As of September 30, 2016, Pinnacle Financial had total consolidated assets of approximately \$10.978 billion, total deposits of approximately \$8.670 billion, total liabilities of approximately \$9.503 billion and shareholders' equity of approximately \$1.476 billion.

On January 22, 2017, we entered into a definitive agreement, which we refer to as the Merger Agreement, with BNC Bancorp, a High Point, North Carolina-based bank holding company, or BNC, pursuant to which (i) a wholly owned subsidiary of Pinnacle Financial will merge with and into BNC, with BNC surviving the merger, which we refer to as the Merger, (ii) as soon as reasonably practicable following the Merger and as a part of a single integrated transaction, we will cause BNC to merge with and into Pinnacle Financial, with Pinnacle Financial surviving the merger, which we refer to as the Second Step Merger, and (iii) each holder of BNC common stock issued and outstanding, subject to certain exceptions, will, at the effective time of the Merger, be converted into the right to receive 0.5235 shares of Pinnacle Financial's common stock for each share of BNC common stock owned by them at the effective time of the Merger. As of September 30, 2016, BNC had total consolidated assets of approximately \$6.802 billion, total deposits of approximately \$5.650 billion, total liabilities of approximately \$6.006 billion and shareholders' equity of approximately \$795.2 million. In connection with the execution of the Merger Agreement, Pinnacle Bank and Bank of North Carolina, or BNC Bank, BNC's wholly owned bank subsidiary, have entered into an agreement pursuant to which BNC Bank will merge with and into Pinnacle Bank immediately following the Second Step Merger.

Our principal executive offices are located at 150 Third Avenue South, Suite 900, Nashville, Tennessee 37201 and our telephone number at these offices is (615) 744-3700. Our internet address is [www.pnfp.com](http://www.pnfp.com). Please note that our website address is provided as an inactive textual reference and the information on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

**PINNACLE BANK**

Pinnacle Bank is a Tennessee state-chartered non-member bank that is regulated and examined by the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions, or the TDFI, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the FDIC. All of its outstanding capital stock is owned by Pinnacle Financial. Pinnacle Bank started operations on October 27, 2000, in Nashville, Tennessee, and has since grown to 45 offices, including 30 in eight Middle Tennessee counties. Pinnacle Bank also has five offices in Knoxville, Tennessee, five offices in Memphis, Tennessee and one in Chattanooga, Tennessee, as well as several offices in nearby communities. Prior to September 4, 2012, when it converted from a national bank to a state bank, Pinnacle Bank was known as Pinnacle National Bank.

Table of Contents

**RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO  
COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS**

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges and our consolidated ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. On December 12, 2008, we issued Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, no par value, which is referred to as the Series A preferred stock in this prospectus, to the United States Department of the Treasury, who we refer to as the Treasury. Prior to the issuance of the Series A preferred stock, there were no shares of our preferred stock outstanding. In the fourth quarter of 2011, we repurchased 25% of the then outstanding shares of Series A preferred stock issued to the Treasury. During the second quarter of 2012, we repurchased the remaining outstanding shares of Series A preferred stock from the Treasury. Subsequent to such repurchases, no shares of our preferred stock have been outstanding. Accordingly, the numbers presented below for fiscal years 2013 through 2015 and for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 do not include preferred stock dividends.

*Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges*

	Nine months ended September 30,	Years ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Excluding interest on deposits	14.72x	27.86x	33.70x	24.45x	11.94x	5.53x
Including interest on deposits	6.15x	8.72x	9.01x	6.58x	3.77x	1.77x

*Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends*

	Nine months ended September 30,	Years ended December 31,				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Excluding interest on deposits	14.72x	27.86x	33.70x	24.25x	8.63x	4.07x
Including interest on deposits	6.15x	8.72x	9.01x	6.58x	3.50x	1.71x

The ratio of earnings to fixed charges is computed in accordance with Item 503 of Regulation S-K by dividing (1) income before income taxes, fixed charges and amortization of capitalized interest, less interest capitalized and noncontrolling interest in income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges by (2) total fixed charges. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends is computed by dividing (1) income before income taxes, fixed charges and amortization of capitalized interest, less interest capitalized and noncontrolling interest in income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges by (2) the sum of total fixed charges and preferred stock dividends. For purposes of computing these ratios:

Edgar Filing: PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC - Form S-3ASR

fixed charges, excluding interest on deposits, include interest expense (other than on deposits), interest capitalized and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest, net of income from subleases;

fixed charges, including interest on deposits, include all interest expense, interest capitalized and the estimated portion of rental expense attributable to interest, net of income from subleases; and

preferred stock dividends represent the amount of pre-tax earnings required to cover such dividend requirements.

**Table of Contents**

**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves significant risks. You should read and carefully consider the risks and uncertainties and the risk factors set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2015 (filed with the SEC on February 29, 2016) and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2016 (filed with the SEC on November 4, 2016) and under similar headings in the documents and reports we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as well as any risks described in any applicable prospectus supplement, before you make an investment decision regarding the securities. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business operations.

**Table of Contents**

**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

Certain of the statements in this prospectus may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, which we refer to as the Exchange Act. The words expect, anticipate, goal, objective, intend, plan, believe, should, seek, estimate and similar expressions are intended to identify such forward-looking statements, but other statements not based on historical information may also be considered forward-looking. All forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from any results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These statements should be considered subject to various risks and uncertainties, and are made based upon management's belief as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, management pursuant to safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such risks include, without limitation:

deterioration in the financial condition of borrowers resulting in significant increases in loan losses and provisions for those losses;

continuation of the historically low short-term interest rate environment;

our, or entities in which we have significant investments, like BHG, inability to maintain the historical growth rate of our, or those entities', loan portfolio;

changes in loan underwriting, credit review or loss reserve policies associated with economic conditions, examination conclusions, or regulatory developments;

effectiveness of our asset management activities in improving, resolving or liquidating lower-quality assets;

increased competition with other financial institutions;

greater than anticipated adverse conditions in the national or local economies including the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin Metropolitan Statistical Area, or MSA, the Knoxville MSA, the Chattanooga, TN-GA MSA and the Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA, particularly in commercial and residential real estate markets;

rapid fluctuations or unanticipated changes in interest rates on loans or deposits;

the results of regulatory examinations;

the ability to retain large, uninsured deposits;

a merger or acquisition like the proposed Merger;

risks of expansion into new geographic or product markets, like the proposed expansion into certain MSAs in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia in connection with the proposed Merger;

any matter that would cause us to conclude that there was impairment of any asset of ours, including intangible assets;

reduced ability to attract additional financial advisors (or failure of those advisors to cause their clients to switch to us), to retain financial advisors or otherwise to attract customers from other financial institutions;

further deterioration in the valuation of other real estate owned and increased expenses associated therewith;

inability to comply with regulatory capital requirements, including those resulting from changes to capital calculation methodologies and required capital maintenance levels;

**Table of Contents**

risks associated with litigation, including the applicability of insurance coverage;

the risk that the cost savings and any revenue synergies from the proposed Merger and our recently completed mergers may not be realized or take longer than anticipated to be realized;

disruption from the proposed Merger with customers, suppliers or employee or other business partners relationships;

the occurrence of any event, change or other circumstances that could give rise to the termination of the Merger Agreement;

the risk of successful integration of BNC's business and the businesses we recently acquired with our business;

the failure to obtain the necessary approvals from BNC's or Pinnacle's shareholders in connection with the Merger;

the amount of the costs, fees, expenses and charges related to the Merger;

the ability to obtain required government approvals of the proposed terms of the Merger;

reputational risk and the risk of adverse reaction of ours, Pinnacle Bank's, BNC's and BNC Bank's customers, suppliers, employees or other business partners to the Merger;

the failure of the closing conditions of the Merger to be satisfied, or any unexpected delay in closing the Merger;

the risk that the integration of our and BNC's operations and the operations of the companies we recently acquired with our operations will be materially delayed or will be more costly or difficult than expected;

the possibility that the Merger may be more expensive to complete than anticipated, including as a result of unexpected factors or events;

the dilution caused by the issuance of additional shares of our common stock in the Merger or related to the Merger;



general competitive, economic, political and market conditions;

approval of the declaration of any dividend by our board of directors;

the vulnerability of our network and online banking portals to unauthorized access, computer viruses, phishing schemes, spam attacks, human error, natural disasters, power loss and other security breaches;

the possibility of increased compliance costs or modifications to our business plan or the business plan of entities in which we have made an investment as a result of increased regulatory oversight, including oversight of companies in which we have significant investments, and the development of additional banking products for our corporate and consumer clients;

the risks associated with our being a minority investor in BHG, including the risk that the owners of a majority of the membership interests in BHG decide to sell the company if not prohibited from doing so by the terms of our agreement with them;

the possibility that the incremental cost and/or decreased revenues associated with exceeding \$10 billion in assets will exceed current estimates; and

changes in state and federal legislation, regulations or policies applicable to banks and other financial service providers (like BHG), including regulatory or legislative developments.

## **Table of Contents**

A more detailed description of these and other risks is contained under **Risk Factors** in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2015 (filed with the SEC on February 29, 2016) and under **Risk Factors** in Part II, Item 1A of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2016 (filed with the SEC on November 4, 2016), which are expressly incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and those risks described in any supplement to this prospectus under **Risk Factors**, and elsewhere in documents we have filed or will file with the SEC and incorporate by reference into this prospectus, as well as other factors that our management has not yet identified. Many of such factors are beyond our ability to control or predict, and readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on such forward-looking statements. We disclaim any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement to this prospectus used to offer specific securities, we expect to use the net proceeds from any offering of securities by us for general corporate purposes, which may include funding the cash portion of the purchase price or providing capital for acquisitions, capital expenditures, investments, providing capital to support our growth and working capital needs and the repayment, redemption or refinancing of all or a portion of any of our or Pinnacle Bank's indebtedness or other securities outstanding at a particular time. Pending the application of the net proceeds, we expect to invest the proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing instruments or other investment-grade securities.

## **WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act for the securities being offered under this prospectus. This prospectus, which is part of that registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and accompanying exhibits. This prospectus contains descriptions of certain agreements or documents that are exhibits to the registration statement. The statements as to the contents of such exhibits, however, are brief descriptions and are not necessarily complete, and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to such agreement or document. In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our current SEC filings and the registration statement to which this prospectus relates and accompanying exhibits may be inspected without charge at the public reference facilities of the SEC located at 100 F Street, N. E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of this information at prescribed rates. The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy statements, registration statements and other information, including our filings with the SEC. The SEC website address is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain further information on the operations of the public reference room. We make available free of charge through our web site our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. Our website address is [www.pnfp.com](http://www.pnfp.com). Please note that our website address is provided as an inactive textual reference only. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, and is therefore not incorporated by reference herein unless such information is otherwise specifically referenced or incorporated by reference elsewhere in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference certain information that we file with the SEC into this prospectus. By incorporating by reference, we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document we have filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus,

except for information incorporated by reference that is superseded by information

**Table of Contents**

contained in this prospectus or any document we subsequently file with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Likewise, any statement in this prospectus or any document which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein will be deemed to have been modified or superseded to the extent that any statement contained in any document that we subsequently file with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes that statement. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to be furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for each of the quarters ended March 31, 2016, June 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016;

our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A, filed with the SEC on March 10, 2016, to the extent that information included therein is deemed filed with the SEC under the Exchange Act;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 20, 2016 (with respect to items 3.02 and 8.01 only), January 25, 2016, January 29, 2016, March 3, 2016, March 4, 2016, March 11, 2016, March 31, 2016, April 1, 2016, April 20, 2016, May 20, 2016 (excluding item 7.01 thereto), June 13, 2016, July 7, 2016, October 24, 2016, November 9, 2016, November 18, 2016, January 20, 2017, January 23, 2017, January 23, 2017 (excluding item 7.01 thereto) and Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on July 20, 2016; and

the description of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A filed with the SEC and dated January 12, 2009, including all amendments and reports filed for purposes of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference in this prospectus any future filings that we make with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act prior to expiration or termination of the offering of the securities to which this prospectus relates; provided, however, that we are not incorporating any information furnished under items 2.02 and 7.01 or any related exhibits furnished under item 9.01(d) of any Current Report on Form 8-K, unless, and except to the extent, specified in any such Current Report on Form 8-K or in any applicable prospectus supplement.

We are also incorporating by reference into this prospectus (i) the audited financial statements of BNC as of December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015 which are included in BNC's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, as filed with the SEC on February 29, 2016 and (ii) the interim unaudited financial statements of BNC as of and for the nine months ended September 30, 2016 and September 30, 2015 which are included in BNC's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2016, as filed with the SEC on November 8, 2016.

Upon request, we will provide, without charge, to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered a copy of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You may request a copy of these filings, and any exhibits we have specifically incorporated by reference as an exhibit in this prospectus by

writing or telephoning us using the following contact information:

Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc.

150 Third Avenue South, Suite 900

Nashville, Tennessee 37201

Attention: Investor Relations

Telephone: (615) 744-3700

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTIONS OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER**

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, warrants, debt securities, depositary shares and units that we may offer and sell from time to time. We may issue the debt securities as exchangeable for and/or convertible into shares of common stock or preferred stock. The preferred stock may also be exchangeable for and/or convertible into shares of common stock or another series of preferred stock. When one or more of these securities are offered in the future, a prospectus supplement will explain the particular terms of the securities and the extent to which these general provisions may apply. These summary descriptions and any summary descriptions in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete descriptions of the terms and conditions of each security and are qualified in their entirety by reference to our amended and restated charter, as amended and bylaws, as amended, the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, or TBCA, and any other documents referenced in such summary descriptions and from which such summary descriptions are derived. If any particular terms of a security described in the applicable prospectus supplement differ from any of the terms described herein, then the terms described herein will be deemed superseded by the terms set forth in that prospectus supplement.

We may issue securities in book-entry form through one or more depositories, such as The Depository Trust Company, Euroclear or Clearstream, named in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each sale of a security in book-entry form will settle in immediately available funds through the applicable depository, unless otherwise stated. We will issue the securities only in registered form, without coupons, although we may issue the securities in bearer form if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If any securities are to be listed or quoted on a securities exchange or quotation system, the applicable prospectus supplement will say so.

**DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK**

The following is a description of our common stock and certain provisions of our amended and restated charter, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, and certain provisions of applicable law. The following is only a summary and is qualified by applicable law and by the provisions of our amended and restated charter, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us. You should read the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular issuance of securities, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

***General***

Our authorized capital stock consists of 90 million shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and 10 million shares of preferred stock, no par value. As of January 19, 2017, 46,489,974 shares of our common stock were outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Our outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held of record on all matters submitted to a vote of the shareholders. Holders of our common stock do not have pre-emptive rights and are not entitled to cumulative voting rights with respect to the election of directors. Our common stock is neither redeemable nor convertible into other securities, and there are no sinking fund provisions with respect to the common stock.

Subject to the preferences applicable to any shares of our preferred stock outstanding at the time, holders of our common stock are entitled to, in the event of liquidation, share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities.

*Election of Directors*

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, provide that each member of our board of directors is elected annually to a one year term. As a result of our adopting a majority voting standard

## **Table of Contents**

for directors at the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders, should a nominee to serve as a director that is nominated in an uncontested election fail to receive an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast at the meeting at which the nominee is up for election, in person or by proxy, then that nominee, if that individual is an incumbent director, must tender his or her resignation to the chairman of our board of directors following the shareholder vote pursuant to our corporate governance guidelines. Subsequently, the nominating and corporate governance committee of our board of directors will consider the relevant facts and circumstances, including the factors that may have given rise to the resulting shareholder vote and the service and qualifications of the impacted director(s), and recommend to the board of directors within ninety days of the shareholder vote as to whether to accept or reject the resignation of the impacted director(s). Our board of directors will also consider the relevant facts and circumstances when considering whether to accept or reject the nominating and corporate governance committee's recommendation. Subsequently, we will describe a full explanation of the above process and the decisions regarding the impacted director(s) continued service on the board of directors in a Form 8-K filing with the SEC. Any director who tenders his resignation in the manner described in this paragraph will not participate in any discussion or recommendation related to the above process.

Our bylaws also provide that the power to increase or decrease the number of directors and to fill vacancies is vested in our board of directors. The overall effect of this provision may be to prevent a person or entity from seeking to acquire control of us through an increase in the number of directors on our board of directors and the election of designated nominees to fill newly created vacancies.

## ***Dividends***

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends. In order to pay any dividends, Pinnacle Financial will need to receive dividends from Pinnacle Bank or have other sources of funds. Under Tennessee banking law, Pinnacle Bank is subject to restrictions on the payment of dividends to Pinnacle Financial. Pursuant to these laws, Pinnacle Bank may not, without the prior consent of the Commissioner of the TDFI pay any dividends to Pinnacle Financial in a year in excess of the total of Pinnacle Bank's net income for that year plus the retained net income for the preceding two years.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, we initiated a quarterly common stock dividend. During the year ended December 31, 2016, we paid \$24.7 million in dividends to common shareholders. Our ability to pay dividends to our shareholders in the future will depend on our earnings and financial condition, liquidity and capital requirements, the general economic and regulatory climate, our ability to service any equity or debt obligations senior to our common stock and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors.

## ***Corporate Transactions***

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, with exceptions, requires that any merger or similar transaction involving us or any sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets will require the affirmative vote of a majority of our directors then in office and the affirmative vote of a majority of the holders of the outstanding shares of our stock entitled to vote on the transaction.

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, describes the factors that our board of directors must consider in evaluating whether an acquisition proposal made by another party is in our shareholders' best interests. The term acquisition proposal refers to any offer of another party to:

make a tender offer or exchange offer for our common stock or any other equity security of ours;



merge or consolidate us with another corporation; or

purchase or otherwise acquire all or substantially all of the properties and assets owned by us.

## **Table of Contents**

The board of directors, in determining what is in our and our shareholders' best interests, is required to give due consideration to all relevant factors, including, without limitation:

the short-term and long-term social and economic effects of the transaction on our and our subsidiaries employees, clients, shareholders and other constituents;

the consideration being offered by the other corporation in relation to (1) our current value at the time of the proposal as determined in a freely negotiated transaction and (2) the board of directors' estimate of our future value as an independent company at the time of the proposal; and

the short-term and long-term social and economic effects on the communities within which we operate. We have included this provision in our amended and restated charter, as amended, because serving our community was, and remains, one of the reasons for organizing Pinnacle Bank. As a result, the board of directors believes its obligation in evaluating an acquisition proposal extends beyond evaluating merely the payment being offered in relation to the market or book value of our common stock at the time of the proposal.

While the value of what is being offered to shareholders in exchange for their stock is the main factor when weighing the benefits of an acquisition proposal, our board of directors believes it is appropriate to also consider all other relevant factors. For example, the board will evaluate what is being offered in relation to our current value at the time of the proposal as determined in a freely negotiated transaction and in relation to the board's estimate of our future value as an independent concern at the time of the proposal. A takeover bid often places the target corporation virtually in the position of making a forced sale, sometimes when the market price of its stock may be depressed. Our board of directors believes that frequently the payment offered in such a situation, even though it may exceed the value at which shares are then trading, is less than that which could be obtained in a freely negotiated transaction. In a freely negotiated transaction, management would have the opportunity to seek a suitable partner at a time of its choosing and to negotiate for the most favorable price and terms that would reflect not only on our current value, but also our future value.

One effect of the provision requiring our board of directors to take into account specific factors when considering an acquisition proposal may be to discourage a tender offer in advance. Often an offeror consults the board of a target corporation before or after beginning a tender offer in an attempt to prevent a contest from developing. In our board's opinion, this provision will strengthen its position in dealing with any potential offeror that might attempt to acquire the company through a hostile tender offer. Another effect of this provision may be to dissuade shareholders who might be displeased with the board's response to an acquisition proposal from engaging us in costly litigation.

The applicable charter provisions would not make an acquisition proposal regarded by our board of directors as being in our best interests more difficult to accomplish. It would, however, permit the board to determine that an acquisition proposal was not in our best interests, and thus to oppose it, on the basis of the various factors that the board deems relevant. In some cases, opposition by the board might have the effect of maintaining incumbent management.

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, provides that all extraordinary corporate transactions to which we are a party must be approved by a majority of the directors and a majority of the shares entitled to vote.

## ***Anti-Takeover Statutes***

The Tennessee Control Share Acquisition Act generally provides that, except as stated below, control shares will not have any voting rights. Control shares are shares acquired by a person under certain circumstances which, when added to other shares owned, would give such person effective control over one-fifth, one-third, or a majority of all voting power in the election of a Tennessee corporation's directors. Shares acquired by such person that causes it to exceed each of these thresholds will be deemed to be control shares. However, voting rights will be restored to control shares by resolution approved by the affirmative vote of the

## Table of Contents

holders of a majority of the corporation's voting stock, other than shares held by the owner of the control shares. If voting rights are granted to control shares which give the holder a majority of all voting power in the election of the corporation's directors, then the corporation's other shareholders may require the corporation to redeem their shares at fair value.

The Tennessee Control Share Acquisition Act is not applicable to us because our amended and restated charter, as amended, does not contain a specific provision opting in to the act as is required under the act.

The Tennessee Investor Protection Act, or TIPA, provides that unless a Tennessee corporation's board of directors has recommended a takeover offer to shareholders, no offeror beneficially owning 5% or more of any class of equity securities of the offeree company, any of which was purchased within the preceding year, may make a takeover offer for any class of equity security of the offeree company if after completion the offeror would be a beneficial owner of more than 10% of any class of outstanding equity securities of the company unless the offeror, before making such purchase: (1) makes a public announcement of his or her intention with respect to changing or influencing the management or control of the offeree company; (2) makes a full, fair and effective disclosure of such intention to the person from whom he or she intends to acquire such securities; and (3) files with the Tennessee Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance, or the Commissioner, and the offeree company a statement signifying such intentions and containing such additional information as may be prescribed by the Commissioner.

The offeror must provide that any equity securities of an offeree company deposited or tendered pursuant to a takeover offer may be withdrawn by an offeree at any time within seven days from the date the offer has become effective following filing with the Commissioner and the offeree company and public announcement of the terms or after 60 days from the date the offer has become effective. If the takeover offer is for less than all the outstanding equity securities of any class, such an offer must also provide for acceptance of securities pro rata if the number of securities tendered is greater than the number the offeror has offered to accept and pay for. If such an offeror varies the terms of the takeover offer before its expiration date by increasing the consideration offered to offerees, the offeror must pay the increased consideration for all equity securities accepted, whether accepted before or after the variation in the terms of the offer.

The TIPA does not apply to us, as it does not apply to bank holding companies subject to regulation by a federal agency.

The TBCA generally prohibits a business combination by us or a subsidiary with an interested shareholder within five years after such shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. We or a subsidiary of ours can, however, enter into a business combination within that period if, before the interested shareholder became such, our board of directors approved the business combination or the transaction in which the interested shareholder became an interested shareholder. After that five-year moratorium, the business combination with the interested shareholder can be consummated only if it satisfies certain fair price criteria or is approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the other shareholders.

For purposes of the TBCA, a business combination includes mergers, share exchanges, sales and leases of assets, issuances of securities, and similar transactions. An interested shareholder is generally any person or entity that beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of any outstanding class or series of our stock. Our charter does not have special requirements for transactions with interested parties; however all business combinations, as defined above, must be approved by a majority of our directors and a majority of the shares entitled to vote.

The Tennessee Greenmail Act applies to a Tennessee corporation that has a class of voting stock registered or traded on a national securities exchange or registered with the SEC pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act. Under the Tennessee Greenmail Act, we may not purchase any of our shares at a price above the market value of such shares

from any person who holds more than 3% of the class of securities to be purchased if such person has held such shares for less than two years, unless the purchase has been approved by the affirmative

---

**Table of Contents**

vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of each class of voting stock issued by us or we make an offer, of at least equal value per share, to all shareholders of such class.

***Indemnification***

The TBCA provides that a corporation may indemnify any of its directors and officers against liability incurred in connection with a proceeding if: (a) such person acted in good faith; (b) in the case of conduct in an official capacity with the corporation, the person reasonably believed such conduct was in the corporation's best interests; (c) in all other cases, the person reasonably believed that the person's conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and (d) in connection with any criminal proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. In actions brought by or in the right of the corporation, however, the TBCA provides that no indemnification may be made if the director or officer was adjudged to be liable to the corporation. The TBCA also provides that in connection with any proceeding charging improper personal benefit to an officer or director, no indemnification may be made if such officer or director is adjudged liable on the basis that such personal benefit was improperly received. In cases where the director or officer is wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding instigated because of his or her status as a director or officer of a corporation, the TBCA mandates that the corporation indemnify the director or officer against reasonable expenses incurred in the proceeding. The TBCA provides that a court of competent jurisdiction, unless the corporation's charter provides otherwise, upon application, may order that an officer or director be indemnified for reasonable expenses if, in consideration of all relevant circumstances, the court determines that such individual is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, notwithstanding the fact that (a) such officer or director was adjudged liable to the corporation in a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation; (b) such officer or director was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by the officer or director; or (c) such officer or director breached the officer's or director's duty of care to the corporation.

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, provides that we will indemnify our directors and officers to the maximum extent permitted by the TBCA. Our bylaws provide that we shall indemnify our directors and officers that are made a party to a proceeding because they were a director or officer of ours for reasonable expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with the proceeding if he or she acted in a manner believed in good faith to be in or not opposed to our best interests, and in the case of any criminal proceeding, he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. In addition, our bylaws provide that we shall pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director or officer who is a party to a proceeding in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if he or she furnishes us with (1) a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct that would entitle him or her to indemnification and (2) a written statement that he or she will repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not entitled to indemnification.

Under our bylaws, as amended, the termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, or conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, is not, of itself, determinative of whether the director or officer met the standard of conduct required in order for him or her to be entitled to indemnification. Our board of directors, shareholders or independent legal counsel determines whether the director or officer has met the applicable standard of conduct in each specific case.

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, also provide that the indemnification rights contained therein do not exclude other indemnification rights to which a director or officer may be entitled under any bylaw, resolution or agreement, either specifically or in general terms approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote. We can also provide for greater indemnification than is provided for in the bylaws if we choose to do so, subject to approval by our shareholders and the limitations provided in our amended and

restated charter, as amended, as discussed in the subsequent paragraph.

**Table of Contents**

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, eliminates, with exceptions, the potential personal liability of a director for monetary damages to us and our shareholders for breach of a duty as a director. There is, however, no elimination of liability for:

a breach of the director's duty of loyalty to our shareholders;

an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;  
or

any payment of a dividend or approval of a stock repurchase that is illegal under the TBCA.

Our amended and restated charter, as amended, does not eliminate or limit our right or the right of our shareholders to seek injunctive or other equitable relief not involving monetary damages.

The indemnification provisions of the bylaws specifically provide that we may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any director or officer against any liability asserted against and incurred by him or her in his or her capacity as a director, officer, employee or agent whether or not we would have had the power to indemnify him or her against such liability.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling us pursuant to the foregoing provisions, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

***Transfer Agent***

Computershare Trust Company, N.A. serves as the registrar and transfer agent for our common stock.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK**

We summarize below some of the provisions that will apply to the preferred stock that we may issue pursuant to this prospectus unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise. This summary may not contain all information that is important to you. The complete terms of the preferred stock will be contained in the prospectus supplement applicable to the particular series of preferred stock that we issue. You should read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

***General***

We have authority to issue 10 million shares of preferred stock, no par value per share, of which 95,000 shares have been designated as Series A preferred stock. Currently, there are no shares of our preferred stock outstanding.

Our board of directors has the authority, without further action by the shareholders, to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the number of shares, dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights, liquidation preferences, sinking funds, and any other rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions applicable to each such series of preferred stock.

Prior to the issuance of a new series of preferred stock, we will amend our amended and restated charter, as amended, designating the stock of that series and the terms of that series. Each series of preferred stock that we issue will constitute a separate class of stock. The issuance of any preferred stock could adversely affect the rights of the holders of common stock and, therefore, reduce the value of the common stock. The ability of our board of directors to issue preferred stock could discourage, delay or prevent a takeover or other corporate action.

The terms of any particular series of preferred stock will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to that particular series of preferred stock, including, where applicable:

the designation, stated value and liquidation preference of such preferred stock and the amount of stock offered;

the offering price;

the dividend rate or rates (or method of calculation), the date or dates from which dividends shall accrue, and whether such dividends shall be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends shall commence to cumulate;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions;

the amount that shares of such series shall be entitled to receive in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which shares of such series shall be convertible or exchangeable for shares of our stock of any other class or classes, or other series of the same class;

the voting rights, if any, of shares of such series;

the status as to reissuance or sale of shares of such series redeemed, purchased or otherwise reacquired, or surrendered to us on conversion or exchange;

the conditions and restrictions, if any, on the payment of dividends or on the making of other distributions on, or the purchase, redemption or other acquisition by us or any subsidiary of ours, of the common stock or of any other class of our shares ranking junior to the shares of such series as to dividends or upon liquidation;

**Table of Contents**

the conditions and restrictions, if any, on the creation of indebtedness of us or of any subsidiary, or on the issuance of any additional stock ranking on a parity with or prior to the shares of such series as to dividends or upon liquidation; and

any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking or retirement fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of such preferred stock.

The description of the terms of a particular series of preferred stock in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be complete. You should refer to the applicable amendment to our amended and restated charter, as amended, creating a particular series of preferred stock for complete information regarding a series of preferred stock.

The preferred stock will, when issued against payment of the consideration payable therefor, be fully paid and nonassessable. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of preferred stock will, upon issuance, rank senior to our common stock and on a parity in all respects with each other outstanding series of preferred stock. The rights of the holders of our preferred stock will be subordinate to that of our general creditors.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

We summarize below some of the provisions that will apply to the warrants that we may issue pursuant to this prospectus unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise. This summary may not contain all information that is important to you. The complete terms of the warrants will be contained in the applicable warrant certificate and warrant agreement. These documents have been or will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the warrant certificate and the warrant agreement. You should also read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

***General***

We may issue, together with other securities or separately, warrants to purchase debt securities, common stock, preferred stock or other securities. We may issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent would act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of the series being offered and would not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, where applicable, of warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the title of the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such warrants;

the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the aggregate number of warrants;

any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the warrants;

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants shall commence and the date on which the right shall expire;

if applicable, the maximum or minimum number of warrants which may be exercised at any time;

the identity of the warrant agent;

any mandatory or optional redemption provision;

whether the warrants are to be issued in registered or bearer form;

whether the warrants are extendible and the period or periods of such extendibility;

## **Table of Contents**

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and

any other terms of the warrants.

Before exercising their warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the securities purchasable upon such exercise, including the right to receive dividends, if any, or payments upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up or to exercise voting rights, if any.

### ***Exercise of Warrants***

Each warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase the amount of such principal amounts of debt securities or such number of shares of common stock or preferred stock or other securities at the exercise price as will in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. Warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the warrants offered thereby. Upon receipt of payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the purchased securities. If less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

### ***Enforceability of Rights of Holders of Warrants***

Each warrant agent will act solely as our agent under the applicable warrant agreement and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holder of any warrant. A single bank or trust company may act as warrant agent for more than one issue of warrants. A warrant agent will have no duty or responsibility in case of any default by us under the applicable warrant agreement or warrant, including any duty or responsibility to initiate any proceedings at law or otherwise, or to make any demand upon us. Any holder of a warrant may, without the consent of the related warrant agent or the holder of any other warrant, enforce by appropriate legal action its right to exercise, and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of, that holder's warrant(s).

### ***Warrant Adjustments***

The applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the circumstances under which the exercise price of, and the number of securities covered by, a common stock warrant or preferred stock warrant may be adjusted proportionately if we subdivide or combine our common stock or preferred stock, as applicable.

### ***Modification of the Warrant Agreement***

The warrant agreement will permit us and the warrant agent, without the consent of the warrant holders, to supplement or amend the agreement in the following circumstances:

to cure any ambiguity;

to correct or supplement any provision which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provisions; or

to add new provisions regarding matters or questions that we and the warrant agent may deem necessary or desirable and which do not adversely affect the interests of the warrant holders.

**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

We summarize below some of the provisions that will apply to the debt securities that we may issue pursuant to this prospectus unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise. This summary may not contain all information that is important to you. The complete terms of the debt securities will be contained in the applicable notes. The notes will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the provisions of the notes. You should also read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

***General***

We will issue any senior notes under a senior indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue any subordinated notes under a subordinated indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We use the term *indentures* to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture. The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We use the term *trustee* to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement that is related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures, and any supplements thereto, that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

We may issue, from time to time, debt securities, in one or more series, that will consist of either our senior debt ( *senior debt securities* ) or our subordinated debt ( *subordinated debt securities* ). Debt securities, whether senior or subordinated, may be issued as convertible debt securities or exchangeable debt securities.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not limit the amount of debt securities which we may issue, including senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities, subordinated debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities, and do not limit us from issuing any other debt, including secured and unsecured debt. We may issue debt securities up to an aggregate principal amount as we may authorize from time to time which securities may be in any currency or currency unit designated by us. The terms of each series of debt securities will be established by or pursuant to a supplemental indenture. The prospectus supplement relating to any particular debt securities will describe the terms of any debt securities being offered, including:

the title of the debt securities;

the limit, if any, upon the aggregate principal amount or issue price of the securities of a series;

ranking of the specific series of debt securities relative to other outstanding indebtedness, including our subsidiaries' debt;



the price or prices at which the debt securities will be issued;

the designation, aggregate principal amount and authorized denominations of the debt securities;

the issue date or dates of the series and the maturity date of the series;

whether the securities will be issued at par or at a premium over or a discount from their face amount;

the interest rate, if any, and the method for calculating the interest rate and basis upon which interest shall be calculated;

**Table of Contents**

the right, if any, to extend interest payment periods and the duration of the extension;

the interest payment dates and the record dates for the interest payments;

any mandatory or optional redemption terms or prepayment, conversion, sinking fund or exchangeability or convertibility provisions;

the currency of denomination of the securities;

the place where we will pay principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, and the place where the debt securities may be presented for transfer;

if payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest, if any, on the debt securities will be made in one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which the debt securities are denominated, the manner in which the exchange rate with respect to these payments will be determined;

if other than denominations of \$1,000 or multiples of \$1,000, the denominations the debt securities will be issued in;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of global securities or certificates;

the applicability of and additional provisions, if any, relating to the defeasance of the debt securities;

the portion of principal amount of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the principal amount;

the currency or currencies, if other than the currency of the United States, in which principal and interest will be paid;

the dates on which premium, if any, will be paid;

any addition to or change in the Events of Default described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities and any change in the acceleration provisions described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any addition to or change in the covenants described in the prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any agents for the debt securities, including trustees, depositories, authentication or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars;

a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of this deferral period; and

other specific terms, including any additional events of default or covenants.

We may issue debt securities at a discount below their stated principal amount. Even if we do not issue the debt securities below their stated principal amount, for United States federal income tax purposes the debt securities may be deemed to have been issued with a discount because of certain interest payment characteristics. We will describe in any applicable prospectus supplement the United States federal income tax considerations applicable to debt securities issued at a discount or deemed to be issued at a discount, and will describe any special United States federal income tax considerations that may be applicable to the particular debt securities.

The debt securities will represent our general obligations. We are a non-operating holding company and almost all of our operating assets are owned by our subsidiaries. We rely primarily on dividends from our subsidiaries to meet our obligations. We are a legal entity separate and distinct from our banking and non-banking affiliates. The principal sources of our income are dividends and interest from our bank, Pinnacle Bank.

## **Table of Contents**

Pinnacle Bank is subject to restrictions imposed by state and federal law on any extensions of credit to, and certain other transactions with, us and certain other affiliates, and on investments in stock or other securities thereof. In addition, payment of dividends to us by Pinnacle Bank is subject to ongoing review by banking regulators. Because we are a holding company, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise is subject to the prior claims of creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent we may ourselves be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities, including deposits, of our subsidiaries, and holders of the debt securities should look only to our assets for payments on the debt securities.

### ***Senior Debt***

Senior debt securities will rank equally and pari passu with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt from time to time outstanding.

### ***Subordinated Debt***

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness, including our senior indebtedness (as defined below) to the extent described in a prospectus supplement, and the subordinated indenture filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part may be modified by a supplemental indenture to reflect such subordination provisions.

We may structure one or more series of subordinated debt securities so that they qualify as capital under federal regulations applicable to bank holding companies. We may adopt this structure whether or not those regulations may be applicable to us at the time of issuance.

### ***Conversion or Exchange Rights***

Debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our other securities or property. The terms and conditions of conversion or exchange will be set forth in the supplemental indenture related to that series of debt securities and will be described in the relevant prospectus supplement. The terms will include, among others, the following:

the conversion or exchange price;

the conversion or exchange period;

provisions regarding our or the holders' ability to convert or exchange the debt securities;

events requiring adjustment to the conversion or exchange price; and

provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of our redemption of the debt securities.

### ***Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets***

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part prohibit us from merging into or consolidating with any other person or selling, leasing or conveying substantially all of our assets and the assets of our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person, unless:

either we are the continuing corporation or the successor corporation or the person which acquires by sale, lease or conveyance substantially all of our or our subsidiaries' assets is a corporation organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, and expressly assumes the due and punctual payment of the principal of, and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on all the debt securities and the performance of every covenant of the indenture to be performed or observed by us, by supplemental indenture satisfactory to the trustee, executed and delivered to the trustee by such corporation;

## **Table of Contents**

immediately after giving effect to such transactions, no Event of Default described under the caption Events of Default and Remedies below or event which, after notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default, has happened and is continuing; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel each stating that such transaction and such supplemental indenture comply with the indenture provisions relating to a merger, consolidation and sale of assets.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that upon any consolidation or merger with or into any other person or any sale, conveyance, lease, or other transfer of all or substantially all of our or our subsidiaries assets to any person, the successor person shall succeed, and be substituted for, us under the indenture and each series of outstanding debt securities, and we shall be relieved of all obligations under the indenture and each series of outstanding debt securities to the extent we were the predecessor person.

### ***Events of Default and Remedies***

When we use the term Event of Default as that term is defined in the indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part with respect to the debt securities of any series, we mean:

- (1) default in paying interest on the debt securities when it becomes due and the default continues for a period of 30 days or more;
- (2) default in paying principal, or premium, if any, on the debt securities when due;
- (3) default is made in the payment of any sinking or purchase fund or analogous obligation when the same becomes due, and such default continues for 30 days or more;
- (4) default in the performance, or breach, of any covenant or warranty in the indenture (other than defaults specified in clause (1), (2) or (3) above) and the default or breach continues for a period of 60 days or more after we receive written notice of such default from the trustee or we and the trustee receive notice from the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series;
- (5) specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, administration or similar proceedings with respect to us have occurred; and
- (6) any other Events of Default provided with respect to debt securities of that series that are described in the applicable prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus.

No Event of Default with respect to a particular series of debt securities (except as to specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization) necessarily constitutes an Event of Default with respect to any other series of debt

securities. The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that the occurrence of certain Events of Default or an acceleration may constitute an event of default under certain of our other indebtedness outstanding from time to time. Unless otherwise provided by the terms of an applicable series of debt securities, if an Event of Default under the indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part occurs with respect to the debt securities of any series and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of not less than 51% of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may by written notice require us to repay immediately the entire principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series (or such lesser amount as may be provided in the terms of the securities), together with all accrued and unpaid interest and premium, if any. In the case of an Event of Default resulting from specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the principal (or such specified amount) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all outstanding debt securities may become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or

## **Table of Contents**

other act on the part of the trustee or any holder of outstanding debt securities. We refer you to the prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of such discount securities upon the occurrence of an Event of Default.

After a declaration of acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind this accelerated payment requirement if all existing Events of Default, except for nonpayment of the principal on the debt securities of that series that has become due solely as a result of the accelerated payment requirement, have been cured or waived and if the rescission of acceleration would not conflict with any judgment or decree. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series also have the right to waive past defaults, except a default in paying principal or interest on any outstanding debt security, or in respect of a covenant or a provision that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of all holders of the debt securities of that series.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that no holder of any debt security may seek to institute a proceeding with respect to the indenture unless such holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing Event of Default, the holders of not less than 51% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series have made a written request to the trustee to institute proceedings in respect of the Event of Default, the holder or holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee and the trustee has failed to institute such proceeding within 60 days after it received this notice. In addition, within this 60-day period the trustee must not have received directions inconsistent with this written request by holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series. These limitations do not apply, however, to a suit instituted by a holder of a debt security for the enforcement of the payment of principal, interest or any premium on or after the due dates for such payment.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that during the existence of an Event of Default actually known to a responsible officer of the trustee, the trustee is required to exercise the rights and powers vested in it under the applicable indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would under the circumstances in the conduct of that person's own affairs. If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the trustee is not under any obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers at the request or direction of any of the holders unless the holders have offered to the trustee security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to the trustee. Subject to certain provisions, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust, or power conferred on the trustee.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that the trustee will, within 90 days after receiving notice of any default, give notice of the default to the holders of the debt securities of that series, unless the default was already cured or waived. Unless there is a default in paying principal, interest, if any, or any premium when due, the trustee can withhold giving notice to the holders if it determines in good faith that the withholding of notice is in the interest of the holders of the debt securities. In the case of a default specified in clause (4) above describing Events of Default, no notice of default to the holders of the debt securities of that series will be given until 60 days after the occurrence of the event of default.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part require us, within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year, to furnish to the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture. The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of any



Event of Default (except in payment on any debt securities of that series) with respect to debt securities of that series if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

**Table of Contents**

***Modification and Waiver***

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part may be amended or modified without the consent of any holder of debt securities in order to:

evidence a successor to the trustee;

cure ambiguities, defects or inconsistencies;

provide for the assumption of our obligations in the case of a merger or consolidation or transfer of all or substantially all of our assets that complies with the covenants described under Merger, Consolidation or Sale of Assets ;

make any change that would provide any additional rights or benefits to the holders of the debt securities of a series;

add guarantors or co-obligors with respect to the debt securities of any series;

secure the debt securities of a series;

establish the form or forms of debt securities of any series;

add additional Events of Default with respect to the debt securities of any series;

add additional provisions as may be expressly permitted by the Trust Indenture Act;

maintain the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act; or

make any change that does not adversely affect in any material respect the interests of any holder of the debt securities of a series.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that other amendments and modifications of the indenture or the debt securities issued thereunder may be made with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the amendment or modification. However, no modification or amendment may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security affected:

change the maturity date or the stated payment date of any payment of premium or interest payable on the debt securities;

reduce the principal amount, or extend the fixed maturity, of the debt securities;

change the method of computing the amount of principal or any interest of any debt security;

change or waive the redemption or repayment provisions of the debt securities;

change the currency in which principal, any premium or interest is paid or the place of payment;

reduce the percentage in principal amount outstanding of debt securities of any series which must consent to an amendment, supplement or waiver or consent to take any action;

impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on the debt securities;

waive a payment default with respect to the debt securities;

reduce the interest rate or extend the time for payment of interest on the debt securities;

adversely affect the ranking or priority of the debt securities of any series; or

release any guarantor or co-obligor from any of its obligations under its guarantee or the indenture, except in compliance with the terms of the indenture.

**Table of Contents**

***Satisfaction, Discharge and Covenant Defeasance***

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that we may terminate our obligations under the indenture with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series, when:

either:

all debt securities of any series issued that have been authenticated and delivered have been delivered to the trustee for cancellation; or

all the debt securities of any series issued that have not been delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, will become due and payable within one year, or are to be called for redemption within one year and we have made arrangements satisfactory to the trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by such trustee in our name and at our expense, and in each case, we have irrevocably deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee sufficient funds to pay and discharge the entire indebtedness on the series of debt securities; and

we have paid or caused to be paid all other sums then due and payable under such indenture; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent under such indenture relating to the satisfaction and discharge of such indenture have been complied with.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that we may elect to have our obligations under the indenture discharged with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series ( "legal defeasance" ). Legal defeasance means that we will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness represented by the outstanding debt securities of such series under the indenture, except for:

the rights of holders of the debt securities to receive principal, interest and any premium when due;

our obligations with respect to the debt securities concerning issuing temporary debt securities, registration of transfer of debt securities, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities and the maintenance of an office or agency for payment for security payments held in trust;

the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the trustee; and

the defeasance provisions of the indenture.

In addition, the indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that we may elect to have our obligations released with respect to certain covenants in the indentures ( covenant defeasance ). If we so elect, any failure to comply with these obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of such series. In the event covenant defeasance occurs, certain events, not including non-payment, bankruptcy and insolvency events, described under Events of Default and Remedies will no longer constitute an event of default for that series.

In order to exercise either legal defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to outstanding debt securities of any series:

we must irrevocably have deposited or caused to be deposited with the trustee as trust funds for the purpose of making the following payments, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to the benefits of the holders of the debt securities of a series:

money in an amount; or

U.S. government obligations (or equivalent government obligations in the case of debt securities denominated in other than U.S. dollars or a specified currency) that will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment, money in an amount; or

**Table of Contents**

a combination of money and U.S. government obligations (or equivalent government obligations, as applicable),  
in each case sufficient, in the written opinion (with respect to U.S. or equivalent government obligations or a combination of money and U.S. or equivalent government obligations, as applicable) of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge, and which shall be applied by the trustee to pay and discharge, all of the principal (including mandatory sinking fund payments), interest and any premium at due date or maturity;

in the case of legal defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel stating that, under then applicable Federal income tax law, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge to be effected and will be subject to the same Federal income tax as would be the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge did not occur;

in the case of covenant defeasance, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit and covenant defeasance to be effected and will be subject to the same Federal income tax as would be the case if the deposit and covenant defeasance did not occur;

no event of default or default with respect to the outstanding debt securities of that series has occurred and is continuing at the time of such deposit after giving effect to the deposit or, in the case of legal defeasance, no default relating to bankruptcy or insolvency has occurred and is continuing at any time on or before the 91st day after the date of such deposit, it being understood that this condition is not deemed satisfied until after the 91st day;

the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will not cause the trustee to have a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, assuming all debt securities of a series were in default within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act;

the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other agreement or instrument to which we are a party;

if prior to the stated maturity date, notice shall have been given in accordance with the provisions of the indenture.

the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance will not result in the trust arising from such deposit constituting an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, unless the trust is registered under that Act or exempt from registration; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that all conditions precedent with respect to the legal defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

***Covenants***

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement any restrictive covenants applicable to any issue of debt securities.

***Paying Agent and Registrar***

The trustee will initially act as paying agent and registrar for all debt securities. We may change the paying agent or registrar for any series of debt securities without prior notice, and we or any of our subsidiaries may act as paying agent or registrar.

## **Table of Contents**

### ***Forms of Securities***

Each debt security will be represented either by a certificate issued in definitive form to a particular investor or by one or more global securities representing the entire issuance of the series of debt securities. Certificated securities will be issued in definitive form and global securities will be issued in registered form. Definitive securities name you or your nominee as the owner of the security, and in order to transfer or exchange these securities or to receive payments other than interest or other interim payments, you or your nominee must physically deliver the securities to the trustee, registrar, paying agent or other agent, as applicable. Global securities name a depository or its nominee as the owner of the debt securities represented by these global securities. The depository maintains a computerized system that will reflect each investor's beneficial ownership of the securities through an account maintained by the investor with its broker/dealer, bank, trust company or other representative, as we explain more fully below.

### ***Global Securities***

We may issue the registered debt securities in the form of one or more fully registered global securities that will be deposited with a depository or its custodian identified in the applicable prospectus supplement and registered in the name of that depository or its nominee. In those cases, one or more registered global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal or face amount of the securities to be represented by registered global securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole for securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred except as a whole by and among the depository for the registered global security, the nominees of the depository or any successors of the depository or those nominees.

If not described below, any specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any securities to be represented by a registered global security will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those securities. We anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depository arrangements.

Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be limited to persons, called participants, that have accounts with the depository or persons that may hold interests through participants. Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depository will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the participants accounts with the respective principal or face amounts of the securities beneficially owned by the participants. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the securities will designate the accounts to be credited. Ownership of beneficial interests in a registered global security will be shown on, and the transfer of ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons holding through participants. The laws of some states may require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of these securities in definitive form. These laws may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in registered global securities.

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part provide that so long as the depository, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, that depository or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security will not be entitled to have the securities represented by the registered global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the securities under the indenture. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depository for that registered global security and, if that person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through



which the person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any

## **Table of Contents**

action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the indenture, the depository for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take that action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through them to give or take that action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the registered global security. Neither we nor the trustee or any other agent of ours or the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the registered global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to those beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that the depository for any of the securities represented by a registered global security, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, interest or other distribution of underlying securities or other property to holders on that registered global security, will immediately credit participants' accounts in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in that registered global security as shown on the records of the depository. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of those participants.

If the depository for any of these securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor depository registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security that had been held by the depository. Any securities issued in definitive form in exchange for a registered global security will be registered in the name or names that the depository gives to the trustee or other relevant agent of ours or theirs. It is expected that the depository's instructions will be based upon directions received by the depository from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in the registered global security that had been held by the depository.

Unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the Depository Trust Company, or DTC, will act as depository for each series of debt securities issued as global securities. DTC has advised us that DTC is a limited-purpose trust company created to hold securities for its participating organizations (collectively, the Participants) and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of transactions in those securities between Participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its Participants. The Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Access to DTC's system is also available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Participant, either directly or indirectly (collectively, the Indirect Participants). Persons who are not Participants may beneficially own securities held by or on behalf of DTC only through the Participants or the Indirect Participants. The ownership interests in, and transfers of ownership interests in, each security held by or on behalf of DTC are recorded on the records of the Participants and the Indirect Participants.

## ***Governing Law***

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and each series of debt securities are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES**

We summarize below some of the provisions that will apply to depositary shares unless the applicable prospectus supplement provides otherwise. This summary may not contain all information that is important to you. The complete terms of the depositary shares will be contained in the depositary agreement and depositary receipt applicable to any depositary shares. These documents will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the depositary agreement and the depositary receipt. You should also read the prospectus supplement applicable to a particular issuance of depositary shares, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

***General***

We may offer fractional shares of preferred stock, rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we do so, we may issue receipts for depositary shares that each represent a fraction of a share of a particular series of preferred stock. The prospectus supplement will indicate that fraction. The shares of preferred stock represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a depositary agreement between us and a bank or trust company that meets certain requirements and is selected by us, which we refer to as the bank depositary. Each owner of a depositary share will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock represented by the depositary share. The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the depositary agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock in accordance with the terms of the offering.

The following summary description of certain common provisions of a depositary agreement and the related depositary receipts and any summary description of the depositary agreement and depositary receipts in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to all of the provisions of such depositary agreement and depositary receipts. The forms of the depositary agreement and the depositary receipts relating to any particular issue of depositary shares will be filed with the SEC each time we issue depositary shares, and you should read those documents for provisions that may be important to you.

***Dividends and Other Distributions***

If we pay a cash distribution or dividend on a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the bank depositary will distribute such dividends to the record holders of such depositary shares. If the distributions are in property other than cash, the bank depositary will distribute the property to the record holders of the depositary shares. However, if the bank depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution of property, the bank depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to the record holders of the depositary shares.

***Redemption of Depositary Shares***

If we redeem a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares, the bank depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds received by the bank depositary in connection with the redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will equal the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share of the preferred stock. If fewer than all the depositary shares are redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or pro rata as the bank depositary may determine.

***Voting the Preferred Stock***

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock represented by depositary shares are entitled to vote, the bank depositary will mail the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares relating to such preferred stock. Each record holder of these depositary shares on the record date, which will be

## **Table of Contents**

the same date as the record date for the preferred stock, may instruct the bank depositary as to how to vote the preferred stock represented by such holder's depositary shares. The bank depositary will endeavor, insofar as practicable, to vote the amount of the preferred stock represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will take all action that the bank depositary deems necessary in order to enable the bank depositary to do so. The bank depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock.

### ***Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement***

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement or required by law, the form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the depositary agreement may be amended by agreement between the bank depositary and us. The depositary agreement may be terminated by the bank depositary or us only if:

all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed, or

there has been a final distribution in respect of the preferred stock in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts.

### ***Charges of Bank Depositary***

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will pay charges of the bank depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges, including a fee for the withdrawal of shares of preferred stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the depositary agreement for their accounts.

### ***Withdrawal of Preferred Stock***

Except as may be provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the bank depositary, subject to the terms of the depositary agreement, the owner of the depositary shares may demand delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred stock and all money and other property, if any, represented by those depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred stock will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred stock to be withdrawn, the bank depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred stock thus withdrawn may not thereafter deposit those shares under the depositary agreement or receive depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares therefor.

### ***Miscellaneous***

The bank depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the bank depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock.

Neither the bank depositary nor we will be liable if we are prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our obligations under the depositary agreement. The obligations of the bank depositary and us under the depositary agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of our duties thereunder, and we will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting preferred stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

**Table of Contents**

***Resignation and Removal of Bank Depositary***

The bank depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the bank depositary. Any such resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor bank depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. The successor bank depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company meeting the requirements of the depositary agreement.



**Table of Contents**

**DESCRIPTION OF UNITS**

We may issue units comprised of one or more of the other securities described in this prospectus in any combination. Each unit will be issued so that the holder of the unit is also the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. The unit agreement under which a unit is issued may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately, at any time or at any time before a specified date. The applicable prospectus supplement may describe:

the designation and terms of the units and of the securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances those securities may be held or transferred separately;

any provisions for the issuance, payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or of the securities comprising the units;

the terms of the unit agreement governing the units;

material United States federal income tax considerations relevant to the units; and

whether the units will be issued in fully registered global form.

This summary of certain general terms of units and any summary description of units in the applicable prospectus supplement do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to all provisions of the applicable unit agreement and, if applicable, collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements relating to such units. The forms of the unit agreements and other documents relating to a particular issue of units will be filed with the SEC each time we issue units, and you should read those documents for provisions that may be important to you.

Table of Contents

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

*Initial Offering and Sale of Securities*

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we may sell the securities being offered hereby, from time to time, by one or more of the following methods:

to or through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters;

to or through one or more underwriters without a syndicate for them to offer and sell to the public;

through dealers or agents; and

to investors directly in negotiated sales or in competitively bid transactions.

Offerings of securities covered by this prospectus also may be made into an existing trading market for those securities in transactions at other than a fixed price, either:

on or through the facilities of the NASDAQ or any other securities exchange or quotation or trading service on which those securities may be listed, quoted, or traded at the time of sale; and/or

to or through a market maker otherwise than on the securities exchanges or quotation or trading services set forth above.

Those at-the-market offerings, if any, will be conducted by underwriters acting as our principal or agent.

The prospectus supplement with respect to the offered securities will, if required pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act, set forth the terms of the offering of the offered securities, including:

the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the offered securities and the proceeds to us from such sale;

any underwriting discounts and commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;

any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers;  
and

any securities exchange on which such offered securities may be listed.

Any underwriter, agent or dealer involved in the offer and sale of any series of the securities will be named in the prospectus supplement.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time;

at market prices prevailing at the time of the sale;

at varying prices determined at the time of sale; or

at negotiated prices.

Each time we offer and sell securities covered by this prospectus, we will make available a prospectus supplement or supplements that will describe the method of distribution and set forth the terms of the offering, including: (i) whether that offering is being made to or through underwriters or through dealers or agents directly, and the name or names of any such underwriters, dealers or agents and the amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them; (ii) if a fixed price offering, the public offering price of the securities; (iii) the rules and procedures for any auction or bidding process, if used; (iv) the proceeds we anticipate we will receive from

## **Table of Contents**

the sale of the securities; (v) any options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us; (vi) any underwriting discounts or commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation; (vii) terms and conditions of the offering; (viii) any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and (ix) any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

### ***Sales Through Underwriters***

If underwriters are used in the sale of some or all of the securities covered by this prospectus, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities, either directly to the public or to securities dealers, at various times in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions. Unless indicated otherwise in a prospectus supplement, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if any of the securities are purchased.

Any initial public offering price and any concessions allowed or reallocated to dealers may be changed intermittently.

### ***Sales Through Agents***

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, when securities are sold through an agent, the designated agent will agree, for the period of its appointment as agent, to use its best efforts to sell the securities for our account and will receive commissions from us as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Securities bought in accordance with a redemption or repayment under their terms also may be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing by one or more firms acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for us. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters in connection with the securities remarketed by them.

If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain specified institutions to purchase securities at a price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a future date specified in the prospectus supplement. These contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the prospectus supplement will set forth the commissions payable for solicitation of these contracts.

### ***Direct Sales***

We may also sell offered securities directly to institutional investors or others. In this case, no underwriters or agents would be involved. The terms of such sales will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

### ***General Information***

Broker-dealers, agents or underwriters may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from us and/or the purchasers of securities for whom such broker-dealers, agents or underwriters may act as agents or to whom they sell as principal, or both (this compensation to a particular broker-dealer might be in excess of customary commissions).



**Table of Contents**

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in any distribution of the offered securities may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act, so any discounts or commissions they receive in connection with the distribution may be deemed to be underwriting compensation. Those underwriters and agents may be entitled, under their agreements with us, to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution by us to payments that they may be required to make in respect of those civil liabilities. Various of those underwriters or agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. We will identify any underwriters or agents, and describe their compensation, in a prospectus supplement. Any institutional investors or others that purchase offered securities directly, and then resell the securities, may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profit on the resale of the securities by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act.

We will file a supplement to this prospectus, if required, pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Securities Act, if we enter into any material arrangement with a broker, dealer, agent or underwriter for the sale of securities through a block trade, special offering, exchange distribution or secondary distribution or a purchase by a broker or dealer. Such prospectus supplement will disclose:

the name of any participating broker, dealer, agent or underwriter;

the number and type of securities involved;

the price at which such securities were sold;

any securities exchanges on which such securities may be listed;

the commissions paid or discounts or concessions allowed to any such broker, dealer, agent or underwriter where applicable; and

other facts material to the transaction.

In order to facilitate the offering of certain securities under this prospectus or an applicable prospectus supplement, certain persons participating in the offering of those securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of those securities during and after the offering of those securities. Specifically, if the applicable prospectus supplement permits, the underwriters of those securities may over-allot or otherwise create a short position in those securities for their own account by selling more of those securities than have been sold to them by us and may elect to cover any such short position by purchasing those securities in the open market.

In addition, the underwriters may stabilize or maintain the price of those securities by bidding for or purchasing those securities in the open market and may impose penalty bids, under which selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers participating in the offering are reclaimed if securities previously distributed in the offering are repurchased in connection with stabilization transactions or otherwise. The effect of these transactions may be to stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in

the open market. The imposition of a penalty bid may also affect the price of securities to the extent that it discourages resales of the securities. No representation is made as to the magnitude or effect of any such stabilization or other transactions. Such transactions, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the securities must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states the securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

This prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable pricing supplement in electronic format may be made available on the Internet sites of, or through other online services maintained by, us and/or

**Table of Contents**

one or more of the agents and/or dealers participating in an offering of securities, or by their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may be able to view offering terms online and, depending upon the particular agent or dealer, prospective investors may be allowed to place orders online.

Other than this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable pricing supplement in electronic format, if any, the information on our or any agent's or dealer's website and any information contained in any other website maintained by any agent or dealer:

is not part of this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any applicable pricing supplement or the registration statement of which they form a part;

has not been approved or endorsed by us or by any agent or dealer in its capacity as an agent or dealer, except, in each case, with respect to the respective website maintained by such entity; and

should not be relied upon by investors.

There can be no assurance that we will sell all or any of the securities offered by this prospectus.

This prospectus may also be used in connection with any issuance of common stock, preferred stock or debt securities upon exercise of a warrant if such issuance is not exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

In addition, we may issue the securities described in this prospectus as a dividend or distribution or in a subscription rights offering to our existing security holders. In some cases, we or dealers acting with us or on our behalf may also purchase securities and reoffer them to the public by one or more of the methods described above. This prospectus may be used in connection with any offering of our securities through any of these methods or other methods described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements of Pinnacle Financial as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of BNC as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015 have been incorporated by reference herein and in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part in reliance upon the report of Cherry Bekaert LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.



**Table of Contents**

**LEGAL MATTERS**

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, Nashville, Tennessee. If the matters in connection with offerings made pursuant to this prospectus are passed upon by counsel for the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, such counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the estimated costs and expenses payable by Pinnacle Financial in connection with the registration of the securities being registered under this Registration Statement. All amounts shown are estimates except the SEC registration fee:

Securities and Exchange Commission Fee	(1)
Listing Fees	(2)
FINRA Filing Fee	(2)
Legal Fees and Expenses	(2)
Accounting Fees and Expenses	(2)
Transfer agent, registrar and trustee fees	(2)
Printing Fees	(2)
Miscellaneous	(2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2)</b>

- (1) Deferred in accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r).
- (2) The calculation of these fees and expenses is dependent on the number of issuances and amount of securities offered and, accordingly, cannot be estimated at this time. An estimate of the aggregate amount of these expenses will be reflected in the applicable prospectus supplement.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.**

The TBCA provides that a corporation may indemnify any of its directors and officers against liability incurred in connection with a proceeding if: (a) such person acted in good faith; (b) in the case of conduct in an official capacity with the corporation, the person reasonably believed such conduct was in the corporation's best interests; (c) in all other cases, the person reasonably believed that the person's conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and (d) in connection with any criminal proceeding, such person had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. In actions brought by or in the right of the corporation, however, the TBCA provides that no indemnification may be made if the director or officer was adjudged to be liable to the corporation. The TBCA also provides that in connection with any proceeding charging improper personal benefit to an officer or director, no indemnification may be made if such officer or director is adjudged liable on the basis that such personal benefit was improperly received. In cases where the director or officer is wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding instigated because of his or her status as a director or officer of a corporation, the TBCA mandates that the corporation indemnify the director or officer against reasonable expenses incurred in the proceeding. The TBCA provides that a court of competent jurisdiction, unless the corporation's charter provides otherwise, upon application, may order that an officer or director be indemnified for reasonable expenses if, in consideration of all relevant circumstances, the court determines that such individual is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, notwithstanding the fact that (a) such officer or director was adjudged liable to the corporation in a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation; (b) such officer or director was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received by the officer or director; or (c) such officer or director breached

the officer's or director's duty of care to the corporation.

Pinnacle Financial's amended and restated charter, as amended, provides that it will indemnify its directors and officers to the maximum extent permitted by the TBCA. Pinnacle Financial's bylaws provide that it shall indemnify its directors and officers that are made a party to a proceeding because they were a director or officer of Pinnacle Financial for reasonable expenses, judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement (including attorneys fees) incurred in connection with the proceeding if he or she acted in a manner believed in

II-1

**Table of Contents**

good faith to be in or not opposed to Pinnacle Financial's best interests, and in the case of any criminal proceeding, he or she had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. In addition, Pinnacle Financial's bylaws provide that it shall pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director or officer who is a party to a proceeding in advance of final disposition of the proceeding if he or she furnishes Pinnacle Financial with (1) a written affirmation of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the applicable standard of conduct that would entitle him or her to indemnification and (2) a written statement that he or she will repay any advances if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not entitled to indemnification.

Under Pinnacle Financial's bylaws, as amended, the termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, or conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, is not, of itself, determinative of whether the director or officer met the standard of conduct required in order for him or her to be entitled to indemnification. Pinnacle Financial's board of directors, shareholders or independent legal counsel determines whether the director or officer has met the applicable standard of conduct in each specific case.

Pinnacle Financial's amended and restated charter, as amended, and bylaws, as amended, also provide that the indemnification rights contained therein do not exclude other indemnification rights to which a director or officer may be entitled under any bylaw, resolution or agreement, either specifically or in general terms approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares entitled to vote. Pinnacle Financial can also provide for greater indemnification than is provided for in the bylaws if Pinnacle Financial chooses to do so, subject to approval by its shareholders and the limitations provided in its amended and restated charter, as amended, as discussed in the subsequent paragraph.

Pinnacle Financial's amended and restated charter, as amended, eliminates, with exceptions, the potential personal liability of a director for monetary damages to Pinnacle Financial and its shareholders for breach of a duty as a director. There is, however, no elimination of liability for:

a breach of the director's duty of loyalty to Pinnacle Financial or its shareholders;

an act or omission not in good faith or which involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;  
or

any payment of a dividend or approval of a stock repurchase that is illegal under the TBCA.

Pinnacle Financial's amended and restated charter, as amended, does not eliminate or limit Pinnacle Financial's right or the right of its shareholders to seek injunctive or other equitable relief not involving monetary damages.

The indemnification provisions of the bylaws specifically provide that Pinnacle Financial may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any director or officer against any liability asserted against and incurred by him or her in his or her capacity as a director, officer, employee or agent whether or not Pinnacle Financial would have had the power to indemnify against such liability.

**Item 16. Exhibits.**

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for common stock*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for preferred stock*
1.3	Form of Underwriting Agreement for debt securities*
3.1	Amended and Restated Charter of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended (Restated for SEC filing purposes only) (1)

**Table of Contents**

3.2	Bylaws of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended (Restated for SEC filing purposes only) (2)
4.1	See Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2 for provisions of the Amended and Restated Charter of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended, and Bylaws of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended, which define the rights of security holders
4.2	Form of certificate of amendment of the Charter with respect to any preferred stock issued hereunder*
4.3	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (3)
4.4	Form of Warrant Agreement*
4.5	Form of Warrant Certificate (included in Exhibit 4.4)*
4.6	Specimen of Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.7	Form of Debt Security*
4.8	Form of Subordinated Debt Security*
4.9	Form of Indenture for Senior Indebtedness**
4.10	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Indebtedness**
4.11	Form of Depositary Agreement*
4.12	Form of Depositary Receipt (included in Exhibit 4.11)
4.13	Form of Unit Agreement*
5.1	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends**
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP**
23.2	Consent of Cherry Bekaert LLP**
23.3	Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1 filed herewith)
24.1	Power of Attorney (See page II-6 of this Registration Statement)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, on Form T-1*

- (1) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2015.
- (2) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2015.
- (3) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, as amended (File No. 333-38018).

\* To be filed subsequently by an amendment to the Registration Statement or by a Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference therein.

\*\* Filed herewith.

**Table of Contents**

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*provided, however*, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for purposes of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus

that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date

II-4



**Table of Contents**

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of a registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchase, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) the portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(6) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement will be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of the securities at that time will be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act ( Act ) in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Nashville, State of Tennessee, on January 23, 2017.

PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS, INC.

By: /s/ M. Terry Turner  
M. Terry Turner  
President and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints M. Terry Turner and Harold R. Carpenter and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments (including post-effective amendments and amendment pursuant to Section 462 of the Securities Act) to this Registration Statement, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof. This power of attorney may be executed in counterparts.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Robert A. McCabe, Jr. Robert A. McCabe, Jr.	Chairman and Director	January 23, 2017
/s/ M. Terry Turner M. Terry Turner	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	January 23, 2017
/s/ Harold R. Carpenter Harold R. Carpenter	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	January 23, 2017
/s/ Ronald L. Samuels Ronald L. Samuels	Vice Chairman and Director	January 23, 2017

Edgar Filing: PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC - Form S-3ASR

/s/ H. Gordon Bone	Director	January 23, 2017
H. Gordon Bone		
/s/ Charles E. Brock	Director	January 23, 2017
Charles E. Brock		
/s/ Renda J. Burkhart	Director	January 23, 2017
Renda J. Burkhart		

II-6

---

**Table of Contents**

/s/ Gregory L. Burns	Director	January 23, 2017
Gregory L. Burns		
/s/ Colleen Conway-Welch	Director	January 23, 2017
Colleen Conway-Welch		
/s/ Marty G. Dickens	Director	January 23, 2017
Marty G. Dickens		
/s/ Thomas C. Farnsworth, III	Director	January 23, 2017
Thomas C. Farnsworth, III		
/s/ Joseph C. Galante	Director	January 23, 2017
Joseph C. Galante		
/s/ Glenda Baskin Glover	Director	January 23, 2017
Glenda Baskin Glover		
/s/ William F. Hagerty, IV	Director	January 23, 2017
William F. Hagerty, IV		
/s/ William Huddleston, IV	Director	January 23, 2017
William Huddleston, IV		
/s/ David B. Ingram	Director	January 23, 2017
David B. Ingram		
/s/ Ed C. Loughry, Jr.	Director	January 23, 2017
Ed C. Loughry, Jr.		
/s/ Gary L. Scott	Director	January 23, 2017
Gary L. Scott		
/s/ Reese L. Smith, III	Director	January 23, 2017
Reese L. Smith, III		



**Table of Contents**

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for common stock*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for preferred stock*
1.3	Form of Underwriting Agreement for debt securities*
3.1	Amended and Restated Charter of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended (Restated for SEC filing purposes only) (1)
3.2	Bylaws of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended (Restated for SEC filing purposes only) (2)
4.1	See Exhibits 3.1 and 3.2 for provisions of the Amended and Restated Charter of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended, and Bylaws of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Inc., as amended, which define the rights of security holders
4.2	Form of certificate of amendment of the Charter with respect to any preferred stock issued hereunder*
4.3	Specimen of Common Stock Certificate (3)
4.4	Form of Warrant Agreement*
4.5	Form of Warrant Certificate (included in Exhibit 4.4)*
4.6	Specimen of Preferred Stock Certificate*
4.7	Form of Debt Security*
4.8	Form of Subordinated Debt Security*
4.9	Form of Indenture for Senior Indebtedness**
4.10	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Indebtedness**
4.11	Form of Depositary Agreement*
4.12	Form of Depositary Receipt (included in Exhibit 4.11)
4.13	Form of Unit Agreement*
5.1	Opinion of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**
12.1	Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends**
23.1	Consent of KPMG LLP**
23.2	Consent of Cherry Bekaert LLP**
23.3	Consent of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC (included in Exhibit 5.1 filed herewith)
24.1	Power of Attorney (See page II-6 of this Registration Statement)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, on Form T-1*

Edgar Filing: PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS INC - Form S-3ASR

- (1) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2015.
  - (2) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K filed on April 27, 2015.
  - (3) Registrant hereby incorporates by reference to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form SB-2, as amended (File No. 333-38018).
- \* To be filed subsequently by an amendment to the Registration Statement or by a Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference therein.
  - \*\* Filed herewith.