

# **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**January 16, 2026**

**Hexis Active Nicotine Engagement ETF**

**(NICO)**

Listed on NYSE Arca, Inc.

[www.hexis.capital](http://www.hexis.capital)

1-800-617-0004

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the Hexis Active Nicotine Engagement ETF (the “Fund”), a series of Series Portfolios Trust (the “Trust”), dated January 16, 2026, as may be supplemented from time to time, which is incorporated by reference into this SAI.

You may obtain a copy of the Prospectus without charge by contacting the Fund at the telephone number listed above. Investors in the Fund will be informed of the Fund’s progress through periodic reports. Financial statements certified by an independent registered public accounting firm will be included in the Fund’s annual Form N-CSR. Since the Fund had not commenced operations prior to the date of this SAI, no financial statements are available. Once available, copies of the Fund’s annual and semi-annual report to shareholders and Form N-CSR may be obtained, without charge, upon request by contacting U.S. Bank Global Fund Services at the telephone number listed above, or by visiting the Fund’s website at [www.hexis.capital](http://www.hexis.capital).

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## THE TRUST

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust organized on July 27, 2015, and is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) as an open-end management investment company. The Trust’s Declaration of Trust, as amended and/or restated to date (the “Declaration of Trust”) permits the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest, without par value, which may be issued in any number of series. The Board may from time to time issue other series, the assets and liabilities of which will be separate and distinct from any other series. This SAI relates only to the Fund.

The Declaration of Trust also provides for indemnification and reimbursement of expenses out of the Fund’s assets for any Trustee or Trust officer held personally liable for obligations of the Fund or the Trust. All such rights are limited to the assets of the Fund. The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Trust may maintain appropriate insurance (for example, fidelity bonding and errors and omissions insurance) for the protection of the Trust, its shareholders, trustees, officers, employees and agents to cover possible claims and other liabilities. However, the activities of the Trust as an investment company would not likely give rise to liabilities in excess of the Trust’s total assets. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which both inadequate insurance exists, and the Fund itself is unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust provides that the Trust shall not in any way be bound or limited by present or future laws or customs in regard to trust investments. The Declaration of Trust provides that a Trustee or officer shall be liable for his or her own willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of the office of Trustee or officer, and for nothing else, and shall not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. The Trustees, as trustees of a registered investment company, may have a number of duties ascribed to them under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) and the foregoing provisions are not intended to eliminate or alter those duties.

The Declaration of Trust provides that by virtue of becoming a shareholder of the Trust, each shareholder is bound by the provisions of the Declaration of Trust. The Declaration of Trust provides a detailed process for the bringing of derivative actions by shareholders. Prior to bringing a derivative action, a written demand by the complaining shareholder must first be made on the Trustees. The Declaration of Trust details conditions that must be met with respect to the demand, including the requirement that 10% of the outstanding shares of the Fund who are eligible to bring such derivative action under the Delaware Statutory Trust Act join in the demand for the Trustees to commence such derivative action. There may be questions regarding the enforceability of this provision based on certain interpretations of the Securities Act of 1933 Act, as amended (the “Securities Act”), the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”) and the 1940 Act.

Additionally, the Declaration of Trust provides that the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, to the extent there is subject matter jurisdiction in such court for the claims asserted or, if not, then in the Superior Court of the State of Delaware shall be the exclusive forum in which certain types of litigation may be brought, which may require shareholders to have to bring an action in an inconvenient or less favorable forum. The demand requirements set out in Delaware law and the Declaration of Trust do not generally apply to shareholder actions alleging violations of the Federal securities laws. There may be questions regarding the enforceability of this provision because the Securities Act, the 1934 Act and the 1940 Act allow claims to be brought in state and federal courts. The Declaration of Trust provides that shareholders waive any and all right to trial by jury in any claim, suit, action or proceeding.

Pursuant to the Declaration of Trust, to the extent that, at law or in equity, a Trustee or officer of the Trust has duties (including fiduciary duties) and liabilities relating thereto to the Trust, the shareholders or to any other person, such Trustee or officer acting under the Declaration of Trust shall not be liable to the Trust, the shareholders or to any other person for his or her good faith reliance on the provisions of the Declaration of Trust. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in the Declaration of Trust modifying, restricting, or eliminating the duties or liabilities of the Trustees shall apply to or in any way limit the duties (including state law fiduciary duties of loyalty and care) or liabilities of such persons of matters arising under the federal securities laws.

The Fund offers and issues shares at its net asset value (“NAV”) only in aggregations of a specified number of Shares (each, a “Creation Unit”). The Fund generally offers and issues shares in exchange for a basket of securities (“Deposit Securities”) together with the deposit of a specified cash payment (“Cash Component”). The Trust reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of a “cash in lieu” amount (“Deposit Cash”) to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security. Shares are listed on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the “Exchange”) and trade on the Exchange at market prices that may differ from the shares’ NAV. Shares are also redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations, primarily for a basket of Deposit Securities together with a Cash Component. A Creation Unit of the Fund generally consists of a minimum of 10,000 shares, though this may change from time to time. As a practical matter, only institutions or large investors purchase or redeem Creation Units. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, shares are not redeemable securities.

Hexis Capital Management Limited (the “Adviser”) serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Fund, as a series of the Trust, does not hold itself out as related to any other series of the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, and does not share the same investment adviser with any other series of the Trust.

## **INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS**

The Fund’s principal investment strategies utilized by the Adviser and the principal risks associated with the same are set forth in the Fund’s Prospectus. The following discussion provides additional information about those principal investment strategies and related risks, as well as information about investment strategies (and related risks) that the Fund may utilize, even though they are not considered to be “principal” investment strategies. Accordingly, an investment strategy (and related risk) that is described below, but which is not described in the Prospectus, should not be considered to be a principal strategy (or related risk) applicable to the Fund. The following strategies and risks apply to the Fund directly or indirectly through its investments in derivatives.

### **Information Regarding the Fund’s Investment Strategies and Risks**

#### **General Market Risks**

The value of the Fund’s portfolio securities may fluctuate with changes in the financial condition of an issuer or counterparty, changes in specific economic or political conditions that affect a particular security or issuer and changes in general economic or political conditions. An investor in the Fund could lose money over short or long periods of time.

There can be no guarantee that a liquid market for the securities held by the Fund will be maintained. The existence of a liquid trading market for certain securities may depend on whether dealers will make a

market in such securities. There can be no assurance that a market will be made or maintained or that any such market will be or remain liquid. The price at which securities may be sold and the value of shares will be adversely affected if trading markets for the Fund's portfolio securities are limited or absent, or if bid/ask spreads are wide.

*Cyber Security Risk.* Investment companies, such as the Fund, and their service providers may be subject to operational and information security risks resulting from cyber attacks. Cyber attacks include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or various other forms of cyber security breaches. Cyber attacks affecting the Fund or the Adviser, custodian, transfer agent, intermediaries and other third-party service providers may adversely impact the Fund. For instance, cyber attacks may interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact the Fund's ability to calculate its NAV, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential company information, impede trading, subject the Fund to regulatory fines or financial losses, and cause reputational damage. The Fund may also incur additional costs for cyber security risk management purposes. Similar types of cyber security risks are also present for issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Fund's investments in such portfolio companies to lose value.

## **DESCRIPTION OF PERMITTED INVESTMENTS**

The following are descriptions of the Fund's permitted investments and investment practices and the associated risk factors. The Fund will only invest in any of the following instruments or engage in any of the following investment practices if such investment or activity is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and permitted by the Fund's stated investment policies.

### **Borrowing**

Although the Fund does not intend to borrow money, the Fund may do so to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act. Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may borrow up to one-third (1/3) of its total assets. The Fund will borrow money only for short-term or emergency purposes. Such borrowing is not for investment purposes and will be repaid by the borrowing Fund promptly. Borrowing will tend to exaggerate the effect on NAV of any increase or decrease in the market value of the borrowing Fund's portfolio. Money borrowed will be subject to interest costs that may or may not be recovered by earnings on the securities purchased. The Fund also may be required to maintain minimum average balances in connection with a borrowing or to pay a commitment or other fee to maintain a line of credit; either of these requirements would increase the cost of borrowing over the stated interest rate.

### **Equity Securities**

Equity securities, such as the common stock of an issuer, are subject to stock market fluctuations and therefore may experience volatile changes in value as market conditions, consumer sentiment or the financial condition of the issuers change. A decrease in value of the equity securities in the Fund's portfolio may also cause the value of the Fund's shares to decline.

An investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in equity securities, including the risk that the financial condition of issuers may become impaired or that the general condition of the stock market may deteriorate (either of which may cause a decrease in the value of the Fund's portfolio securities and therefore a decrease in the value of shares).

Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence and perceptions change. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and

fiscal policies; inflation and interest rates; economic expansion or contraction; and global or regional political, economic or banking crises.

Holders of common stocks incur more risk than holders of preferred stocks and debt obligations because common stockholders, as owners of the issuer, generally have inferior rights to receive payments from the issuer in comparison with the rights of creditors or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks. Further, unlike debt securities, which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (whose value, however, is subject to market fluctuations prior thereto), or preferred stocks, which typically have a liquidation preference and which may have stated optional or mandatory redemption provisions, common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity. Common stock values are subject to market fluctuations as long as the common stock remains outstanding.

#### Types of Equity Securities:

*Common Stocks* — Common stocks represent units of ownership in a company. Common stocks usually carry voting rights and earn dividends. Unlike preferred stocks, which are described below, dividends on common stocks are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the company's board of directors.

*Preferred Stocks* — Preferred stocks are also units of ownership in a company. Preferred stocks normally have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and the liquidation of the company. However, in all other respects, preferred stocks are subordinated to the liabilities of the issuer. Unlike common stocks, preferred stocks are generally not entitled to vote on corporate matters. Types of preferred stocks include adjustable-rate preferred stock, fixed dividend preferred stock, perpetual preferred stock, and sinking fund preferred stock.

Generally, the market values of preferred stock with a fixed dividend rate and no conversion element vary inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk.

*Rights and Warrants* — A right is a privilege granted to existing shareholders of a corporation to subscribe to shares of a new issue of common stock before it is issued. Rights normally have a short life of usually two to four weeks, are freely transferable and entitle the holder to buy the new common stock at a lower price than the public offering price. Warrants are securities that are usually issued together with a debt security or preferred stock and that give the holder the right to buy proportionate amount of common stock at a specified price. Warrants are freely transferable and are traded on major exchanges. Unlike rights, warrants normally have a life that is measured in years and entitles the holder to buy common stock of a company at a price that is usually higher than the market price at the time the warrant is issued. Corporations often issue warrants to make the accompanying debt security more attractive.

An investment in warrants and rights may entail greater risks than certain other types of investments. Generally, rights and warrants do not carry the right to receive dividends or exercise voting rights with respect to the underlying securities, and they do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuer. In addition, their value does not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities, and they cease to have value if they are not exercised on or before their expiration date. Investing in rights and warrants increases the potential profit or loss to be realized from the investment as compared with investing the same amount in the underlying securities.

*Large Capitalization Companies* — Investments in large capitalization companies may go in and out of favor based on market and economic conditions and may underperform other market segments. Some large capitalization companies may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges, such as

changes in technology and consumer tastes, and may not be able to attain the high growth rate of successful smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansion. As such, returns on investments in stocks of large capitalization companies could trail the returns on investments in stocks of small and mid-capitalization companies.

*Small- and Mid-Capitalization Companies* — The securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies may be more vulnerable to adverse issuer, market, political, or economic developments than securities of larger-capitalization companies. The securities of small- and mid-capitalization companies generally trade in lower volumes and are subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than larger capitalization stocks or the stock market as a whole. Some small- or mid-capitalization companies have limited product lines, markets, and financial and managerial resources and tend to concentrate on fewer geographical markets relative to larger capitalization companies. There is typically less publicly available information concerning small- and mid-capitalization companies than for larger, more established companies. Small- and mid-capitalization companies also may be particularly sensitive to changes in interest rates, government regulation, borrowing costs, and earnings.

### **Investments in Other Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest in shares of other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) and business development companies (“BDCs”). As the shareholder of another ETF, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of the other ETF’s expenses, including advisory fees. Such expenses are in addition to the expenses the Fund pays in connection with its own operations. The Fund’s investments in other ETFs may be limited by applicable law.

Disruptions in the markets for the securities underlying ETFs purchased or sold by the Fund could result in losses on investments in ETFs. ETFs also carry the risk that the price the Fund pays or receives may be higher or lower than the ETF’s NAV. ETFs are also subject to certain additional risks, including the risks of illiquidity and of possible trading halts due to market conditions or other reasons, based on the policies of the relevant exchange. ETFs and other investment companies in which the Fund may invest may be leveraged, which would increase the volatility of the Fund’s NAV. The Fund may also invest in ETFs and other investment companies that seek to return the inverse of the performance of an underlying index on a daily, monthly, or other basis, including inverse leveraged ETFs.

Inverse and leveraged ETFs are subject to additional risks not generally associated with traditional ETFs. To the extent that the Fund invests in inverse ETFs, the value of the Fund’s investments will decrease when the index underlying the ETF’s benchmark rises, a result that is the opposite from traditional equity or bond funds. The NAV and market price of leveraged or inverse ETFs are usually more volatile than the value of the tracked index or of other ETFs that do not use leverage. This is because inverse and leveraged ETFs use investment techniques and financial instruments that may be considered aggressive, including the use of derivative transactions and short selling techniques. The use of these techniques may cause the inverse or leveraged ETFs to lose more money in market environments that are adverse to their investment strategies than other funds that do not use such techniques.

BDCs are specialized closed-end funds that trade like stocks. Shares of BDCs are not priced at the NAV of their underlying portfolio holdings, but instead trade like stocks at the market price, which may be at a price above or below their NAV. The 1940 Act imposes certain restraints upon the operations of a BDC. For example, BDCs are required to invest at least 70% of their total assets primarily in securities of private companies or thinly traded U.S. public companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. Government securities and high quality debt investments that mature in one year or less. The risks of owning a BDC

generally reflect the risks of owning its underlying investments. Generally, little public information exists for private and thinly traded companies, and there is a risk that investors may not be able to make a fully informed investment decision. Risks may include, but are not limited to, credit and investment risk, market and valuation risk, price volatility risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. When the Fund invests in BDCs, shareholders of the Fund indirectly bear a proportionate share of the BDC's fees and expenses, as well as their share of the Fund's fees and expenses. As a result, an investment by the Fund in an BDC could cause the Fund's operating expenses (taking into account indirect expenses such as the fees and expenses of the BDC) to be higher and, in turn, performance to be lower than if the Fund were to invest directly in the instruments held by the BDC.

The Fund's investments in ETFs and BDCs are subject to applicable limitations under Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act and Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act. Investing in another pooled vehicle exposes the Fund to all the risks of that pooled vehicle. Pursuant to Section 12(d)(1), the Fund may invest in the securities of another investment company (the "acquired company") provided that the Fund, immediately after such purchase or acquisition, does not own in the aggregate: (i) more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of the acquired company; (ii) securities issued by the acquired company having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund; or (iii) securities issued by the acquired company and all other investment companies (other than treasury stock of the Fund) having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the Fund. To the extent allowed by law or regulation, the Fund may invest its assets in securities of investment companies that are money market funds in excess of the limits discussed above.

If the Fund invests in and, thus, is a shareholder of, another investment company, the Fund's shareholders will indirectly bear the Fund's proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by such other investment company, including advisory fees, in addition to both the management fees payable directly by the Fund to the Fund's own investment adviser and the other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with the Fund's own operations.

Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act restricts investments by registered investment companies in securities of other registered investment companies, including the Fund. The acquisition of the Fund's shares by registered investment companies is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act, except as may be permitted by exemptive rules under the 1940 Act or as may at some future time be permitted by an exemptive order that permits registered investment companies to invest in the Fund beyond the limits of Section 12(d)(1), subject to certain terms and conditions, including that the registered investment company enter into an agreement with the Fund regarding the terms of the investment.

The Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3 of the 1940 Act, which provide an exemption from Section 12(d)(1) that allows the Fund to invest all of its assets in other registered funds, including ETFs, if, among other conditions: (a) the Fund, together with its affiliates, acquires no more than three percent of the outstanding voting stock of any acquired fund, and (b) the sales load charged on the Fund's shares is no greater than the limits set forth in Rule 2341 of the Rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). Additionally, the Fund may rely on exemptive relief issued by the SEC to other registered funds, including ETFs, or Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act to invest in such other funds in excess of the limits of Section 12(d)(1) if the Fund complies with the terms and conditions of such exemptive relief or rule.

## Depository Receipts

To the extent the Fund invests in stocks of foreign corporations, the Fund's investment in securities of foreign companies may be in the form of depository receipts or other securities convertible into securities of foreign issuers. American Depository Receipts ("ADRs") are dollar-denominated receipts representing interests in the securities of a foreign issuer, which securities may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the securities into which they may be converted. ADRs are receipts typically issued by U.S. banks and trust companies which evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. Generally, ADRs in registered form are designed for use in domestic securities markets and are traded on exchanges or over-the-counter in the United States.

Global Depository Receipts ("GDRs"), European Depository Receipts ("EDRs"), and International Depository Receipts ("IDRs") are similar to ADRs in that they are certificates evidencing ownership of shares of a foreign issuer; however, GDRs, EDRs, and IDRs may be issued in bearer form and denominated in other currencies and are generally designed for use in specific or multiple securities markets outside the U.S. EDRs, for example, are designed for use in European securities markets, while GDRs are designed for use throughout the world. Depository receipts will not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as their underlying securities.

The Fund will not invest in any unlisted depository receipts or any depository receipt that the Adviser deems to be illiquid or for which pricing information is not readily available. In addition, all depository receipts generally must be sponsored. However, the Fund may invest in unsponsored depository receipts under certain limited circumstances. The issuers of unsponsored depository receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the United States and, therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the value of the depository receipts.

## Derivatives

The Fund may use derivative instruments for various reasons, including to create investment leverage; as a substitute for securities, interest rates, currencies and commodities; for tax purposes; and/or to hedge against market movements. The information below contains general additional information about derivatives.

***Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act.*** Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act (the "Derivatives Rule") provides a comprehensive framework for the use of derivatives by registered investment companies. The Derivatives Rule permits a registered investment company, subject to various conditions described below, to enter into derivatives transactions and certain other transactions notwithstanding the restrictions on the issuance of "senior securities" under Section 18 of the 1940 Act. Section 18 of the 1940 Act, among other things, prohibits open-end funds, including the Fund, from issuing or selling any "senior security," other than borrowing from a bank (subject to a requirement to maintain 300% "asset coverage").

Registered investment companies that do not qualify as "limited derivatives users" as defined below, are required by the Derivatives Rule to, among other things, (i) adopt and implement a derivatives risk management program ("DRMP") and new testing requirements; (ii) comply with a relative or absolute limit on fund leverage risk calculated based on value-at-risk ("VaR"); and (iii) comply with new requirements related to Board SEC reporting. The DRMP is administered by a "derivatives risk manager," who is appointed by the Board and periodically reviews the DRMP and reports to the Board.

The Derivatives Rule provides an exception from the DRMP, VaR limit and certain other requirements for a registered investment company that limits its “derivatives exposure” to no more than 10% of its net assets (as calculated in accordance with the Derivatives Rule) (a “limited derivatives user”), provided that the registered investment company establishes appropriate policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage derivatives risks, including the risk of exceeding the 10% “derivatives exposure” threshold.

The requirements of the Derivatives Rule may limit the Fund’s ability to engage in derivatives transactions as part of its investment strategies. These requirements may also increase the cost of the Fund’s investments and cost of doing business, which could adversely affect the value of the Fund’s investments and/or the performance of the Fund. The rule also may not be effective to limit the Fund’s risk of loss. In particular, measurements of VaR rely on historical data and may not accurately measure the degree of risk reflected in a Fund’s derivatives or other investments. There may be additional regulation of the use of derivatives transactions by registered investment companies, which could significantly affect their use. The ultimate impact of the regulations remains unclear. Additional regulation of derivatives transactions may make them more costly, limit their availability or utility, otherwise adversely affect their performance or disrupt markets.

***Cover for Futures Contracts.*** Transactions involving futures contracts expose the Fund to an obligation to another party. The Fund will not enter into any such transactions unless it complies with the Derivatives Rule, including any applicable VaR limit, and owns either: (1) an offsetting (“covered”) position in other futures contracts; or (2) cash and liquid assets with a value, marked-to-market daily, sufficient to cover its potential obligations to the extent not covered as provided in (1) above. The Fund may enter into agreements with broker-dealers, which require the broker-dealers to accept physical settlement for certain futures contracts. If this occurs, the Fund would treat the futures contract as being cash-settled for purposes of determining the Fund’s coverage requirements.

***Options on Futures Contracts.*** The Fund may purchase and sell options on the same types of futures in which it may invest. Options on futures are similar to options on underlying instruments except that options on futures give the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put), rather than to purchase or sell the futures contract, at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by the delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer’s futures margin account which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract, at exercise, exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. Purchasers of options who fail to exercise their options prior to the exercise date suffer a loss of the premium paid.

***Options on Securities.*** The Fund may purchase and write (i.e., sell) put and call options. Such options may relate to particular securities or stock indices, and may or may not be listed on a domestic or foreign securities exchange and may or may not be issued by the Options Clearing Corporation. Options trading is a highly specialized activity that entails greater than ordinary investment risk. Options may be more volatile than the underlying instruments, and therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying instruments themselves.

A call option for a particular security gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the writer (seller) the obligation to sell, the underlying security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option, regardless of the market price of the security. The premium paid to the writer is in consideration for undertaking the obligation under the option contract. A put option for a particular

security gives the purchaser the right to sell the security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option, regardless of the market price of the security.

Stock index options are put options and call options on various stock indices. In most respects, they are identical to listed options on common stocks. The primary difference between stock options and index options occurs when index options are exercised. In the case of stock options, the underlying security, common stock, is delivered. However, upon the exercise of an index option, settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. The option holder who exercises the index option receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the stock index upon which the option is based is greater than, in the case of a call, or less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. This amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the stock index and the exercise price of the option expressed in dollars times a specified multiple. A stock index fluctuates with changes in the market value of the stocks included in the index. For example, some stock index options are based on a broad market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500® Index or the Value Line Composite Index, or a narrower market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 100® Index. Indices may also be based on an industry or market segment, such as the NYSE Arca Oil and Gas Index or the Computer and Business Equipment Index. Options on stock indices are currently traded on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange.

The Fund's obligation to sell an instrument subject to a call option written by it, or to purchase an instrument subject to a put option written by it, may be terminated prior to the expiration date of the option by the Fund's execution of a closing purchase transaction, which is effected by purchasing on an exchange an option of the same series (i.e., same underlying instrument, exercise price and expiration date) as the option previously written. A closing purchase transaction will ordinarily be effected to realize a profit on an outstanding option, to prevent an underlying instrument from being called, to permit the sale of the underlying instrument or to permit the writing of a new option containing different terms on such underlying instrument. The cost of such a liquidation purchase plus transactions costs may be greater than the premium received upon the original option, in which event the Fund will have incurred a loss in the transaction. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. An option writer unable to effect a closing purchase transaction will not be able to sell the underlying instrument or liquidate the assets held in a segregated account, as described below, until the option expires or the optioned instrument is delivered upon exercise. In such circumstances, the writer will be subject to the risk of market decline or appreciation in the instrument during such period.

If an option purchased by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a loss equal to the premium paid. If the Fund enters into a closing sale transaction on an option purchased by it, the Fund will realize a gain if the premium received by the Fund on the closing transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option or a loss if it is less. If an option written by the Fund expires on the stipulated expiration date or if the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, it will realize a gain (or loss if the cost of a closing purchase transaction exceeds the net premium received when the option is sold). If an option written by the Fund is exercised, the proceeds of the sale will be increased by the net premium originally received and the Fund will realize a gain or loss.

***Certain Risks Regarding Options.*** There are several risks associated with transactions in options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded over-the-counter or on an exchange, may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing

transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities or currencies; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading value; or one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

Successful use by the Fund of options on stock indices will be subject to the ability of the Adviser to correctly predict movements in the directions of the stock market. This requires different skills and techniques than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. In addition, the Fund's ability to effectively hedge all or a portion of the securities in its portfolio, in anticipation of or during a market decline, through transactions in put options on stock indices, depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying index correlate with the price movements of the securities held by the Fund. Inasmuch as the Fund's securities will not duplicate the components of an index, the correlation will not be perfect. Consequently, the Fund bears the risk that the prices of its securities being hedged will not move in the same amount as the prices of its put options on the stock indices. It is also possible that there may be a negative correlation between the index and the Fund's securities that would result in a loss on both such securities and the options on stock indices acquired by the Fund.

The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. The purchase of options is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The purchase of stock index options involves the risk that the premium and transaction costs paid by the Fund in purchasing an option will be lost as a result of unanticipated movements in prices of the securities comprising the stock index on which the option is based.

There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and for some options no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If the Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Fund was unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities that it has purchased, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

***Cover for Options Positions.*** Transactions using options (other than options that the Fund has purchased) expose the Fund to an obligation to another party. The Fund will not enter into any such transactions unless it complies with the Derivatives Rule, including any applicable VaR limit, and owns either (i) an offsetting ("covered") position in securities or other options or (ii) cash or liquid investments with a value sufficient at all times to cover its potential obligations not covered as provided in (i) above. The Fund will comply with SEC guidelines regarding cover for these instruments and, if the guidelines so require, set aside cash or liquid investments in a segregated account with the custodian in the prescribed amount. Under current SEC guidelines, the Fund will segregate assets to cover transactions in which the Fund writes or sells options.

Assets used as cover or held in a segregated account cannot be sold while the position in the corresponding option is open unless they are replaced with similar assets. As a result, the commitment of a large portion of the Fund's assets to cover or segregated accounts could impede portfolio management or the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations.

***Dealer Options.*** The Fund may engage in transactions involving dealer options as well as exchange-traded options. Certain additional risks are specific to dealer options. While the Fund might look to a clearing corporation to exercise exchange-traded options, if the Fund were to purchase a dealer option it would need to rely on the dealer from which it purchased the option to perform if the option were exercised. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Fund as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Exchange-traded options generally have a continuous liquid market while dealer options may not. Consequently, the Fund may generally be able to realize the value of a dealer option it has purchased only by exercising or reselling the option to the dealer who issued it. Similarly, when the Fund writes a dealer option, the Fund may generally be able to close out the option prior to its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer to whom the Fund originally wrote the option. While the Fund will seek to enter into dealer options only with dealers who will agree to and which are expected to be capable of entering into closing transactions with the Fund, there can be no assurance that the Fund will at any time be able to liquidate a dealer option at a favorable price at any time prior to expiration. Unless the Fund, as a covered dealer call option writer, is able to effect a closing purchase transaction, it will not be able to liquidate securities (or other assets) used as cover until the option expires or is exercised. In the event of insolvency of the other party, the Fund may be unable to liquidate a dealer option. With respect to options written by the Fund, the inability to enter into a closing transaction may result in material losses to the Fund. For example, because the Fund must maintain a secured position with respect to any call option on a security it writes, the Fund may not sell the assets that it has segregated to secure the position while it is obligated under the option. This requirement may impair the Fund's ability to sell portfolio securities at a time when such sale might be advantageous.

***Spread Transactions.*** The Fund may purchase covered spread options from securities dealers. These covered spread options are not presently exchange-listed or exchange-traded. The purchase of a spread option gives the Fund the right to put securities that it owns at a fixed dollar spread or fixed yield spread in relationship to another security that the Fund does not own, but which is used as a benchmark. The risk to the Fund, in addition to the risks of dealer options described above, is the cost of the premium paid as well as any transaction costs. The purchase of spread options will be used to protect the Fund against adverse changes in prevailing credit quality spreads, i.e., the yield spread between high quality and lower quality securities. This protection is provided only during the life of the spread options.

***Futures Contracts.*** A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific financial instrument (e.g., units of a stock index) for a specified price, date, time and place designated at the time the contract is made. Brokerage fees are paid when a futures contract is bought or sold and margin deposits must be maintained. Entering into a contract to buy is commonly referred to as buying or purchasing a contract or holding a long position. Entering into a contract to sell is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position. Unlike when the Fund purchases or sells a security, no price would be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Upon entering into a futures contract, and to maintain the Fund's open positions in futures contracts, the Fund would be required to deposit with its custodian or futures broker in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of cash, U.S. government securities,

suitable money market instruments, or other liquid investments, known as “initial margin.” The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded, and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margins that may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in underlying instrument or index in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) so that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract so that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Fund. These subsequent payments, called “variation margin,” to and from the futures broker, are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying assets fluctuate making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as “marking to the market.” The Fund expects to earn interest income on any margin deposits. Although certain futures contracts, by their terms, require actual future delivery of and payment for the underlying instruments, in practice most futures contracts are usually closed out before the delivery date. Closing out an open futures contract purchase or sale is effected by entering into an offsetting futures contract sale or purchase, respectively, for the same aggregate amount of the identical underlying instrument or index and the same delivery date. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is more, the Fund realizes a loss. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is less, the Fund realizes a loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If the Fund is not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, the Fund will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract.

Because the Fund will designate on its books or maintain in a separate account liquid assets to satisfy its purchase commitments in the manner described, the Fund’s liquidity and the ability of the Adviser to manage them may be affected in the event the Fund’s forward commitments, commitments to purchase when-issued securities and delayed settlements ever exceeded 15% of the value of its net assets.

Futures trading is speculative and futures prices are highly volatile. Price movements for futures contracts, for example, which may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time, are influenced by numerous factors that affect the securities markets, including: changing supply and demand relationships; government programs and policies; national and international political and economic events and changes in interest rates. Also, the success of many futures trading strategies that use “technical” factors in identifying price moves depends upon the occurrence in the future of price movements. Technical systems will not be profitable and may in fact produce losses if there are no market moves of the kind the system seeks to follow. Any factor that would make it more difficult to execute the trades identified, such as a reduction of liquidity, also would reduce profitability.

Futures trading is highly leveraged. The low margin deposits normally required in trading futures interests permit an extremely high degree of leverage. Accordingly, a relatively small price movement in a futures interest may result in an immediate and substantial loss to the investor. Like other leveraged investments, futures trading may result in losses in excess of the amount invested.

Futures contracts may be classified as illiquid. Most U.S. futures exchanges impose daily limits regulating the maximum amount above or below the previous day’s settlement price which a futures contract price

may fluctuate during a single day. During a single trading day no trades may be executed at prices beyond the daily limit. Once the price of a particular futures contract has increased or decreased to the limit point, it may be difficult, costly or impossible to liquidate a position. Futures prices in particular contracts have occasionally moved the daily limit for several consecutive days with little or no trading. If this occurs, the Fund might be prevented from promptly liquidating unfavorable positions which could result in substantial losses. Those losses could significantly exceed the margin initially committed to the trades involved. In addition, even if prices have not moved the daily limit, or if there are no limits for the contracts traded by the Fund, the Fund may not be able to execute trades at favorable prices if little trading in the contracts is taking place. It is also possible that an exchange or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) may suspend trading in a particular contract, order immediate settlement of a contract or order that trading to the liquidation of open positions only. The CFTC and U.S. exchanges may also impose speculative position limits which, if applicable to the Fund’s trading in futures contracts, could require liquidation of positions that could negatively impact profitability. Futures trading involves counterparty risk. Futures brokers must maintain the Fund’s assets (other than assets used to trade foreign futures or options on foreign markets) in a segregated account. If a futures broker goes bankrupt, the Fund could lose money as it may only be able to recover a pro-rata share of the property available for distribution to all of the broker’s customers. In addition, even if a futures broker adequately segregates the Fund’s assets, the Fund may still be subject to risk of loss of funds on deposit should another customer of the futures broker fail to satisfy deficiencies in such other customer’s account. In addition, trading may occur on foreign exchanges and other non-U.S. markets. Neither existing CFTC regulations nor regulations of any other U.S. governmental agency apply to transactions on foreign markets. The Fund, should it trade futures contracts, is at risk for fluctuations in the exchange rate between the currencies in which it trades and U.S. dollars. It also is possible that exchange controls could be imposed in the future. There is no restriction on how much of the Fund’s trading might be on foreign markets. In addition, if the Fund chooses to exchange a cash, forward or spot market position outside of regular trading hours for a comparable futures position, such transactions are subject to counterparty creditworthiness risk.

***Swap Agreements.*** The Fund may enter into interest rate, index, currency exchange rate and equity swap agreements in an attempt to obtain a particular desired return at a lower cost to the Fund than if it had invested directly in an instrument that yielded that desired return. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for periods ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. In a standard “swap” transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of returns) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. The gross returns to be exchanged or “swapped” between the parties are calculated with respect to a “notional amount,” i.e., the return on or increase in value of a particular dollar amount invested at a particular interest rate, in a particular foreign currency, or in a “basket” of securities representing a particular index. The “notional amount” of the swap agreement is only a fictive basis on which to calculate the obligations the parties to a swap agreement have agreed to exchange. The Fund’s obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement will generally be equal only to the amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the positions held by each party to the agreement (the “net amount”).

Whether the Fund’s use of swap agreements enhances the Fund’s total return will depend on the Adviser’s ability to correctly predict whether certain types of investments are likely to produce greater returns than other investments. Because they are two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be classified as illiquid. Moreover, the Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. The Fund’s Adviser will cause the Fund to enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that would be eligible for consideration as repurchase agreement counterparties under the Fund’s repurchase agreement guidelines. The swap market is a relatively new market and is largely

unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund's ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

Certain swap agreements are exempt from most provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and, therefore, are not regulated as futures or commodity option transactions under the CEA, pursuant to regulations of the CFTC. To qualify for this exemption, a swap agreement must be entered into by "eligible participants," which include the following, provided the participants' total assets exceed established levels: a bank or trust company, savings association or credit union, insurance company, investment company subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, commodity pool, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organization, trust or other entity, employee benefit plan, governmental entity, broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, natural person, or regulated foreign person. To be eligible, natural persons and most other entities must have total assets exceeding \$10 million; commodity pools and employees benefit plans must have assets exceeding \$5 million. In addition, an eligible swap transaction must meet three conditions. First, the swap agreement may not be part of a fungible class of agreements that are standardized as to their material economic terms. Second, the creditworthiness of parties with actual or potential obligations under the swap agreement must be a material consideration in entering into or determining the terms of the swap agreement, including pricing, cost or credit enhancement terms. Third, swap agreements may not be entered into and traded on or through a multilateral transaction execution facility.

**Certain Investment Techniques and Derivatives Risks.** When the Fund uses investment techniques such as margin, leverage and short sales, and forms of financial derivatives, such as options and futures, an investment in the Fund may be more volatile than investments in other mutual funds. Although the intention is to use such investment techniques and derivatives to minimize risk to the Fund, there is the possibility that improper implementation of such techniques and derivative strategies or unusual market conditions could result in significant losses to the Fund. Derivatives are used to limit risk in the Fund or to enhance investment return and have a return tied to a formula based upon an interest rate, index, price of a security, or other measurement. Derivatives involve special risks, including: (1) the risk that interest rates, securities prices and currency markets will not move in the direction that a portfolio manager anticipates; (2) imperfect correlation between the price of derivative instruments and movements in the prices of the securities, interest rates or currencies being hedged; (3) the fact that skills needed to use these strategies are different than those needed to select portfolio securities; (4) the possible absence of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument and possible exchange imposed price fluctuation limits, either of which may make it difficult or impossible to close out a position when desired; (5) the risk that adverse price movements in an instrument can result in a loss substantially greater than the Fund's initial investment in that instrument (in some cases, the potential loss is unlimited); (6) particularly in the case of privately-negotiated instruments, the risk that the counterparty will not perform its obligations, or that penalties could be incurred for positions held less than the required minimum holding period, which could leave the Fund worse off than if it had not entered into the position; and (7) the inability to close out certain hedged positions. In addition, the use of derivatives for non-hedging purposes (that is, to seek to increase total return) is considered a speculative practice and may present an even greater risk of loss than when used for hedging purposes.

### **Fixed Income/Debt/Bond Securities**

Yields on fixed income securities are dependent on a variety of factors, including the general conditions of the money market and other fixed income securities markets, the size of a particular offering, the maturity of the obligation and the rating of the issue. An investment in the Fund will be subjected to risk

even if all fixed income securities in the Fund's portfolio are paid in full at maturity. All fixed income securities, including U.S. Government securities, can change in value when there is a change in interest rates or the issuer's actual or perceived creditworthiness or ability to meet its obligations.

There is normally an inverse relationship between the market value of securities sensitive to prevailing interest rates and actual changes in interest rates. In other words, an increase in interest rates produces a decrease in market value. The longer the remaining maturity (and duration) of a security, the greater will be the effect of interest rate changes on the market value of that security. Changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal and in the markets' perception of an issuer's creditworthiness will also affect the market value of the debt securities of that issuer. Obligations of issuers of fixed income securities (including municipal securities) are subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency, and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors, such as the Federal Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978. In addition, the obligations of municipal issuers may become subject to laws enacted in the future by Congress, state legislatures, or referenda extending the time for payment of principal and/or interest, or imposing other constraints upon enforcement of such obligations or upon the ability of municipalities to levy taxes. Changes in the ability of an issuer to make payments of interest and principal and in the market's perception of an issuer's creditworthiness will also affect the market value of the debt securities of that issuer. The possibility exists, therefore, that, the ability of any issuer to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on its debt securities may become impaired.

The corporate debt securities in which the Fund may invest include corporate bonds and notes and short-term investments such as commercial paper and variable rate demand notes. Commercial paper (short-term promissory notes) is issued by companies to finance their or their affiliate's current obligations and is frequently unsecured. Variable and floating rate demand notes are unsecured obligations redeemable upon not more than 30 days' notice. These obligations include master demand notes that permit investment of fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to a direct arrangement with the issuer of the instrument. The issuer of these obligations often has the right, after a given period, to prepay the outstanding principal amount of the obligations upon a specified number of days' notice. These obligations generally are not traded, nor generally is there an established secondary market for these obligations. To the extent a demand note does not have a 7-day or shorter demand feature and there is no readily available market for the obligation, it is treated as an illiquid investment.

The Fund may invest in debt securities, including non-investment grade debt securities. The following describes some of the risks associated with fixed income debt securities:

***Interest Rate Risk.*** Debt securities have varying levels of sensitivity to changes in interest rates. In general, the price of a debt security can fall when interest rates rise and can rise when interest rates fall. Securities with longer maturities and mortgage securities can be more sensitive to interest rate changes although they usually offer higher yields to compensate investors for the greater risks. The longer the maturity of the security, the greater the impact a change in interest rates could have on the security's price. In addition, short-term and long-term interest rates do not necessarily move in the same amount or the same direction. Short-term securities tend to react to changes in short-term interest rates and long-term securities tend to react to changes in long-term interest rates.

***Credit Risk.*** Fixed income securities of issuers with lower credit quality have speculative characteristics and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of those issuers to make principal or interest payments, as compared to issuers of more highly rated securities of issuers with higher credit quality.

**Extension Risk.** The Fund is subject to the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund (such as mortgage-backed securities) later than expected. This may happen when there is a rise in interest rates. These events may lengthen the duration (i.e. interest rate sensitivity) and potentially reduce the value of these securities.

**Prepayment Risk.** Certain types of debt securities, such as mortgage-backed securities, have yield and maturity characteristics corresponding to underlying assets. Unlike traditional debt securities, which may pay a fixed rate of interest until maturity when the entire principal amount comes due, payments on certain mortgage-backed securities may include both interest and a partial payment of principal. Besides the scheduled repayment of principal, payments of principal may result from the voluntary prepayment, refinancing, or foreclosure of the underlying mortgage loans.

Securities subject to prepayment are less effective than other types of securities as a means of “locking in” attractive long-term interest rates. One reason is the need to reinvest prepayments of principal; another is the possibility of significant unscheduled prepayments resulting from declines in interest rates. These prepayments would have to be reinvested at lower rates. As a result, these securities may have less potential for capital appreciation during periods of declining interest rates than other securities of comparable maturities, although they may have a similar risk of decline in market value during periods of rising interest rates. Prepayments may also significantly shorten the effective maturities of these securities, especially during periods of declining interest rates. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, a reduction in prepayments may increase the effective maturities of these securities, subjecting them to a greater risk of decline in market value in response to rising interest rates than traditional debt securities, and, therefore, potentially increasing the volatility of the Fund.

At times, some of the mortgage-backed securities in which the Fund may invest will have higher than market interest rates and therefore will be purchased at a premium above their par value. Prepayments may cause losses in securities purchased at a premium, as unscheduled prepayments, which are made at par, will cause the Fund to experience a loss equal to any unamortized premium.

**FLEX Options.** The Fund may write CBOE Flexible Exchange Options (“FLEX Options”), which are customized index option contracts made available by the Chicago Board Options Exchange (“CBOE”). FLEX Options allow the Fund to customize contract terms to more closely match the requirements of the investment strategy, versus what could be obtained by using standardized exchange-traded options. FLEX Options minimize counterparty credit risk, as the Options Clearing Corporation (the “OCC”, or the “Clearinghouse”) is the issuer and guarantor of all FLEX Options contracts. The FLEX Options utilized by the Fund generally have a term of up to one year and are based upon the returns of an index or an ETF that tracks the performance of an index. As with more traditional options, FLEX Options are derivative instruments that allow for the use of economic leverage without incurring risk beyond the amount of premium and related fees paid for the FLEX Option. FLEX Options are cash-settled instruments. Upon the expiration of a FLEX Option, the Fund receives a cash payment from the Clearinghouse, which is based on the difference in the value of the index and the predetermined strike price. FLEX Options may also be sold prior to their expiration date, through open-outcry trading on the trading floor of CBOE.

## **Illiquid Investments**

The Fund may not acquire any illiquid investment if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment means any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the

investment. If illiquid investments exceed 15% of the Fund's net assets, certain remedial actions will be taken as required by Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act and the Fund's policies and procedures.

The Fund may not be able to sell illiquid investments when the Adviser considers it desirable to do so or may have to sell such investments at a price that is lower than the price that could be obtained if the securities were more liquid. In addition, the sale of illiquid investments also may require more time and may result in higher dealer discounts and other selling expenses than does the sale of investments that are not illiquid. Illiquid investments also may be more difficult to value due to the unavailability of reliable market quotations for such securities, and investment in illiquid investments may have an adverse impact on NAV.

### **When-issued securities**

A when-issued security is one whose terms are available and for which a market exists, but which has not been issued. When the Fund engages in when-issued transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the sale. If the other party fails to complete the sale, the Fund may miss the opportunity to obtain the security at a favorable price or yield. When purchasing a security on a when-issued basis, the Fund assumes the rights and risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield changes. At the time of settlement, the value of the security may be more or less than the purchase price. The yield available in the market when the delivery takes place also may be higher than those obtained in the transaction itself. Because the Fund does not pay for the security until the delivery date, these risks are in addition to the risks associated with its other investments.

Decisions to enter into "when-issued" transactions will be considered on a case-by-case basis when necessary to maintain continuity in a company's index membership. The Fund will segregate cash or liquid securities equal in value to commitments for the when-issued transactions. The Fund will segregate additional liquid assets daily so that the value of such assets is equal to the amount of the commitments.

### **Other Short-Term Instruments**

The Fund may invest in short-term instruments, including money market instruments, on an ongoing basis to provide liquidity or for other reasons. Money market instruments are generally short-term investments that may include but are not limited to: (i) shares of money market funds; (ii) obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities (including government-sponsored enterprises); (iii) negotiable certificates of deposit ("CDs"), bankers' acceptances, fixed time deposits and other obligations of U.S. and foreign banks (including foreign branches) and similar institutions; (iv) commercial paper rated at the date of purchase "Prime-1" by Moody's or "A-1" by S&P or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by the Adviser; (v) non-convertible corporate debt securities (e.g., bonds and debentures) with remaining maturities at the date of purchase of not more than 397 days and that satisfy the rating requirements set forth in Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act; and (vi) short-term U.S. dollar-denominated obligations of foreign banks (including U.S. branches) that, in the opinion of the Adviser, are of comparable quality to obligations of U.S. banks which may be purchased by the Fund. Any of these instruments may be purchased on a current or a forward-settled basis. Money market instruments also include shares of money market funds. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates. Bankers' acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions.

## **U.S. Government Securities**

The Fund may invest in U.S. government securities. Securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities include U.S. Treasury securities, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury and which differ only in their interest rates, maturities, and times of issuance. U.S. Treasury bills have initial maturities of one-year or less; U.S. Treasury notes have initial maturities of one to ten years; and U.S. Treasury bonds generally have initial maturities of greater than ten years. Certain U.S. government securities are issued or guaranteed by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government including, but not limited to, obligations of U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”), the Small Business Administration, the Federal Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Home Loan Banks, Banks for Cooperatives (including the Central Bank for Cooperatives), the Federal Land Banks, the Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Federal Financing Bank, the Student Loan Marketing Association, the National Credit Union Administration and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (“Farmer Mac”).

Some obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities, including, for example, Ginnie Mae pass-through certificates, are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Other obligations issued by or guaranteed by federal agencies, such as those securities issued by Fannie Mae, are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase certain obligations of the federal agency, while other obligations issued by or guaranteed by federal agencies, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, while the U.S. government provides financial support to such U.S. government-sponsored federal agencies, no assurance can be given that the U.S. government will always do so, since the U.S. government is not so obligated by law. U.S. Treasury notes and bonds typically pay coupon interest semi-annually and repay the principal at maturity.

On September 7, 2008, the U.S. Treasury announced a federal takeover of Fannie Mae and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”), placing the two federal instrumentalities in conservatorship. Under the takeover, the U.S. Treasury agreed to acquire \$1 billion of senior preferred stock of each instrumentality and obtained warrants for the purchase of common stock of each instrumentality (the “Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement” or “Agreement”). Under the Agreement, the U.S. Treasury pledged to provide up to \$200 billion per instrumentality as needed, including the contribution of cash capital to the instrumentalities in the event their liabilities exceed their assets. This was intended to ensure that the instrumentalities maintain a positive net worth and meet their financial obligations, preventing mandatory triggering of receivership. On December 24, 2009, the U.S. Treasury announced that it was amending the Agreement to allow the \$200 billion cap on the U.S. Treasury’s funding commitment to increase as necessary to accommodate any cumulative reduction in net worth over the next three years. As a result of this Agreement, the investments of holders, including the Fund, of mortgage-backed securities and other obligations issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are protected.

The total public debt of the United States as a percentage of gross domestic product has grown rapidly since the beginning of the 2008-2009 financial downturn. Although high debt levels do not necessarily indicate or cause economic problems, they may create certain systemic risks if sound debt management practices are not implemented. A high national debt can raise concerns that the U.S. government will not be able to make principal or interest payments when they are due. This increase has also necessitated the need for the U.S. Congress to negotiate adjustments to the statutory debt limit to increase the cap on the

amount the U.S. government is permitted to borrow to meet its existing obligations and finance current budget deficits. In August 2011, S&P lowered its long-term sovereign credit rating on the U.S. In explaining the downgrade at that time, S&P cited, among other reasons, controversy over raising the statutory debt limit and growth in public spending. Any controversy or ongoing uncertainty regarding the statutory debt ceiling negotiations may impact the U.S. long-term sovereign credit rating and may cause market uncertainty. As a result, market prices and yields of securities supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government may be adversely affected. In August 2023, Fitch Ratings downgraded its long-term foreign credit issuer default rating on the U.S. to AA+ from AAA, citing expected fiscal deterioration over the next three years.

### **Liquidation of the Fund**

The Board may determine to close and liquidate the Fund at any time, which may have adverse tax consequences to shareholders. In the event of the liquidation of the Fund, shareholders will receive a liquidating distribution in cash or in-kind equal to their proportionate interest in the Fund. A liquidating distribution would generally be a taxable event to shareholders, resulting in a gain or loss for tax purposes, depending upon a shareholder's basis in his or her shares of the Fund. A shareholder of the liquidating Fund will not be entitled to any refund or reimbursement of expenses borne, directly or indirectly, by the shareholder (such as sales loads, account fees, or fund expenses), and a shareholder may receive an amount in liquidation less than the shareholder's original investment.

### **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The investment restrictions applicable to the Fund are set forth below and are either fundamental or non-fundamental. Fundamental restrictions may not be changed without a majority vote of shareholders as required by the 1940 Act. Non-fundamental policies or restrictions may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval.

#### **Fundamental Investment Restrictions**

The Trust (on behalf of the Fund) has adopted the following restrictions as fundamental policies, which may not be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a "majority" of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Under the 1940 Act, the "vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities" means the vote of the holders of the lesser of (i) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund present at a meeting at which the holders of more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares are present or represented by proxy or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

As a matter of fundamental policy:

1. The Fund may not lend money or other assets except to the extent permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.
2. The Fund may not borrow money, except as permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.

3. The Fund may not issue senior securities except as permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.
4. The Fund will, under normal circumstances, concentrate its investments in the securities of issuers in the tobacco industry. The Fund may invest without limitation in: (i) securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities; (ii) tax-exempt obligations of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions; (iii) securities of other investment companies; and (iv) repurchase agreements.
5. The Fund may not purchase or sell real estate, except as permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority (although the Fund may purchase and sell securities which are secured by real estate and securities of companies which invest or deal in real estate, such as REITs).
6. The Fund may not buy or sell commodities or commodity (futures) contracts, except as permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.
7. The Fund may not engage in the business of underwriting the securities of other issuers except as permitted by (i) the 1940 Act, or interpretations or modifications by the SEC, SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, or (ii) exemptive or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority, and except to the extent that the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act in connection with the purchase and sale of portfolio securities.
8. The Fund may not make investments for the purpose of exercising control or acquiring management of a company.

### **Percentage and Rating Restrictions**

Except with respect to borrowing, all percentage or rating restrictions on an investment or use of assets set forth herein or in the Prospectus are adhered to at the time of investment. Later changes in the percentage or rating resulting from any cause other than actions by the Fund will not be considered a violation of the Fund's investment restrictions. If the value of the Fund's holdings of illiquid investments at any time exceeds the percentage limitation applicable due to subsequent fluctuations in value or other reasons, the Board will consider what actions are appropriate to maintain adequate liquidity.

### **Additional Information Regarding Fundamental Investment Restrictions**

Certain relevant limitations of the 1940 Act are described below and may assist investors in understanding the above policies and restrictions. These limitations are based either on the 1940 Act itself, the rules or regulations thereunder or applicable orders of the SEC. In addition, interpretations and guidance provided by the SEC staff may be taken into account, where deemed appropriate by the Fund, to determine if a certain practice or the purchase of securities or other instruments is permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules or regulations thereunder, or applicable orders of the SEC. As a result, the foregoing

fundamental investment restrictions may be interpreted differently over time as the statute, rules, regulations, or orders (or, if applicable, interpretations) that relate to the meaning and effect of these policies change, and no shareholder vote will be required or sought when such changes permit or require a resulting change in practice.

**Lending.** The 1940 Act does not prohibit a fund from making loans (including lending its securities); however, SEC staff interpretations currently prohibit funds from lending more than one-third of their total assets (including lending its securities), except through the purchase of debt obligations or the use of repurchase agreements. In addition, collateral arrangements with respect to options, forward currency and futures transactions and other derivative instruments (as applicable), as well as delays in the settlement of securities transactions, will not be considered loans.

For purposes of the Fund's fundamental investment restriction with respect to lending, the entry into repurchase agreements, lending securities and acquiring of debt securities shall not constitute loans by the Fund.

**Senior Securities and Borrowing.** The 1940 Act prohibits the Fund from issuing any class of senior securities or selling any senior securities of which it is the issuer, except that the Fund is permitted to borrow from a bank so long as, immediately after such borrowings, there is an asset coverage of at least 300% for all borrowings of the Fund (not including borrowings for temporary purposes in an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets). In the event that such asset coverage falls below this percentage, the Fund is required to reduce the amount of its borrowings within three days (not including Sundays and holidays) so that the asset coverage is restored to at least 300%. Asset coverage means the ratio that the value of a fund's total assets (including amounts borrowed), minus liabilities other than borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all borrowings. Borrowing money to increase portfolio holdings is known as "leveraging." In addition, Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act permits a fund to enter into derivatives transactions, notwithstanding the prohibitions and restrictions on the issuance of senior securities under the 1940 Act, provided that the fund complies with the conditions of Rule 18f-4.

**Concentration.** The SEC staff has defined concentration as investing 25% or more of a fund's total assets in any particular industry or group of industries, with certain exceptions such as with respect to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies and instrumentalities, or tax-exempt obligations of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions. The SEC staff has further maintained that a fund should consider the underlying investments, where easily determined, of investment companies in which the fund is invested when determining concentration of the fund. For purposes of the Fund's concentration policy, the Fund may classify and re-classify companies in a particular industry and define and re-define industries in any reasonable manner, consistent with SEC and SEC staff guidance. In this regard, the Adviser may analyze the characteristics of a particular issuer and instrument and may assign an industry classification consistent with those characteristics. The Adviser may, but need not, consider industry classifications provided by third parties.

**Underwriting.** The 1940 Act does not prohibit a fund from engaging in the underwriting business or from underwriting the securities of other issuers; in fact, in the case of diversified funds, the 1940 Act permits a fund to have underwriting commitments of up to 25% of its assets under certain circumstances. Those circumstances currently are that the amount of a fund's underwriting commitments, when added to the value of the fund's investments in issuers where the fund owns more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of those issuers, cannot exceed the 25% cap.

**Commodities.** The 1940 Act neither permits nor prohibits a fund from investing in commodities or commodity (futures) contracts.

**Non-Diversification.** Under the 1940 Act and the rules, regulations and interpretations thereunder, an investment company is a “diversified company” if, as to 75% of its total assets, it does not purchase securities of any issuer (other than obligations of, or guaranteed by, the U.S. government or its agencies, or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies) if, as a result, more than 5% of its total assets would be invested in the securities of such issuer, or more than 10% of the issuer’s voting securities would be held by the investment company. For purposes of the Fund’s diversification policy, the identification of the issuer of a security may be determined in any reasonable manner, consistent with SEC guidance. The Fund is non-diversified, which means that there is no restriction under the 1940 Act on how much the Fund may invest in the securities of one issuer. As a non-diversified investment company, the Fund may be subject to greater risks than diversified companies because of the larger impact of fluctuation in the values of securities of fewer issues.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

The frequency of the Fund’s portfolio transactions (the portfolio turnover rate) will vary from year to year depending on many factors. Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Adviser, investment considerations warrant such action. Higher portfolio turnover rates may result in increased brokerage costs to the Fund and a possible increase in short-term capital gains or losses. Prior to the date of this SAI, the Fund had not commenced operations and therefore does not have any portfolio turnover information available.

## **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

The Trust’s Board has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of information about the Fund’s security holdings. The Fund’s entire portfolio holdings are publicly disseminated each day the Fund is open for business through financial reporting and news services including publicly available internet web sites. In addition, the composition of the in-kind creation basket and the in-kind redemption basket is publicly disseminated daily prior to the opening of the Exchange (as defined below) via the National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”).

Greater than daily access to information concerning the Fund’s portfolio holdings will be permitted (i) to certain personnel of service providers to the Fund involved in portfolio management and providing administrative, operational, risk management, or other support to portfolio management, and (ii) to other personnel of the Fund’s service providers who deal directly with, or assist in, functions related to investment management, administration, custody and fund accounting, as may be necessary to conduct business in the ordinary course, agreements with the Fund, and the terms of the Trust’s current registration statement. From time to time, and in the ordinary course of business, such information may also be disclosed (i) to other entities that provide services to the Fund, including pricing information vendors, and third parties that deliver analytical, statistical or consulting services to the Fund and (ii) generally after it has been disseminated to the NSCC.

The Fund will disclose its complete portfolio holdings in public filings with the SEC on a quarterly basis, based on the Fund’s fiscal year-end, within 60 days of the end of the quarter, and will provide that information to shareholders, as required by federal securities laws and regulations thereunder.

No person is authorized to disclose any of the Fund’s portfolio holdings or other investment positions (whether in writing, by fax, by e-mail, orally, or by other means) except in accordance with this policy.

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer may authorize disclosure of portfolio holdings. The Board reviews the implementation of this policy on a periodic basis.

## EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING

A discussion of exchange listing and trading matters associated with an investment in the Fund is contained in the Prospectus. The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, the Prospectus.

The shares of the Fund are listed on the Exchange and trade on the Exchange at market prices. These prices may differ from the Fund's NAV per share. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of shares of the Fund will continue to be met.

The Exchange will consider the suspension of trading in, and will initiate delisting procedures of, the shares of the Fund under any of the following circumstances: (1) if the Exchange becomes aware that the Fund is no longer eligible to operate in reliance on Rule 6c-11 under the 1940 Act; (2) if the Fund no longer complies with the relevant requirements in the Exchange's rules; (3) if, following the initial twelve-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of the Fund on the Exchange, there are fewer than 50 record and/or beneficial holders of the shares; or (4) such other event occurs or condition exists that, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable.

The Trust reserves the right to adjust the share price of the Fund in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of the Fund.

As in the case of other publicly traded securities, brokers' commissions on transactions will be based on negotiated commission rates at customary levels.

The base and trading currencies of the Fund is the U.S. dollar. The base currency is the currency in which the Fund's NAV per share is calculated and the trading currency is the currency in which shares of the Fund are listed and traded on the Exchange.

## TRUSTEES AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Board oversees the management and operations of the Trust. The Board, in turn, elects the officers of the Trust, who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Trust and its separate series. The current Trustees and officers of the Trust, their year of birth, positions with the Trust, terms of office with the Trust and length of time served, principal occupations during the past five years and other directorships are set forth in the table below. Unless noted otherwise, the principal business address of each Trustee is c/o U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

Name and Year of Birth	Positions with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served	Principal Occupations During Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex <sup>(2)</sup> Overseen by Trustees	Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years
<b>Independent Trustees of the Trust<sup>(1)</sup></b>					

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Positions with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupations During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(2)</sup> Overseen by Trustees</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years</b>
Koji Felton (born 1961)	Chair and Trustee	Indefinite Term; Chair since April 2025; Trustee since September 2015.	Retired.	1	Independent Trustee, Listed Funds Trust (41 portfolios) (Since 2019).
Debra McGinty-Poteet (born 1956)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since September 2015.	Retired.	1	Lead Independent Trustee, F/m Funds Trust (4 portfolios) (2015 - 2023).
Daniel B. Willey (born 1955)	Trustee	Indefinite Term; Trustee since September 2015.	Retired.	1	None
<b>Officers of the Trust</b>					
Ryan L. Roell (born 1973)	President and Principal Executive Officer	Indefinite Term; Since July 2019.	Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (since 2005).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Douglas Schafer (born 1970)	Vice President, Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2023	Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (since 2002).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Donna Barrette (born 1966)	Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and Anti-Money Laundering Officer	Indefinite Term; Since November 2019.	Senior Vice President and Compliance Officer, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (since 2004).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<b>Name and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Positions with the Trust</b>	<b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupations During Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex<sup>(2)</sup> Overseen by Trustees</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held During Past Five Years</b>
Adam W. Smith (born 1981)	Secretary	Indefinite Term; Since June 2019.	Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (since 2012).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Leone Logan (born 1986)	Assistant Treasurer	Indefinite Term; Since October 2023	Officer, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (since 2022); Senior Financial Reporting Analyst, BNY Mellon (2014 - 2022).	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

<sup>(1)</sup> The Trustees of the Trust who are not “interested persons” of the Trust as defined by the 1940 Act (“Independent Trustees”).

<sup>(2)</sup> As of the date of this SAI, the Trust was comprised of 13 portfolios ( not including the Fund) managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term “Fund Complex” applies only to the Fund. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for investment purposes, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series within the Trust.

## **Additional Information Concerning the Board of Trustees**

### *The Role of the Board*

The Board oversees the management and operations of the Trust. Similar to other registered investment companies, the day-to-day management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of the various service providers to the Trust, such as the Adviser, the Distributor, the Administrator, the Custodian, and the Transfer Agent, each of whom are discussed in greater detail in this SAI. The Board has appointed various senior employees of the Administrator as officers of the Trust, with responsibility to monitor and report to the Board on the Trust’s operations. In conducting this oversight, the Board receives regular reports from these officers and the service providers. For example, the Treasurer provides reports as to financial reporting matters and the President provides reports as to matters relating to the Trust’s operations. In addition, the Adviser provides regular reports on the investment strategy and performance of the Fund. The Board has appointed a CCO who administers the Trust’s compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters. These reports are provided as part of formal “Board Meetings” which are typically held quarterly, in person, and involve the Board’s review of recent operations. In addition, various members of the Board also meet with management in less formal settings, between formal “Board Meetings,” to discuss various topics. In all cases, however, the role of the Board and of any individual Trustee is one of oversight and not of management of the day-to-day affairs of the

Trust and its oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Trust's investments, operations or activities.

### *Board Structure, Leadership*

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to perform its oversight function effectively. The Board is comprised of three Independent Trustees - Mr. Koji Felton, Ms. Debra McGinty-Poteet, and Mr. Daniel Willey. Accordingly, all of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, Trustees that are not affiliated with the Adviser or any sub-adviser to the funds of the Trust, affiliates of the Adviser or any sub-adviser to the funds of the Trust, the principal underwriter or its affiliates, or other service providers to the funds of the Trust. Mr. Felton serves as Independent Board Chair. The Board has established two standing committees: a Governance and Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee, which also serves as the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee ("QLCC"), which are discussed in greater detail below under "Trust Committees." The Governance and Nominating Committee, Audit Committee and QLCC are comprised entirely of Independent Trustees. The Independent Trustees have engaged independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust.

The President and Principal Executive Officer of the Trust are not Trustees, but rather are a senior employee of the Administrator who routinely interacts with the unaffiliated investment advisers of the Trust and comprehensively manages the operational aspects of the funds in the Trust. The Trust has determined that it is appropriate to separate the Principal Executive Officer and Chair of the Board positions because the day-to-day responsibilities of the Principal Executive Officer are not consistent with the oversight role of the Trustees and because of the potential conflict of interest that may arise from the Administrator's duties with the Trust. The Board reviews its structure and the structure of its committees annually. Given the specific characteristics of the Trust, as described above, the Board has determined that the structure of the Independent Chair, the composition of the Board, and the function and composition of its various committees are appropriate means to address any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

### *Board Oversight of Risk Management*

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised of many elements (*e.g.*, investment risk, issuer and counterparty risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.), the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the Audit Committee meets with the Treasurer and the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Trust's financial reporting function. The Board meets regularly with the CCO to discuss compliance and operational risks and how they are managed. The Board also receives reports from the Adviser as to investment risks of the Fund. In addition to these reports, from time to time the Board receives reports from the Administrator and the Adviser as to enterprise risk management.

The Board oversees the Fund's liquidity risk through, among other things, receiving periodic reporting from the CCO. Additionally, as required by Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act, the Trust implemented a liquidity risk management program (the "Liquidity Program") pursuant to the provisions of Rule 22e-4, as it relates to the Fund. The Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, approved the designation of a liquidity risk management program administrator (the "Liquidity Program Administrator") who is responsible for administering the Liquidity Program. The Board reviews, no less

frequently than annually, a written report prepared by the Liquidity Program Administrator that addresses the operation of the Liquidity Program and assesses its adequacy and effectiveness of implementation.

*Information about Each Trustee's Qualification, Experience, Attributes or Skills*

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills ("Trustee Attributes") appropriate to their continued service as Trustees of the Trust in light of the Trust's business and structure. The Board annually conducts a "self-assessment" wherein the effectiveness of the Board and individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the chart above, below is certain additional information concerning each particular Trustee and his/her Trustee Attributes. The information is not all-inclusive. Many Trustee Attributes involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests.

***Koji Felton.*** Mr. Felton has served as a Trustee since the Trust's inception in 2015, and as the Independent Board Chair since 2025. Mr. Felton has substantial experience with the mutual fund industry and familiarity with federal securities laws and regulations. Mr. Felton's prior experience includes serving as Director and Counsel for KKR Credit Advisors LLC, the asset manager arm of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. L.P. (2013 – 2015). Prior to that Mr. Felton served as counsel in the Financial Services Group at Dechert LLP from (2011 – 2013), as well as in various capacities, and ultimately as Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for mutual funds, at Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (1998 – 2011). Mr. Felton also worked as a staff attorney and served as an Enforcement Branch Chief for the San Francisco District Office of the SEC (1992 – 1998). Mr. Felton began his career as a litigation associate specializing in securities and banking litigation at Shearman & Sterling (1986 – 1992).

***Debra McGinty-Poteet.*** Ms. McGinty-Poteet has served as a Trustee since the Trust's inception in 2015 and has significant mutual fund industry experience, including her current and prior experience on mutual fund boards. Ms. McGinty-Poteet also served as Lead Independent Trustee and Chair of the Audit Committee for F/m Funds Trust (2015 – 2023). Prior to becoming a Trustee of the Trust, Ms. McGinty-Poteet served as the President, Chair of the Board, and Interested Trustee for Brandes Investment Trust where she also oversaw the proprietary and sub-advisory mutual fund business for Brandes Investment Advisors (1999 – 2012). Ms. McGinty-Poteet previously served as Chief Operating Officer of North American Trust Company (1997 – 1998); Global Managing Director of Mutual Funds at Bank of America (1992 – 1996); and in various capacities, and ultimately as Global Head of Mutual Funds, at Security Pacific Bank (1982 – 1992).

***Daniel Willey.*** Mr. Willey has served as a Trustee since the Trust's inception in 2015 and has significant work history and experience in the investment management industry. As a chief compliance officer, Mr. Willey has valuable experience in an oversight role and in working with regulatory compliance matters. Mr. Willey served as the Chief Compliance Officer of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (2009 - 2017). Prior to this role, Mr. Willey served as the Chief Operating and Chief Compliance Officer of Barrett Associates, Inc. (investment adviser and affiliate of Legg Mason) (2007 – 2009); President and Chief Executive Officer of TIMCO, Citigroup Asset Management (2004 – 2006); Head Equity Trader of TIMCO (1994 – 2004); Vice President, Shawmut National Bank (1992 – 1994); Investment Officer, State of Connecticut (1990 – 1992); Vice President, Bank of New England (Connecticut Bank & Trust) (1981 – 1990); Registered Representative, Tucker Anthony and R.L. Day, Inc. (1979 – 1981); and Assistant Analyst, The Travelers Insurance Company (1977 – 1979).

## **Trust Committees**

The Trust has two standing committees: the Governance and Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee, which also serves as the QLCC.

The Governance and Nominating Committee, comprised of all the Independent Trustees, is responsible for making recommendations to the Board regarding various governance-related aspects of the Board's responsibilities and seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for Trustees and meets only as necessary. The Governance and Nominating Committee will consider nominees nominated by shareholders. Recommendations by shareholders for consideration by the Governance and Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust Bylaws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required biographical information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive offices of the Trust no less than 120 days and no more than 150 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. The Governance and Nominating Committee has not held any meetings with respect to the Fund as of the date of this SAI.

The Audit Committee is comprised of all of the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee generally meets on a quarterly basis with respect to the various series of the Trust, and may meet more frequently. The function of the Audit Committee, with respect to each series of the Trust, is to review the scope and results of the audit of such series' financial statements and any matters bearing on the audit or the financial statements, and to ensure the integrity of the series' pricing and financial reporting. The Audit Committee has not held any meetings with respect to the Fund as of the date of this SAI.

The function of the QLCC is to receive reports from an attorney retained by the Trust of evidence of a material violation by the Trust or by any officer, director, employee or agent of the Trust.

## **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares and Other Interests**

No Trustee beneficially owned shares of the Fund as of December 31, 2024, which is prior to the inception date of the Fund. Furthermore, neither the Independent Trustees nor members of their immediate family, own securities beneficially or of record in the Adviser, the Fund's principal underwriter, or any of their affiliates as of the same date.

## **Compensation**

Independent Trustees each receive an annual retainer of \$90,000. Independent Trustees will also be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses in connection with each Board meeting attended. These reimbursements will be allocated among applicable portfolios of the Trust. Trustee compensation disclosed in the table does not include these reimbursements. The Trust has no pension or retirement plan. Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement (as defined below), the Adviser has agreed to pay all expenses of the Fund, except those specified in the Prospectus. As a result, Independent Trustees are compensated out of the unified management fee paid to the Adviser by the Fund.

Because the Fund had not commenced operations prior to the date of this SAI, the following compensation figures represent estimates for the Fund’s current fiscal year ending October 31, 2026:

Name of Person/ Position	Aggregate Compensation From the Fund <sup>(1)</sup>	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund and Fund Complex <sup>(2)</sup> Paid to Trustees
Koji Felton, Independent Trustee	\$2,812	None	None	\$2,812
Debra McGinty Poteet, Independent Trustee	\$2,812	None	None	\$2,812
Daniel Willey, Independent Trustee	\$2,812	None	None	\$2,812

<sup>(1)</sup> Trustees’ fees and expenses are allocated among the Fund and all other series comprising the Trust.

<sup>(2)</sup> As of the date of this SAI, the Trust was comprised of 13 portfolios (including the Fund) managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term “Fund Complex” applies only to the Fund, and not to other series of the Trust. For the period ending October 31, 2026, estimated aggregate Independent Trustees’ fees and expenses amounts to \$135,000.

### Codes of Ethics

The Trust, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and the distributor have each adopted a separate code of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These codes of ethics permit, subject to certain conditions, personnel of the Adviser and distributor to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (the “Trust Proxy Policies”) on behalf of the Trust which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies to the Adviser or its designee, subject to the Board’s continuing oversight. The Trust’s Proxy Policies require that the Adviser or its designee vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. The Trust Proxy Policies also require the Adviser to present to the Board, at least annually, the Adviser’s proxy policies and a record of each proxy voted by the Adviser on behalf of the Fund, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Adviser as involving a conflict of interest.

The Adviser has adopted proxy policies, which may be amended from time to time. In voting proxies, the Adviser is guided by fiduciary principles. All proxies are to be voted solely in the best interests of the beneficial owners of the securities. A copy of the Adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures is attached to this SAI as Appendix A.

The Trust is required to file a Form N-PX, with the Fund’s complete proxy voting record for the 12 months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. Form N-PX for the Fund will be available on the Fund’s website at [www.hexis.capital](http://www.hexis.capital), without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free 1-800-617-0004 and on the SEC’s website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### CONTROL PERSONS, PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS AND MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or is known by the Trust to own beneficially 5% or more of any class of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund. A control person is any person who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control.

Because the Fund had not commenced operations prior to the date of this SAI, there are no principal shareholders or control persons of the Fund as of the date of this SAI and the Trustees and officers of the Trust as a group did not own more than 1% of the outstanding shares of any class of the Fund.

## **THE FUND'S INVESTMENT ADVISER AND SUB-ADVISER**

### **Investment Adviser**

As stated in the Prospectus, investment advisory services are provided to the Fund by Hexis Capital Management Limited pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement").

The Adviser is responsible for the overall design, development, and ongoing oversight of the Fund's investment program. The Adviser determines the Fund's strategic investment guidelines, target portfolio composition, and stock-selection framework and provides investment recommendations consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies. The Adviser also oversees the Sub-Adviser's implementation of the Fund's investment strategy, monitors compliance with investment guidelines, and evaluates the Sub-Adviser's performance. The Adviser acts as the Fund's "valuation designee" under Rule 2a-5 of the 1940 Act, responsible for the oversight and approval of valuation policies and procedures, but not for trade execution.

As compensation, the Fund will pay the Adviser a monthly unified management fee (accrued daily) based upon the average daily net assets of the Fund at the annual rate of 0.70%.

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser has agreed to pay all expenses of the Fund except for the fee paid to the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, and expense charges on any borrowings, dividends and other expenses on securities sold short, taxes brokerage commissions and other expenses incurred in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities and other investment instruments, acquired fund fees and expenses, accrued deferred tax liability, extraordinary expenses (as defined in Form N-1A) of the Fund, compensation and other costs and expenses attributable to the Independent Trustees of the Trust, and distribution fees and expenses paid by the Fund under any distribution plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act.

After an initial two year period, the Advisory Agreement continues in effect from year to year only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and by a majority of the Independent Trustees, who are not parties to the Advisory Agreement or interested persons of any such party, in each case cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Advisory Agreement. The Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on behalf of the Fund on not more than 60 days', nor less than 30 days', written notice to the Adviser when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by a vote of a majority of the Trustees, or by the Adviser on not more than 60 days' written notice to the Trust, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as defined in the 1940 Act). The Advisory Agreement provides that the Adviser shall not be liable under such agreement for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution of portfolio transactions for the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence in the performance of its duties, or by reason of reckless disregard of its obligations and duties thereunder.

Because the Fund commenced operations on or about the date of this SAI, the Fund neither paid nor accrued any management fees during the last three fiscal years.

### **Sub-Adviser**

The Adviser has retained Penserra Capital Management LLC (the “Sub-Adviser”), to serve as sub-adviser for the Fund. The Sub-Adviser is located at 4 Orinda Way, Suite 100-A, Orinda, California 94563. The Sub-Adviser is an SEC-registered investment adviser.

Pursuant to a Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Trust, the Adviser, and the Sub-Adviser (the “Sub-Advisory Agreement”), the Sub-Adviser is responsible for day-to-day portfolio management, including making investment decisions, selecting broker-dealers, and placing all orders to purchase and sell portfolio securities on behalf of the Fund.

The Sub-Adviser manages the Fund’s portfolio in accordance with the investment guidelines, target portfolio parameters, and compliance constraints established by the Adviser and approved by the Board. The Sub-Adviser provides the Adviser and the Board with reports and data regarding portfolio holdings and performance as reasonably requested.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in effect for an initial period of two years. Thereafter, the Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in effect with respect to the Fund only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities and by a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Sub-Advisory Agreement or interested persons of any such party, at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Sub-Advisory Agreement. The Sub-Advisory Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment, and is terminable at any time without penalty by the Board or, with respect to the Fund, by a majority of the outstanding shares, or by the Adviser, in each case upon 60 days’ written notice to the Sub-Adviser, or by the Sub-Adviser on 60 days’ written notice to the Adviser and the Trust. The Sub-Advisory Agreement provides that the Sub-Adviser shall not be liable for any action or inaction of the Sub-Adviser relating to any event whatsoever in the absence of bad faith, willful misfeasance or gross negligence in the performance of or the reckless disregard of the Sub-Adviser’s duties or obligations under the Sub-Advisory Agreement.

### **Portfolio Managers**

The Adviser is responsible for the formulation, oversight, and ongoing refinement of the Fund’s investment process. Acting within its advisory capacity, Hexis determines the Fund’s target portfolio composition and structure, including the thematic focus, asset allocation guidelines, and stock selection recommendations that define the Fund’s investment program. The Adviser provides the Sub-Adviser with strategic guidance and research-driven insights intended to align portfolio implementation with the Fund’s stated investment objectives.

The Fund’s investment program and strategic research process are directed by Pieter Vorster, Chief Executive Officer, and Jonathan Fell, Head of Research & Engagement, as the Adviser. In their respective capacities, they oversee the development of the Fund’s investment philosophy, determine the target portfolio parameters, and provide ongoing oversight and evaluation of the Sub-Adviser’s implementation consistent with the Adviser’s investment process and the Fund’s investment objectives.

Dustin Lewellyn, CFA, Managing Director of the Sub-Adviser, Ernesto Tong, CFA, Managing Director of the Sub-Adviser, and Christine Johanson, CFA, Director of the Sub-Adviser, each serve as Portfolio Managers of the Fund and are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio.

Information regarding other accounts managed by each Portfolio Manager, as of October 31, 2025, excluding the Fund, is set forth below. None of the accounts were subject to a performance-based fee.

Portfolio Manager	Other Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets in Accounts	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets in Accounts	Total Number of Accounts	Total Assets in Accounts
Pieter Vorster	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Jonathan Fell	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Dustin Lewellyn, CFA	44	\$17.1 billion	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ernesto Tong, CFA	44	\$17.1 billion	0	\$0	0	\$0
Christine Johanson	44	\$17.1 billion	0	\$0	0	\$0

### Compensation

Mr. Vorster and Mr. Fell are each compensated through a fixed base salary, discretionary bonus subject to the profitability of the Adviser, and dividends arising from their equity ownership of the Adviser.

Mr. Lewellyn's portfolio management compensation includes a salary and discretionary bonus based on the profitability of the Sub-Adviser. No compensation is directly related to the performance of the underlying assets. Mr. Tong receives from Penserra a fixed base salary and discretionary bonus, and he is also eligible to participate in a retirement plan and to receive an equity interest in Penserra. Mr. Tong's compensation is based on the performance and profitability of Penserra and his individual performance with respect to following a structured investment process. Ms. Johanson receives from Penserra a fixed base salary and discretionary bonus, and is also eligible to participate in a retirement plan. Ms. Johanson's compensation is based on the performance and profitability of Penserra and her individual performance with respect to following a structured investment process.

### Potential Conflicts of Interest Involving the Adviser and Sub-Adviser

Material conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with the portfolio manager's management of the Fund's investments and investments of other accounts managed by the portfolio manager include conflicts associated with the allocation of investment opportunities between the Fund and other accounts managed.

The Sub-Adviser maintains trade-allocation and aggregation policies designed to ensure that portfolio transactions are allocated in a fair and equitable manner among its clients. The Adviser reviews these policies as part of its oversight responsibilities but does not engage in trade allocation or aggregation activities.

Additional information about potential conflicts of interest is set forth in Part 2A of the Adviser's Form ADV, which is available on the SEC's website (adviserinfo.sec.gov).

### **Ownership of Shares of the Fund**

As of the date of this SAI, the Portfolio Managers did not beneficially own any shares of the Fund. Shares of the Fund cannot be acquired until the Fund's launch date.

### **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

#### **Administrator, Transfer Agent and Fund Accountant**

Pursuant to an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement"), U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services") and is located at 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, acts as the administrator to the Fund. Fund Services provides certain services to the Fund including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable laws and regulations, excluding those of the securities laws of various states; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; and arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of the Fund's shares.

Pursuant to the Administration Agreement, as compensation for its services, Fund Services receives from the Fund, a fee based on the Fund's current average daily net assets, subject to a minimum annual fee. Fund Services also is entitled to certain out-of-pocket expenses. Fund Services also acts as fund accountant, transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent under separate agreements.

#### **Custodian**

U.S. Bank National Association is the custodian of the assets of the Fund (the "Custodian") pursuant to a custody agreement between the Custodian and the Trust. For its services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based on a percentage of the Fund's assets, in addition to certain transaction based fees, and is reimbursed for out of pocket expenses. The Custodian's address is 1555 North RiverCenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Fund. Fund Services, the Custodian, and the Fund's principal underwriter are affiliated entities under the common control of U.S. Bancorp. The Custodian and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with the service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

#### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm and Legal Counsel**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., serves as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund. Its services including the Fund's financial statements. Cohen & Co Advisory, LLC an affiliate of Cohen & Company, Ltd., provides tax services as requested.

Thompson Hine, LLP, 41 South High Street, FL 17, Columbus, Ohio 43215 serves as legal counsel to the Trust and to the Independent Trustees.

## **EXECUTION OF PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

Pursuant to the Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Sub-Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Adviser and the Board, is responsible for the placement of orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities for the Fund and the selection of broker-dealers that execute such transactions. The Adviser does not place orders or select broker-dealers. Purchases and sales of securities on an exchange are affected through brokers that charge a commission while purchases and sales of securities in the over-the-counter market will generally be executed directly with the primary “market-maker” unless, in the opinion of the Sub-Adviser, a better price and execution can otherwise be obtained by using a broker for the transaction. Purchases and sales of portfolio securities that are fixed income securities (for instance, money market instruments and bonds, notes and bills) usually are principal transactions. In a principal transaction, the party from whom the Fund purchases or to whom the Fund sells is acting on its own behalf (and not as the agent of some other party, such as its customers). These securities normally are purchased directly from the issuer or from an underwriter or market maker for the securities. The price of securities purchased from underwriters includes a disclosed fixed commission or concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter, and prices of securities purchased from dealers serving as market makers reflects the spread between the bid and asked price. The price of over-the-counter securities usually includes an undisclosed commission or markup.

In selecting broker-dealers, the Sub-Adviser seeks best overall execution, taking into account price, commission, size and difficulty of the order, timing, and other relevant factors. The Sub-Adviser may consider research or other services provided by broker-dealers consistent with Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act. Any such benefits accrue solely to the Sub-Adviser and are not directed by or provided to the Adviser.

In selecting brokers, the Sub-Adviser does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available cost, but rather may consider all relevant factors, including those noted above. As a result, the Sub-Adviser may pay transaction costs that would be higher than the Sub-Adviser may be able to obtain through another broker.

Section 28(e) of the 1934 Act is a “safe harbor” that permits an investment manager to use commissions or “soft dollars” to obtain research and brokerage services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance in the investment decision-making process. The Adviser does not direct brokerage transactions and does not receive research or other services paid for with Fund commissions. Any soft-dollar arrangements under Section 28(e) are entered into solely by the Sub-Adviser in connection with its execution of the Fund’s portfolio transactions. Currently, the Sub-Adviser does not intend to use “soft dollar” arrangements.

The Fund has not paid brokerage commissions as it has not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI.

## **BOOK ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM**

Depository Trust Company (“DTC”) acts as securities depository for the Fund’s shares. Shares of the Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., and

deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC. Except in limited circumstances set forth below, certificates will not be issued for shares.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company that was created to hold securities of its participants (the “DTC Participants”) and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is owned by a number of its DTC Participants and by the NYSE and FINRA. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the “Indirect Participants”).

Beneficial ownership of shares of the Fund is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants, and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in shares of the Fund (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as “Beneficial Owners”) is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase of shares of the Fund. The Trust recognizes DTC or its nominee as the record owner of all shares of the Fund for all purposes. Beneficial Owners of shares of the Fund are not entitled to have such shares registered in their names, and will not receive or be entitled to physical delivery of share certificates. Each Beneficial Owner must rely on the procedures of DTC and any DTC Participant and/or Indirect Participant through which such Beneficial Owner holds its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder of shares of the Fund.

Conveyance of all notices, statements, and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. DTC will make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee a listing of shares of the Fund held by each DTC Participant. The Trust shall obtain from each such DTC Participant the number of Beneficial Owners holding shares of the Fund, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement, or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Share distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all shares of the Fund. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall credit immediately DTC Participants’ accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the Fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of shares of the Fund held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a “street name,” and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the Fund’s shares, or for maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for

any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants.

DTC may determine to discontinue providing its service with respect to the Fund at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Fund and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Fund shall take action either to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost or, if such replacement is unavailable, to issue and deliver printed certificates representing ownership of shares of the Fund, unless the Trust makes other arrangements with respect thereto satisfactory to the Exchange.

## **PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES IN CREATION UNITS**

The Fund offers and issues shares only in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load (but subject to transaction fees, if applicable), at their NAV per share next determined after receipt of an order, on any Business Day, in proper form pursuant to the terms of the Authorized Participant Agreement (“Participant Agreement”). The NAV of the Fund’s shares is calculated each business day as of the scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE, generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time. The Fund will not issue fractional Creation Units. A “Business Day” is any day on which the NYSE is open for business.

**Deposit Cash Amount.** Creation Units are sold at their NAV (the “Cash Purchase Amount”) plus a Transaction Fee, as described below. The Fund may also designate an in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of securities (the “Deposit Securities”).

**Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units.** To be eligible to place orders with the Transfer Agent to purchase a Creation Unit of the Fund, an entity must be (i) a “Participating Party” (i.e., a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the “Clearing Process”)), a clearing agency that is registered with the SEC; or (ii) a DTC Participant (see “Book Entry Only System”). In addition, each Participating Party or DTC Participant (each, an “Authorized Participant”) must execute a Participant Agreement that has been agreed to by the Distributor, and that has been accepted by the Transfer Agent, with respect to purchases and redemptions of Creation Units. Each Authorized Participant will agree, pursuant to the terms of a Participant Agreement, on behalf of itself or any investor on whose behalf it will act, to certain conditions.

All orders to purchase shares directly from the Fund must be placed for one or more Creation Units and in the manner and by the time set forth in the Participant Agreement. The order cut-off time for the Fund for orders to purchase Creation Units is expected to be 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, which time may be modified by the Fund from time-to-time by amendment to the Participant Agreement. The date on which an order to purchase Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units, as set forth below) is received and accepted is referred to as the “Order Placement Date.”

An Authorized Participant may require an investor to make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to the order (e.g., to provide for payments of cash, when required). Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and that, therefore, orders to purchase shares directly from the Fund in Creation Units have to be placed by the investor’s broker through an Authorized Participant that has executed a Participant Agreement. In such cases there may be additional charges to such investor. At any given time, there may be only a limited

number of broker-dealers that have executed a Participant Agreement and only a small number of such Authorized Participants may have international capabilities.

On days when the Exchange closes earlier than normal, the Fund may require orders to create Creation Units to be placed earlier in the day. In addition, if a market or markets on which the Fund's investments are primarily traded is closed, the Fund will also generally not accept orders on such day(s). Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Transfer Agent pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement. On behalf of the Fund, the Transfer Agent will notify the Custodian of such order. The Custodian will then provide such information to the appropriate local sub-custodian(s). Those placing orders through an Authorized Participant should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the purchase order to the Transfer Agent by the cut-off time on such Business Day. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure may impede the ability to reach the Transfer Agent or an Authorized Participant.

The Cash Purchase Amount transfer must be ordered by the Authorized Participant in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of the Cash Purchase Amount to the account of the Fund or its agents by no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern time (or such other time as specified by the Trust) on the Settlement Date. If the Fund or its agents do not receive all of the Cash Purchase Amount by such time, then the order may be deemed rejected and the Authorized Participant shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. The "Settlement Date" for the Fund is generally the second Business Day after the Order Placement Date. All questions as to the Cash Purchase Amount and the validity, form, and eligibility (including time of receipt) for the deposit of any tendered securities or cash, as applicable, will be determined by the Trust, whose determination shall be final and binding. The Cash Purchase Amount must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than the Settlement Date. If the Cash Purchase Amount as applicable, are not received by the Custodian in a timely manner by the Settlement Date, the creation order may be cancelled. Upon written notice to the Transfer Agent, such canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using the new Cash Purchase Amount to reflect the then current NAV of the Fund.

The order shall be deemed to be received on the Business Day on which the order is placed provided that the order is placed in proper form prior to the applicable cut-off time and the federal funds in the appropriate amount are deposited with the Custodian on the Settlement Date. If the order is not placed in proper form as required, or federal funds in the appropriate amount are not received on the Settlement Date, then the order may be deemed to be rejected and the Authorized Participant shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. A creation request is considered to be in "proper form" if all procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement and this SAI are properly followed.

**Issuance of a Creation Unit.** Except as provided in this SAI, Creation Units will not be issued until the payment of the Cash Purchase Amount has been completed. When the sub-custodian has confirmed to the Custodian that the required Cash Purchase Amount has been delivered to the account of the relevant sub-custodian or sub-custodians, the Transfer Agent and the Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Trust will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Units. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the second Business Day following the day on which the purchase order is deemed received by the Transfer Agent. The Authorized Participant shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting from unsettled orders.

Creation Units may be purchased in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of Cash Purchase Amount as described below. In these circumstances, the initial deposit will have a value greater than the

NAV of shares on the date the order is placed in proper form since, in addition to available Deposit Securities, cash must be deposited in an amount equal to the sum of (i) the Cash Component, plus (ii) an additional amount of cash equal to a percentage of the value as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the undelivered Deposit Securities (the “Additional Cash Deposit”), which shall be maintained in a separate non-interest bearing collateral account. The Authorized Participant must deposit with the Custodian the Additional Cash Deposit, as applicable, by 12:00 p.m. Eastern time (or such other time as specified by the Trust) on the Settlement Date. If the Fund or its agents do not receive the Additional Cash Deposit in the appropriate amount, by such time, then the order may be deemed rejected and the Authorized Participant shall be liable to the Fund for losses, if any, resulting therefrom. An additional amount of cash shall be required to be deposited with the Trust, pending delivery of the missing Deposit Securities to the extent necessary to maintain the Additional Cash Deposit with the Trust in an amount at least equal to the applicable percentage, as set forth in the Participant Agreement, of the daily market value of the missing Deposit Securities. The Participant Agreement will permit the Trust to buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time. Authorized Participants will be liable to the Trust for the costs incurred by the Trust in connection with any such purchases. These costs will be deemed to include the amount by which the actual purchase price of the Deposit Securities exceeds the value of such Deposit Securities on the day the purchase order was deemed received by the Transfer Agent plus the brokerage and related transaction costs associated with such purchases. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing Deposit Securities have been properly received by the Custodian or purchased by the Trust and deposited into the Trust. In addition, a transaction fee, as described below under “Creation Transaction Fee,” may be charged. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date.

**Acceptance of Orders of Creation Units.** The Trust reserves the right to reject an order for Creation Units transmitted to it by the Transfer Agent with respect to the Fund including, without limitation, if (a) the order is not in proper form; (b) the Cash Purchase Amount delivered by the Participant is not disseminated to the Custodian as described herein; (c) the investor(s), upon obtaining shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares; (d) the acceptance of the Cash Purchase Amount would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (e) the acceptance or receipt of the order for a Creation Unit would, in the opinion of counsel to the Trust, be unlawful; or (f) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Custodian, the Transfer Agent and/or the Adviser make it for all practical purposes not feasible to process orders for Creation Units, provided that such action does not result in the suspension of sales of creation units in contravention of Rule 6c-11 and the SEC’s positions thereunder.

Examples of such circumstances include acts of God or public service or utility problems such as fires, floods, extreme weather conditions and power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy and computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other information systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, the Custodian, a sub-custodian, the Transfer Agent, DTC, NSCC, Federal Reserve System, or any other participant in the creation process, and other extraordinary events. The Transfer Agent shall notify a prospective creator of a Creation Unit and/or the Authorized Participant acting on behalf of the creator of a Creation Unit of its rejection of the order of such person. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian, any sub-custodian, and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Fund Deposits nor shall either of them incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification. The Trust, the Transfer Agent, the Custodian, and the Distributor shall not be liable for the rejection of any purchase order for Creation Units.

**Creation Transaction Fee.** A fixed purchase (i.e., creation) transaction fee, payable to the Fund's Custodian, may be imposed for the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the purchase of Creation Units ("Creation Order Costs"). The standard fixed creation transaction fee for the Fund is \$300, regardless of the number of Creation Units created in the transaction. The Fund may adjust the standard fixed creation transaction fee from time to time. The fixed creation fee may be waived on certain orders if the Fund's Custodian has determined to waive some or all of the Creation Order Costs associated with the order or another party, such as the Adviser, has agreed to pay such fee.

In addition, a variable fee, payable to the Fund, of up to a maximum of 2% of the value of the Creation Units subject to the transaction may be imposed for cash purchases, non-standard orders, or partial cash purchases of Creation Units. The variable charge is primarily designed to cover additional costs (e.g., brokerage, taxes) involved with buying the securities with cash. The Fund may determine to not charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders, e.g., for creation orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund's portfolio in a more tax efficient manner than could be achieved without such order.

Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. Investors are responsible for the fixed costs of transferring the securities from the Trust to their account or on their order.

**Risks of Purchasing Creation Units.** There are certain legal risks unique to investors purchasing Creation Units directly from the Fund. Because shares may be issued on an ongoing basis, a "distribution" of shares could be occurring at any time. Certain activities that a shareholder performs as a dealer could, depending on the circumstances, result in the shareholder being deemed a participant in the distribution in a manner that could render the shareholder a statutory underwriter and subject to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act. For example, a shareholder could be deemed a statutory underwriter if it purchases Creation Units from the Fund, breaks them down into the constituent shares, and sells those shares directly to customers, or if a shareholder chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares. Whether a person is an underwriter depends upon all of the facts and circumstances pertaining to that person's activities, and the examples mentioned here should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could cause you to be deemed an underwriter.

Dealers who are not "underwriters" but are participating in a distribution (as opposed to engaging in ordinary secondary market transactions), and thus dealing with shares as part of an "unsold allotment" within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the Securities Act, will be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act.

**Redemption.** Shares of the Fund may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day. EXCEPT UPON LIQUIDATION OF THE FUND, THE TRUST WILL NOT REDEEM SHARES IN AMOUNTS LESS THAN CREATION UNITS. Investors must accumulate enough shares of the Fund in the secondary market to constitute a Creation Unit to have such shares of the Fund redeemed by the Trust. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the public trading market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of shares of the Fund to constitute a redeemable Creation Unit.

Redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit are paid either in-kind or in cash, or combination thereof, as determined by the Trust. The Fund generally redeems Creation Units for cash. With respect to in-kind redemptions of the Fund, redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit will consist of securities as announced by the Custodian on the Business Day of the request for redemption received in proper form plus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of shares of the Fund being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the securities (the “Cash Redemption Amount”), less a fixed redemption transaction fee, as applicable, as set forth below. In the event that the securities have a value greater than the NAV of shares of the Fund, a compensating cash payment equal to the differential is required to be made by or through an Authorized Participant by the redeeming shareholder.

**Redemption Transaction Fee.** A fixed redemption transaction fee, payable to the Fund’s Custodian, may be imposed for the transfer and other transaction costs associated with the redemption of Creation Units (“Redemption Order Costs”). The standard fixed redemption transaction fee for the Fund is \$300, regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed in the transaction. The Fund may adjust the redemption transaction fee from time to time. The fixed redemption fee may be waived on certain orders if the Fund’s Custodian has determined to waive some or all of the Redemption Order Costs associated with the order or another party, such as the Adviser, has agreed to pay such fee.

In addition, a variable fee, payable to the Fund, of up to a maximum of 2% of the value of the Creation Units subject to the transaction may be imposed for cash redemptions, non-standard orders, or partial cash redemptions (when cash redemptions are available) of Creation Units. The variable charge is primarily designed to cover additional costs (e.g., brokerage, taxes) involved with selling portfolio securities to satisfy a cash redemption. The Fund may determine to not charge a variable fee on certain orders when the Adviser has determined that doing so is in the best interests of Fund shareholders, e.g., for redemption orders that facilitate the rebalance of the Fund’s portfolio in a more tax efficient manner than could be achieved without such order.

Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. Investors are responsible for the fixed costs of transferring the securities from the Trust to their account or on their order.

**Procedures for Redemption of Creation Units.** Orders to redeem Creation Units must be submitted in proper form to the Transfer Agent prior to 2:00 p.m. Eastern time. A redemption request is considered to be in “proper form” if (i) an Authorized Participant has transferred or caused to be transferred to the Trust’s Transfer Agent the Creation Unit(s) being redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be effective by the time as set forth in the Participant Agreement, and (ii) a request in form satisfactory to the Trust is received by the Transfer Agent from the Authorized Participant on behalf of itself or another redeeming investor within the time periods specified in the Participant Agreement. If the Transfer Agent does not receive the investor’s shares through DTC’s facilities by the times and pursuant to the other terms and conditions set forth in the Participant Agreement, the redemption request shall be rejected.

The Authorized Participant must transmit the request for redemption, in the form required by the Trust, to the Transfer Agent in accordance with procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement. Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement, and that, therefore, requests to redeem Creation Units may have to be placed by the investor’s broker through an Authorized Participant who has executed a Participant Agreement. Investors making a redemption request should be aware that such request must be in the form specified by such Authorized Participant. Investors making a

request to redeem Creation Units should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the request by an Authorized Participant and transfer of shares of the Fund to the Trust's Transfer Agent; such investors should allow for the additional time that may be required to effect redemptions through their banks, brokers, or other financial intermediaries if such intermediaries are not Authorized Participants.

**Additional Redemption Procedures.** The Fund will generally redeem its shares in cash, and the redeeming investor will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. The investor will receive a cash payment equal to the NAV of its shares based on the NAV of shares next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a redemption transaction fee, if applicable, and additional charge for requested cash redemptions specified above, to offset the Trust's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of Fund Securities). The Fund may also provide such redeemer a portfolio of securities that differs from the exact composition of the securities in the Fund but does not differ in NAV.

In connection with taking delivery of securities upon redemption of Creation Units, a redeeming shareholder or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such shareholder must maintain appropriate custody arrangements with a qualified broker-dealer, bank, or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the securities are customarily traded, to which account such securities will be delivered. Deliveries of redemption proceeds generally will be made within two business days of the trade date.

Redemptions of shares for securities will be subject to compliance with applicable federal and state securities laws and the Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Trust could not lawfully deliver specific Fund Securities upon redemptions or could not do so without first registering the securities under such laws. An Authorized Participant or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to a particular security included in the securities applicable to the redemption of Creation Units may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The Authorized Participant may request the redeeming investor of shares to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment. Further, an Authorized Participant that is not a "qualified institutional buyer," ("QIB"), as such term is defined under Rule 144A of the Securities Act, will not be able to receive securities that are restricted securities eligible for resale under Rule 144A. An Authorized Participant may be required by the Trust to provide a written confirmation with respect to QIB status to receive Fund Securities.

Because the portfolio securities of the Fund may trade on other exchanges on days that the Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Fund, shareholders may not be able to redeem their shares, or to purchase or sell shares on the Exchange, on days when the NAV of the Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant foreign markets.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed with respect to the Fund (1) for any period during which the Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (2) for any period during which trading on the Exchange is suspended or restricted; (3) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of shares or determination of the NAV of shares is not reasonably practicable; or (4) in such other circumstance as is permitted by the SEC.

## **DETERMINATION OF SHARE PRICE**

The NAV of shares of the Fund will be determined once daily ordinarily as of the scheduled close of public trading on the NYSE (normally, 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day that the NYSE is open for trading. It is expected that the NYSE will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays and on New Year's Day,

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas. The Fund does not expect to determine the NAV of shares on any day when the NYSE is not open for trading even if there is sufficient trading in its portfolio securities on such days to materially affect the NAV per share.

In valuing the Fund's assets for calculating NAV, readily marketable portfolio securities listed on a national securities exchange are valued at the last sale price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. If there has been no sale on such exchange on such day, the security is valued at the mean between the bid and asked prices on such day. Securities primarily traded in the Nasdaq National Market System ("Nasdaq") for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the Nasdaq Official Closing Price ("NOCP"). If the NOCP is not available, such securities shall be valued at the last sale price on the day of valuation, or if there has been no sale on such day, at the mean between the bid and asked prices. Readily marketable securities traded only in the over-the market and not on Nasdaq are valued at the most recent trade price. All other assets of the Fund are valued in such manner as the Adviser in good faith deems appropriate to reflect their fair value, subject to Board oversight.

Trading in most foreign securities markets located outside North America is normally completed well before the close of the NYSE. In addition, securities trading on foreign markets may not take place on all days on which the NYSE is open for trading, and may occur in certain foreign markets on days on which the Fund's NAV is not calculated. Events affecting the values of portfolio securities that occur between the time their prices are determined and the close of the NYSE will not be reflected in the calculation of NAV unless the Adviser deems that the particular event would affect NAV, in which case an adjustment will be made in such manner as the Adviser in good faith deems appropriate to determine fair market value. Assets or liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are translated, in determining NAV, into U.S. dollars based on the spot exchange rates, or at such other rates as the Adviser, pursuant to fair value procedures approved by the Board, may determine to be appropriate.

The Adviser has been designated by the Board as the valuation designee for the Fund pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the 1940 Act. In its capacity as valuation designee, the Adviser performs the fair value determinations relating to any or all Fund investments, subject to Board oversight. The Adviser has established procedures for its fair valuation of the Fund's investments. These procedures address, among other things, determining when market quotations are not readily available or reliable and the methodologies to be used for determining the fair value of investments, as well as the use and oversight of third-party pricing services for fair valuation.

Fair value represents a good faith approximation of the value of a security. Fair value determinations involve the consideration of a number of subjective factors, an analysis of applicable facts and circumstances and the exercise of judgment. As a result, it is possible that the fair value for a security determined in good faith in accordance with the Adviser's fair value procedures may differ from valuations for the same security determined by other funds using their own valuation procedures. Although the Adviser's fair value procedures are designed to value a security at the price the Fund may reasonably expect to receive upon its sale in an orderly transaction, there can be no assurance that any fair value determination thereunder would, in fact, approximate the amount that the Fund would actually realize upon the sale of the security or the price at which the security would trade if a reliable market price were readily available.

## **DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX INFORMATION**

### **Distributions**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Prospectus entitled “Dividends, Distributions and Their Taxation.”

#### *General Policies*

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid at least annually by the Fund. Distributions of remaining net realized capital gains, if any, generally are declared and paid once a year, but the Fund may make distributions on a more frequent basis for the Fund to comply with the distribution requirements of the Code, in all events in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act.

Dividends and other distributions on shares of the Fund are distributed, as described below, on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from the Fund.

The Fund may make additional distributions to the extent necessary (i) to distribute the entire annual taxable income of the Fund, plus any net capital gains and (ii) to avoid imposition of the excise tax imposed by Section 4982 of the Code. Management of the Trust reserves the right to declare special dividends if, in its reasonable discretion, such action is necessary or advisable to preserve the Fund’s eligibility for treatment as a RIC or to avoid imposition of income or excise taxes on undistributed income.

#### *Dividend Reinvestment Service*

No dividend reinvestment service is provided by the Trust. Financial intermediaries may make the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service available for use by beneficial owners of Fund shares for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Beneficial owners should contact their financial intermediary to determine the availability and costs of the service and the details of participation therein. Financial intermediaries may require beneficial owners to adhere to specific procedures and timetables. If this service is available and used, dividend distributions of both income and net realized capital gains will be automatically reinvested in additional whole shares of the Fund purchased in the secondary market.

### **Tax Information**

The following summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to United States Holders (as defined below) of shares in the Fund. This summary is based upon the Code, Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, administrative pronouncements and judicial decisions, all as in effect as of the date of this SAI and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. This summary addresses only shares that are held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code and does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to shareholders in light of their particular circumstances or to certain types of Shareholders subject to special treatment under the Code, including, without limitation, certain financial institutions, dealers in securities or commodities, traders in securities who elect to apply a mark-to-market method of accounting, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, partnerships or S-corporations (and persons who own their interest in shares through a partnership or S-corporation), expatriates of the United States, persons who are subject to

alternative minimum tax, persons that have a “functional currency” other than the United States dollar, persons who hold shares as a position in a “straddle” or as a part of a “hedging,” “conversion” or “constructive sale” transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes or persons who received their shares as compensation. This summary also does not address the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in the Fund.

For purposes of this discussion, a “United States Holder” means a holder of shares that for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States, any State or the District of Columbia;
- an estate, the income of which is included in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, regardless of its source; or
- a trust whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and which has one or more United States persons who have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions, or which has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds shares, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of such person and the activities of the limited liability company or partnership. A shareholder that is a partnership should consult its own tax advisors regarding the treatment of its partners.

Prospective shareholders are urged to consult with their own tax advisors and financial planners regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Fund, the application of state, local, or foreign laws, and the effect of any possible changes in applicable tax laws on their investment in the Fund.

#### *Tax Treatment of the Fund*

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Fund has elected to qualify and intends to continue to qualify annually as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code, requiring it to comply with all applicable requirements regarding its income, assets and distributions. Provided that the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, it is eligible for a dividends paid deduction, allowing it to offset dividends it pays to shareholders against its taxable income; if the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M, it will be taxed as a regular corporation.

The Fund’s policy is to distribute to its shareholders all of its taxable income, including any net realized capital gains (taking into account any capital loss carry-forward of the Fund), each year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements applicable to regulated investment companies under the Code, and results in the Fund not being subject to any U.S. federal income or excise taxes. In particular, in order to avoid the non-deductible 4% excise tax, the Fund must also distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year (1) at least 98% of its ordinary income for such year, (2) at least 98.2% of the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year and (3) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which the Fund paid no federal income tax. However, the Fund can give

no assurances that its distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all U.S. federal income taxes. The Fund is not required to consider tax consequences in making or disposing of investments.

In order to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund must, among other things, derive at least 90% of its gross income each year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, and net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership. The Fund must also satisfy the following two asset diversification tests. At the end of each quarter of each taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets must be represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities, with such other securities being limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. Government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies), the securities of any two or more issuers (other than the securities of other regulated investment companies) that the Fund controls (by owning 20% or more of their outstanding voting stock) and which are determined under Treasury regulations to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. The Fund must also distribute each taxable year sufficient dividends to its shareholders to claim a dividends paid deduction equal to at least the sum of 90% of the Fund's investment company taxable income (as adjusted under Section 852(b)(2) of the Code, but not taking into account the Fund's dividends paid deduction; in the case of the Fund generally consisting of interest and dividend income, less expenses) and 90% of the Fund's net tax-exempt interest, if any.

The Fund's ordinary income generally consists of interest and dividend income, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carry-forward of the Fund.

Distributions of net investment income and net short-term capital gains are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. For individual shareholders, a portion of the distributions paid by the Fund may be qualified dividends currently eligible for federal income taxation at long-term capital gain rates to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the inter-corporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain holding period requirements are met. The aggregate amount so reported to either individual or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policy, it is expected that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that, accordingly, part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income by individual shareholders, or for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders under federal tax law. However, the portion of the Fund's gross income attributable to qualifying dividends is largely dependent on the Fund's investment activities for a particular year and therefore cannot be predicted with any certainty. The qualified dividend treatment may be eliminated if the Fund shares held by an individual investor are held for less than 61 days, and the corporate-dividends received deduction may be eliminated if the Fund shares held by a corporate investor are treated as debt-financed or are held for less than 46 days. Distributions will be taxable to you even if the share price of the Fund has declined.

The sale or exchange of Fund shares is a taxable transaction for federal income tax purposes. You will generally recognize a gain or loss on such transactions equal to the difference, if any, between the amount of your net sales proceeds and your adjusted tax basis in the Fund shares. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss if you held your Fund shares as capital assets. Any capital gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if you held the Fund shares for more than one year at the time of the sale or exchange. Any capital loss arising from the sale or exchange of shares held for six months or less, however, will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of net long-term capital gain distributions with regard to these shares.

#### *Tax Treatment of United States Holders – Taxation of Distributions*

Distributions paid out of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits are generally dividends taxable at ordinary income rates to each shareholder. Dividends will be taxable to you even if the share price of the Fund has declined. Distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits will first be treated as a nontaxable return of capital up to the amount of a shareholder's tax basis in its shares, and then as capital gain.

For individual shareholders, a portion of the dividends paid by the Fund may be qualified dividends currently eligible for U.S. federal income taxation at long-term capital gain rates to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain shareholder level holding period requirements (discussed further below) are met. In the case of corporate shareholders, subject to certain limitations (not all of which are discussed herein), a portion of the distributions may qualify for the inter-corporate dividends-received deduction to the extent the Fund reports the amount distributed as a qualifying dividend and certain shareholder level holding period requirements (discussed further below) are met. The aggregate amount so reported to either individual or corporate shareholders cannot exceed the aggregate amount of qualifying dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. Although no assurances can be provided, the Fund generally expects that dividends from domestic corporations will be part of the Fund's gross income and that, accordingly, part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for treatment as qualified dividend income by individual shareholders, or for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. Qualified dividend treatment may be eliminated if the Fund shares held by an individual investor are held for less than 61 days, and the corporate dividends-received deduction may be eliminated if Fund shares held by a corporate investor are treated as debt-financed or are held for less than 46 days.

Distributions properly reported by the Fund as capital gain dividends (Capital Gain Dividends) will be taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gain (to the extent such distributions do not exceed the Fund's actual net long-term capital gain for the taxable year), regardless of how long a shareholder has held Fund shares, and do not qualify as dividends for purposes of the dividends received deduction or as qualified dividend income. The Fund will report Capital Gain Dividends, if any, in written statements furnished to its shareholders.

#### *Tax Treatment of United States Holders - Sales and Dispositions of Shares*

A sale, redemption, or exchange of shares may give rise to a gain or loss. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if shares have been held for more than 12 months. Otherwise, the gain or loss on the taxable disposition of shares will generally be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. Any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term capital loss, rather than short-term capital loss, to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions to the shareholder of long-term capital gain

(including any amounts credited to the shareholder as undistributed capital gains). All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares may be disallowed if substantially identical shares are acquired (through the reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly acquired shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

The cost basis of shares acquired by purchase will generally be based on the amount paid for shares and then may be subsequently adjusted for other applicable transactions as required by the Code. The difference between the selling price and the cost basis of shares generally determines the amount of the capital gain or loss realized on the sale or exchange of shares. Contact the broker through whom you purchased your shares to obtain information with respect to the available cost basis reporting methods and elections for your account. An Authorized Participant who exchanges securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time and the sum of the exchanger's aggregate basis in the securities surrendered plus the amount of cash paid for such Creation Units. The ability of Authorized Participants to receive a full or partial cash redemption of Creation Units of the Fund may limit the tax efficiency of the Fund. A person who redeems Creation Units will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the exchanger's basis in the Creation Units and the sum of the aggregate market value of any securities received plus the amount of any cash received for such Creation Units. The Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS"), however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot currently be deducted under the rules governing "wash sales" (for a person who does not mark-to-market its portfolio) or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position.

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, has the right to reject an order for Creation Units if the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the Creation Units so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares and if, pursuant to Section 351 of the Code, the Fund would have a basis in the deposit securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. The Trust also has the right to require the provision of information necessary to determine beneficial Share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination. If the Fund does issue Creation Units to a purchaser (or a group of purchasers) that would, upon obtaining the Creation Units so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares, the purchaser (or a group of purchasers) will not recognize gain or loss upon the exchange of securities for Creation Units.

Authorized Participants purchasing or redeeming Creation Units should consult their own tax advisers with respect to the tax treatment of any creation or redemption transaction and whether the wash sales rule applies and when a loss may be deductible.

#### *Taxation of Shareholders – Net Investment Income Tax*

U.S. individuals with adjusted gross income (subject to certain adjustments) exceeding certain threshold amounts (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or if considered a "surviving spouse" for federal income tax purposes, \$125,000 if married filing separately, and \$200,000 in other cases) are subject to a 3.8% tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which includes taxable interest, dividends, and certain capital gains (generally including capital gain distributions and capital gains realized on the sale of shares). This 3.8% tax also applies to all or a portion of the undistributed net investment income of certain shareholders that are estates and trusts.

### *Tax Treatment of United States Holders - Medicare Tax*

A 3.8% Medicare tax is currently imposed on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts. "Net investment income," for these purposes, means investment income, including ordinary and Capital Gain dividends and net gains from taxable dispositions of Fund shares, reduced by the deductions properly allocable to such income. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the shareholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the shareholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on, and paid with, your U.S. federal income tax return.

### *Tax Treatment of Non-U.S. Shareholders*

The foregoing discussion of U.S. federal income tax law relates solely to the application of that law to U.S. citizens or residents and U.S. domestic corporations, partnerships, trusts and estates. Each shareholder who is not a U.S. person should consider the U.S. and foreign tax consequences of ownership of shares of the Fund, including the possibility that such a shareholder may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% (or at a lower rate under an applicable income tax treaty) on amounts constituting ordinary income.

### *Backup Withholding*

The Fund may be required to withhold 24% of certain payments to a shareholder unless the shareholder has completed and submitted to the Fund a Form W-9 providing the shareholder's taxpayer identification number and certifying under penalties of perjury: (i) that such number is correct, (ii) that (A) the shareholder is exempt from backup withholding, (B) the shareholder has not been notified by the IRS that the shareholder is subject to backup withholding as a result of an under-reporting of interest or dividends, or (C) the IRS has notified the shareholder that the shareholder is no longer subject to backup withholding, and (iii) the shareholder is a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (as defined in IRS Form W-9); or (b) an exception applies under applicable law and Treasury regulations. Backup withholding is not an additional tax, and any amounts withheld may be credited against a shareholder's ultimate U.S. federal income tax liability if proper documentation is provided. The Fund reserves the right to refuse to open an account for any person failing to provide a certified taxpayer identification number.

### *FATCA and Similar Foreign Rules*

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, ("FATCA") provisions of the Code impose a withholding tax of 30% on certain types of U.S. sourced income (e.g., dividends, interest, and other types of passive income) paid, and will be required to impose a 30% withholding tax on proceeds from the sale or other disposition of property producing U.S. sourced income paid effective January 1, 2019 to (i) foreign financial institutions, including non-U.S. investment funds, unless they agree to collect and disclose to the IRS information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. account holders and (ii) certain nonfinancial foreign entities, unless they certify certain information regarding their direct and indirect U.S. owners. FATCA withholding will apply to any shareholder that does not properly certify its status as a U.S. person, or, in the case of a non-U.S. shareholder, the basis for its exemption from FATCA withholding. If the Fund is required to withhold amounts from payments pursuant to FATCA, investors will receive distributions that are reduced by such withholding amounts.

To implement FATCA, the U.S. government has entered into agreements with non-U.S. governments (and is otherwise bound via automatic exchange of information agreements in treaties) to provide reciprocal exchanges of taxpayer information to non-U.S. governments. The Fund will be required to perform due diligence reviews to classify non-U.S. entity investors for FATCA purposes. Shareholders agree to provide information necessary to allow the Fund to comply with the FATCA and similar foreign rules.

## **THE FUND'S PRINCIPAL UNDERWRITER AND DISTRIBUTOR**

Quasar Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Foreside Financial Group, LLC (dba ACA Group) and is located at 190 Middle Street, Suite 301, Portland, Maine 04101, serves as the Fund's principal underwriter and distributor in a continuous public offering of the Fund's shares. Pursuant to a distribution agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Distributor (the "Distribution Agreement"), the Distributor acts as the Fund's principal underwriter and distributor and provides certain administrative services and arranges for the sale of the Fund's shares. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and is a member of FINRA.

The Distributor may also enter into agreements with securities dealers ("Soliciting Dealers") who will solicit purchases of Creation Units of shares of the Fund. Such Soliciting Dealers may also be Authorized Participants (as discussed in "Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units" above) or DTC participants (as defined above).

The Distribution Agreement, with respect to the Fund, will continue for two years from its effective date and is renewable annually thereafter. The continuance of the Distribution Agreement must be specifically approved at least annually (i) by the vote of the Trustees or by a vote of the shareholders of the Fund and (ii) by the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operations of the Distribution Agreement or any related agreement, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust on 60 days' written notice when authorized either by majority vote of its outstanding voting shares of the Fund or by a vote of a majority of its Board (including a majority of the Independent Trustees), or by the Distributor on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment. The Distribution Agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Distributor, or reckless disregard by it of its obligations thereunder, the Distributor shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

**Intermediary Compensation.** The Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, or their affiliates may, from their own resources and not from Fund assets, make payments to certain financial intermediaries for services or other arrangements related to the distribution or promotion of the Fund. Any such payments made by the Adviser or its affiliates comply with applicable UK inducement rules and U.S. securities laws. These arrangements are not financed by the Fund and, thus, do not result in increased Fund expenses. They are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fees and expenses sections of the Fund's Prospectus and they do not change the price paid by investors for the purchase of shares of the Fund or the amount received by a shareholder as proceeds from the redemption of shares. Such compensation may be paid to Intermediaries that provide services to the Fund, including marketing and education support (such as through conferences, webinars and printed communications). The Adviser periodically assess the advisability of continuing to make these payments. Payments to an Intermediary may be significant to the Intermediary, and amounts that Intermediaries pay to your adviser, broker or other investment

professional, if any, may also be significant to such adviser, broker or investment professional. Because an Intermediary may make decisions about what investment options it will make available or recommend, and what services to provide in connection with various products, based on payments it receives or is eligible to receive, such payments create conflicts of interest between the Intermediary and its clients. For example, these financial incentives may cause the Intermediary to recommend the Fund over other investments. The same conflict of interest exists with respect to your financial adviser, broker or investment professional if he or she receives similar payments from his or her Intermediary firm.

Intermediary information is current only as of the date of this SAI. Please contact your adviser, broker, or other investment professional for more information regarding any payments his or her Intermediary firm may receive. Any payments made by the Adviser or its affiliates to an Intermediary may create the incentive for an Intermediary to encourage customers to buy shares of the Fund.

### **Distribution Plan**

As noted in the Prospectus, the Fund has adopted a Distribution Plan (the “Plan”) pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act under which the Fund pays the Distributor an amount which is accrued daily and paid quarterly.

Under the Plan, the Trustees will be furnished quarterly with information detailing the amount of expenses paid under the Plan and the purposes for which payments were made. The Plan may be terminated at any time by vote of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust who are not interested persons. Continuation of the Plan is considered by such Trustees no less frequently than annually. With the exception of the Distributor and the Adviser, in their capacities as the Fund’s principal underwriter and distribution coordinator, respectively, no interested person has or had a direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan or any related agreement.

The Plan provides that the Fund pays the Distributor an annual fee of up to a maximum of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the shares. Under the Plan, the Distributor may make payments pursuant to written agreements to financial institutions and intermediaries such as banks, savings and loan associations and insurance companies including, without limit, investment counselors, broker-dealers and the Distributor’s affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively, “Agents”) as compensation for services and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with distribution assistance. The Plan is characterized as a compensation plan since the distribution fee will be paid to the Distributor without regard to the distribution expenses incurred by the Distributor or the amount of payments made to other financial institutions and intermediaries. The Trust intends to operate the Plan in accordance with its terms and with the FINRA rules concerning sales charges.

Under the Plan, subject to the limitations of applicable law and regulations, the Fund is authorized to compensate the Distributor up to the maximum amount to finance any activity primarily intended to result in the sale of Creation Units of the Fund or for providing or arranging for others to provide shareholder services and for the maintenance of shareholder accounts. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: (i) delivering copies of the Fund’s then current reports, prospectuses, notices, and similar materials, to prospective purchasers of Creation Units; (ii) marketing and promotional services, including advertising; (iii) paying the costs of and compensating others, including Authorized Participants (as discussed in “Procedures for Purchase of Creation Units” above) with whom the Distributor has entered into written Authorized Participant Agreements, for performing shareholder servicing on behalf of the Fund; (iv) compensating certain Authorized Participants for providing assistance in distributing the Creation Units of the Fund, including the travel and communication expenses and salaries and/or commissions of sales

personnel in connection with the distribution of the Creation Units of the Fund; (v) payments to financial institutions and intermediaries such as banks, savings and loan associations, insurance companies and investment counselors, broker-dealers, mutual fund supermarkets and the affiliates and subsidiaries of the Trust's service providers as compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with distribution assistance; (vi) facilitating communications with beneficial owners of shares, including the cost of providing (or paying others to provide) services to beneficial owners of shares, including, but not limited to, assistance in answering inquiries related to shareholder accounts; and (vii) such other services and obligations as are set forth in the Distribution Agreement.

While there is no assurance that the expenditures of the Fund's assets to finance distribution of the Fund will have the anticipated results, the Board believes there is a reasonable likelihood that one or more of such benefits will result, and because the Board is in a position to monitor the distribution expenses, it is able to determine the benefit of such expenditures in deciding whether to continue the Plan.

Prior to the date of this SAI, the Plan had not yet been implemented, and there are no current plans to impose these fees.

### **Securities Lending**

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, may enter into a securities lending agreement with U.S. Bank (the "Securities Lending Agent") to provide certain services related to the Fund's securities lending program. Pursuant to the securities lending agreement, the Securities Lending Agent, on behalf of the Fund, will be authorized to enter into securities loan agreements, negotiate loan fees and rebate payments, collect loan fees, deliver securities, manage and hold collateral, invest cash collateral, receive substitute payments, make interest and dividend payments (in cases where a borrower has provided non-cash collateral), and upon termination of a loan, liquidate collateral investments and return collateral to the borrower.

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund has not engaged in any securities lending activities and has not received any income related to securities lending activities.

As of the date of this SAI, the Securities Lending Agent has not provided any services to the Fund or received any fees or compensation from the Fund related to the securities lending program.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Because the Fund has not commenced operations as of the date of this SAI, there are no financial statements available. Shareholders of the Fund will be informed of the Fund's progress through periodic reports when those reports become available. Financial statements certified by the independent registered public accounting firm will be available in the Fund's annual Form N-CSR. When available, you may request a copy of the Fund's Form N-CSR filings at no charge by calling 1-800-617-0004 or through the Fund's website at [www.hexis.capital](http://www.hexis.capital).

## APPENDIX A

# Proxy Voting Policy

### 1. Guiding Philosophy

Hexis Capital Management ("Hexis") considers proxy voting to be a critical tool of investment stewardship and a direct extension of our "change engagement" activities. In executing our fiduciary duty, we believe our primary responsibility is to vote in the best long-term financial interest of our clients. We hold that this interest is best served by promoting the long-term health and sustainable success of our portfolio companies. Therefore, all proxy votes will be cast to support and accelerate each company's transition toward a business model centered on reduced-harm products.

### 2. The Baseline Framework: ISS Benchmark Policy

To ensure our voting practices are grounded in a robust, transparent, and market-standard governance framework, Hexis has adopted the Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) U.S. Benchmark Proxy Voting Guidelines (and its relevant international equivalents, hereafter "ISS Benchmark Policy") as our baseline voting policy.

The current ISS Benchmark Policies can be found at:

<https://www.issgovernance.com/policy-gateway/voting-policies/>

### 3. The Manual Override Protocol

While the ISS Benchmark Policy serves as our foundation, the Hexis Active Nicotine Engagement ETF is a specialized, active, and concentrated fund. As such, Hexis will manually review and vote on every ballot item for every portfolio company.

Hexis reserves the right to override the ISS vote recommendation. This is exercised when our direct engagement and proprietary analysis indicate that an alternative vote would better support the company's long-term success in transitioning to reduced-harm products. Our policy's structure aligns with the ISS Benchmark Policy's primary sections, with specific override criteria and illustrative examples provided within each category.

#### 3.1 Board of Directors

Hexis' baseline voting policy for all matters related to the Board of Directors (e.g., director elections, board structure) is the ISS Benchmark Policy.

**Override Condition:** We may override the ISS recommendation if our direct engagement and analysis provide a more nuanced view of a director's contribution to the company's long-term transition strategy.

**Illustrative Example:** Hexis may vote against the re-election of a director that ISS supports if our engagement has identified that individual as a primary obstacle to the board's strategic progress on harm reduction, despite their other qualifications.

#### 3.2 Executive Compensation

Hexis' baseline voting policy for all "Say-on-Pay" and other executive compensation matters is the ISS Benchmark Policy.

Override Condition: We may override the ISS recommendation if a compensation plan's structure is demonstrably and materially aligned with the fund's core mission of accelerating the transition to harm reduction.

Illustrative Example: Hexis may vote for a management compensation plan that ISS opposes if, based on our engagement, we determine its long-term incentives are uniquely and powerfully structured to reward the successful transition to reduced-harm products, even if it does not meet all of ISS's standard criteria for short-term alignment.

### **3.3 Shareholder Rights & Defenses**

Hexis' baseline voting policy for matters related to capital structure, shareholder rights, and anti-takeover provisions is the ISS Benchmark Policy.

Override Condition: We may override the ISS recommendation if a proposal directly impacts the company's ability to execute its long-term harm reduction strategy.

Illustrative Example: Hexis may vote for a shareholder proposal requesting a report on the company's R&D spending on reduced-harm products, even if ISS recommends against it on procedural grounds, as we deem such transparency critical to our investment thesis.

### **3.4 Environmental & Social Issues**

Hexis' baseline voting policy for all Environmental & Social (E&S) shareholder proposals is the ISS Benchmark Policy.

Override Condition: We may override the ISS recommendation when a proposal directly addresses a material risk or opportunity related to the company's harm reduction products that is not fully captured by the ISS framework.

Illustrative Example: Hexis may vote for a shareholder proposal requesting a report on managing the plastic waste from new electronic nicotine devices—a key tenet of our "Equity & Stakeholder Impact" engagement principle—even if ISS recommends otherwise.

## **4. Documentation and Fiduciary Record**

To ensure a robust and defensible fiduciary process, every decision to override the ISS Benchmark Policy recommendation will be documented internally. This documentation will include a clear, written rationale explaining how the specific vote aligns with the fund's stated engagement strategy and serves the best long-term interests of our investors.

As a client of the ISS ProxyExchange voting service, Hexis will maintain its voting records on the ProxyExchange platform. This platform facilitates vote reporting, which aids in compliance with regulations such as the SEC's Form N-PX and the EU's Shareholder Rights Directive II. The ProxyExchange vote recordkeeping system is designed to assist Hexis in meeting the recordkeeping requirements of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and other relevant regulations.