JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND III Form N-Q June 27, 2018

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

### FORM N-Q

## QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21287

<u>John Hancock Preferred Income Fund III</u> (Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

601 Cong	gress	Street,	Boston,	Massach	usetts	02210
(Address	of p	rincipal	l executi	ve offices	) (Zip	code)

Salvatore Schiavone, Treasurer

- 601 Congress Street
- Boston, Massachusetts 02210

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 617-663-4497

Date of fiscal year end:

July 31

Date of reporting period:

April 30, 2018

ITEM 1. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

John Hancock

Preferred Income Fund III

Quarterly portfolio holdings 4/30/18

Fund's investments As of 4-30-18 (unaudited)

Preferred securities 131.7% (86.0% of Total investments)	Shares	Value \$759,482,918
(Cost \$789,649,860)		, , , ,
Consumer staples 2.1%		12,217,500
Food and staples retailing 2.1%		
Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., 6.250% (A)	135,000	12,217,500
Energy 5.6%		32,014,757
Oil, gas and consumable fuels 5.6%		
Enbridge, Inc., Series B (6.375% to 4-15-23, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.593%)	210,000	5,302,500
Kinder Morgan, Inc., 9.750% (B)	858,915	26,712,257
Financials 54.7%		315,502,315
Banks 32.9%		
Bank of America Corp., 6.500% (B)	145,100	3,803,071
Bank of America Corp., 6.625%	41,120	1,078,578
Barclays Bank PLC, 8.125% (B)(C)	415,000	10,848,100
BB&T Corp. (Callable 6-1-18), 5.200% (B)	670,000	
BB&T Corp., 5.625% (B)	302,325	7,567,195
Citigroup Capital XIII (3 month LIBOR + 6.370%), 8.729% (D)	17,000	455,430
Citigroup, Inc., 5.800%	85,000	2,143,700
Citigroup, Inc., 6.875%	25,000	655,750
Citigroup, Inc. (6.875% to 11-15-23, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.130%) (B)		4,877,920
Citigroup, Inc. (7.125% to 9-30-23, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.040%) (B)	616,412	
First Republic Bank, 7.000% (B)	95,000	2,501,350
JPMorgan Chase & Co., 6.100% (B)		2,753,100
JPMorgan Chase & Co., 6.125% (B)		026,986,000
JPMorgan Chase & Co., 6.300%		3,278,750
JPMorgan Chase & Co., 6.700% (B)	30,000	793,200
MB Financial, Inc., 6.000%	145,000	
Regions Financial Corp., 6.375% (B)	144,408	3,683,848
Santander Holdings USA, Inc., 7.300% (B)	463,000	
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc., 5.375%	40,000	1,002,800
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (6.125% to 5-1-22, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.067%) (B)	210,000	5,697,300
U.S. Bancorp (6.500% to 1-15-22, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.468%) (B)(C)	888,000	24,508,800
Wells Fargo & Company, 6.000% (B)(C)		16,568,500
Wells Fargo & Company, 8.000% (B)(C)	374,000	9,720,260
Wells Fargo & Company (6.625% to 3-15-24, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.690%) (B)(C)	388,450	
Western Alliance Bancorp, 6.250%	20,000	514,400
Capital markets 8.6%		
Deutsche Bank Contingent Capital Trust II, 6.550%	13,800	353,832
Morgan Stanley, 6.625% (B)	170,000	
Morgan Stanley (6.375% to 10-15-24, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.708%) (B)	170,000	
Morgan Stanley (6.875% to 1-15-24, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.940%)	130,000	3,575,000
Morgan Stanley (7.125% to 10-15-23, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.320%)	473,725	13,330,622
State Street Corp., 5.250% (B)	65,000	1,631,500
State Street Corp., 6.000% (B)(C)	795,000	
The Bank of New York Mellon Corp., 5.200% (B)	43,000	1,079,300
Consumer finance $2.9\%$	057 101	6 7 40 71 1
Capital One Financial Corp., 6.200% (B)(C)	257,181	6,740,714

Capital One Financial Corp., 6.700% (B)	52,650	1,383,642
Navient Corp., 6.000% (B)(C)	396,727	8,652,616
JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND III   QUARTERLY SEE NOTES TO	) FUND'S	
<sup>2</sup> REPORT INVESTMENT	S	

Shares Value Financials (continued) Insurance 10.2% Aegon NV, 6.375% (B) 354,054\$9,095,647 Aegon NV, 6.500% (B) 330,0008,523,900 Assurant, Inc., 6.500% 15,000 1,583,400 Prudential Financial, Inc., 5.750% (B) 150,0003,763,500 Prudential PLC, 6.500% (B) 85,943 2,237,956 RenaissanceRe Holdings, Ltd., Series C, 6.080% 15,000 380,550 The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (7.875% to 4-15-22, then 3 month LIBOR + 61,882 1,793,340 5.596%) The Phoenix Companies, Inc., 7.450% (B) 574,50010,633,995 W.R. Berkley Corp., 5.625% (B)(C) 868,20521,097,382 Thrifts and mortgage finance 0.1% Federal National Mortgage Association, Series S, 8.250% (E) 80,000 512,000 Health care 2.7% 15,707,248 Pharmaceuticals 2.7% Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd., 7.000% (B)(C) 44,750 15,707,248 Industrials 2.3% 13,219,500 Machinery 2.3% Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., 5.750% (B)(C) 525,00013,219,500 Real estate 14.3% 82,110,052 Equity real estate investment trusts 14.3% American Homes 4 Rent, Series D, 6.500% 30,000 760,200 American Homes 4 Rent, Series E, 6.350% 35,000 868,700 American Homes 4 Rent, Series F, 5.875% 160,4503,634,193 American Homes 4 Rent, Series G, 5.875% 155,0003,487,500 Crown Castle International Corp., Series A, 6.875% (B)(C) 24,500 25,098,839 Digital Realty Trust, Inc., 6.350% 921 23.762 Digital Realty Trust, Inc., 6.625% 10,900 285,580 Digital Realty Trust, Inc., 7.375% 40,134 1,043,885 Federal Realty Investment Trust, Series C, 5.000% 110,0002,399,100 Kimco Realty Corp., 6.000% (B) 421,81510,169,960 Public Storage, 5.200% (B) 255,0005,984,850 Public Storage, 5.375% 21,275 516,132 Public Storage, 5.875% (B) 30,000 766,200 Senior Housing Properties Trust, 5.625% (B) 889,83221,329,273 Ventas Realty LP, 5.450% (B) 229,8595,741,878 Telecommunication services 10.6% 61,292,426 Diversified telecommunication services 3.1% Qwest Corp., 6.125% 20,000 399,000 Qwest Corp., 6.500% 91,033 1,922,617 Qwest Corp., 6.750% 320,0006,899,200 Qwest Corp., 6.875% (B) 98,793 2,160,603 Qwest Corp., 7.000% (B) 60,000 1,366,200 Qwest Corp., 7.500% 49,618 1,246,404 Verizon Communications, Inc., 5.900% (B) 148,0003,788,800 Wireless telecommunication services 7.5% Telephone & Data Systems, Inc., 6.875% (B) 473,00011,744,590

Telephone & Data Systems, Inc., 7.000%	415,0 415,0	00010,366,700
United States Cellular Corp., 6.950%	673,4	3116,754,963
United States Cellular Corp., 7.250% (B)	184,9	944,643,349
SEE NOTES TO FUND'S	QUARTERLY REPORT   JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED	DINCOME 2
INVESTMENTS	FUND III	5

Utilities 39.4%	Shares	Value \$227,419,120
Electric utilities 22.7%		
Alabama Power		
Company, 5.000%	364,875	9,121,875
(B)(C)		
Duke Energy Corp.,	960,000	24,124,800
5.125% (B)		
Entergy Louisiana LLC, 5.250% (B)	253,587	6,301,637
HECO Capital Trust III,		
6.500%	228,100	5,971,658
Interstate Power & Light		
Company, 5.100%	207,514	5,218,977
(B)(C)	,	
NextEra Energy Capital		
Holdings, Inc., 5.125%	200,000	4,932,000
(B)		
NextEra Energy, Inc.,	375,000	21,675,000
6.123%	575,000	21,075,000
PPL Capital Funding,	1,016,981	25,505,883
Inc., 5.900% (B)	, ,	, ,
SCE Trust II, 5.100%	666,000	15,397,920
(B)(C) SCE Truct III (5.7500/ to		
SCE Trust III (5.750% to 3-15-24, then 3 month	120,000	3,174,000
LIBOR + 2.990%) (B)	120,000	3,174,000
The Southern Company,		
6.250% (B)	380,000	9,842,000
Gas utilities 0.8%		
South Jersey Industries,	00 700	1 ( ( 1 100
Inc., 7.250%	89,700	4,664,400
Multi-utilities 15.9%		
CMS Energy Corp.,	235,000	5,795,100
5.625%	255,000	5,795,100
Dominion Energy, Inc.,	781,166	35,886,766
6.750% (B)	,01,100	22,000,700
DTE Energy Company,	647,000	15,806,210
5.250% (B)(C)		
DTE Energy Company, 5.250%	200,000	4,792,000
DTE Energy Company,		
6.000%	100,550	2,612,289
DTE Energy Company,		
6.500%	200,700	10,534,743
Integrys Holding, Inc.		
(6.000% to 8-1-23, then	20( 202	7 (20,002
3 month LIBOR +	296,303	7,629,802
3.220%) (B)		

Sempra Energy, 6.000%	82,000		8,432,060	)	
Common stocks 12.6% (8.2% of Total			¢70 400 0	0 4 7	
investments)			\$72,428,3	947	
(Cost \$59,138,580)					
Energy 11.5%			66,040,24	17	
Oil, gas and consumable fuels 11.5%					
BP PLC, ADR (B)	558,000		24,881,22	20	
Enbridge, Inc.	50,000		1,513,500	)	
ONEOK, Inc. (B)	360,000		21,679,20	)0	
Royal Dutch Shell PLC,	257,029		17,966,32	7	
ADR, Class A (B)	257,029		17,900,52	27	
Telecommunication services 0.8%			4,552,100	)	
Diversified telecommunication					
services 0.8%					
CenturyLink, Inc.	245,000		4,552,100	)	
Utilities 0.3%			1,836,000	)	
Independent power and renewable					
electricity producers 0.3%					
AES Corp.	150,000		1,836,000	)	
		Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^	Value
Corporate bonds 7.9% (5.2% of Total investments)					\$45,677
(Cost \$45,786,872)					. ,
Consumer discretionary 1.7%					9,843,75
Automobiles 1.7%					
General Motors Financial Company, Inc. (5.750% to 9-30	)-27, then 3	5.750	09-30-27	10,000,000	9.843.75
month LIBOR + 3.598%) (F)					· · ·
Energy 1.4%					7,830,00
Oil, gas and consumable fuels 1.4%					
Energy Transfer Partners LP (3 month LIBOR + 3.018%)	) (B)(C)(D)	4.791	11-01-66	9,000,000	7,830,00
JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND III	I QUARTER	KLY SE	E NOTES TO	J FUND'S	
REPORT		IN	VESTMENT	8	

	Rate (%)	Maturity date	Par value^Value
Financials 3.7%			\$21,653,906
Banks 2.0%			
BNP Paribas SA (7.375% to 8-19-25, then 5 Year U.S. Swap Rate + 5.150%) (F)	7.375	08-19-25	1,000,000 1,090,000
HSBC Holdings PLC (6.500% to 3-23-28, then 5 Year U.S. ISDAFIX + 3.606%) (F)	6.500	03-23-28	5,000,000 5,081,250
Huntington Bancshares, Inc. $(5.700\% \text{ to } 4-15-23, \text{ then } 3 \text{ month LIBOR } + 2.880\%)$ (F)	5.700	04-15-23	2,000,000 1,998,750
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC ( $8.000\%$ to $8-10-25$ , then 5 Yea U.S. Swap Rate + $5.720\%$ ) (F)	<sup>r</sup> 8.000	08-10-25	3,175,000 3,472,656
Consumer finance 0.8%			
Discover Financial Services (5.500% to 10-30-27, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.076%) (F)	5.500	10-30-27	5,000,000 4,900,000
Insurance 0.9%			
MetLife, Inc. (5.875% to 3-15-28, then 3 month LIBOR + 2.959%) (F)	5.875	03-15-28	5,000,000 5,111,250
Utilities 1.1%			6,350,178
Electric utilities 0.6%			
Southern California Edison Company (6.250% to 2-1-22, then 3 month LIBOR + 4.199%) (B)(C)(F)	6.250	02-01-22	3,000,000 3,180,000
Multi-utilities 0.5%			
Dominion Energy, Inc. (5.750% to 10-1-24, then 3 month LIBOR + 3.057%) (B)(C)	5.750	10-01-54	3,000,000 3,170,178
Yield* (%) Maturity date. Par	value^ V	Zalue	

	Yield* (%	) Maturity date	Par value <sup>^</sup>	Value
Short-term investments 0.9% (0.6% of T		\$5,185,000		
(Cost \$5,185,000)				
U.S. Government Agency 0.9%				5,185,000
Federal Home Loan Bank Discount Note	2 1.580	05-01-18	5,185,000	5,185,000
Total investments (Cost \$899,760,312) 1	53.1%			\$882,774,099
Other assets and liabilities, net (53.1%)				(306,130,781)
Total net assets 100.0%				\$576,643,318

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of the category as a percentage of the net assets of the fund unless otherwise indicated.

^All par values are denominated in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

Security Abbreviations and Legend

ADR American Depositary Receipt

ISDAFIX International Swaps and Derivatives Association Fixed Interest Rate Swap Rate

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate

- (A) These securities are exempt from registration under Rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration. All of a portion of this security is pledged as collateral pursuant to the Credit Facility Agreement. Total
- (B) collateral value at 4-30-18 was \$625,865,780. A portion of the securities pledged as collateral were loaned pursuant to the Credit Facility Agreement. The value of securities on loan amounted to \$229,672,609.
- (C) A portion of this security is on loan as of 4-30-18, and is a component of the fund's leverage under the Credit Facility Agreement.
- (D) Variable rate obligation. The coupon rate shown represents the rate at period end.

- (E) Non-income producing security.
- (F) Perpetual bonds have no stated maturity date. Date shown as maturity date is next call date.
- \* Yield represents either the annualized yield at the date of purchase, the stated coupon rate or, for floating rate securities, the rate at period end.

The fund had the following country composition as a percentage of total investments on 4-30-18:

United States88.0%United Kingdom5.3%Netherlands4.0%Israel1.8%Other countries0.9%TOTAL100.0%SEE NOTES TOFUND'SINVESTMENTS

# QUARTERLY REPORT | JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME 5 FUND III

### DERIVATIVES FUTURES

TUTURES									**	
Open contra	cts		Numb contra	per of Posi	tion Expiratio date	n Notional basis*		otional alue*	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	
10-Year U.S	. Treasury	Note Future	es 680	Sho	rt Jun 2018	\$(81,710,	,146)\$	(81,345,000)	)\$365,146	
									\$365,146	
* Notional b the current v SWAPS Interest rate	alue of the			nount agre	eed upon at in	ception of	open c	ontracts; not	tional value repre	sents
	•							Unamor	tized	
Counterparty (OTC)/ Centrally cleared	y Notional amount	Currency	Payments nade	sPayment received	Fixed payment frequency	Floating payment frequency	Matur date	rity upfront payment paid (received	(depreciation	
Centrally cleared	77,000,000	OUSD	Fixed 2.136%	USD 3 Month LIBOR BBA <sup>(a)</sup>	Semi-Annua	lQuarterly	Oct 2022	_	\$2,032,568	\$2,032,568
									\$2,032,568	\$2,032,568
(a) At 4-30-18	8, the 3 mor	nth LIBOR	was 2.30	63%						

Derivatives Currency Abbreviations USDU.S. Dollar

Derivatives Abbreviations BBA The British Banker's Association LIBORLondon Interbank Offered Rate OTC is an abbreviation for over-the-counter. See Notes to Fund's investments regarding investment transactions and other derivatives information. 6 JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND III | QUARTERLY SEE NOTES TO FUND'S INVESTMENTS

Notes to Fund's investments (unaudited)

**Security valuation.** Investments are stated at value as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), normally at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. In case of emergency or other disruption resulting in the NYSE not opening for trading or the NYSE closing at a time other than the regularly scheduled close, the net asset value may be determined as of the regularly scheduled close of the NYSE pursuant to the fund's Valuation Policies and Procedures.

In order to value the securities, the fund uses the following valuation techniques: Equity securities held by the fund are typically valued at the last sale price or official closing price on the exchange or principal market where the security trades. In the event there were no sales during the day or closing prices are not available, the securities are valued using the last available bid price. Debt obligations are valued based on the evaluated prices provided by an independent pricing vendor or from broker-dealers. Independent pricing vendors utilize matrix pricing which takes into account factors such as institutional-size trading in similar groups of securities, yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics and other market data, as well as broker supplied prices. Swaps are valued using evaluated prices obtained from an independent pricing vendor. Futures contracts are typically valued at settlement prices, which are the official closing prices published by the exchange on which they trade.

In certain instances, the Pricing Committee may determine to value equity securities using prices obtained from another exchange or market if trading on the exchange or market on which prices are typically obtained did not open for trading as scheduled, or if trading closed earlier than scheduled, and trading occurred as normal on another exchange or market.

Other portfolio securities and assets, for which reliable market quotations are not readily available, are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the fund's Pricing Committee following procedures established by the Board of Trustees. The frequency with which these fair valuation procedures are used cannot be predicted and fair value of securities may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for such securities existed.

The fund uses a three-tier hierarchy to prioritize the pricing assumptions, referred to as inputs, used in valuation techniques to measure fair value. Level 1 includes securities valued using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities. Level 2 includes securities valued using other significant observable inputs. Observable inputs may include quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds and credit risk. Prices for securities valued using these inputs are received from independent pricing vendors and brokers and are based on an evaluation of the inputs described. Level 3 includes securities valued using significant unobservable inputs when market prices are not readily available or reliable, including the fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Factors used in determining value may include market or issuer specific events or trends, changes in interest rates and credit quality. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. Changes in valuation techniques and related inputs may result in transfers into or out of an assigned level within the disclosure hierarchy.

The following is a summary of the values by input classification of the fund's investments as of April 30, 2018, by major security category or type:

Total	Loval 1	Level 2	Level 3
Total	Level 1	significant	significant
value at	quoted	observable	unobservable
4-30-18	price	inputs	inputs

Investments in securities: Assets

<b>Preferred securities</b>			
Consumer staples	\$12,217,500		\$12,217,500
Energy	32,014,757	\$32,014,757	
Financials	315,502,315	304,868,320	10,633,995
Health care	15,707,248	15,707,248	
Industrials	13,219,500	13,219,500	
Real estate	82,110,052	57,011,213	25,098,839
Telecommunication services	61,292,426	57,503,626	3,788,800
Utilities	227,419,120	213,817,660	13,601,460
Common stocks	72,428,347	72,428,347	
Corporate bonds	45,677,834		45,677,834
Short-term investments	5,185,000		5,185,000
Total investments in securities	\$882,774,099	9\$766,570,671	1\$116,203,428
Derivatives:			
Assets			
Futures	\$365,146	\$365,146	
Swap contracts	2,032,568		\$2,032,568
Securities with a market valu	e of approxim	ately \$27,519	,000 at the beginning of the period

Securities with a market value of approximately \$27,519,000 at the beginning of the period were transferred from Level 1 to Level 2 during the period since quoted prices in active markets for identical securities were no longer available and securities were valued using other significant observable inputs.

**Derivative instruments.** The fund may invest in derivatives in order to meet its investment objective. Derivatives include a variety of different instruments that may be traded in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, on a regulated exchange or through a clearing facility. The risks in using derivatives vary depending upon the structure of

7

the instruments, including the use of leverage, optionality, the liquidity or lack of liquidity of the contract, the creditworthiness of the counterparty or clearing organization and the volatility of the position. Some derivatives involve risks that are potentially greater than the risks associated with investing directly in the referenced securities or other referenced underlying instrument. Specifically, the fund is exposed to the risk that the counterparty to an OTC derivatives contract will be unable or unwilling to make timely settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. OTC derivatives transactions typically can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction.

**Futures.** A futures contract is a contractual agreement to buy or sell a particular currency or financial instrument at a pre-determined price in the future. Risks related to the use of futures contracts include possible illiquidity of the futures markets and contract prices that can be highly volatile and imperfectly correlated to movements in the underlying financial instrument. Use of long futures contracts subjects the funds to the risk of loss up to the notional value of the futures contracts. Use of short futures contracts subjects the funds to unlimited risk of loss.

During the period ended April 30, 2018, the fund used futures contracts to manage against anticipated interest rate changes against preferred securities.

**Interest rate swaps.** Interest rate swaps represent an agreement between the fund and a counterparty to exchange cash flows based on the difference between two interest rates applied to a notional amount. The payment flows are usually netted against each other, with the difference being paid by one party to the other. The fund settles accrued net interest receivable or payable under the swap contracts at specified, future intervals. Swap agreements are privately negotiated in the OTC market or may be executed on a registered commodities exchange (centrally cleared swaps). Swaps are marked-to-market daily and the change in value is recorded as unrealized appreciation/depreciation of swap contracts. A termination payment by the counterparty or the fund is recorded as realized gain or loss, as well as the net periodic payments received or paid by the fund. The value of the swap will typically impose collateral posting obligations on the party that is considered out-of-the-money on the swap.

During the period ended April 30, 2018, the fund used interest rate swaps to manage against anticipated interest rate changes.

For additional information on the fund's significant accounting policies, please refer to the fund's most recent semiannual or annual shareholder report.

8

### More information

How to	contact us	
Interne	twww.jhinvestments.com	
	Computershare	
Mail	P.O. Box 30170	
	College Station, TX 77842-3170	
	Customer service representatives	800-852-0218
Phone	Portfolio commentary	800-344-7054
rnone	24-hour automated information	800-843-0090
	TDD line	800-231-5469

	P12Q304/18
This report is for the information of the shareholders of John Hancock Preferred Income Fund III.	6/18

### ITEM 2. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-Q, the registrant's principal executive officer and principal accounting officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

#### ITEM 3. EXHIBITS.

Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal accounting officer, as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

John Hancock Preferred Income Fund III

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott Andrew Arnott President

### Date: June 15, 2018

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By: /s/ Andrew Arnott

Andrew Arnott President

Date: June 15, 2018

By: /s/ Charles A. Rizzo Charles A. Rizzo Chief Financial Officer

Date: June 15, 2018