

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**STONE RIDGE TRUST V**

STONE RIDGE ALTERNATIVE LENDING RISK PREMIUM FUND

Common Shares

LENDX

July 1, 2021

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This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) describes Stone Ridge Alternative Lending Risk Premium Fund. This SAI is not a prospectus and is only authorized for distribution when preceded or accompanied by the Fund’s current prospectus dated July 1, 2021, as supplemented from time to time (the “Prospectus”). This SAI supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus, as well as material incorporated by reference into the Fund’s Registration Statement and other information regarding the Fund. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by writing the Fund at the address, or by calling the toll-free telephone number listed above, by visiting [www.stoneridgefunds.com](http://www.stoneridgefunds.com) or from the EDGAR database on the Commission’s interest site ([www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)).

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## ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION, RISKS AND RESTRICTIONS

Stone Ridge Alternative Lending Risk Premium Fund (the “Fund”) is a closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), and is structured as an “interval fund.” The Fund is an investment portfolio of Stone Ridge Trust V (the “Trust”), a Delaware statutory trust organized on November 4, 2015. Capitalized terms used in this SAI and not otherwise defined have the meanings given to them in the Prospectus.

The Prospectus discusses the investment objective of the Fund, as well as the principal investment strategies it employs to achieve its objective and the principal investment risks associated with those strategies. Additional information about the strategies and other investment practices the Fund may employ and certain related risks of the Fund are described below.

### Additional Investment Information and Risks

#### **Additional Information about the Fund’s Investments in Alternative Lending-Related Securities.**

*Bankruptcy Risk.* In the event that a platform or third-party servicer become subject to a bankruptcy, the Fund’s investments in the alternative lending-related securities serviced by such entity may be negatively impacted. Although many of the servicers may have been organized and operated in a manner that is intended to minimize the likelihood that they will become insolvent, if the servicing entity were to become subject to bankruptcy proceedings, payments on the corresponding alternative lending-related securities could be substantially delayed or reduced, and any interest accrued on those obligations may never be paid to investors.

In the event that a platform or issuer becomes subject to bankruptcy, the Fund’s investments in securities issued by the platform or issuer may be negatively impacted. If a platform or issuer becomes subject to bankruptcy proceedings, the Fund can expect to realize on any investments only to the extent that the platform’s or issuer’s creditors are made whole and the platform or issuer still has residual profits that would benefit investors.

In the event that a borrower becomes subject to a bankruptcy proceeding, the Fund’s investments in any loan that is an unsecured obligation of the borrower may be negatively impacted. If a borrower enters bankruptcy, an automatic stay of all proceedings against the borrower’s property will typically be granted. This stay will prevent the platform or third-party servicer from foreclosing on such property unless relief from the stay can be obtained from the bankruptcy court, and there is no guarantee that any such relief will be obtained. The Fund may incur significant legal fees and costs in attempting to obtain relief from a bankruptcy stay from the bankruptcy court and, even if such relief is ultimately granted, it may take several months or more to obtain. In addition, bankruptcy courts have broad powers to permit the sale of any real property free of any lien that a servicer may have, to compel the servicer to accept an amount less than the balance due and to permit the borrower to repay the loan over a term which may be substantially longer than the original term of the loan, all of which could negatively impact the value of the Fund’s investments.

*Chargeback Risk.* Because the Fund expects to receive payments received by the servicing agent from borrowers, the Fund may be affected by “chargebacks,” which occur when a borrower who has made a payment on an underlying loan has its bank cancel the payment or request a refund of that payment. In the event that a borrower successfully processes a chargeback on a payment after proceeds have been distributed to the Fund, the servicing agent will deduct the amount of that payment from the Fund’s account with the servicing agent and amounts that would otherwise be credited to the Fund’s account (including amounts deposited or that are payable on other loans) are subject to set-off against any such negative cash balance.

*Distressed and Defaulted Instruments or Special Situations Investments Risks.* The Fund may invest directly or indirectly in securities of financially distressed issuers, which involve substantial risks. The Fund may invest in or acquire loans to companies involved in or undergoing work-outs, liquidations, spinoffs, reorganizations, bankruptcies or other catalytic changes or similar transactions. Such investments may include

debtor-in-possession financing. Distressed debt may present a substantial risk of default or may be in default at the time the Fund invests. The Fund may incur additional expenses to the extent it is required to seek recovery upon a default in the payment of principal or interest on its investments. In any reorganization or liquidation proceeding relating to an investment in a financially distressed issuer, the Fund may lose its entire investment or may be required to accept cash or securities with a value substantially less than its original investment. Among the risks inherent in investments in a troubled issuer is that it is often difficult to obtain information as to the true financial condition of the issuer. The Adviser's judgments about the credit quality of a financially distressed issuer and the relative value of its instruments may prove to be inaccurate. Further, distressed investing gives rise to the risks that the contemplated transaction will be unsuccessful, will be considerably drawn out over time or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security with a value less than the purchase price of the security or other financial instrument in respect of which such distribution is received. Similarly, if an anticipated transaction does not in fact occur, the Fund may be required to sell its investment at a loss or, if there is no secondary market for such investment, may be required to hold an investment with little or no value. When dealing with investments in distressed issuers, the Fund may also experience other risks, including legal difficulties and negotiations with creditors and other claimants. Because there is substantial uncertainty concerning the outcome of transactions involving the financially troubled issuers in which the Fund may invest, there is a potential risk of loss by the Fund of its entire investment in such issuers.

*Legal and Regulatory Risk.* The Fund may be adversely affected by new (or revised) laws or regulations that may be imposed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC"), the Commission, the U.S. Federal Reserve, the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau or other banking or consumer credit regulators or other governmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets. The Fund may also be adversely affected by changes in the enforcement or interpretation of existing statutes and rules, including the adoption and enforcement of statutes, regulations, orders or regulatory guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the securities and futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations and margin requirements. The CFTC, the Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, other regulators and self-regulatory organizations and exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The regulation of derivatives transactions and funds that engage in such transactions is an evolving area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action.

New regulations could, among other things, adversely affect the value of the investments held by the Fund, restrict the Fund's ability to engage in derivatives transactions (for example, by making certain types of derivatives transactions no longer available to the Fund) and/or increase the costs of such derivatives transactions (for example, by increasing margin or capital requirements) and the Fund's ability to execute certain investment strategies may be adversely affected as a result. It is unclear how the regulatory changes will affect counterparty risk.

If a perception develops that there is or in the future could be renewed regulatory focus on participants who benefit from their participation in any U.S. government-sponsored program, or attempts by legislative and/or regulatory bodies to impose new restrictions and/or taxes and penalties on such participants, possibly even with retroactive effect, then the Fund's position in such securities may be compromised.

As the alternative lending industry grows, governments and/or other regulatory bodies both inside and outside the U.S. may impose restrictions on participants in the alternative lending industry, including platforms, investors, such as the Fund, or others, that could adversely impact the Fund's investment performance. Such restrictions could include regulations limiting the Fund's ability to acquire loans or interests in loans or to collect the stipulated levels of interest on the loans underlying the Fund's alternative lending-related investments.

*Servicer Autonomy Risk.* A servicer may be authorized or required to waive or modify non-material terms of a loan, to consent to the postponement of strict compliance with certain non-material terms or to grant a non-material indulgence to a borrower. In the event that a loan is in default or the servicer determines that default is reasonably foreseeable, the servicer may be permitted to waive or modify a material term of a loan, to accept payment of an amount less than the principal balance in final satisfaction of a loan or to grant any indulgence to a

borrower, provided that the servicer has reasonably determined that such action will not be materially adverse to the interests of the holders of any security interest in such loan.

*Servicer Resources Risk.* A platform may derive a substantial amount, if not all, of its revenue from fees generated through making and arranging loans. As a result, a platform may be incentivized to finance as many projects as possible in order to maximize the amount of origination fees it is able to generate. Increased project volume increases the demands on a platform's servicing resources, which could impact the platform's ability to devote adequate attention and resources to servicing loans. In the event that a platform takes on loan volumes that exceed its ability to service outstanding loans, payments on the Fund's loans may be adversely affected.

*Risks Related to Investments in Receivables or Invoices.* The Fund may invest in alternative lending-related securities with exposure to receivables or invoice financing. In making such investments, the Fund is dependent upon the platforms' ability to monitor and curtail fraud, including factoring fraud, which involves the falsification of invoice documents. False invoices can easily be created online to appear as if they have been issued by legitimate debtors or as if the invoiced amounts are higher than they actually are. Platforms that originate trade receivables financing loans to corporations usually conduct due diligence but do not always conduct on-site visits to verify that the business exists and is in good standing. For this reason, the risk of fraud may be greater with corporate trade receivables. Typically, a platform will seek to validate that the debtor has received the goods or services for which it has been invoiced and is willing to pay the creditor before making the receivables available for investment, although this may not always be the case. There can be no assurance, however, that the debtor will not subsequently dispute the quality or price of the goods or services and withhold payments. Fraud, delays or write-offs associated with such disputes could directly impact the profitability of the Fund's investments in alternative lending-related securities with exposure to trade receivables. In the event of insolvency of any debtor owing funds on a receivable that the Fund has purchased directly or indirectly, the Fund may only rank as an unsecured creditor. In the case of receivables transferred with recourse, when a debtor defaults on its obligations to the purchaser of the receivable (such as the Fund, directly or indirectly), the seller of the receivable will become obligated to fulfill any remaining invoice amounts owed to the purchaser. In the case of receivables transferred without recourse, the Fund or other direct owner of the receivable will have no such "back-up" obligor in the event of a debtor default. In either scenario, there is a risk that the party with the payment obligation will fail to make payments timely or at all.

**Additional Information Regarding Derivatives.** In addition to the derivatives transactions described in the Prospectus, the Fund may enter into derivatives contracts with respect to any security or other instrument in which it is permitted to invest or with respect to any related security, instrument or index ("reference instruments" or "reference securities"). The Fund may enter into a variety of derivative contracts, but typically expects to enter into futures contracts and swaps, and may also enter into put and call options or options on futures contracts or other derivatives. This universe of investments is subject to change under varying market conditions and as these instruments evolve over time. The Fund may enter into derivatives contracts with standardized terms and no or few special or unusual components, which are generally traded on an exchange, as well as derivatives with more complex features, such as caps, floors, knock-outs, look-backs or other "exotic" elements, singly or in combination, which are generally traded over the counter. Over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives may be standardized or have customized features and may have limited or no liquidity. The Fund's derivatives contracts may be centrally cleared or settled bilaterally directly with a counterparty. The Fund's derivatives contracts may be cash settled or physically settled.

The derivatives contracts the Fund may enter into involve substantial risk. Derivatives typically allow the Fund to seek to increase or decrease the level of risk to which it is exposed more quickly and efficiently than transactions in other types of instruments. The Fund incurs costs in connection with opening and closing derivatives positions.

The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the reference instrument, due to failure of a counterparty or due to tax or regulatory constraints. Derivatives may create economic leverage in the Fund, which magnifies the Fund's exposure to the reference instrument and magnifies

potential losses. When derivatives are used to gain or limit exposure to a particular market or market segment, their performance may not correlate as expected to the performance of such market, thereby causing the Fund to fail to achieve its original purpose for using such derivatives. A decision as to whether, when and how to use derivatives involves the exercise of specialized skill and judgment, and a transaction may be unsuccessful in whole or in part because of market behavior, unexpected events or the Adviser's failure to use derivatives effectively. Derivative instruments may be difficult to value, may be illiquid and may be subject to wide swings in valuation caused by changes in the value of the reference instrument.

Set forth below are additional examples of types of derivatives in which the Fund may invest:

*Futures.* The Fund may buy and sell a variety of futures contracts that relate to, among other things, debt securities (these are referred to as "interest rate futures"), broadly-based securities indices ("stock index futures" and "bond index futures"), foreign currencies, commodities and individual equity securities ("single stock futures"). The primary risks associated with the use of futures contracts and options are imperfect correlation, liquidity, unanticipated market movement and counterparty risk.

A broadly-based stock index is used as the basis for trading stock index futures. They may in some cases be based on equity securities of issuers in a particular industry or group of industries. A stock index assigns relative values to the securities included in the index and its value fluctuates in response to the changes in value of the underlying securities. A stock index cannot be purchased or sold directly. Bond index futures are similar contracts based on the future value of the basket of securities that comprise the index. These contracts obligate the seller to deliver, and the purchaser to take, cash to settle the futures transaction. There is no delivery made of the underlying securities to settle the futures obligation. Either party may also settle the transaction by entering into an offsetting contract.

An interest rate future obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to take) cash or a specified type of debt security to settle the futures transaction. Either party could also enter into an offsetting contract to close out the position. Similarly, a single stock future obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to take) cash or a specified equity security to settle the futures transaction. Either party could also enter into an offsetting contract to close out the position. Single stock futures trade on a very limited number of exchanges, with contracts typically not fungible among the exchanges.

No money (other than execution and exchange fees for listed futures trades) is paid or received by the Fund on the purchase or sale of a future. Upon entering into a futures transaction, the Fund will be required to deposit an initial margin payment with the futures commission merchant (the "FCM"). Initial margin payments will generally be deposited directly with the FCM. As the future is marked to market (that is, its value on the Fund's books is changed to reflect changes in its market value), subsequent margin payments, called variation margin, will be paid to or by the FCM daily.

At any time prior to expiration of the future, the Fund may elect to close out its position by taking an opposite position, at which time a final determination of variation margin is made and any additional cash must be paid by or released to the Fund. All futures transactions (except forward contracts) are effected through a clearinghouse associated with the exchange on which the contracts are traded. Futures prices are highly volatile at times, and are influenced by many external economic, governmental and world events. The low margin deposits normally required in futures trading permits an extremely high degree of leverage, which can result in the Fund experiencing substantial gains or losses due to relatively small price movements or other factors.

The Fund may invest in futures contracts on various commodities and options on commodity futures. Compared to investing in futures contracts generally, commodity futures contracts are associated with additional risks including the following:

- *Storage.* In commodity futures markets there are physical storage costs associated with purchasing the underlying commodity. The price of a commodity futures contract reflects the storage costs of

purchasing the physical commodity, including the time value of money invested in the physical commodity. The value of a commodity futures contract may also change to the extent that the storage costs for an underlying commodity change while the Fund is invested in futures contracts on that commodity.

- *Reinvestment.* In the commodity futures markets, producers of the underlying commodity may decide to hedge the price risk of selling the commodity by selling futures contracts to lock in the price of the commodity at delivery. In order to induce speculators to purchase the other side (the long side) of the same futures contract, the commodity producer generally must sell the futures contract at a lower price than the expected future spot price. Conversely, if most hedgers in the futures market are end-users of the underlying product and are, therefore, purchasing futures contracts to hedge against a rise in commodity prices, then speculators will only sell the other side of the futures contract at a higher futures price than the expected future spot price of the commodity. The changing nature of the participants in the commodity markets will influence whether futures prices are above or below the future spot price, which can have significant implications for the Fund. As a result, when the Adviser reinvests the proceeds from a maturing contract, it may purchase a new futures contract at a higher or lower price than the expected futures spot price of the maturing contract or choose to pursue other investments.
- *Speculative Position Limits.* The CFTC and U.S. futures exchanges have established limits on the maximum speculative positions in certain futures and options contracts (“position limits”) that any person, or group of persons acting in concert, may hold or control in particular contracts and certain related swaps. The CFTC has proposed a rule, which if adopted, would materially expand the number of futures and options contracts subject to federal limits. For the purpose of complying with position limits, other accounts managed by the Adviser are combined with the positions held by the Fund under the Adviser’s management. This trading could preclude additional trading in such contracts by the Adviser for the account of the Fund.

*Swaps.* The Fund may enter into swap agreements, including interest rate, total return, credit default and volatility swaps. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for a specified period of time typically ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. The Fund may enter into swap agreements to, among other reasons, gain exposure to certain markets in the most economical way possible, protect against currency fluctuations, or reduce risk arising from a particular portfolio position.

The Fund may enter into swap transactions with certain counterparties pursuant to master netting agreements. A master netting agreement provides that all swaps done between the Fund and that counterparty shall be regarded as parts of an integral agreement. If amounts are payable on a particular date in the same currency in respect of more than one swap transaction, the amount payable shall be the net amount. In addition, the master netting agreement may provide that if one party defaults generally or on any swap, the counterparty can terminate all outstanding swaps with that party. As a result, to the extent the Fund enters into master netting agreements with a counterparty, the Fund may be required to terminate a greater number of swap agreements than if it had not entered into such an agreement, which may result in losses to the Fund. Swap agreements may effectively add leverage to the Fund’s portfolio because the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap.

The Fund may enter into swaps either directly (“unfunded swaps”) or indirectly in the form of a swap embedded within a structured security (“funded swaps”).

The following are additional examples of types of swap transactions in which the Fund may engage:

- *Interest Rate Swaps.* In an interest rate swap, the Fund and another party exchange the right to receive or the obligation to pay interest on a security or other reference rate. For example, they might swap the

right to receive floating rate payments for fixed rate payments. There is a risk that, based on movements of interest rates, the payments made by the Fund under a swap agreement will be greater than the payments it receives.

- *Credit Default Swaps.* A credit default swap enables an investor to buy or sell protection against a credit event, such as a borrower's or issuer's failure to make timely payments of interest or principal, bankruptcy or restructuring. The Fund may seek to enhance returns by selling protection or attempt to mitigate credit risk by buying protection against the occurrence of a credit event by a specified borrower or issuer. Credit default swaps may refer to a single security or a basket of securities.

If the Fund buys credit protection using a credit default swap and a credit event occurs, the Fund will deliver the defaulted bond underlying the swap and the swap counterparty will pay the par amount of the bond. If the Fund sells credit protection using a credit default swap and a credit event occurs, the Fund will pay the par amount of the defaulted bond underlying the swap and the swap counterparty will deliver the bond. Rather than exchange the bonds for the par value, a single cash payment may be due from the protection seller representing the difference between the par value of the bonds and the current market value of the bonds (which may be determined through an auction). If the swap is on a basket of assets, the notional amount of the swap is reduced by the par amount of the defaulted asset, and the fixed payments are then made on the reduced notional amount.

Risks of credit default swaps include all the risks of OTC derivatives generally, including counterparty credit risk (if the counterparty fails to meet its obligations) and the risk that the Fund will not properly assess the cost of the instrument based on the lack of transparency in the market. If the Fund is selling credit protection, there is a risk that a credit event will occur and that the Fund will have to pay par value on defaulted bonds. If the Fund is buying credit protection, there is a risk that no credit event will occur and the Fund will receive no benefit for the premium paid. In addition, if the Fund is buying credit protection and a credit event does occur, there is a risk when the Fund does not own the underlying asset, that the Fund will have difficulty acquiring the asset on the open market and may receive adverse pricing.

- *Volatility Swap Contracts.* The Fund may enter into volatility swaps to hedge the direction of volatility in a particular underlying asset or reference, or for other non-speculative purposes. Volatility swaps involve an exchange between the Fund and a counterparty of periodic payments based on the measured volatility of an underlying security, currency, commodity, interest rate, index or other reference asset over a specified time frame. Volatility swaps are subject to all the risks of OTC derivatives generally, including counterparty credit risks (if the counterparty fails to meet its obligations), and the risk that the Adviser is incorrect in forecasts of volatility of the underlying asset or reference.
- *Swaptions and Swap Forwards.* The Fund also may enter into options on swaps ("swaptions") as well as forwards on swaps. A swaption is a contract that gives a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) to enter into a new swap agreement or to shorten, extend, cancel, or otherwise modify an existing swap agreement on pre-designated terms. The Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions. A swap forward is an agreement to enter into a swap agreement at some point in the future, usually three to six months from the date of the contract.

The writer of the contract receives the premium and bears the risk of unfavorable changes in the preset rate on the underlying swap. The Fund generally will incur a greater risk when it writes a swaption than when it purchases a swaption. When the Fund purchases a swaption it risks losing only the amount of the premium it has paid if the Fund lets the option expire unexercised. When the Fund writes a swaption it will become obligated, upon exercise of the option by the counterparty, according to the terms of the underlying agreement.



*Options.* The Fund may buy or write (sell) call options and put options on securities, indices and currencies, forward foreign currency exchange contracts, stock index futures, swaps, including event-linked swaps, commodities, futures and other derivative instruments. A call option typically gives the option buyer the right (but not the obligation) to buy, and requires the option seller to sell, a reference instrument at an agreed-upon price; a put option gives the option buyer the right (but not the obligation) to sell, and requires the option seller to purchase, a reference instrument at an agreed-upon price. If an option is exercised, the Fund will either purchase or sell the reference instrument at the strike price or pay or receive the difference between the strike price and the current price level of the reference instrument, depending on the terms of the option. The premium, the exercise price and the market value of the applicable underlying instrument together will determine the gain or loss realized by the Fund as the seller of the option.

The value of options may be adversely affected if the market for such options becomes less liquid or smaller. The Fund's ability to close out its position as a seller of an OTC option or exchange listed put option ("put") or call option ("call") is dependent, in part, upon the liquidity of the option market. The Fund's ability to terminate OTC options is more limited than with exchange-traded options and may involve the risk that broker-dealers participating in such transactions will not fulfill their obligations. An exchange-traded option position may be closed out only on a market that provides secondary trading for options of the same series, and there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. The Fund might experience losses if it could not close out a position because of an illiquid market for the future or option.

Options are marked to market daily and their value will be affected by changes in the value of the underlying securities, changes in the dividend rates of the underlying securities, an increase in interest rates, changes in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market and the underlying instruments and the remaining time to the options' expiration. Additionally, the exercise price of an option may be adjusted downward before the option's expiration as a result of the occurrence of certain corporate or other events affecting the underlying instrument, such as extraordinary dividends, stock splits, merger or other extraordinary distributions or events. A reduction in the exercise price of an option would reduce the Fund's capital appreciation potential on the underlying instrument.

The Fund's option activities could affect its portfolio turnover rate and brokerage commissions. The exercise of calls written by the Fund might cause the Fund to sell related portfolio securities, thus increasing its turnover rate. The exercise by the Fund of puts on securities will cause the sale of underlying investments, increasing portfolio turnover. Although the decision whether to exercise a put it holds is within the Fund's control, holding a put might cause the Fund to sell the related investments for reasons that would not exist in the absence of the put.

The Fund could pay a brokerage commission each time it buys a call or put, sells a call or put, or buys or sells an underlying investment in connection with the exercise of a call or put. Those commissions could be higher on a relative basis than the commissions for direct purchases or sales of the underlying investments. Premiums paid for options are small in relation to the market value of the underlying investments. Consequently, put and call options offer large amounts of leverage. The leverage offered by trading in options could result in the Fund's net asset value being more sensitive to changes in the value of the underlying investment.

*Options on Futures.* The Fund may enter into options on futures contracts. An option on a futures contract gives the buyer, in return for the premium paid, the right (but not the obligation) to either buy or sell the underlying futures contract during a certain period of time for a fixed price. The writing of a put or call option on a futures contract involves risks similar to the risks applicable to the purchase or sale of futures contracts. However, the difficulty of predicting changes in the value of the underlying futures contract may expose the Fund to a somewhat different set of risks. For example, variations in speculative market demand for futures on the relevant underlying reference asset can cause the value of the futures to change at an unanticipated time or to an unanticipated degree; this or other factors may bring the value of the underlying

future closer to the option's strike price, increasing the potential for risk of loss to the Fund. To the extent that the Fund enters into options on futures contracts for hedging purposes, an imperfect correlation between this derivative position and the value of the instrument underlying such a position could lead to losses.

*Foreign Currency Transactions.* The Fund also may purchase and sell foreign currency options and foreign currency futures contracts and related options, and may engage in foreign currency transactions either on a spot (cash) basis at the rate prevailing in the currency exchange market at the time or through deliverable and non-deliverable forward foreign currency exchange contracts ("currency forward contracts"). The Fund may (but is not required to) engage in these transactions in order to protect against uncertainty in the level of future foreign exchange rates in the purchase and sale of assets. The Fund may also use foreign currency options and foreign currency forward contracts to increase exposure to a foreign currency or to shift exposure to foreign currency fluctuations from one country to another. Suitable currency hedging transactions may not be available in all circumstances and the Adviser may decide not to use hedging transactions that are available.

Under a currency forward contract, one party agrees to purchase, and another party agrees to sell, a specific currency at a future date. That date may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties. The transaction price is set at the time the contract is entered into. These contracts are traded in the inter-bank market conducted directly among currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers.

The Fund may use currency forward contracts to protect against uncertainty in the level of future exchange rates. The use of currency forward contracts does not eliminate the risk of fluctuations in the prices of the underlying securities the Fund owns or intends to acquire, but it does fix a rate of exchange in advance. Although currency forward contracts may reduce the risk of loss from a decline in the value of the hedged currency, at the same time they limit any potential gain if the value of the hedged currency increases.

When the Fund enters into a contract for the purchase or sale of a security denominated in a foreign currency, or when it anticipates receiving dividend payments in a foreign currency, the Fund might desire to "lock-in" the U.S. dollar price of the security or the U.S. dollar equivalent of the dividend payments. To do so, the Fund could enter into a currency forward contract for the purchase or sale of the amount of foreign currency involved in the underlying transaction, in a fixed amount of U.S. dollars per unit of the foreign currency. This is called a "transaction hedge." The transaction hedge will protect the Fund against a loss from an adverse change in the currency exchange rates during the period between the date on which the asset is purchased or sold or on which the payment is declared, and the date on which the payments are made or received.

The Fund could also use currency forward contracts to lock in the U.S. dollar value of portfolio positions. This is called a "position hedge." When the Fund believes that a foreign currency might suffer a substantial decline against the U.S. dollar, it could enter into a currency forward contract to sell an amount of that foreign currency approximating the value of some or all of the Fund's portfolio assets denominated in that foreign currency. When the Fund believes that the U.S. dollar might suffer a substantial decline against a foreign currency, it could enter into a currency forward contract to buy that foreign currency for a fixed dollar amount. Alternatively, the Fund could enter into a currency forward contract to sell a different foreign currency for a fixed U.S. dollar amount if the Fund believes that the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency to be sold pursuant to its currency forward contract will fall whenever there is a decline in the U.S. dollar value of the currency in which portfolio assets of the Fund are denominated. That is referred to as a "cross hedge."

To avoid excess transactions and transaction costs, the Fund may maintain a net exposure to currency forward contracts in excess of the value of the Fund's portfolio securities or other assets denominated in foreign currencies.

The precise matching of the amounts under currency forward contracts and the value of the assets involved generally will not be possible because the future value of assets denominated in foreign currencies will change as a consequence of market movements between the date the currency forward contract is entered into and the date it is sold. In some cases the Adviser might decide to sell the assets and deliver foreign currency to settle the original purchase obligation. If the market value of the assets is less than the amount of foreign currency the Fund is obligated to deliver, the Fund might have to purchase additional foreign currency on the “spot” (that is, cash) market to settle the security trade. If the market value of the asset instead exceeds the amount of foreign currency the Fund is obligated to deliver to settle the trade, the Fund might have to sell on the spot market some of the foreign currency received upon the sale of the asset. There will be additional transaction costs on the spot market in those cases.

The projection of short-term currency market movements is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short-term hedging strategy is highly uncertain. Currency forward contracts involve the risk that anticipated currency movements will not be accurately predicted, causing the Fund to sustain losses on these contracts and to pay additional transaction costs. The use of currency forward contracts in this manner might reduce the Fund’s performance if there are unanticipated changes in currency prices to a greater degree than if the Fund had not entered into such contracts.

At or before the maturity of a currency forward contract requiring the Fund to sell a currency, the Fund might sell a portfolio asset and use the sale proceeds to make delivery of the currency. In the alternative the Fund might retain the asset and offset its contractual obligation to deliver the currency by purchasing a second contract. Under that contract the Fund will obtain, on the same maturity date, the same amount of the currency that it is obligated to deliver. Similarly, the Fund might close out a currency forward contract requiring it to purchase a specified currency by entering into a second contract entitling it to sell the same amount of the same currency on the maturity date of the first contract. The Fund would realize a gain or loss as a result of entering into such an offsetting currency forward contract under either circumstance. The gain or loss will depend on the extent to which the exchange rate or rates between the currencies involved moved between the execution dates of the first contract and offsetting contract.

The costs to the Fund of engaging in currency forward contracts varies with factors such as the currencies involved, the length of the contract period and the market conditions then prevailing. Because currency forward contracts are usually entered into on a principal basis, no brokerage fees or commissions are involved. Because these contracts are not traded on an exchange, the Fund must evaluate the credit and performance risk of the counterparty under each currency forward contract.

Although the Fund values its assets daily in terms of U.S. dollars, it does not intend to convert its holdings of foreign currencies into U.S. dollars on a daily basis. The Fund may convert foreign currency from time to time, and will incur costs in doing so. Foreign exchange dealers do not charge a fee for conversion, but they do seek to realize a profit based on the difference between the prices at which they buy and sell various currencies. Thus, a dealer might offer to sell a foreign currency to one Fund at one rate, while offering a lesser rate of exchange if the Fund desires to resell that currency to the dealer.

*“Structured” Notes.* The Fund may invest in “structured” notes, which are specially-designed derivative debt investments whose principal payments or interest payments are linked to the value of an underlying asset, such as an equity or debt security, currency or commodity or non-asset reference, such as an interest rate or index. The terms of the instrument may be “structured” by the purchaser (the Fund) and the borrower issuing the note.

The values of these notes will fall or rise in response to changes in the values of the underlying asset or reference and the Fund might receive less principal or interest if the underlying asset or reference does not perform as anticipated. In some cases, these notes may pay an amount based on a multiple of the relative

change in value of the asset or reference. This type of note offers the potential for increased income or principal payments, but at a greater risk of loss than a typical debt security of the same maturity and credit quality.

Subordinated “structured” notes, which are subordinated to the right of payment of another class, typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated “structured” notes.

The values of these notes are also subject to both credit risk (if the counterparty fails to meet its obligations) and interest rate risk and, therefore, the Fund could receive more or less than it originally invested when a note matures. The prices of these notes may be very volatile and they may have a limited trading market, making it difficult for the Fund to value them or sell them at an acceptable price.

*Hedging with Derivatives.* Although it is not obligated to do so, the Fund can use derivatives to hedge. The Fund can use hedging to attempt to protect against declines in the market value of the Fund’s portfolio, to permit the Fund to retain unrealized gains in the value of portfolio assets that have appreciated or to facilitate selling assets for investment reasons. The Fund can use hedging to establish a portfolio position as a temporary substitute for purchasing particular assets. In that case, the Fund would normally seek to purchase the assets and then terminate that hedging position. The Fund might also use this type of hedge to attempt to protect against the possibility that its portfolio assets would not be fully included in a rise in value of the market.

The Fund can use derivatives to hedge by taking or long or short positions in the underlying assets, related assets, or other derivatives positions. To gain long investment exposure, the Fund may invest in assets directly or through a Subsidiary. To gain short investment exposure, the Fund may use derivatives (including futures). Some of the hedging strategies the Fund can use are described below. The Fund may use additional hedging strategies as discussed elsewhere in this SAI, and it may employ new hedging strategies when they are developed, if those investment methods are consistent with the Fund’s investment objectives and are permissible under applicable regulations governing the Fund.

The use of hedging strategies requires special skills and knowledge of investment techniques that are different than what is required for normal portfolio management. If the Adviser uses a hedging strategy at the wrong time or judges market conditions incorrectly, hedging strategies may reduce the Fund’s return. The Fund could also experience losses if the prices of its hedging positions were not correlated with its other investments.

There is a risk in using short hedging by selling futures, entering into swaps or purchasing puts on broadly-based indices or futures to attempt to protect against declines in the value of the Fund’s portfolio assets. The risk is that the prices of the futures or the value of the swap or the applicable index will correlate imperfectly with the behavior of the cash prices of the Fund’s assets. For example, it is possible that while the Fund has used derivative instruments in a short hedge, the market may advance and the value of the assets held in the Fund’s portfolio might decline. If that occurred, the Fund would lose money on the derivative instruments and also experience a decline in the value of its portfolio assets.

The risk of imperfect correlation increases as the composition of the Fund’s portfolio diverges from the assets included in the applicable index. To compensate for the imperfect correlation of movements in the price of the portfolio assets being hedged and movements in the price of the hedging instruments, the Fund might use derivative instruments in a greater dollar amount than the dollar amount of portfolio assets being hedged. It might do so if the historical volatility of the prices of the portfolio assets being hedged is more than the historical volatility of the applicable index.

The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets are subject to distortions, due to differences in the nature of those markets. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to margin deposit and maintenance requirements. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions which could distort the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into offsetting

transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, thus producing distortion. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities markets. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions.

The Fund can use derivative instruments to establish a position in the market as a temporary substitute for the purchase of individual securities or other assets (long hedging) by buying futures and/or calls on such futures, broadly-based indices or on securities. It is possible that when the Fund does so the market might decline. If the Fund then concludes not to invest in assets because of concerns that the market might decline further or for other reasons, the Fund will realize a loss on the hedge position that is not offset by a reduction in the price of the assets purchased.

*Additional Information Regarding Derivatives Counterparty Risk.* The Fund is exposed to the credit risk of the counterparties with which, or the brokers, dealers and exchanges through which, it deals in derivatives, whether it engages in exchange traded or off-exchange transactions. If the Fund's FCM becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or otherwise defaults on its obligations to the Fund, the Fund may not receive all amounts owed to it in respect of its trading, despite the clearinghouse fully discharging all of its obligations. The Commodity Exchange Act (the "CEA") requires an FCM to segregate all funds received from its customers with respect to cleared derivatives transactions from such FCM's proprietary funds. If an FCM were not to do so to the full extent required by law, the assets of an account might not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of an FCM. Furthermore, in the event of an FCM's bankruptcy, the Fund would be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds segregated on behalf of an FCM's combined customer accounts, even though certain property specifically traceable to the Fund (for example, U.S. Treasury bills deposited by the Fund) may be held by the FCM. FCM bankruptcies have occurred in which customers were unable to recover from the FCM's estate the full amount of their funds owed and on deposit with such FCM. Such situations could arise due to various factors, or a combination of factors, including inadequate FCM capitalization, inadequate controls on customer trading and inadequate customer capital. In addition, an FCM will generally provide the clearinghouse the net amount of variation margin required for cleared swaps for all of its customers in the aggregate, rather than individually for each customer. The Fund is, therefore, subject to the risk that a clearinghouse will not make variation margin payments owed to the Fund if another customer of the clearing member has suffered a loss and is in default. The Fund may also be subject to the risk that it will be required to provide additional variation margin to the clearinghouse before the clearinghouse will move the Fund's cleared derivatives transactions to another clearing member. Furthermore, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of a clearinghouse, the Fund might experience a loss of funds deposited through its FCM as margin with the clearinghouse, a loss of unrealized profits on its open positions and the loss of funds owed to it as realized profits on closed positions. Such a bankruptcy or insolvency might also cause a substantial delay before the Fund could obtain the return of funds owed to it by an FCM who was a member of such clearinghouse.

Because bilateral derivative transactions are traded between counterparties based on contractual relationships, the Fund is subject to the risk that a counterparty will not perform its obligations under the related contracts. There can be no assurance that a counterparty will not default and that the Fund will not sustain a loss on a transaction as a result. In situations where the Fund is required to post margin or other collateral with a counterparty, the counterparty may fail to segregate the collateral or may commingle the collateral with the counterparty's own assets. As a result, in the event of the counterparty's bankruptcy or insolvency, the Fund's collateral may be subject to the conflicting claims of the counterparty's creditors, and the Fund may be exposed to the risk of a court treating the Fund as a general unsecured creditor of the counterparty, rather than as the owner of the collateral.

In the case of cleared swaps, the FCM is required to notify the clearinghouse of the initial margin provided by the clearing member to the clearinghouse that is attributable to each customer. However, if the FCM does not accurately report the Fund's initial margin, the Fund is subject to the risk that a clearinghouse will use the Fund's

assets held in an omnibus account at the clearinghouse to satisfy payment obligations of a defaulting customer of the clearing member to the clearinghouse.

The Fund is subject to the risk that issuers of the Fund's portfolio instruments may default on their obligations under those instruments and that certain events may occur that have an immediate and significant adverse effect on the value of those instruments. There can be no assurance that an issuer of an instrument in which the Fund invests will not default or that an event that has an immediate and significant adverse effect on the value of an instrument will not occur and that the Fund will not sustain a loss on a transaction as a result.

Transactions entered into by the Fund may be executed on various U.S. and non-U.S. exchanges and may be cleared and settled through various clearinghouses, custodians, depositories and prime brokers throughout the world. Although the Fund attempts to execute, clear and settle the transactions through entities the Adviser believes to be sound, there can be no assurance that a failure by any such entity will not lead to a loss to the Fund.

*Margin.* The Fund may post cash, securities or other assets as margin or collateral and these instruments may not be denominated in the same currency as the contract they secure or the underlying instrument of the contract. This may give rise to a form of currency exposure, where changes in the value of foreign currencies can impact the value of the margin on deposit. The Fund may at times have significant margin obligations to broker-dealers or other entities as a result of listed or OTC derivatives positions. The Fund may use a tri-party collateral protection mechanism; tri-party arrangements may result in higher costs than if the Fund had posted margin directly. The Fund may also establish alternative collateral mechanisms in order to achieve a balance between cost and counterparty credit risk to the Fund, including posting collateral directly with its broker or the option clearinghouse.

*Regulatory Issues.* With respect to the Fund, the Adviser has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term commodity pool operator ("CPO") under the CEA pursuant to Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") Rule 4.5. Accordingly, the Adviser (with respect to the Fund) is not subject to registration or regulation as a CPO under the CEA. To remain eligible for the exclusion, the Fund is limited in its ability to use certain financial instruments regulated under the CEA ("commodity interests"), including futures and options on futures and certain swaps transactions.

The CFTC and certain futures exchanges have established limits, referred to as "position limits," on the maximum net long or net short positions which any person may hold or control in particular futures and options contracts. The CFTC recently proposed a rule which, if adopted, would materially expand the scope of contracts subject to federal limits to include additional futures and options and certain swaps. All positions owned or controlled by the same person or entity, even if in different accounts, may be aggregated for purposes of determining whether the applicable position limits have been exceeded. Thus, even if the Fund does not intend to exceed applicable position limits, it is possible that different clients managed by the Adviser may be aggregated for this purpose. Any modification of trading decisions or elimination of open positions that may be required to avoid exceeding such limits may adversely affect the profitability of the Fund.

*Tax Issues.* The Fund's investments in options and other derivative instruments could affect the amount, timing and character of the Fund's distributions; in some cases, the tax treatment of such investments may not be certain. The tax issues relating to these and other types of investments and transactions are described more fully under "Tax Status" below.

**Additional Information Regarding Leverage.** The Fund may use leverage. Although the use of leverage may create an opportunity for increased returns of the Fund, it also results in additional risks and can magnify the effect of any losses and thus could negatively impact the Fund's business and results of operation and have important adverse consequences to the Fund's investments. The loss on leverage transactions may substantially exceed the initial investment.

The terms of financing arrangements entered into by the Fund or its Subsidiaries may restrict the Fund's or a Subsidiary's operating flexibility, including covenants that, among others, may limit the Fund's ability to: (i) pay distributions in certain circumstances, (ii) incur additional debt, and (iii) engage in certain transactions. If the Fund or a Subsidiary secures its leverage through the pledging of collateral, the Fund or Subsidiary may, if the Fund or Subsidiary is unable to generate sufficient cash flow to meet principal and interest payments on its indebtedness, be subject to risk that it is required to surrender its collateral and that such collateral may be liquidated at inopportune times or at prices that are not favorable to the Fund and cause significant losses. If a lender seizes and liquidates pledged collateral, such collateral may be sold at distressed price levels. The Fund will fail to realize the full value of such asset in a distressed sale.

The Fund or its Subsidiaries may be required to pay commitment fees and other costs of borrowings under the terms of a credit facility. Moreover, interest on borrowings will be an expense of the Fund. With the use of borrowings, there is a risk that the interest rates paid by the Fund or a Subsidiary on the amount it borrows will be higher than the return on the Fund's investments. Such additional costs and expenses may affect the operating results of the Fund.

If the Fund or its Subsidiaries cannot generate sufficient cash flow from investments, they may need to refinance all or a portion of indebtedness on or before maturity. During the economic downturn that began in 2008, the U.S. capital markets experienced historic dislocations and liquidity disruptions, which caused financing to be unavailable in many cases and, even if available, caused the cost of prospective financings to increase. These circumstances materially impacted liquidity in the debt markets, making financing terms for borrowers able to find financing less attractive, and in many cases resulted in the unavailability of certain types of debt financing. Uncertainty in the debt and equity markets may negatively impact the Fund's or a Subsidiary's ability to access financing on favorable terms or at all. The inability to obtain additional financing could have a material adverse effect on the Fund's operations and on its ability to meet its debt obligations. If it is unable to refinance any of its indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms or at all, the Fund's returns may be harmed.

**Additional Information Regarding REITs.** As described in the Prospectus, the Fund invests in REITs, including equity REITs, which generally invest a majority of their assets in income-producing properties. Certain REITs in which the Fund invests invest their assets in non-income producing assets, such as appreciation interests. Appreciation interests are a form of equity investment in real estate in which the investor pays the property owner a specified percentage (e.g., 10%) of the property's current fair market value in exchange for the right to receive a payment upon the occurrence of certain events (such as the sale of the property or the end of the term of the appreciation interest (e.g. 30 years)) equal to the initial investment plus (or minus) a specified percentage (e.g. 35%) of the price appreciation (or depreciation) of the property during such time. Appreciation interests provide the investor with direct exposure to the increase or decrease in value of the specified real property.

In addition to equity REITs, the Fund may also invest in mortgage REITs or hybrid REITs. Mortgage REITs, which make construction, development or long-term mortgage loans, generally invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages or mortgage-backed securities and derive their income primarily from interest payments on the mortgages. Hybrid REITs share characteristics of equity REITs and mortgage REITs.

**Additional Information Regarding Operational Risk.** The Fund, its service providers and other market participants increasingly depend on complex information technology and communications systems to conduct business functions. These systems are subject to a number of different threats or risks that could adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders.

For example, unauthorized third parties may attempt to improperly access, modify, disrupt the operations of or prevent access to these systems or data within them (a "cyber-attack"), whether systems of the Fund, the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other market participants. Power or communications outages, acts of God, information technology equipment malfunctions, operational errors (both human and systematic) and inaccuracies within software or data processing systems may also disrupt business operations or impact critical

data. Market events also may occur at a pace that overloads current information technology and communication systems and processes of the Fund, the Fund's service providers or other market participants, impacting the ability to conduct the Fund's operations.

Cyber -attacks, disruptions or failures that affect the Fund's service providers or counterparties may adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the Fund or impairing Fund operations. In addition, cyber -attacks, disruptions, or failures may cause reputational damage and subject the Fund or its service providers to regulatory fines, litigation costs, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund and its service providers may also incur substantial costs for cyber-security risk management in order to prevent or mitigate cyber-security incidents, and the Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result of such costs.

As described under "Operational and Technology Risk" in the Prospectus, similar types of operational (both human and systematic) and technology risks are also present for issuers of securities or other instruments in which the Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers and may cause the Fund's investments to lose value. In addition, cyber -attacks involving a Fund counterparty could affect such counterparty's ability to meet its obligations to the Fund, which may result in losses to the Fund and its shareholders. Furthermore, as a result of cyber -attacks, disruptions or failures, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities or the entire market, which may result in, among other things, the Fund's inability to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or to accurately price its investments. The Fund cannot directly control any cyber-security plans or systems put in place by its service providers, Fund counterparties, issuers in which the Fund invests or securities markets and exchanges.

**Money Market Instruments.** The Fund invests in money market instruments, which are U.S. dollar-denominated, high-quality, short-term debt obligations, to provide liquidity, for temporary defensive purposes, or for other purposes. Money market instruments may have fixed, variable or floating interest rates. Examples of money market instruments include obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government (or any of its agencies or instrumentalities); bank obligations, such as time deposits, certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances; commercial paper; and variable amount master demand notes.

**U.S. Treasury Obligations.** These include Treasury bills (which have maturities of one year or less when issued), Treasury notes (which have maturities of one to ten years when issued), and Treasury bonds (which have maturities of more than ten years when issued). Treasury securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States as to timely payments of interest and repayments of principal. Similar to other issuers, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of a government may cause the value of the Fund's direct or indirect investment in Treasury obligations to decline.

The Fund can also buy or gain exposure to U.S. Treasury securities whose interest coupons have been "stripped" by a Federal Reserve Bank, zero-coupon U.S. Treasury securities described below, and Treasury Inflation-Protection Securities ("TIPS"). The U.S. Treasury securities called "TIPS" are designed to provide an investment that is not vulnerable to inflation. The interest rate paid by TIPS is fixed. The principal value rises or falls semi-annually based on changes in the published Consumer Price Index. If inflation occurs, the principal and interest payments on TIPS are adjusted to protect investors from inflationary loss. If deflation occurs, the principal and interest payments will be adjusted downward, although the principal will not fall below its face amount at maturity.

Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed bond will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

**Zero-Coupon Securities.** The Fund can invest in zero-coupon securities. Zero-coupon U.S. government securities will typically be U.S. Treasury notes and U.S. Treasury bonds that have been stripped of their interest coupons or certificates representing interests in those stripped debt obligations and coupons.



Zero-coupon securities do not make periodic interest payments and are sold at a deep discount from their face value at maturity. The buyer recognizes a rate of return determined by the gradual appreciation of the security, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date. This discount depends on the time remaining until maturity, as well as prevailing interest rates, the liquidity of the security and the credit quality of the issuer. The discount typically decreases as the maturity date approaches.

Because zero-coupon securities pay no interest and compound semi-annually at the rate fixed at the time of their issuance, their value is generally more volatile than the value of other debt securities that pay interest. Their value may fall more dramatically than the value of interest-bearing securities when interest rates rise. When prevailing interest rates fall, zero-coupon securities tend to rise more rapidly in value because they have a fixed rate of return.

The Fund's investment in zero-coupon securities may cause the Fund to recognize income for federal income tax purposes without a corresponding receipt of cash; this can require the Fund to dispose of investments, including when not otherwise advantageous to do so, to meet distribution requirements.

The Fund may also invest in zero-coupon and delayed interest securities, and "stripped" securities of U.S. and foreign corporations and of foreign government issuers. These are similar in structure to zero-coupon and "stripped" U.S. government securities, but in the case of foreign government securities may or may not be backed by the "full faith and credit" of the issuing foreign government. Zero-coupon securities issued by foreign governments and by corporations will be subject to greater credit risks than U.S. government zero-coupon securities.

**Other "Stripped" Securities.** In addition to buying stripped Treasury securities (as described herein), the Fund can invest in stripped mortgage-related securities that are created by segregating the cash flows from underlying mortgage loans or mortgage securities to create two or more new securities. Each has a specified percentage of the underlying security's principal or interest payments. These are a form of derivative investment.

Mortgage securities may be partially stripped so that each class receives some interest and some principal. However, they may be completely stripped. In that case all of the interest is distributed to holders of one type of security, known as an "interest-only" security, or "I/O," and all of the principal is distributed to holders of another type of security, known as a "principal-only" security or "P/O." Strips can be created for pass-through certificates or collateralized mortgage obligations.

The yields to maturity of I/Os and P/Os are very sensitive to principal repayments (including prepayments) on the underlying mortgages. If the underlying mortgages experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the Fund might not fully recoup its investment in an I/O based on those assets. If underlying mortgages experience less than anticipated prepayments of principal, the yield on the P/Os based on them could decline substantially.

**Exchange-Traded Funds.** The Fund may invest directly or indirectly in ETFs, which are investment companies or special purpose trusts typically designed to provide investment results that generally correspond (on a direct basis or on a multiple, inverse or multiple inverse basis) to the performance of an index. ETFs are listed on an exchange and trade in the secondary market on a per-share basis. The Fund may purchase and sell individual shares of ETFs in the secondary market. These secondary market transactions require the payment of commissions.

Investments in ETFs are subject to the same risks as investments in other investment companies, as described above. Certain risks of investing in an index-based ETF are similar to those of investing in an indexed mutual fund, including tracking error risk (the risk of errors in matching the ETF's underlying assets to the index) and the risk that because an ETF is not actively managed, it cannot sell poorly performing stocks as long as they are represented in the index. The values of ETFs are subject to change as the values of their component assets fluctuate according to market volatility. ETFs may trade in the secondary market at a discount from their NAVs.

The Fund may purchase ETFs at prices that exceed the net asset value of their underlying investments and may sell ETF investments at prices below such net asset value. Because the market price of ETF shares depends on the demand in the market for them, the market price of an ETF may be more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities the ETF is designed to track, and the Fund may not be able to liquidate ETF holdings at the time and price desired, which may impact Fund performance. Furthermore, there may be times when the exchange halts trading, in which case the investors owning ETF shares would be unable to sell them until trading is resumed. In addition, because ETFs often invest in a portfolio of common stocks and “track” a designated index, an overall decline in stocks comprising an ETF’s benchmark index could have a greater impact on the ETF and investors than might be the case in an investment company with a more widely diversified portfolio. Losses could also occur if the ETF is unable to replicate the performance of the chosen benchmark index. Other risks associated with ETFs include the possibility that: (i) an ETF’s distributions may decline if the issuers of the ETF’s portfolio securities fail to continue to pay dividends; and (ii) under certain circumstances, an ETF could be terminated. Should termination occur, the ETF could have to liquidate its portfolio when the prices for those assets are falling. In addition, inadequate or irregularly provided information about an ETF or its investments could expose investors in ETFs to unknown risks.

**Exchange-Traded Notes (“ETNs”).** An investment in an ETN involves risks, including possible loss of principal. ETNs are unsecured debt securities issued by a bank that are linked to the total return of a market index. Risks of investing in ETNs also include limited portfolio diversification, uncertain principal payment, and illiquidity. Additionally, the investor fee will reduce the amount of return at maturity or upon redemption, and as a result the investor may receive less than the principal amount at maturity or upon redemption, even if the value of the relevant index has increased.

**Floating Rate and Variable Rate Obligations.** The Fund can invest directly or indirectly in debt securities unrelated to the alternative lending industry that have floating or variable interest rates. Those variable rate obligations may have a demand feature that allows the Fund to tender the obligation to the issuer or a third party prior to its maturity. The tender may be at par value plus accrued interest, according to the terms of the obligations.

Because the interest rates on floating rate bonds adjust periodically to reflect current market rates, falling short-term interest rates should tend to decrease the income payable to the Fund on its floating rate investments and rising rates should tend to increase that income. However, investments in floating rate and variable rate obligations should also mitigate the fluctuations in the Fund’s net asset value during periods of changing interest rates, compared to changes in values of fixed-rate debt securities. Nevertheless, changes in interest rates can affect the value of the Fund’s floating rate investments, especially if rates change sharply in a short period, because the resets of the interest rates on the investments occur periodically and will not all happen simultaneously with changes in prevailing rates. Having a shorter average reset period for its portfolio of investments may help mitigate that risk.

The interest rate on a floating rate demand note is adjusted automatically according to a stated prevailing market rate, such as the Prime Rate, the 91-day U.S. Treasury Bill rate, or some other standard. The instrument’s rate is adjusted automatically each time the base rate is adjusted. The interest rate on a variable rate note is also based on a stated prevailing market rate but is adjusted automatically at specified intervals. Generally, the changes in the interest rate on such securities reduce the fluctuation in their market value. As interest rates decrease or increase, the potential for capital appreciation or depreciation is less than that for fixed-rate obligations of the same maturity.

Floating rate and variable rate demand notes that have a stated maturity in excess of one year may have features that permit the holder to recover the principal amount of the underlying security at specified intervals not exceeding one year and upon no more than 30 days’ notice. The issuer of that type of note normally has a corresponding right in its discretion, after a given period, to prepay the outstanding principal amount of the note plus accrued interest. Generally, the issuer must provide a specified number of days’ notice to the holder. The

Fund can also invest directly or indirectly in step-coupon bonds that have a coupon rate that changes periodically during the life of the security on pre-determined dates that are set when the security is issued.

Actions by governmental entities may also impact certain instruments in which the Fund invests. For example, certain instruments in which the Fund may invest rely in some fashion upon LIBOR. LIBOR is an average interest rate determined by the ICE Benchmark Administration that banks charge one another for the use of short-term money. The United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, has announced plans to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. There remains uncertainty regarding the future utilization of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement rate, and any potential effects of the transition away from LIBOR on the Fund or on certain instruments in which the Fund invests are not known. The transition process may involve, among other things, increased volatility or illiquidity in markets for instruments that currently rely on LIBOR, particularly insofar as the documentation governing such instruments does not include "fall back" provisions addressing the transition from LIBOR. With respect to most LIBOR-based instruments in which the Fund may invest, the pricing and other terms governing the adoption of any successor rate are expected to limit or eliminate the direct effect of the transition to a successor rate on the value of such instruments. However, uncertainty and volatility arising from the transition may result in a reduction in the value of certain LIBOR-based instruments held by the Fund or reduce the effectiveness of related transactions such as hedges. Any such effects of the transition away from LIBOR, as well as other unforeseen effects, could result in losses to the Fund.

**Portfolio Turnover.** Purchases and sales of portfolio investments may be made as considered advisable by the Adviser in the best interests of the shareholders. The Fund's portfolio turnover rate may vary from year-to-year, as well as within a year. The Fund's distributions of any profits or gains realized from portfolio transactions generally are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In addition, higher portfolio turnover rates can result in corresponding increases in portfolio transaction costs for the Fund.

For reporting purposes, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. In determining such portfolio turnover, all securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less are excluded. A 100% portfolio turnover rate would occur, for example, if all of the securities in the Fund's investment portfolio (other than short-term money market securities) were replaced once during the fiscal year. Portfolio turnover will not be a limiting factor should the Adviser deem it advisable to purchase or sell securities. The change in the portfolio turnover rate for the Fund (23.37% for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2010 compared to 45.59% for the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020) was generally the result of a decrease in the volume and frequency of the Fund's sales of whole loans.

**Repurchase Agreements.** The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with banks and broker-dealers, with the Fund as the initial purchaser of securities held by the banks or broker-dealers. It might do so with temporarily available cash (*e.g.*, pending the investment of the proceeds from sales of Fund shares or pending the settlement of portfolio securities transactions) or for temporary defensive purposes. In this case, a repurchase agreement is a contract under which the Fund acquires a security, typically for a relatively short period for cash and subject to the commitment of the seller to repurchase the security for an agreed-upon price on a specified date. The repurchase price exceeds the acquisition price and reflects an agreed-upon market rate unrelated to any coupon rate on the purchased security. Approved sellers for repurchase agreements on U.S. government securities include U.S. commercial banks, U.S. branches of foreign banks, or broker-dealers that have been designated as primary dealers in government securities. They must meet credit requirements set by the Adviser from time to time. Repurchase agreements afford the Fund the opportunity to earn a return on temporarily available cash without market risk, although the Fund bears the risk of a seller's failure to meet its obligation to pay the repurchase price when it is required to do so. Such a default may subject the Fund to expenses, delays, and risks of loss including: (i) possible declines in the value of the underlying security while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights thereto, (ii) possible reduced levels of income and lack of access to income during this period, and (iii) the inability to enforce its rights and the expenses involved in attempted enforcement. Entering into repurchase agreements entails certain risks, which include the risk that the counterparty to the repurchase agreement may not be able to fulfill its obligations, as discussed above, that the parties may disagree as to the meaning or application

of contractual terms, or that the instrument may not perform as expected. There is no limit on the amount of the Fund's net assets that may be subject to repurchase agreements, subject to any limitations on illiquid investments.

**Additional Information Regarding Securities Lending.** The Fund may seek to earn income by lending portfolio securities to broker-dealers or other institutional borrowers. The Fund may lend up to one-third of the value of its total assets (including borrowings) or such other amount as is permitted under relevant law. The Fund will not lend portfolio securities if, as a result, the aggregate of such loans exceeds 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including such loans). Loan arrangements made by the Fund will comply with all other applicable regulatory requirements for securities lending, including with respect to changes in market values, termination, interest paid on loaned securities and ability to call back loaned securities for voting.

**Qualified Financial Contracts.** Regulations adopted by federal banking regulators under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which took effect throughout 2019, require that certain qualified financial contracts ("QFCs") with counterparties that are part of U.S. or foreign global systemically important banking organizations be amended to include contractual restrictions on close-out and cross-default rights. QFCs include, but are not limited to, securities contracts, commodities contracts, forward contracts, repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements and swaps agreements, as well as related master agreements, security agreements, credit enhancements, and reimbursement obligations. If a covered counterparty of the Fund or certain of the covered counterparty's affiliates were to become subject to certain insolvency proceedings, the Fund may be temporarily unable to exercise certain default rights, and the QFC may be transferred to another entity. These requirements may impact the Fund's credit and counterparty risks.

**"When-Issued" and "Delayed-Delivery" Transactions.** The Fund may invest in securities on a "when-issued" basis and may purchase or sell securities on a "delayed-delivery" (or "forward-commitment") basis. "When-issued" and "delayed-delivery" are terms that refer to securities whose terms and indenture are available and for which a market exists, but which are not available for immediate delivery.

When such transactions are negotiated, the price (which is generally expressed in yield terms) is fixed at the time the commitment is made. Delivery and payment for the securities take place at a later date. The securities are subject to change in value from market fluctuations during the period until settlement. The value at delivery may be less than the purchase price. For example, changes in interest rates in a direction other than that expected by the Adviser before settlement will affect the value of such securities and may cause a loss to the Fund. During the period between purchase and settlement, the Fund makes no payment to the issuer and no interest accrues to the Fund from the investment until it receives the security at settlement.

The Fund may engage in when-issued transactions to secure what the Adviser considers to be an advantageous price and yield at the time the obligation is entered into. When the Fund enters into a when-issued or delayed-delivery transaction, it relies on the other party to complete the transaction. Its failure to do so may cause the Fund to lose the opportunity to obtain the security at a price and yield the Adviser considers to be advantageous.

When the Fund engages in when-issued and delayed-delivery transactions, it does so for the purpose of acquiring or selling securities consistent with its investment objective and policies or for delivery pursuant to options contracts it has entered into, and not for the purpose of investment leverage. Although the Fund's purpose in entering into delayed-delivery or when-issued purchase transactions is to acquire securities, it may dispose of a commitment prior to settlement. If the Fund chooses to dispose of the right to acquire a when-issued security prior to its acquisition or to dispose of its right to delivery or receive against a forward commitment, it may incur a gain or loss.

At the time the Fund makes the commitment to purchase or sell a security on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, it records the transaction on its books and reflects the value of the security purchased in determining the Fund's net asset value. In a sale transaction, it records the proceeds to be received. The Fund identifies on its books liquid assets at least equal in value to the value of the Fund's purchase commitments until the Fund pays for the investment.

When-issued and delayed-delivery transactions can be used by the Fund as a defensive technique to hedge against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices. For instance, in periods of rising interest rates and falling prices, the Fund might sell securities in its portfolio on a forward commitment basis to attempt to limit its exposure to anticipated falling prices. In periods of falling interest rates and rising prices, the Fund might sell portfolio securities and purchase the same or similar securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis to obtain the benefit of currently higher cash yields.

**Expense Risk.** Your actual costs of investing in the Fund may be higher than the expenses shown under “Annual Fund Operating Expenses” in the Prospectus for a variety of reasons. The Fund’s expense limitation agreements, which generally remain in effect for a period of one year, mitigate this risk. However, there is no assurance that the Adviser will renew such expense limitation agreements from year-to-year.

The Fund invests in pass-through certificates and other asset-backed securities which subject the Fund to additional fees and expenses, such as trustee or administrator fees, that it would not have borne if it had invested directly in the assets underlying the asset-backed securities. These additional fees and expenses may cause the Fund’s returns to be lower than if the Fund had invested directly in such underlying assets.

**Reporting Requirements.** Shareholders who beneficially own Shares that constitute more than 5% of the Fund’s Shares may be subject to certain requirements under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder. These may include requirements to file certain reports with the Commission. The Fund has no obligation to file such reports on behalf of such shareholders or to notify shareholders that such reports are required to be made. Shareholders who may be subject to such requirements should consult with their legal advisors.

## **Investment Restrictions**

### **Fundamental Investment Restrictions of the Fund**

The following investment restrictions of the Fund are designated as fundamental policies and as such cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund’s outstanding voting securities. Under the 1940 Act, a “majority” vote is defined as the vote of the holders of the lesser of: (a) 67% or more of the Shares of the Fund present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares are present or represented by proxy at the meeting; or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund. Under these restrictions, the Fund:

- (1) may issue senior securities to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (2) may borrow money to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (3) may underwrite securities to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (4) may purchase, sell or hold real estate to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (5) may make loans to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (6) may purchase and sell commodities to the extent permitted by applicable law;
- (7) may not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities), provided that the Fund will invest, directly or indirectly, at least 25% of its total assets in the alternative lending industry;
- (8) may not invest in loans that are of subprime quality at the time of investment, as determined by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board;

(9) may not purchase loans or other alternative lending-related securities from platforms whose business consists primarily of originating loans of subprime quality, as determined by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board;

(10) may not purchase loans or other alternative lending-related securities originated in emerging markets, as determined by the Adviser pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board; and

(11) may not purchase loans or other alternative lending-related securities from platforms whose financial statements are not audited by a nationally recognized accounting firm.

Where applicable, the foregoing investment restrictions shall be interpreted based on the applicable rules, regulations and pronouncements of the Commission and its Staff.

The Adviser will determine whether loans offered to the Fund are of subprime quality at the time of investment pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board from time to time. These guidelines currently provide that in order to be eligible for purchase by the Fund, the Adviser must determine that loans have a likelihood of repayment that is greater than that of “subprime” consumer loans. “Subprime” does not have a specific legal or market definition, but is understood in the credit marketplace to signify that a loan has a material likelihood that it will not be repaid. The Adviser will make the determination that loans purchased by the Fund are not of subprime quality based on the Adviser’s due diligence of the credit underwriting policies of the originating platform, which look to a number of borrower-specific factors to determine a borrower’s ability to repay a particular loan, including employment status, income, assets, education, and credit bureau data where available. Credit bureau data is only one factor considered in determining the credit quality of a borrower and a loan. However, when credit score data is available with respect to a borrower, the Adviser’s guidelines do not allow the Adviser to cause the Fund to purchase any consumer loan to an individual who does not have at least one credit score that is, either at the time of origination or the time of purchase, equal to or above a specified minimum.

The Adviser will determine whether loans offered to the Fund are originated in emerging markets pursuant to guidelines approved by the Board from time to time. These guidelines currently provide that in order to be eligible for purchase by the Fund, the Adviser must determine that loans were originated in a “developed market” country as classified by MSCI Inc. by inclusion in the MSCI World Index. The countries currently included in the MSCI World Index consist of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The Fund has also adopted the following fundamental policies in connection with administering its investment portfolio:

(A) The Fund will value each whole loan owned by the Fund individually for purposes of determining net asset value.

(B) The Fund will determine net asset value daily.

(C) The Fund will only sell Shares to or through fiduciaries (such as registered investment advisers or retirement plans) or institutional investors, or to employees, directors and affiliates of the Fund or the Adviser.

The Fund has also adopted the following fundamental policies in order to repurchase its Shares:

- On a quarterly basis, in the months of February, May, August and November, the Fund will make an offer to repurchase a designated percentage of the outstanding Shares from shareholders (a “Repurchase Offer”), pursuant to Rule 23c-3 under the 1940 Act, as it may be amended from time to time.
- The Fund will repurchase Shares that are tendered by a specific date (the “Repurchase Request Deadline”). The Fund’s Board will establish the Repurchase Request Deadline for each Repurchase Offer. The

Repurchase Request Deadline will ordinarily be on a date approximately seven days before the date on which the Fund's net asset value applicable to the Repurchase Offer is determined (the "Repurchase Pricing Date") but may be revised by the Adviser, in its sole discretion, based on factors such as market conditions, the level of the Fund's assets and shareholder servicing considerations provided that the Board is notified of this change and the reasons for it.

- There will be a maximum 14 calendar day period (or the next business day if the 14th calendar day is not a business day) between the Repurchase Request Deadline and the Repurchase Pricing Date.

### **Summary of 1940 Act Restrictions on Certain Activities**

The fundamental investment limitations set forth above permit the Fund to engage in certain practices and purchase securities and other instruments as permitted by, or consistent with, the 1940 Act. Relevant limitations of the 1940 Act as they presently exist are described below. These limitations are based either on the 1940 Act itself, the rules or regulations thereunder or applicable orders of the Commission. In addition, interpretations and guidance provided by the Commission 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 Commission. As a result, the foregoing fundamental investment policies 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.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (1). The ability of a closed-end fund to issue senior securities is circumscribed by complex regulatory constraints under the 1940 Act that restrict, for instance, the amount, timing, and form of senior securities that may be issued. Under the 1940 Act, a "senior security" does not include (i) any promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness issued in consideration of any loan, extension, or renewal thereof, made by a bank or other person and privately arranged, and not intended to be publicly distributed or (ii) any promissory note or evidence of indebtedness where such loan is for temporary purposes only and in an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of the total assets of the issuer at the time the loan is made. A loan is presumed to be for temporary purposes if it is repaid within sixty days and is not extended or renewed.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (2). The Fund may borrow money in an amount not exceeding 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (other than borrowings) or in connection with engaging in transactions considered by the Commission to constitute a form of borrowing under the 1940 Act (e.g., reverse repurchase agreements) to the extent permitted by the Fund's investment objectives and policies.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (3). This restriction would permit the underwriting of securities to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (4). This restriction would permit the purchase, sale, or holding of real estate to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act. Real estate-related instruments include real estate investment trusts, commercial and residential mortgage-backed securities, and real estate financings.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (5). Under the 1940 Act, the Fund may only make loans if expressly permitted to do so by its investment policies. As set forth in the Fund's Principal Investment Strategies, the Fund is permitted to make loans. The Fund may not make loans to persons who control or are under common control with the Fund.

Fundamental Investment Restriction (6). This restriction would permit investment in commodities to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act. Commodities may be deemed to include any commodities contracts (including those with underlying bulk goods, such as grains, metals and foodstuffs), futures contracts and related options, options, and forward contracts. The 1940 Act does not directly limit the Fund's ability to invest directly in physical commodities. However, the Fund's direct and indirect investments in physical commodities may be limited by the Fund's intention to qualify as a regulated investment company, the Fund's investment strategy, and other regulatory requirements. While the Fund does not intend to invest in commodities, the Fund may invest

in certain derivatives that are regulated by the CFTC for the purpose of hedging currency or interest rate risk. See “Additional Information Regarding Derivatives — Regulatory Issues” above and “Tax Status” below.

### **Repurchase Process**

In accordance with the Fund’s policies regarding repurchases, the Adviser has recommended, and the Board has approved, that for each Repurchase Offer, the Repurchase Request Deadline will ordinarily be the same date as the Repurchase Pricing Date.

## **TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

### **Board of Trustees**

The business and affairs of the Fund are managed under the oversight of the Board subject to the laws of the State of Delaware and the Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the “Declaration of Trust”). The Trustees are responsible for oversight of the practices and processes of the Fund and its service providers, rather than active management of the Fund, including in matters relating to risk management. The Trustees seek to understand the key risks facing the Fund, including those involving conflicts of interest; how Fund management identifies and monitors those risks on an ongoing basis; how Fund management develops and implements controls to mitigate those risks; and how Fund management tests the effectiveness of those controls. The Board cannot foresee, know or guard against all risks, nor are the Trustees guarantors against risk. The officers of the Fund conduct and supervise the Fund’s daily business operations. Trustees who are not deemed to be “interested persons” of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act are referred to as “Independent Trustees.” Trustees who are deemed to be “interested persons” of the Fund are referred to as “Interested Trustees.”

The Board meets as often as necessary to discharge its responsibilities. Currently, the Board conducts regular quarterly meetings, including in-person or telephonic meetings, and holds special in-person or telephonic meetings as necessary to address specific issues that require attention prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting. At these meetings, officers of the Trust provide the Board (or one of its committees) with written and oral reports on regulatory and compliance matters, operational and service provider matters, organizational developments, product proposals, audit results and insurance and fidelity bond coverage. In addition, it is expected that the Independent Trustees meet at least annually to review, among other things, investment management agreements and certain plans and other agreements and to consider such other matters as they deem appropriate.

The Board has established two standing committees — an Audit Committee and a Valuation Committee — to assist the Board in its oversight of risk as part of its broader oversight of the Fund’s affairs. The Committees, both of which are comprised solely of the Board’s Independent Trustees, are described below. The Board may establish other committees, or nominate one or more Trustees to examine particular issues related to the Board’s oversight responsibilities, from time to time. Each Committee meets periodically to perform its delegated oversight functions and reports its findings and recommendations to the Board.

The Board does not have a lead Independent Trustee. The Board, taking into consideration its oversight responsibility of the Fund, including the Fund’s regular use of fair valuation and the Board’s extensive experience overseeing the development and implementation of fair valuation processes, believes that its leadership structure is appropriate. In addition, the Board’s use of Committees (each of which is chaired by an Independent Trustee with substantial industry experience) and the chair’s role as chief executive officer of the Adviser, serve to enhance the Board’s understanding of the operations of the Fund and the Adviser.

Board members of the Trust, together with information as to their positions with the Trust, principal occupations and other board memberships, are shown below. Unless otherwise noted, each Trustee has held each principal occupation and board membership indicated for at least the past five years. Each Trustee’s mailing address is c/o Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC, 510 Madison Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10022.



### Independent Trustees

Name (Year of Birth)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in the Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Directorships / Trusteeships Held by Trustee During the Past 5 Years
Jeffery Ekberg (1965)	Trustee	since 2016	Self-employed (personal investing) since 2011; Principal, TPG Capital, L.P. (private equity firm) until 2011; Chief Financial Officer, Newbridge Capital, LLC (subsidiary of TPG Capital, L.P.) until 2011	52	None.
Daniel Charney (1970)	Trustee	since 2016	Co-President, Cowen and Company, Cowen Inc. (financial services firm) since 2012	52	None.

### Interested Trustee

Name (Year of Birth)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in the Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Directorships / Trusteeships Held by Trustee During the Past 5 Years
Ross Stevens <sup>(3)</sup> (1969)	Trustee, Chairman	since 2016	Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Stone Ridge since 2012	52	None.

(1) Each Trustee serves until resignation or removal from the Board.

(2) The Fund Complex includes the Trust and Stone Ridge Trust, Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV, Stone Ridge Trust VI, Stone Ridge Residential Real Estate Income Fund I, Inc., Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045 and trusts that invest substantially all of their assets in a series of Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

(3) Mr. Stevens is an “interested person” of the Trust, as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act, due to his position with the Adviser.

#### **Additional Information About the Trustees.**

*Jeffery Ekberg* — Through his experience as a senior officer, director and accountant of financial and other organizations, Mr. Ekberg contributes experience overseeing financial and investment organizations to the Board. The Board also benefits from his previous experience as a member of the board of other funds.

*Daniel Charney* — Through his experience as a senior officer of financial and other organizations, Mr. Charney contributes his experience in the investment management industry to the Board.

*Ross Stevens* — Through his experience as a senior executive of financial organizations, Mr. Stevens contributes his experience in the investment management industry to the Board.

#### **Additional Information About the Board’s Committees.**

The Trust has an Audit Committee and a Valuation Committee. The members of both the Audit Committee and the Valuation Committee consist of all the Independent Trustees, namely Messrs. Ekberg and Charney. Mr. Ekberg is the Audit Committee Chair and has been designated as the Audit Committee financial expert. Mr. Charney is the Valuation Committee Chair.

In accordance with its written charter, the Audit Committee’s primary purposes are: (1) to oversee the Trust’s accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, and its internal controls and procedures; (2) to oversee

the quality and objectivity of the Trust’s and the Fund’s financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (3) to oversee the activities of the Trust’s Chief Compliance Officer (the “CCO”); (4) to oversee the Trust’s compliance program adopted pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, and the Trust’s implementation and enforcement of its compliance policies and procedures thereunder; (5) to oversee the Trust’s compliance with applicable laws in foreign jurisdictions, if any; and (6) to oversee compliance with the Code of Ethics by the Trust and the Adviser.

The Audit Committee reviews the scope of the Fund’s audits, the Fund’s accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and its internal controls. The Audit Committee approves, and recommends to the Independent Trustees for their ratification, the selection, appointment, retention or termination of the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm and approves the compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided to the Fund by the independent registered public accounting firm and all permissible non-audit services provided by the Fund’s independent registered public accounting firm to the Adviser and any affiliated service providers if the engagement relates directly to the Fund’s operations and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met five times during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021.

The Valuation Committee also operates pursuant to a written charter. The duties and powers, to be exercised at such times and in such manner as the Valuation Committee shall deem necessary or appropriate, are as follows: (1) reviewing, from time to time, the Trust’s valuation policy and procedures (the “Valuation Policy”), which Valuation Policy serves to establish policies and procedures for the valuation of the Fund’s assets; (2) making any recommendations to the Trust’s audit committee and/or the Board regarding (i) the functioning of the Valuation Policy, or (ii) the valuation(s) of individual assets; (3) consulting with the Adviser regarding the valuation of the Fund’s assets, including fair valuation determinations of any such assets; (4) periodically reviewing information regarding fair value and other determinations made pursuant to the Trust’s valuation procedures; (5) reporting to the Board on a regular basis regarding the Valuation Committee’s duties; (6) making recommendations in conjunction with the Board’s annual (or other periodical) review of the Trust’s Valuation Policy; (7) periodically reviewing information regarding industry developments in connection with valuation of assets; and (8) performing such other duties as may be assigned to it, from time to time, by the Board. The Valuation Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021.

**Trustee Ownership of the Fund.** The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities owned by the Trustees in the Fund and in other investment companies overseen by the Trustee within the same family of investment companies as of December 31, 2020. Investment companies are considered to be in the same family if they share the same investment adviser or principal underwriter and hold themselves out to investors as related companies for purposes of investment and investor services. The information as to ownership of securities which appears below is based on statements furnished to the Fund by its Trustees and executive officers.

	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</u>	<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies<sup>(1)</sup></u>
<b>Independent Trustees</b>		
Jeffery Ekberg	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Daniel Charney	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
<b>Interested Trustee</b>		
Ross Stevens <sup>(2)</sup>	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000

(1) Family of Investment Companies includes the Trust and Stone Ridge Trust, Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV, Stone Ridge Trust VI, Stone Ridge Residential Real Estate Income Fund I, Inc., Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045 and trusts that invest substantially all of their assets in a series of Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

(2) Beneficial ownership through the Adviser’s or its affiliates’ direct Fund investments.

Other than as disclosed in the following table, none of the Independent Trustees or their family members beneficially owned any class of securities of the Adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund, or a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser or the principal underwriter of the Fund, as of June 1, 2021.

<u>Name of Director</u>	<u>Name of Owners and Relationships to Director</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Value of Securities</u>	<u>Percent of Class</u>
Daniel Charney	Self	New York Digital Investment Group LLC	Convertible Promissory Note	\$1,000,000	0.31%
Jeffery Ekberg	Self	New York Digital Investment Group LLC	Convertible Promissory Note	\$500,000	0.15%

**Compensation of Board Members.** Each Trustee who is not an employee of the Adviser is compensated by an annual retainer. Each such Trustee's compensation is invested in Stone Ridge funds. The Trust does not pay retirement benefits to its Trustees and officers. The Fund pays a portion of the compensation of the CCO. Other officers and Interested Trustees of the Trust are not compensated by the Fund. The following table sets forth compensation received by the Independent Trustees for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021.

<u>Independent Trustees</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Fund</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Trustee</u>
Jeffery Ekberg	\$117,579	\$350,000
Daniel Charney	\$117,579	\$350,000

(1) The Fund Complex includes the Trust and Stone Ridge Trust, Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV, Stone Ridge Trust VI, Stone Ridge Residential Real Estate Income Fund I, Inc., Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045 and trusts that invest substantially all of their assets in a series of Stone Ridge Longevity Risk Premium Fixed Income Master Trust 2045, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

#### Officers of the Trust

<u>Name (Year of Birth) and Address<sup>(1)(2)</sup></u>	<u>Position(s) Held with the Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</u>
Ross Stevens (1969)	President, Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer	since 2012	Founder of Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Adviser, since 2012.
Lauren D. Macioce (1978)	Chief Compliance Officer, Secretary, Chief Legal Officer and Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer	since 2016	General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of the Adviser, since 2016; prior to that Associate at Ropes & Gray LLP (law firm).
Anthony Zuco (1975)	Treasurer, Principal Financial Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer	since 2018	Supervising Fund Controller at the Adviser, since 2015; prior to that Controller at Owl Creek Asset Management L.P. (investment advisory firm).

<u>Name (Year of Birth) and Address<sup>(1)(2)</sup></u>	<u>Position(s) Held with the Trust</u>	<u>Term of Office and Length of Time Served<sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</u>
Alexander Nyren (1980)	Assistant Secretary	since 2018	Head of Reinsurance of the Adviser, since 2018; member of Reinsurance portfolio management team at the Adviser, since 2013.
David Thomas (1980)	Assistant Treasurer	since 2018	Member of Operations at the Adviser, since 2015; prior to that member of Operations at KCG Holdings, Inc. (financial services firm).
Leson Lee (1975)	Assistant Treasurer	since 2019	Member of Operations at the Adviser, since 2018; prior to that Treasury Manager at Eton Park Capital Management (investment advisory firm).
Domingo Encarnacion (1983)	Assistant Treasurer	since 2020	Tax Manager at the Adviser, since 2016; prior to that Tax Manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (accounting firm).

(1) Each officer's mailing address is c/o Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC, 510 Madison Avenue, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10022.

(2) Each of the officers is an affiliated person of the Adviser as a result of his or her position with the Adviser.

(3) The term of office of each officer is indefinite.

**Code of Ethics.** The Trust and the Adviser have adopted a code of ethics in accordance with Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. This code of ethics permits the personnel of these entities to invest in securities under some circumstances, including securities that the Fund may purchase or hold. The code of ethics is available on the EDGAR database of the Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition, copies of the code of ethics may be obtained, after mailing the appropriate duplicating fee, by e-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Attached as Appendix B to this SAI is the summary of the guidelines and procedures that the Adviser uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities, including the procedures that the Adviser uses when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of Fund shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Adviser or any affiliated person of the Fund or the Adviser, on the other. This summary of the guidelines gives a general indication as to how the Adviser will vote proxies relating to portfolio securities on each issue listed. However, the guidelines do not address all potential voting issues or the intricacies that may surround individual proxy votes. For that reason, there may be instances in which votes may vary from the guidelines presented. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Adviser always endeavors to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities in accordance with the Fund's investment objective. Information on how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent prior 12-month period ending June 30 is available without charge, (1) upon request, by calling (855) 609-3680, and (2) on the Commission's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or is known by the Fund to own of record or beneficially 5% or more of any class of the Fund's outstanding equity securities. A control person is one who owns beneficially, either directly or through controlled companies, more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of control. A controlling person possesses the ability to control the outcome of matters submitted for shareholder vote by the Fund.

As of May 31, 2021, the following persons owned of record or beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding Shares of the Fund:

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Type of Ownership</u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	51.82%	Record
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	22.78%	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	TD Ameritrade Holding Corporation	DE	8.96%	Record
Stone Ridge LENDX Investments LLC 510 Madison Ave., 21st Floor New York, NY 10022	Stone Ridge Holdings Group LP	DE	5.12%	Record

As of May 31, 2021, the Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group owned an aggregate of 1,861,329 Shares of the Fund, or 5.21% of the Fund's outstanding Shares.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

### The Adviser

Stone Ridge is the Adviser of the Fund. The Adviser was organized as a Delaware limited liability company in 2012. The manager of the general partner of the managing member of the Adviser is Ross Stevens.

Stone Ridge serves as the Adviser of the Fund pursuant to an investment management agreement (the "Investment Management Agreement"). The Investment Management Agreement has an initial term of two years from its effective date and continues in effect with respect to the Fund (unless terminated sooner) if its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the affirmative vote of: (i) a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval; and (ii) a majority of the Board or the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. The investment management agreement may nevertheless be terminated at any time without penalty, on 60 days' written notice, by the Board, by vote of holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, or by the Adviser. The investment management agreement terminates automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

As compensation for its advisory services to the Fund, the Fund pays the Adviser a fee, computed daily and paid monthly in arrears, at the annual rate of 1.50% of the average daily net assets of the Fund. As described in the Prospectus, the Adviser has entered into an expense limitation agreement with the Fund.

Under the terms of the Investment Management Agreement, neither the Adviser nor its affiliates shall be liable for losses or damages incurred by the Fund, unless such losses or damages are attributable to willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of either the Adviser or its affiliates or from reckless disregard by it of its obligations and duties under the management contract ("disabling conduct"). In addition, the Fund will indemnify the Adviser and its affiliates and hold each of them harmless against any losses or damages not resulting from disabling conduct.

The Adviser contractually agreed to waive its management fee and/or pay or otherwise bear operating and other expenses of the Fund (including organizational and offering expenses, but excluding brokerage and transactional

expenses; borrowing and other investment-related costs and fees including interest payments on borrowed funds, loan servicing fees, loan collection and administration fees and expenses, interest and commitment fees; short dividend expense; acquired fund fees and expenses; taxes; litigation and indemnification expenses; judgments; and extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund’s business (collectively, the “Excluded Expenses”) solely to the extent necessary to limit the total annualized expenses, other than Excluded Expenses, of the Fund to 2.30% of the average daily net assets of the Fund.

The Adviser shall be entitled to recoup in later periods expenses that the Adviser has paid or otherwise borne (whether through reduction of its management fee or otherwise) to the extent that the expenses for the Fund (including offering expenses, but excluding Excluded Expenses) after such recoupment do not exceed the lower of (i) the annual expense limitation rate in effect at the time of the actual waiver/reimbursement and (ii) the annual expense limitation rate in effect at the time of the recoupment; *provided* that the Adviser shall not be permitted to recoup any such fees or expenses beyond three years from the end of the month in which such fee was reduced or such expense was reimbursed.

The Fund paid the following fees to the Adviser during the fiscal years ended February 28, 2019, February 29, 2020 and February 28, 2021:

	<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2019</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 29, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2021</u>
Gross Advisory Fees Accrued . . . . .	\$51,951,586	\$50,003,241	\$37,318,705
Fees Waived/Expenses Reimbursed . . . . .	\$ 0	\$ 167,100	\$ 556,663
Net Advisory Fees Paid . . . . .	\$51,951,586	\$49,836,141	\$36,762,042

Separately, for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, the Adviser recouped, pursuant to the expense limitation agreement, advisory fees that it had previously waived and/or expenses that it had previously borne in the amount of \$2,903,854. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020, the Adviser recouped, pursuant to the expense limitation agreement, advisory fees that it had previously waived and/or expenses that it had previously borne in the amount of \$2,295,624. For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021, the Adviser did not recoup advisory fees that it had previously waived and/or expenses that it had previously borne.

To the extent the Adviser receives compensation for providing management services to a Subsidiary, (i) the Adviser will not receive compensation from the Fund in respect of the assets of the Fund that are invested in the Subsidiary (*i.e.*, the compensation paid to the Adviser for services to the Fund will be calculated based on the Fund’s average daily net assets excluding the net assets of the Subsidiary), and (ii) any such compensation is determined as a percentage of the average daily net assets of the Subsidiary at the same rate and in the same manner as under the Management Agreement. The Adviser does not currently receive a management fee from any Subsidiary.

### **Portfolio Managers**

James Egan, Paul Germain, Tomer Seifan and Ross Stevens are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. The following tables set forth certain additional information with respect to the Portfolio Managers. The information is as of February 28, 2021, except as otherwise noted.

## Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Managers

The table below identifies the number of accounts for which the Portfolio Managers have day-to-day management responsibilities and the total assets in such accounts, within each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts.

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number of Accounts <sup>(1)</sup>	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)
James Egan .....	1	\$2,965	6	\$1,094	2	\$1,017
Paul Germain .....	6	\$6,958	6	\$1,094	2	\$1,017
Tomer Seifan .....	1	\$2,965	6	\$1,094	0	\$ 0
Ross Stevens <sup>(2)</sup> .....	6	\$6,573	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

(1) Includes the Fund.

(2) Information as of June 1, 2021.

The table below identifies the number of accounts for which the Portfolio Managers have day-to-day management responsibilities and the total assets in such accounts with respect to which the advisory fee is based on the performance of the account, within each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts.

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles managed for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee		Other Accounts managed for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee	
	Number of Accounts	Total Assets	Number of Accounts	Total Assets	Number of Accounts	Total Assets
James Egan .....	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Paul Germain .....	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Tomer Seifan .....	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ross Stevens <sup>(1)</sup> .....	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

(1) Information as of June 1, 2021.

## Potential Conflicts of Interest

Each of the Portfolio Managers is also responsible for managing other accounts in addition to the Fund, including other accounts of the Adviser or its affiliates. Other accounts may include other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act, unregistered investment companies that rely on Section 3(c)(1) or Section 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act, separately managed accounts, foreign investment companies and accounts or investments owned by the Adviser or its affiliates or the Portfolio Managers. Management of other accounts in addition to the Fund can present certain conflicts of interest, as described below.

From time to time, conflicts of interest arise between a Portfolio Manager's management of the investments of the Fund, on the one hand, and the management of other accounts, on the other. The other accounts might have similar or different investment objectives or strategies as the Fund, or otherwise hold, purchase, or sell securities or other assets or instruments that are eligible to be held, purchased or sold by the Fund, or may take positions that are opposite in direction from those taken by the Fund. In addition, investors in, or the owners of, certain accounts managed by the Adviser are also investors in the Adviser or its affiliates and/or have indicated an intention to invest additional assets in accounts managed by the Adviser and for which the Adviser will receive a management fee.

As a fiduciary, the Adviser owes a duty of loyalty to its clients and must treat each client fairly. The Adviser and the Fund have adopted compliance policies and procedures that are designed to avoid, mitigate, monitor and oversee areas that could present potential conflicts of interest.

*Allocation of Limited Time and Attention.* A Portfolio Manager who is responsible for managing multiple accounts may devote unequal time and attention to the management of those accounts. As a result, the Portfolio Manager may not be able to formulate as complete a strategy or identify equally attractive investment opportunities for each of the accounts as might be the case if he or she were to devote substantially more attention to the management of a single account. The effects of this potential conflict may be more pronounced where accounts overseen by a particular Portfolio Manager have different investment strategies.

*Allocation of Investment Opportunities.* Conflicts of interest arise as a result of the Adviser's or its affiliates' management of a number of accounts with similar or different investment strategies. When the Adviser or its affiliates purchase or sell securities or other assets or instruments for more than one account, the trades must be allocated in a manner consistent with their fiduciary duties. The Adviser and its affiliates attempt to allocate investments in a fair and equitable manner over time among client accounts, with no account receiving preferential treatment over time. To this end, the Adviser and its affiliates have adopted policies and procedures that are intended to provide the Adviser and its affiliates with flexibility to allocate investments in a manner that is consistent with their fiduciary duties. There is no guarantee, however, that the policies and procedures adopted by the Adviser and its affiliates will be able to detect and/or prevent every situation in which an actual or potential conflict may appear.

An investment opportunity may be suitable for both the Fund and other accounts, but may not be available in sufficient quantities for both the Fund and the other accounts to participate fully. If a Portfolio Manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for multiple accounts, the opportunity may be allocated among these several accounts; as a result of these allocations, there may be instances in which the Fund will not participate in a transaction that is allocated among other accounts or the Fund may not be allocated the full amount of an investment opportunity. Similarly, there may be limited opportunity to sell an investment held by the Fund and another account. In addition, different account guidelines and/or differences within particular investment strategies may lead to the use of different investment practices for accounts with a similar investment strategy. Whenever decisions are made to buy or sell securities or other assets or instruments by the Fund and one or more of the other accounts simultaneously, the Adviser and its affiliates may aggregate the purchases and sales of the securities or other assets or instruments. The Adviser and its affiliates will not necessarily purchase or sell the same securities or other assets or instruments at the same time, in the same direction or in the same proportionate amounts for all eligible accounts, particularly if different accounts have different amounts of capital under management by the Adviser or its affiliates, different amounts of investable cash available, different strategies or different risk tolerances. As a result, although the Adviser and its affiliates may manage different accounts with similar or identical investment objectives, or may manage accounts with different objectives that trade in the same securities or other assets or instruments, the portfolio decisions relating to these accounts, and the performance resulting from such decisions, may differ from account to account, and the trade allocation and aggregation and other policies and procedures of the Fund or the Adviser and its affiliates could have a detrimental effect on the price or amount of the securities or other assets or instruments available to the Fund from time to time. Because the aforementioned considerations may differ between the Fund and other accounts, the investment activities of the Fund and other accounts may differ considerably from time to time.

As a result of regulations governing the ability of certain clients of the Adviser and its affiliates to invest side-by-side, it is possible that the Fund may not be permitted to participate in an investment opportunity at the same time as another fund or another account managed by the Adviser or its affiliates. These limitations may limit the scope of investment opportunities that would otherwise be available to the Fund. The decision as to which accounts may participate in any particular investment opportunity will take into account applicable law and the suitability of the investment opportunity for, and the strategy of, the applicable accounts. It is possible that the Fund may be prevented from participating due to such investment opportunity being more appropriate, in the discretion of the Adviser and its affiliates, for another account.

*Conflicts of Interest Among Strategies.* At times, a Portfolio Manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which he or she exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of the accounts should take differing positions with respect to a



particular security or other asset or instrument. In these cases, the Portfolio Manager may place separate transactions for one or more accounts, which may affect the market price of the security or other asset or instrument or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment or benefit of one or more other accounts. Similarly, the Adviser or its affiliates may take positions in accounts or investments owned by them or on behalf of clients that are similar to or different from those taken by one or more client accounts.

Conflicts may also arise in cases when accounts invest in different parts of an issuer's capital structure, including circumstances in which one or more accounts own private securities or obligations of an issuer and other accounts may own public securities of the same issuer. Actions by investors in one part of the capital structure could disadvantage investors in another part of the capital structure. In addition, purchases or sales of the same investment may be made for two or more accounts on the same date. There can be no assurance that an account will not receive less (or more) of a certain investment than it would otherwise receive if this conflict of interest among accounts did not exist. In effecting transactions, it may not be possible, or consistent with the investment objectives of accounts, to purchase or sell securities or other assets or instruments at the same time or at the same prices.

*Selection of Service Providers.* The Adviser or its affiliates may be able to select or influence the selection of service providers to clients, including the brokers and dealers that are used to execute securities or other transactions for the accounts that they supervise. In addition to executing trades, some brokers and dealers may provide the Adviser or its affiliates with brokerage and research services (as those terms are defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act")), which may result in the payment of higher brokerage fees than might have otherwise been available. These services may be more beneficial to certain accounts than to others. In addition, the Adviser or its affiliates have received and may receive loans or other services from service providers to clients. Although such services are negotiated at arm's length, they pose conflicts of interest to the Adviser or its affiliates in selecting such service providers.

*Related Business Opportunities.* The Adviser or its affiliates may provide more services (such as distribution or recordkeeping) for some types of accounts than for others. In such cases, a Portfolio Manager may benefit, either directly or indirectly, by devoting disproportionate attention to the management of accounts that provide greater overall returns to the Adviser and its affiliates.

*Broad and Wide-Ranging Activities.* The Adviser and its related parties engage in a broad spectrum of activities and may expand the range of services that they provide over time. The Adviser and its related parties will generally not be restricted in the scope of their business or in the performance of any such services (whether now offered or undertaken in the future), even if such activities could give rise to conflicts of interest, and whether or not such conflicts are described herein. In the ordinary course of their business activities, including activities with third-party service providers, lenders and/or counterparties, the Adviser and its related parties engage in activities where the interests of the Adviser and its related parties or the interests of their clients conflict with the interests of the shareholders of the Fund. Certain employees of the Adviser, including certain Portfolio Managers of the Fund, also have responsibilities relating to the business of one or more related parties. These employees are not restricted in the amount of time that may be allocated to the business activities of the Adviser's related parties, and the allocation of such employees' time between the Adviser and its related parties may change over time.

*Variation in Compensation.* A conflict of interest arises where the financial or other benefits available to the Adviser differ among the accounts that it manages. The structure of the Adviser's management fee differs among accounts (such as where certain accounts pay higher management fees or a performance or incentive fee), which means the Adviser might be motivated to help certain accounts over others. In addition, a Portfolio Manager or the Adviser might be motivated to favor accounts in which such Portfolio Manager has an interest or in which the Adviser and/or its affiliates have interests. Similarly, the desire to maintain or raise assets under management or to enhance the Adviser's performance record or to derive other rewards, financial or otherwise, could influence the Adviser to lend preferential treatment to those accounts that could most significantly benefit the Adviser.

*Investments in the Fund by the Adviser.* The Adviser or its affiliates purchase Shares from time to time, and may hold a material position in the Fund. The Adviser or its affiliates face conflicting interests in determining whether,

when and in what amount to tender Shares for repurchase in connection with periodic repurchase offers by the Fund. If the Adviser or its affiliate tenders a significant number of Shares in connection with a periodic repurchase offer, this could cause the repurchase offer to be oversubscribed and shareholders participating in the repurchase offer (including the Adviser or its affiliates) would only be able to have a portion of their Shares repurchased. In such a case, the Adviser or its affiliates would be subject to the resulting proration of tendered amounts on a *pari passu* basis with all other tendering investors. Other possible risks associated with the Fund’s repurchase offers are described under “*Principal Risks of Investment in the Fund — Repurchase Offers Risk*” in the Prospectus.

*Investments by Adviser or Related Entities.* The Adviser, its affiliates and/or related entities have made investments in alternative lending-related securities for its or their own accounts prior to the commencement of investment operations of the Fund in order to test the investment strategy and infrastructure of the Fund and its service providers. The Adviser, its affiliates and/or related entities have made investments, and may make additional investments, in alternative lending-related securities following commencement of investment operations of the Fund.

In addition, the Adviser, its affiliates and/or related entities have made, and may from time to time make, equity investments in one or more companies that operate alternative lending platforms from which the Fund may purchase alternative lending-related securities. The Adviser, its affiliates and/or related entities may invest in entities that may provide financial or other services for the Fund.

*Certain Potential Conflicts Relating to Expenses.* The allocation of fees and expenses among the Fund and other funds or accounts advised by the Adviser will often require the Adviser to exercise its discretion to select an allocation method it determines to be appropriate in light of the particular facts and circumstances. The Adviser will be subject to conflicts of interest in making such determinations, and there can be no assurance that any allocations (i) will reflect an entity’s pro rata share of such expenses based on the amounts invested (or anticipated to be invested) and/or the market value of the investment held (or anticipated to be held) by each fund advised by the Adviser, or (ii) will be in proportion to the number of participating funds advised by the Adviser or the proportion of time spent on each such fund. Similarly, the determination of whether an expense (for instance, the fees and expenses of service providers who work on Fund-related matters) is appropriately borne by the Fund or the Adviser often cannot be resolved by reference to a pre-existing formula and will require the exercise of discretion, and the Adviser will be subject to conflicts of interest in making such determinations.

**Portfolio Manager Compensation**

Portfolio Managers receive a base salary and may also receive a bonus. Compensation of the Portfolio Managers is determined at the discretion of the Adviser and may be deferred. It may be based on a number of factors including the Portfolio Manager’s experience, responsibilities, the perception of the quality of his or her work efforts, and the consistency with which he or she demonstrates kindness to other employees, trading counterparties, vendors, and clients. As a firm focused on beta, the compensation of the Portfolio Managers is not based upon the performance of client accounts that the Portfolio Managers manage. The Adviser reviews the compensation of each Portfolio Manager at least annually.

**Portfolio Manager Securities Ownership**

As of February 28, 2021, except as otherwise noted, the Portfolio Managers beneficially owned the following Shares of the Fund:

<u>Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned</u>
James Egan . . . . .	\$100,001 - \$500,000
Paul Germain . . . . .	Over \$1,000,000
Tomer Seifan . . . . .	Over \$1,000,000
Ross Stevens <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	Over \$1,000,000

(1) Information as of June 1, 2021.

## Principal Underwriter

ALPS Distributors, Inc., located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80203 (the “Distributor”), is the principal underwriter and distributor of Shares of the Fund. The Distributor acts as the distributor of Shares for the Fund on a best efforts basis, subject to various conditions, pursuant to the terms of the Distributor’s contract with the Fund. The Distributor is not obligated to sell any specific number of Shares of the Fund. The Distributor will also act as agent for the Fund in connection with repurchases of Shares.

## Distribution and Servicing Plan

As described in the Prospectus, the Fund has adopted a distribution and servicing plan (the “Distribution and Servicing Plan”) for its Shares. The Distribution and Servicing Plan was approved by the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act) and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operations of the Distribution and Servicing Plan or the distribution agreement with the Distributor. The Distribution and Servicing Plan may benefit the Fund by providing additional ongoing shareholder services to Fund shareholders.

Prior to July 1, 2018, the Fund paid no distribution fees, and instead paid servicing fees at an annual rate of 0.10% of the Fund’s average daily net assets pursuant to the Services Agreement described in the Prospectus and below under “Other Service Providers — Servicing Agent.” On July 1, 2018, the Distribution and Servicing Plan was adopted, pursuant to which the Fund may pay servicing fees and distribution fees at the maximum annual rate of 0.05%, calculated as a percentage of the Fund’s average daily net assets. On the same date, the Services Agreement was amended and restated to reduce the servicing fees paid by the Fund to a maximum annual rate of 0.05% of the Fund’s average daily net assets.

The Fund incurred the following amounts in distribution and/or service fees pursuant to the Distribution and Servicing Plan during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020 and the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021:

<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2019</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 29, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2021</u>
\$1,188,010	\$1,666,775	\$1,243,957

For the fiscal years ended February 28, 2019, February 29, 2020 and February 28, 2021, \$1,010,720, \$1,462,626 and \$1,125,429, respectively, of the fees the Fund incurred pursuant to the Distribution and Services Agreement was paid to intermediaries, as described under “How to Buy Shares” and “Distribution and Servicing Arrangements” in the Prospectus.

The Distribution and Servicing Plan may be terminated by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund, to the extent so required. The Distribution and Servicing Plan may be amended by a vote of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose, to the extent so required. The Board reviews quarterly a written report detailing the costs that have been incurred.

No Independent Trustee has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution and Servicing Plan. Except as disclosed in the Prospectus, no interested person of the Fund has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Distribution and Servicing Plan except to the extent that the Distributor, the Adviser or certain of their employees may be deemed to have such an interest as a result of benefits derived from the successful operation of the Distribution and Servicing Plan.

## Other Service Providers

**Administrator.** The Trust has entered into an administration agreement with U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (the “Administrator”) pursuant to which the Administrator

provides administrative services to the Fund. The Administrator is responsible for (i) the general administrative duties associated with the day-to-day operations of the Fund; (ii) conducting relations with the custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel and other service providers; (iii) providing regulatory reporting; and (iv) providing necessary office space, equipment, personnel, compensation and facilities for handling the affairs of the Fund. In performing its duties and obligations under the administration agreement, the Administrator shall not be held liable except for a loss arising out of the Administrator's refusal or failure to comply with the terms of the administration agreement or from its bad faith, negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of its duties under the administration agreement.

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, also serves as fund accountant to the Fund under a separate agreement with the Trust and is responsible for calculating the Fund's total NAV, total net income and NAV per share of the Fund on a daily basis.

The Fund paid the following administration and fund accounting fees to the Administrator during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020 and the fiscal year February 28, 2021:

<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2019</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 29, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2021</u>
\$2,577,746	\$1,872,298	\$1,982,517

**Servicing Agent.** As described in the Prospectus, the Fund has entered into a Services Agreement with the Adviser pursuant to which the Fund has appointed the Adviser as servicing agent. As described above, the Services Agreement was amended and restated on July 1, 2018 to reduce the servicing fees paid by the Fund to a maximum annual rate of 0.05% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

The Fund incurred the following amounts in services fees pursuant to the Services Agreement during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020 and the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021:

<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2019</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 29, 2020</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended February 28, 2021</u>
\$2,275,429	\$1,666,775	\$1,243,957

For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020 and the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021, \$1,765,421, \$1,462,626 and \$1,125,429, respectively, of the services fees the Fund incurred pursuant to the Services Agreement was paid to intermediaries, as described under "How to Buy Shares" and "Distribution and Servicing Arrangements" in the Prospectus.

**Transfer Agent/Dividend Disbursing Agent.** U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services (the "Transfer Agent") is the transfer agent for the Fund's Shares and the dividend disbursing agent for payment of dividends and distributions on Fund shares. The principal business address of the Transfer Agent is 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

**Custodian.** U.S. Bank NA, located at 1555 N. River Center Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, and Millennium Trust Company, LLC ("Millennium") located at 2001 Spring Rd #700, Oak Brook, IL 60523 serve as co-custodians for the Fund's assets (together, the "Custodians" and each, a "Custodian"). Millennium also serves as the custodian for assets held by the Fund's Subsidiaries. As such, each Custodian holds in safekeeping certificated securities and cash belonging to the Fund and, in such capacity, is the registered owner of securities in book-entry form belonging to the Fund. Upon instruction, each Custodian receives and delivers cash and securities of the Fund in connection with Fund transactions and collects all dividends and other distributions made with respect to portfolio securities of the Fund. Each Custodian also maintains certain accounts and records of the Fund.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** Ernst & Young LLP, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accountant. Ernst & Young LLP provides audit services and assistance and consultation in

connection with the review of Commission filings and certain tax compliance services. Ernst & Young LLP is located at 220 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402.

**Counsel.** Ropes & Gray LLP serves as counsel to the Fund, and is located at 800 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02199.

### **PURCHASE AND REPURCHASE OF SHARES**

The Fund currently offers one class of Shares. The Declaration of Trust authorizes the issuance of an unlimited number of Shares. The Trustees of the Fund have authority under the Declaration of Trust to create and classify Shares into separate series and to classify and reclassify any series of Shares into one or more classes without further action by shareholders. The Trustees of the Fund may designate additional series and classes in the future from time to time.

The Shares will be issued with a par value of \$0.01 per share. All Shares of the Fund have equal rights as to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation of the Fund. The Shares will, when issued, be fully paid and non-assessable by the Fund and will have no preemptive or conversion rights to cumulative voting.

The Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and investors in the Shares should not view the Fund as a vehicle for short-term trading purposes.

Unlike most closed-end funds, the Fund continuously offers its Shares. The Fund's Shares are not listed on any securities exchange and are not publicly traded. Thus, there is no secondary market for the Fund's Shares and the Fund expects that no secondary market will develop. In order to provide liquidity to shareholders, the Fund has determined that it will make quarterly offers to repurchase a portion of the Fund's outstanding Shares at NAV subject to approval of the Board and in all cases such repurchase offers will be for at least 5% and not more than 25% of its outstanding Shares at NAV. It is also possible that a Repurchase Offer may be oversubscribed, with the result that shareholders may only be able to have a portion of their Shares repurchased. The Fund intends to offer the Shares in a continuous offering of its Shares at net asset value, plus the applicable sales charge. There can be no assurance that the Fund will offer its Shares on a continuous basis, or if so offered, that it will do so indefinitely.

The Repurchase Request Deadline will ordinarily be the same date as the Repurchase Pricing Date.

The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order application that conflicts with the Fund's internal policies or the policies of any regulatory authority. All checks must be in U.S. Dollars drawn on a domestic bank (*i.e.*, a bank with a branch in the U.S.). The Fund will not accept payment in cash or money orders. The Fund does not accept postdated checks or any conditional order or payment. To prevent check fraud, the Fund will not accept third party checks, Treasury checks, credit card checks, traveler's checks or starter checks for the purchase of Shares.

If you elect to receive distributions and/or dividends by check and the post office cannot deliver the check, or if the check remains uncashed for six months, the Fund reserves the right to reinvest the distribution check in your Fund account at the then current NAV per share and to reinvest all subsequent distributions in Shares of the Fund.

Information provided on the account application may be used by the Fund to verify the accuracy of the information or for background or financial history purposes. A joint account will be administered as a joint tenancy with right of survivorship, unless the joint owners notify the Transfer Agent of a different intent. A shareholder's account is governed by the laws of the State of Delaware. For telephone transactions, the Transfer Agent will take measures to verify the identity of the caller, such as asking for name, account number, Social Security or other taxpayer ID number and other relevant information. If appropriate measures are taken, the Transfer Agent is not responsible for any loss that may occur to any account due to an unauthorized telephone

call. Also, for your protection, telephone repurchases are not permitted on accounts whose names or addresses have changed within the past 30 days. Proceeds from telephone transactions can be mailed to the address of record or sent via wire or ACH to the bank of record pre-established on the account.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

### *Investment Decisions and Portfolio Transactions*

Investment decisions for the Fund are made with a view to achieving its investment objective. Investment decisions are the product of many factors in addition to basic suitability for the particular client involved (including the Fund). Some securities considered for investment by the Fund also may be appropriate for other accounts managed by the Adviser. Thus, a particular security may be bought or sold for certain accounts even though it could have been bought or sold for other accounts at the same time. If a purchase or sale of securities consistent with the investment policies of the Fund and one or more of these other accounts is considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities will generally be allocated among the Fund and other accounts in the manner described above under “Potential Conflicts of Interest — Allocation of Investment Opportunities” and “—Conflicts of Interest Among Strategies” above. When the Adviser determines that an investment opportunity is appropriate for the Fund and one or more other accounts, the Adviser will generally execute transactions for the Fund on an aggregated basis with the other accounts when the Adviser believes that to do so will allow it to obtain best execution and to negotiate more favorable commission rates or other transaction costs that might have otherwise been paid had such orders been placed independently. Aggregation, or “bunching,” describes a procedure whereby an investment adviser combines the orders of two or more clients into a single order for the purpose of obtaining better prices and lower execution costs.

### *Brokerage and Research Services*

There is generally no stated commission in the case of securities traded on a principal basis in the over-the-counter markets, but the price paid by the Fund usually includes an undisclosed dealer commission or markup. In underwritten offerings, the price paid by the Fund includes a disclosed, fixed commission or discount retained by the underwriter or dealer. Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges and other agency transactions involve the payment by the Fund of negotiated brokerage commissions. Such commissions vary among different brokers. Also, a particular broker may charge different commissions according to such factors as the difficulty and size of the transaction. Transactions in non-U.S. securities generally involve the payment of fixed brokerage commissions, which are generally higher than those in the United States. The purchase by the Fund of participations or assignments may be pursuant to privately negotiated transactions pursuant to which the Fund may be required to pay fees to the seller or forego a portion of payments in respect of the participation agreement.

The Adviser places orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities, options and futures contracts and buys and sells such securities, options and futures for the Fund through multiple brokers and dealers. The Adviser will place trades for execution only with approved brokers or dealers. In effecting such purchases and sales, the Adviser seeks the most favorable price and execution of the Fund’s orders. In doing so, the Fund may pay higher commissions than the lowest available when the Adviser believes it is reasonable to do so. In seeking the most favorable price and execution, the Adviser, having in mind the Fund’s best interests, considers all factors it deems relevant, including, price, the size of the transaction, the nature of the market for the security, the amount of the commission, the timing of the transaction taking into account market prices and trends, the reputation, experience and financial stability of the broker-dealer involved and the quality of service rendered by the broker-dealer in that or other transactions.

It has for many years been a common practice in the investment advisory business for advisers of investment companies and other institutional investors to receive research and brokerage products and services (together, “research and brokerage services”) from broker-dealers which execute portfolio transactions for the clients of such advisers. Consistent with this practice, the Adviser may receive research and brokerage services from

broker-dealers with which the Adviser places the Fund's portfolio transactions. These research and brokerage services, which in some cases also may be purchased for cash, may include, among other things, such items as general economic and security market reviews, industry and company reviews, evaluations of securities, recommendations as to the purchase and sale of securities and services related to the execution of securities transactions. The advisory fees paid by the Fund are not reduced because the Adviser receives such research and brokerage services even though the receipt of such research and brokerage services relieves the Adviser from expenses it might otherwise bear. Research and brokerage services provided by broker-dealers chosen by the Adviser to place the Fund's transactions may be useful to the Adviser in providing services to the Adviser's other clients, although not all of these research and brokerage services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing the Fund. Conversely, research and brokerage services provided to the Adviser by broker-dealers in connection with trades executed on behalf of other clients of the Adviser may be useful to the Adviser in managing the Fund, although not all of these research and brokerage services may be necessarily useful and of value to the Adviser in managing such other clients. To the extent the Adviser uses such research and brokerage services, it will use them for the benefit of all clients, to the extent reasonably practicable. Currently, the Adviser does not direct portfolio transactions for the Fund to a particular broker-dealer because the broker dealer provides soft dollar benefits to the Adviser.

In reliance on the "safe harbor" provided by Section 28(e) of the Exchange Act, the Adviser may cause the Fund to pay a broker-dealer which provides "brokerage and research services" (as defined for purposes of Section 28(e)) to the Adviser an amount of commission for effecting a securities transaction for the Fund in excess of the commission which another broker-dealer would have charged for effecting that transaction if the Adviser makes a good faith determination that the commissions are reasonable in relation to the value of brokerage and research services provided, viewed in terms of either a particular transaction or the Adviser's overall responsibilities to all discretionary accounts.

The Adviser may place orders for the purchase and sale of exchange-listed portfolio securities with a broker-dealer that is an affiliate of the Adviser where, in the judgment of the Adviser, such firm will be able to obtain a price and execution at least as favorable as other qualified broker-dealers. Pursuant to rules of the Commission, a broker-dealer that is an affiliate of the Adviser may receive and retain compensation for effecting portfolio transactions for the Fund on a securities exchange if the commissions paid to such an affiliated broker-dealer by the Fund on exchange transactions do not exceed "usual and customary brokerage commissions." The rules define "usual and customary" commissions to include amounts which are "reasonable and fair compared to the commission, fee or other remuneration received or to be received by other brokers in connection with comparable transactions involving similar securities being purchased or sold on a securities exchange during a comparable period of time."

**Regular Broker Dealers.** The Fund is required to identify the securities of its regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) or their parent companies held by the Fund as of the close of its most recent fiscal year and state the value of such holdings. As of February 28, 2021, the Fund did not hold any securities of its regular brokers or dealers or their parent companies.

**Brokerage Commissions.** For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2019, there were no aggregate brokerage commissions. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2020, there were aggregate brokerage commissions of \$12,362. For fiscal year ended February 28, 2021, there were no aggregate brokerage commissions.

## TAX STATUS

The following discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences of investment in the Fund is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), U.S. Treasury regulations, and other applicable authority, as of the date of the preparation of this SAI. These authorities are subject to change by legislative or administrative action, possibly with retroactive effect. The following discussion is only a summary of some of the important U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to investments in the Fund and does not address all aspects of taxation that may apply to shareholders or to particular shareholders. Shareholders

should consult their own tax advisers regarding their particular situation and the possible application of federal, state, local or non-U.S. tax laws.

### *Taxation of the Fund*

The Fund has elected to be treated and intends to qualify and be treated each year as a regulated investment company (“RIC”) under Subchapter M of Chapter 1 of the Code. In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, the Fund must, among other things:

- (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from (i) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies, and (ii) net income derived from interests in “qualified publicly traded partnerships” (as defined below);
- (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Fund’s taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value 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 is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, (x) in the securities (other than those of the U.S. government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or (y) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined below); and
- (c) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid—generally, taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and any net tax-exempt interest income for such year.

In general, for purposes of the 90% gross income requirement described in paragraph (a) above, income derived from a partnership will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership that would be qualifying income if realized directly by the regulated investment company. However, 100% of the net income derived from an interest in a “qualified publicly traded partnership” (a partnership (x) the interests in which are traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof, and (y) that derives less than 90% of its income from the qualifying income described in paragraph (a)(i) above) will be treated as qualifying income. In general, such entities will be treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes because they meet the passive income requirement under Code section 7704(c)(2). In addition, although in general the passive loss rules of the Code do not apply to regulated investment companies, such rules do apply to a regulated investment company with respect to items attributable to an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership.

For purposes of the diversification test in (b) above, the term “outstanding voting securities of such issuer” will include the equity securities of a qualified publicly traded partnership. Also, for purposes of the diversification test in (b) above, the identification of the issuer (or, in some cases, issuers) of a particular Fund investment can depend on the terms and conditions of that investment. In some cases, identification of the issuer (or issuers) is uncertain under current law, and an adverse determination or future guidance by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) with respect to issuer identification for a particular type of investment may adversely affect the Fund’s ability to meet the diversification test in (b) above. In addition, if the Fund were to own 20% or more of the voting interests of a corporation, the Fund would be required to “look through” such corporation to its holdings and combine the appropriate percentage of such corporation’s assets with the Fund’s assets for purposes of satisfying the 25% diversification test described in (b)(ii) above. Gains from foreign currencies (including



foreign currency options, foreign currency swaps, foreign currency futures and foreign currency forward contracts) currently constitute qualifying income for purposes of the 90% gross income test, described in (a) above. However, the Treasury Department has the authority to issue regulations (possibly with retroactive effect) excluding from the definition of “qualifying income” the Fund’s foreign currency gains to the extent that such income is not directly related to the Fund’s principal business of investing in stock or securities.

The Fund’s investment strategy will potentially be limited by its intention to qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company. The tax treatment of certain of the Fund’s investments under one or more of the qualification or distribution tests applicable to RICs is not certain. An adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS or a change in law might affect the Fund’s ability to qualify for such treatment.

If the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income distributed in a timely manner to its shareholders in the form of dividends (including Capital Gain Dividends, as defined below). If the Fund were to fail to meet the income, diversification or distribution tests described above, the Fund could in some cases cure such failure, including by paying a Fund-level tax, paying interest, making additional distributions or disposing of certain assets. If the Fund were ineligible to or otherwise did not cure such failure for any year, or if the Fund were otherwise to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company accorded special tax treatment for such year, the Fund would be a “C corporation” and, as such, would be subject to tax on its taxable income at corporate rates, and all distributions from earnings and profits, including any distributions of net tax-exempt income and net long-term capital gains, would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. Some portions of such distributions could be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders and may be eligible to be treated as “qualified dividend income” in the case of shareholders taxed as individuals, provided, in both cases, that the shareholder meets certain holding period and other requirements in respect of the Fund’s Shares (as described below). In addition, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before re-qualifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

The Fund intends to be treated as a “dealer in securities” within the meaning of Section 475(c)(1) of the Code. Section 475 of the Code requires that a dealer must generally “mark -to -market” all the securities which it holds at the close of any taxable year. Any gain or loss realized or deemed realized with respect to a security held by a dealer, regardless of whether such gain or loss is realized as a result of an actual disposition or a deemed disposition under the mark-to-market rule, is generally treated as ordinary income or loss. The mark-to-market rule does not apply to any security held for investment that the dealer properly identifies as such.

As a result of its status as a dealer in securities, most or all of the investments held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year are “marked -to -market” under Section 475 of the Code with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized. These deemed realized gains and losses, as well as gains and losses actually realized during the taxable year due to an actual disposition of a security that would have been marked to market if held at the end of the year, are generally treated as ordinary gain or loss. The Fund’s status as a dealer in securities may affect the amount, timing and character of the Fund’s distributions, including by causing substantially all of the Fund’s distributions to be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. The mark-to-market rules under Section 475 of the Code may not apply to all of the Fund’s investments; in such instances, other rules of the Code, including in some cases the mark-to-market rules of Section 1256 of the Code, will apply to determine the amount, timing and character of income.

The Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders, at least annually, substantially all of its investment company taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction), any net tax-exempt income and any net capital gains. As a “dealer in securities,” the Fund does not expect to realize material amounts of capital gain. Investment company taxable income that is retained by the Fund will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates. The Fund may also retain for investment its net capital gain. If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained, but it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice mailed within 60 days of the close of the Fund’s taxable year to its

shareholders who, in turn, (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their Shares of such undistributed amount, and (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate Shares of the tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds on properly-filed U.S. tax returns to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. If the Fund makes this designation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of Shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal under current law to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's gross income, under clause (i) of the preceding sentence, and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence. The Fund is not required to, and there can be no assurance that the Fund will, make this designation if it retains all or a portion of its net capital gain in a taxable year.

In determining its net capital gain, including in connection with determining the amount available to support a Capital Gain Dividend, its taxable income and its earnings and profits, a RIC generally may elect to treat part or all of any post-October capital loss (defined as any net capital loss attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after October 31, or, if there is no such loss, the net long-term capital loss or net short-term capital loss attributable to any such portion of the taxable year), or late-year ordinary loss (generally, the sum of its (i) net ordinary loss from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after October 31, and its (ii) other net ordinary loss attributable to the portion, if any, of the taxable year after December 31) as if incurred in the succeeding taxable year.

If the Fund fails to distribute in a calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of 98% of its ordinary income for such year and 98.2% of its capital gain net income for the one-year period ending on October 31 of such year, plus any retained amount for the prior year, the Fund will be subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax on the undistributed amounts. For these purposes, ordinary gains and losses from the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of property that would be properly taken into account after October 31 are treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. For purposes of the excise tax, the Fund will be treated as having distributed any amount on which it has been subject to corporate income tax in the taxable year ending within the calendar year. A dividend paid to shareholders in January of a year generally is deemed to have been paid on December 31 of the preceding year, if the dividend is declared and payable to shareholders of record on a date in October, November or December of that preceding year. The Fund intends generally to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax, although there can be no assurance that it will be able to do so.

#### *Fund Distributions*

Shareholders subject to U.S. federal income tax will be subject to tax on dividends received from the Fund, regardless of whether received in cash or reinvested in additional Shares. Such distributions generally will be taxable to shareholders in the calendar year in which the distributions are received, except that a dividend declared and payable to shareholders of record in October, November or December and paid to shareholders the following January generally is deemed to have been paid by the Fund on the preceding December 31. Distributions received by tax-exempt shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax to the extent permitted under applicable tax law.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions of investment income generally are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. As a "dealer in securities," the Fund does not expect to realize material amounts of capital gains. If, despite its status as a "dealer in securities" the Fund realizes capital gains, taxes to shareholders on distributions of such capital gains, if any, are determined by how long the Fund owned (and is treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as having owned) the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned his or her Shares. In general, the Fund will recognize long-term capital gain or loss on investments it has owned (or is deemed to have owned) for more than one year, and short-term capital gain or loss on investments it has owned (or is deemed to have owned) for one year or less. Tax rules can alter the Fund's holding period in investments and thereby affect the tax treatment of gain or loss on such investments. Distributions of net capital gain (that is, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss, in each case determined with reference to any loss carryforwards) that are properly reported by the Fund as

capital gain dividends (“Capital Gain Dividends”) generally will be taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains includible in net capital gain and taxed to individuals at reduced rates. The IRS and the Department of the Treasury have issued regulations that impose special rules in respect of Capital Gain Dividends received through partnership interests constituting “applicable partnership interests” under Section 1061 of the Code. Distributions of net short-term capital gain (as reduced by any long-term capital loss for the taxable year) will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income, and shareholders will not be able to offset distributions of the Fund’s net short-term capital gains with capital losses that they recognize with respect to their other investments.

As required by federal law, detailed federal tax information with respect to each calendar year will be furnished to each shareholder early in the succeeding year.

The ultimate tax characterization of the Fund’s distributions made in a taxable year cannot finally be determined until after the end of that taxable year. As a result, there is a possibility that the Fund may make total distributions during a taxable year in an amount that exceeds the Fund’s “current and accumulated earnings and profits” (generally, the net investment income and net capital gains of the Fund with respect to that year), in which case the excess generally will be treated as a return of capital, which will be tax-free to the holders of the Shares, up to the amount of the shareholder’s tax basis in the applicable Shares, with any amounts exceeding such basis treated as gain from the sale of such Shares.

Capital losses in excess of capital gains (“net capital losses”) are not permitted to be deducted against the Fund’s net investment income. Instead, potentially subject to certain limitations, the Fund may carry net capital losses from any taxable year forward to subsequent taxable years without expiration to offset capital gains, if any, realized during such subsequent taxable years. Capital loss carryforwards are reduced to the extent they offset current-year net realized capital gains, whether the Fund retains or distributes such gains. The Fund must apply such carryforwards first against gains of the same character. The Fund’s available capital loss carryforwards, if any, will be set forth in its annual shareholder report for each fiscal year.

“Qualified dividend income” received by an individual will be taxed at the rates applicable to net capital gain. In order for some portion of the dividends received by the Fund shareholder to be qualified dividend income, the Fund must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to the Fund’s Shares. In general, a dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (2) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company.

In general, distributions of investment income reported by the Fund as derived from qualified dividend income will be treated as qualified dividend income by a shareholder taxed as an individual, provided both the shareholder and the Fund meet the holding period and other requirements described above. If the aggregate qualified dividends received by the Fund during any taxable year are 95% or more of its gross income (excluding net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), then 100% of the Fund’s dividends (other than Capital Gain Dividends) will be eligible to be treated as qualified dividend income. It is unclear whether or to what extent distributions from the Fund will constitute qualified dividend income.

In general, dividends of net investment income received by corporate shareholders of the Fund will qualify for the dividends-received deduction generally available to corporations to the extent of the amount of eligible

dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations for the taxable year. A dividend received by the Fund will not be treated as a dividend eligible for the dividends-received deduction (1) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held for less than 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred stock) during the 91-day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date in the case of certain preferred stock) or (2) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the dividends received deduction may otherwise be disallowed or reduced (1) if the corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its Shares of the Fund or (2) by application of various provisions of the Code (for instance, the dividends-received deduction is reduced in the case of a dividend received on debt-financed portfolio stock (generally, stock acquired with borrowed funds)). It is unclear whether or to what extent distributions from the Fund will qualify for the dividends-received deduction.

Any distribution of income that is attributable to (i) income received by the Fund in lieu of dividends with respect to securities on loan pursuant to a securities lending transaction or (ii) dividend income received by the Fund on securities it temporarily purchased from a counterparty pursuant to a repurchase agreement that is treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a loan by the Fund, will not constitute qualified dividend income to individual shareholders and will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders.

Distributions by the Fund to its shareholders that the Fund properly reports as “section 199A dividends,” as defined and subject to certain conditions described below, are treated as qualified REIT dividends in the hands of non-corporate shareholders. See “Certain Investments in REITs and Mortgage-Related Securities” for further details.

The Code generally imposes a 3.8% Medicare contribution tax on the net investment income of certain individuals, trusts and estates to the extent their income exceeds certain threshold amounts. For these purposes, “net investment income” generally includes, among other things, (i) distributions paid by the Fund of net investment income and capital gains as described above, and (ii) any net gain from the sale, repurchase or exchange of Fund shares. Shareholders are advised to consult their tax advisers regarding the possible implications of this additional tax on their investment in the Fund.

Dividends and distributions on Shares of the Fund are generally subject to U.S. federal income tax as described herein to the extent they do not exceed the Fund’s realized income and gains (“current and accumulated earnings and profits”), even though such dividends and distributions may economically represent a return of a particular shareholder’s investment. Such distributions are likely to occur in respect of Shares purchased at a time when the net asset value of the Fund reflects either unrealized gains, or realized undistributed income or gains, that were therefore included in the price the shareholder paid. The Fund may be required to distribute realized income or gains regardless of whether the Fund’s net asset value also reflects unrealized losses. Such distributions may reduce the fair market value of the Fund’s Shares below the shareholder’s cost basis in those Shares.

#### *Sale, Exchange or Repurchase of Shares*

The repurchase, sale or exchange of Fund 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 the shareholder has held the Shares for more than 12 months. Otherwise the gain or loss will generally be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. However, any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Shares held for six months or less will be treated as long-term, rather than short-term, to the extent of any Capital Gain Dividends received (or deemed received) by the shareholder with respect to the Shares. All or a portion of any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Shares will be disallowed under the Code’s “wash sale” rule if other substantially identical Shares of the Fund are purchased within 30 days before or after the disposition. In such a case, the basis of the newly purchased Shares will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss.

Shareholders who tender all of the Shares they hold or are deemed to hold in response to a Periodic Repurchase Offer (as defined in the Prospectus) generally will be treated as having sold their Shares and generally will recognize a capital gain or loss, as described in the preceding paragraph. However, if a shareholder tenders fewer than all of the Shares it holds or is deemed to hold, such shareholder may be treated as having received a distribution under Section 301 of the Code (“Section 301 distribution”) unless the repurchase is treated as being either (i) “substantially disproportionate” with respect to such shareholder or (ii) otherwise “not essentially equivalent to a dividend” under the relevant rules of the Code. A Section 301 distribution is not treated as a sale or exchange giving rise to capital gain or loss, but rather is treated as a dividend to the extent supported by the Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits, with the excess treated as a return of capital reducing the shareholder’s tax basis in its Fund shares, and thereafter as capital gain. Where a shareholder whose Shares are repurchased is treated as receiving a dividend, there is a risk that other shareholders of the Fund whose percentage interests in the Fund increase as a result of such repurchase will be treated as having received a taxable distribution from the Fund.

The Fund’s use of cash to repurchase Shares could adversely affect its ability to satisfy the distribution requirements for treatment as a RIC. The Fund could also recognize income in connection with its liquidation of portfolio securities to fund share repurchases. Any such income would be taken into account in determining whether the distribution requirements are satisfied.

#### *Options, Futures, Forward Contracts, Swap Agreements, Hedges, Straddles and Other Transactions*

To the extent that the Fund’s status and activities as a dealer do not otherwise determine the tax treatment of the Fund’s transactions in derivatives, the following special rules potentially apply. In general, option premiums received by the Fund are not immediately included in the income of the Fund. Instead, the premiums are recognized (i) when the option contract expires, (ii) the option is exercised by the holder, or (iii) the Fund transfers or otherwise terminates the option (*e.g.*, through a closing transaction). If a call option written by the Fund is exercised and the Fund sells or delivers the underlying security, the Fund generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to (a) the sum of the strike price and the option premium received by the Fund minus (b) the Fund’s basis in the security. Such gain or loss generally will be short-term or long-term depending upon the holding period of the underlying security. If securities are purchased by the Fund pursuant to the exercise of a put option written by it, the Fund generally will subtract the premium received for purposes of computing its cost basis in the securities purchased. In either case, provided the tax treatment of an option transaction is not governed by Section 1256 of the Code (discussed further below), the gain or loss that may arise in respect of a termination of the Fund’s obligation under the option other than through the exercise of the option will be short-term gain or loss, depending on whether the premium income received by the Fund is greater or less than the amount paid by the Fund (if any) in terminating the transaction. Thus, for example, if an option written by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund generally will recognize short-term gain equal to the premium received.

Certain covered call writing activities of the Fund may trigger the U.S. federal income tax straddle rules contained primarily in Section 1092 of the Code. Very generally, where applicable, Section 1092 requires (i) that losses be deferred on positions deemed to be offsetting positions with respect to “substantially similar or related property,” to the extent of unrealized gain in the latter, and (ii) that the holding period of such a straddle position that has not already been held for the long-term holding period be terminated and begin anew once the position is no longer part of a straddle. Options on single stocks that are not “deep in the money” may constitute qualified covered calls, which generally are not subject to the straddle rules; the holding period on stock underlying qualified covered calls that are “in the money” although not “deep in the money” will be suspended during the period that such calls are outstanding. Thus, the straddle rules and the rules governing qualified covered calls could cause gains that would otherwise constitute long-term capital gains to be treated as short-term capital gains, and distributions that would otherwise constitute “qualified dividend income” or qualify for the dividends-received deduction to fail to satisfy the holding period requirements and therefore to be taxed as ordinary income or fail to qualify for the dividends-received deduction, as the case may be.

The tax treatment of certain positions entered into by the Fund, including regulated futures contracts, certain foreign currency positions and certain listed non-equity options, will generally be governed by section 1256 of the Code (“Section 1256 Contracts”). Gains or losses on Section 1256 Contracts generally are considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses (“60/40”), although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as ordinary in character. Also, Section 1256 Contracts held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year (and, for purposes of the 4% excise tax, on certain other dates as prescribed under the Code) are “marked to market” with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as ordinary or 60/40 gain or loss, as applicable.

In addition to the special rules described above in respect of futures and options transactions, the Fund’s transactions in other derivative instruments (*e.g.*, forward contracts and swap agreements) as well as any of its other hedging, short sale, securities loan or similar transactions, may be subject to one or more special tax rules (*e.g.*, mark-to-market, notional principal contract, straddle, constructive sale, wash sale and short sale rules). These rules may affect whether gains and losses recognized by the Fund are treated as ordinary or capital or as short-term or long-term, accelerate the recognition of income or gains to the Fund, defer losses to the Fund and cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Fund’s securities. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions to shareholders. Because these and other tax rules applicable to these types of transactions are in some cases uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to these rules may affect whether the Fund has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements, to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid a Fund-level tax.

The Fund’s use of commodity-linked derivatives can be limited by the Fund’s intention to qualify as a regulated investment company, and can bear on the Fund’s ability to so qualify. Income and gains from certain commodity-linked derivatives does not constitute qualifying income to a regulated investment company for purposes of the 90% gross income test described above. The tax treatment of certain other commodity-linked instruments in which the Fund might invest, including (“ETNs”) and certain structured notes, is not certain, in particular with respect to whether income or gains from such instruments constitute qualifying income to a RIC. If the Fund were to treat income or gain from a particular instrument as qualifying income and the income or gain were later determined not to constitute qualifying income and, together with any other nonqualifying income, caused the Fund’s nonqualifying income to exceed 10% of its gross income in any taxable year, the Fund would fail to qualify as a regulated investment company unless it is eligible to and does pay a tax at the Fund level.

Certain of the Fund’s investments in derivative instruments and foreign currency-denominated instruments, and any of the Fund’s transactions in foreign currencies and hedging activities, are likely to produce a difference between the Fund’s book income and the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any). If the Fund’s book income is less than the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the Fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment and to avoid a Fund-level tax. If, in the alternative, the Fund’s book income exceeds the sum of its taxable income (including realized capital gains) and net tax-exempt income (if any), the distribution (if any) of such excess will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the Fund’s remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient’s basis in its shares and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset.

#### *Foreign Currency Transactions*

The Fund’s transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned. Any such net gains could require a larger dividend toward the end of the calendar year. Any such net losses will generally reduce and potentially require the recharacterization of prior ordinary income distributions. Such ordinary income treatment may accelerate Fund distributions to shareholders and increase the distributions

taxed to shareholders as ordinary income. Any net ordinary losses so created cannot be carried forward by the Fund to offset income or gains earned in subsequent taxable years.

#### *Taxation of the Subsidiaries*

Each existing wholly-owned Subsidiary is, and it is currently expected that any such future Subsidiary will be, a disregarded entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the case of a Subsidiary that is a disregarded entity for such purposes, for U.S. federal income tax purposes (i) the Fund is treated as owning the Subsidiary's assets directly; (ii) any income, gain, loss, deduction or other tax items arising in respect of the Subsidiary's assets will be treated as if they are realized or incurred, as applicable, directly by the Fund; and (iii) any distributions the Fund receives from the Subsidiary will have no effect on the Fund's U.S. federal income tax liability.

#### *Passive Foreign Investment Companies*

A passive foreign investment company ("PFIC") is any foreign corporation: (i) 75% or more of the gross income of which for the taxable year is passive income, or (ii) the average percentage of the assets of which (generally by value, but by adjusted tax basis in certain cases) that produce or are held for the production of passive income is at least 50%. Generally, passive income for this purpose means dividends, interest (including income equivalent to interest), royalties, rents, annuities, the excess of gains over losses from certain property transactions and commodities transactions, and foreign currency gains. Passive income for this purpose does not include rents and royalties received by the foreign corporation from active business and certain income received from related persons.

Equity investments by the Fund in certain PFICs could potentially subject the Fund to a U.S. federal income tax or other charge (including interest charges) on the distributions received from the PFIC or on proceeds received from the disposition of shares in the PFIC. This tax cannot be eliminated by making distributions to Fund shareholders. However, the Fund may elect to avoid the imposition of that tax. For example, if the Fund is in a position to and elects to treat a PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" (*i.e.*, make a "QEF election"), the Fund will be required to include its share of the PFIC's income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives any distribution from the PFIC. Alternatively, the Fund may make an election to mark the gains (and to a limited extent losses) in such holdings "to the market" as though it had sold and repurchased its holdings in those PFICs on the last day of the Fund's taxable year. Such gains and losses are treated as ordinary income and loss. The QEF and mark-to-market elections may accelerate the recognition of income (without the receipt of cash) and increase the amount required to be distributed by the Fund to avoid taxation. Making either of these elections therefore may require the Fund to liquidate other investments (including when it is not advantageous to do so) to meet its distribution requirement, which also may accelerate the recognition of gain and affect the Fund's total return. Dividends paid by PFICs will not be eligible to be treated as "qualified dividend income."

It is not always possible to identify a foreign corporation as a PFIC, and the Fund may therefore incur the tax and interest charges described above in some instances.

#### *Foreign Taxation*

Income and proceeds received by the Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes.

If more than 50% of the Fund's assets at the close of the taxable year consist of the securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may elect to permit shareholders to claim a credit or deduction on their income tax returns for their pro rata portions of qualified taxes paid by the Fund to foreign countries in respect of foreign securities that the Fund has held for at least the minimum period specified in the Code. For this purpose, "securities of foreign corporations" generally includes securities of foreign governments. In such cases, shareholders will include in gross income from foreign sources their pro rata shares of such taxes paid by the Fund. A

shareholder's ability to claim an offsetting foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of such foreign taxes is subject to certain limitations imposed by the Code, which may result in the shareholder's not receiving a full credit or deduction (if any) for the amount of such taxes. For example, shareholders who do not itemize on their U.S. federal income tax returns may claim a credit but not a deduction for such foreign taxes. In addition, shareholders that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax, and those who invest in the Fund through tax-advantaged accounts (including those who invest through individual retirement accounts or other tax-advantaged retirement plans), generally will receive no benefit from any tax credit or deduction passed through by the Fund.

#### *Investments in Other Investment Companies*

If the Fund receives dividends from another investment company, including an ETF, that qualifies as a RIC, and the investment company reports such dividends as qualified dividend income, then the Fund is permitted in turn to report a portion of its distributions as qualified dividend income, provided the Fund meets holding period and other requirements with respect to shares of the investment company.

If the Fund receives dividends from such an investment company and the investment company reports such dividends as eligible for the dividends-received deduction, then the Fund is permitted in turn to report its distributions derived from those dividends as eligible for the dividends-received deduction as well, provided the Fund meets holding period and other requirements with respect to shares of the investment company.

#### *Investments in Securities of Special Purpose Entities*

The tax treatment of the Fund's investments in the securities of special purpose entities that acquire and hold alternative lending-related securities will depend on the terms of such investments and may affect the amount, timing or character of income recognized by the Fund and therefore the amount, timing, or character of distributions to shareholders. Because tax rules applicable to these types of investments are in some cases uncertain, an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS or a change in law might affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC.

#### *Certain Investments in REITs and Mortgage-Related Securities*

The Fund may invest in REITs. The Fund's investments in REIT equity securities may result in the Fund's receipt of cash in excess of the REIT's earnings; if the Fund distributes such amounts, such distribution could constitute a return of capital to Fund shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Dividends received by the Fund from a REIT will not qualify for the corporate dividends-received deduction and generally will not constitute qualified dividend income.

Pursuant to proposed regulations on which the Fund may rely, distributions by the Fund to its shareholders that the Fund properly reports as "section 199A dividends," as defined and subject to certain conditions described below, are treated as qualified REIT dividends in the hands of non-corporate shareholders. Non-corporate shareholders are permitted a U.S. federal income tax deduction equal to 20% of qualified REIT dividends received by them, subject to certain limitations. Very generally, a "section 199A dividend" is any dividend or portion thereof that is attributable to certain dividends received by a regulated investment company from REITs, to the extent such dividends are properly reported as such by the regulated investment company in a written notice to its shareholders. A section 199A dividend is treated as a qualified REIT dividend only if the shareholder receiving such dividend holds the dividend-paying regulated investment company shares for at least 46 days of the 91-day period beginning 45 days before the shares become ex-dividend, and is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to a position in substantially similar or related property. The Fund is permitted to report such part of its dividends as section 199A dividends as are eligible, but is not required to do so.



### *Short Sales*

To the extent the Fund participates in short sales by contracting for the sale of stock it does not own and later purchasing stock necessary to close the sale, the character of the gain or loss realized on such a short sale is determined by reference to the property used to close the short sale and is thus generally short-term. Because net short-term capital gain (after reduction by any long-term capital loss) is generally taxed at ordinary income rates, the Fund's short sale transactions will likely increase the percentage of the Fund's gains that are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

### *Original Issue Discount, Pay-In-Kind Securities and Market Discount*

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance (and all zero-coupon debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) will be treated as debt obligations that are issued originally at a discount. Generally, the amount of the original issue discount ("OID") is treated as interest income and is included in the Fund's taxable income (and required to be distributed by the Fund) over the term of the debt obligation, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time (*i.e.*, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security) or is received in kind rather than in cash. Increases in the principal amount of inflation-indexed bonds will also be treated as OID.

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance, that are acquired by the Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having "market discount." Very generally, market discount is the excess of the stated redemption price of a debt obligation (or in the case of an obligation issued with OID, its "revised issue price") over the purchase price of such obligation. In the case of higher-risk securities, the amount of market discount may be unclear. See "Higher-Risk Securities." Subject to the discussion below regarding Section 451 of the Code (i) generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt obligation having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt obligation, (ii) alternatively, the Fund may elect to accrue market discount currently, in which case the Fund will be required to include the accrued market discount in the Fund's income (as ordinary income) and thus distribute it over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security and (iii) the rate at which the market discount accrues, and thus is included in the Fund's income, will depend upon which of the permitted accrual methods the Fund elects. Notwithstanding the foregoing, effective for taxable years beginning after 2017, Section 451 of the Code generally requires any accrual method taxpayer to take into account items of gross income no later than the time at which such items are taken into account as revenue in the taxpayer's financial statements. The IRS and the Department of the Treasury have issued final regulations providing that this rule does not apply to the accrual of market discount.

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance may be treated as having "acquisition discount" (very generally, the excess of the stated redemption price over the purchase price) or OID in the case of certain types of debt obligations. Generally, the Fund will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income (as ordinary income) over the term of the debt obligation, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time (*i.e.*, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security) or is received in kind rather than in cash. The Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt obligations having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

In addition, payment-in-kind securities will give rise to income that is required to be distributed and is taxable even though the Fund holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

The Fund that holds the foregoing kinds of securities may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Fund or if necessary, by liquidation of portfolio securities (including

when it is not advantageous to do so). The Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution than they would in the absence of such transactions.

#### *Securities Purchased at a Premium*

Very generally, where the Fund purchases a bond at a price that exceeds the redemption price at maturity (*i.e.*, a premium), the premium is amortizable over the remaining term of the bond. In the case of a taxable bond, if the Fund makes an election applicable to all such bonds it purchases, which election is irrevocable without consent of the IRS, the Fund reduces the current taxable income from the bond by the amortized premium and reduces its tax basis in the bond by the amount of such offset; upon the disposition or maturity of such bonds, the Fund is permitted to deduct any remaining premium allocable to a prior period. In the case of a tax-exempt bond, tax rules require the Fund to reduce its tax basis by the amount of amortized premium.

#### *Higher-Risk Securities*

Investments in debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present special tax issues for the Fund. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether, when or to what extent the Fund should recognize market discount on a debt obligation; when the Fund may cease to accrue interest, OID or market discount; when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless securities; and how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by the Fund when, as and if it invests in such securities, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its eligibility for treatment as a regulated investment company and does not become subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

#### *Issuer Deductibility of Interest*

A portion of the interest paid or accrued on certain high yield discount obligations owned by the Fund may not be deductible to (and thus, may affect the cash flow of) the issuer. If a portion of the interest paid or accrued on certain high yield discount obligations is not deductible, that portion will be treated as a dividend for purposes of the corporate dividends received deduction. In such cases, if the issuer of the high yield discount obligations is a domestic corporation, dividend payments by the Fund may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction to the extent of the deemed dividend portion of such accrued interest. Interest paid on debt obligations owned by the Fund, if any, that are considered for U.S. tax purposes to be payable in the equity of the issuer or a related party will not be deductible to the issuer, possibly affecting the cash flow of the issuer.

#### *Tax-Exempt Shareholders*

Income of a regulated investment company that would be UBTI if earned directly by a tax-exempt entity will not generally be attributed as UBTI to a tax-exempt shareholder of a regulated investment company. Notwithstanding this “blocking” effect, a tax-exempt shareholder could recognize UBTI by virtue of its investment in the Fund if Shares in the Fund constitute debt-financed property in the hands of the tax-exempt shareholder within the meaning of Section 514(b) of the Code.

#### *Foreign Shareholders*

In general, the Fund’s dividends are not subject to a U.S. withholding tax when paid to a shareholder that is not a “U.S. Person within the meaning of the Code (such a shareholder, a “foreign shareholder”) to the extent properly reported by the Fund as (1) interest-related dividends or short-term capital gains dividends, each as defined below and subject to certain conditions described below, (2) Capital Gain Dividends or (3) distributions treated as a return of capital with respect to such foreign shareholder.

The exception to withholding for “interest-related dividends” generally applies with respect to distributions (other than distributions to a foreign shareholder (w) that does not provide a satisfactory statement that the

beneficial owner is not a U.S. person, (x) to the extent that the dividend is attributable to certain interest on an obligation if the foreign shareholder is the issuer or is a 10% shareholder of the issuer, (y) that is within certain foreign countries that have inadequate information exchange with the United States, or (z) to the extent the dividend is attributable to interest paid by a person that is a related person of the foreign shareholder and the foreign shareholder is a controlled foreign corporation) from U.S.-source interest income of types similar to those not subject to U.S. federal income tax if earned directly by an individual foreign shareholder, to the extent such distributions are properly reported as such by the Fund in a written notice to shareholders (“interest-related dividends”). The exception to withholding for “short-term capital gain dividends” generally applies with respect to distributions (other than (a) distributions to an individual foreign shareholder who is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the distribution or (b) distributions subject to special rules regarding the disposition of U.S. real property interests) of net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses to the extent such distributions are properly reported by the Fund (“short-term capital gain dividends”). The Fund is permitted to report such part of its dividends as interest-related or short-term capital gain dividends as are eligible, but is not required to do so. In the case of Shares held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if the Fund reports all or a portion of a payment as an interest-related or short-term capital gain dividend to shareholders. These exemptions from withholding will not be available to foreign shareholders of the Fund if it does not currently report its dividends as interest-related or short-term capital gain dividends. Foreign shareholders should contact their intermediaries regarding the application of these rules to their accounts.

Distributions by the Fund to foreign shareholders other than Capital Gain Dividends, interest-related dividends and short-term capital gain dividends (e.g., distributions attributable to dividends and foreign-source interest income) are generally subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate).

Under U.S. federal tax law, a foreign shareholder generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on gains (and is not allowed a deduction for losses) realized on the sale of Shares of the Fund or on Capital Gain Dividends, interest-related dividends and short-term capital gain dividends unless (i) such gain or dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business carried on by such holder within the United States, (ii) in the case of an individual holder, the holder is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or the receipt of the Capital Gain Dividend and certain other conditions are met or (iii) the special rules relating to gain attributable to the sale or exchange of “U.S. real property interests” (“USRPIs”) apply to the foreign shareholder’s sale of Shares of the Fund or to the Capital Gain Dividend the foreign shareholder received (as described below).

Special rules would apply if the Fund were a qualified investment entity (“QIE”) because it is either a “U.S. real property holding corporation” (“USRPHC”) or would be a USRPHC but for the operation of certain exceptions to the definition of USRPIs described below. Very generally, a USRPHC is a domestic corporation that holds USRPIs the fair market value of which equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market values of the corporation’s USRPIs, interests in real property located outside the United States and other trade or business assets. USRPIs generally are defined as any interest in U.S. real property and any interest (other than solely as a creditor) in a USRPHC or, very generally, an entity that has been a USRPHC in the last five years. A RIC that holds, directly or indirectly, significant interests in REITs may be a USRPHC. Interests in domestically controlled QIEs, including REITs and RICs that are QIEs, not-greater-than-10% interests in publicly traded classes of stock in REITs and not-greater-than-5% interests in publicly traded classes of stock in RICs generally are not USRPIs, but these exceptions do not apply for purposes of determining whether a RIC is a QIE.

If an interest in the Fund were a USRPI, a greater-than-5% foreign shareholder or any foreign shareholder if Shares of the Fund are not considered regularly traded on an established securities market generally would be required to file a U.S. tax return in connection with the sale of its Fund shares, and pay related taxes due on any gain realized on the sale.

Moreover, if the Fund were a USRPHC or, very generally, had been one in the last five years, it would be required to withhold on amounts distributed to a greater-than-5% foreign shareholder to the extent such amounts would not be treated as a dividend, i.e., are in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated "earnings and profits" for the applicable taxable year. Such withholding generally is not required if the Fund is a domestically controlled QIE.

If the Fund were a QIE, under a special "look-through" rule, any distributions by the Fund to a foreign shareholder attributable directly or indirectly to (i) distributions received by the Fund from a lower-tier RIC or REIT that the Fund is required to treat as USRPI gain in its hands and (ii) gains realized on the disposition of USRPIs by the Fund would retain their character as gains realized from USRPIs in the hands of the Fund's foreign shareholders and would be subject to U.S. tax withholding. In addition, such distributions could result in the foreign shareholder being required to file a U.S. tax return and pay tax on the distributions at regular U.S. federal income tax rates. The consequences to a foreign shareholder, including the rate of such withholding and character of such distributions (e.g., as ordinary income or USRPI gain), would vary depending upon the extent of the foreign shareholder's current and past ownership of the Fund.

Foreign shareholders of the Fund also may be subject to "wash sale" rules to prevent the avoidance of the tax-filing and –payment obligations discussed above through the sale and repurchase of Fund shares.

Foreign shareholders should consult their tax advisers and, if holding Shares through intermediaries, their intermediaries, concerning the application of these rules to their investment in the Fund. Foreign shareholders with respect to whom income from the Fund is effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by the foreign shareholder within the United States will in general be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the income derived from the Fund at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens, residents or domestic corporations, whether such income is received in cash or reinvested in Shares of the Fund and, in the case of a foreign corporation, may also be subject to a branch profits tax. If a foreign shareholder is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty, any effectively connected income or gain will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis only if it is also attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the shareholder in the United States. More generally, foreign shareholders who are residents in a country with an income tax treaty with the United States may obtain different tax results than those described herein, and are urged to consult their tax advisers.

In order to qualify for any exemptions from withholding described above or for lower withholding tax rates under income tax treaties, or to establish an exemption from backup withholding, a foreign shareholder must comply with special certification and filing requirements relating to its non-US status (including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E, or substitute form). Foreign shareholders in the Fund should consult their tax advisers in this regard.

Special rules (including withholding and reporting requirements) apply to foreign partnerships and those holding Fund shares through foreign partnerships. Additional considerations may apply to foreign trusts and estates. Investors holding Fund shares through foreign entities should consult their tax advisers about their particular situation. A beneficial holder of Fund shares who is a foreign shareholder may be subject to state and local tax and to the U.S. federal estate tax in addition to the federal tax on income referred to above.

#### *Expenses Subject to Special Pass-Through Rules*

The Fund will not be considered to be a "publicly offered" RIC if it does not have at least 500 shareholders at all times during a taxable year and its Shares are not treated as continuously offered pursuant to a public offering. It is possible that the Fund will not be treated as a "publicly offered" RIC for one or more of its taxable years. Very generally, pursuant to Treasury Department regulations, expenses of a RIC that is not "publicly offered," except those specific to its status as a RIC or separate entity (e.g., registration fees or transfer agency fees), are subject to special "pass-through" rules. These expenses (which include direct and certain indirect advisory fees) are treated as additional dividends to certain Fund shareholders (generally including other RICs that are not "publicly

offered,” individuals and entities that compute their taxable income in the same manner as an individual), and are, other than in the case of a shareholder that is a RIC that is not “publicly offered,” not deductible by those shareholders under current law.

#### *Backup Withholding*

The Fund generally is required to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury a percentage of the taxable distributions and proceeds from a repurchase paid to any individual shareholder (i) who fails to properly furnish the Fund with a correct taxpayer identification number, (ii) who has under-reported dividend or interest income or (iii) who fails to certify to the Fund that he or she is not subject to such withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS.

#### *Tax Basis Information*

The Fund (or its administrative agent) must report to the IRS and furnish to the Fund shareholders the cost basis information and holding period for Fund shares. The Fund will permit Fund shareholders to elect from among several IRS-accepted cost basis methods, including average cost. In the absence of an election, shareholder cost basis will be determined under the default method selected by the Fund. The cost basis method a shareholder elects (or the cost basis method applied by default) may not be changed with respect to a repurchase of Shares after the settlement date of the repurchase. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the best IRS-accepted cost basis method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the new cost basis reporting rules apply to them.

#### *Tax Shelter Reporting Regulations*

Under U.S. Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Fund’s Shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not excepted. Future guidance may extend the current exception from this reporting requirement to shareholders of most or all regulated investment companies. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer’s treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

#### *Shareholder Reporting Obligations with Respect to Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts*

Shareholders that are U.S. persons and own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the Fund by vote or value could be required to report annually their “financial interest” in the Fund’s “foreign financial accounts,” if any, on FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts. Shareholders should consult a tax adviser, and persons investing in the Fund through an intermediary should contact their intermediary, regarding the applicability to them of this reporting requirement.

#### *Other Reporting and Withholding Requirements*

Sections 1471-1474 of the Code and the U.S. Treasury Regulations and IRS guidance issued thereunder (collectively, “FATCA”) generally require the Fund to obtain information sufficient to identify the status of each of its shareholders under FATCA or under an applicable intergovernmental agreement (an “IGA”). If a shareholder fails to provide this information or otherwise fails to comply with FATCA or an IGA, the Fund may be required to withhold under FATCA 30% of the distributions, other than distributions properly reported as Capital Gain Dividends, the Fund pays to that shareholder. If a payment by the Fund is subject to FATCA withholding, the Fund or its agent is required to withhold even if such payment would otherwise be exempt from

withholding under the rules applicable to foreign shareholders described above. The IRS and the Department of Treasury have issued proposed regulations providing that the gross proceeds of share redemptions or exchanges and Capital Gain Dividends the Fund pays will not be subject to FATCA withholding.

Each prospective investor is urged to consult its tax adviser regarding the applicability of FATCA and any other reporting requirements with respect to the prospective investor's own situation, including investments through an intermediary. In addition, foreign countries have implemented or are considering, and may implement, laws similar in purpose and scope to FATCA, as more fully described above.

#### *Shares Purchased through Tax-Qualified Plans*

Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans. The Fund's structure as an interval fund, pursuant to which the Fund conducts quarterly repurchase offers which may be oversubscribed, could cause a shareholder to be unable to tender its Shares when or in the amount that it desires, which inability may make it difficult for a shareholder that is a tax-qualified plan to meet minimum distribution requirements. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the suitability of Shares of the Fund as an investment through such plans, and the precise effect of an investment on their particular tax situation.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST**

The Trustees are responsible for the management and supervision of the Trust. The Trust's Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional Shares of beneficial interest of the Fund or other series of the Trust with or without par value. Under the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees have the authority to create and classify shares of beneficial interest in separate series and classes without further action by shareholders. As of the date of this SAI, the Fund is the only series of the Trust. To the extent permissible by law, additional series may be added in the future.

The Shares of the Fund represent an equal proportionate interest in the net assets attributable to such shares of the Fund. Shareholders have certain exclusive voting rights on matters relating to their respective distribution plan, if any. Different classes of the Fund, if any, may bear different expenses relating to the cost of holding shareholder meetings necessitated by the exclusive voting rights of any class of Shares.

Unless otherwise required by the 1940 Act or the Declaration of Trust, the Trust has no intention of holding annual meetings of shareholders. Trust shareholders may remove a Trustee by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Trust's outstanding shares and the Trustees shall promptly call a meeting for such purpose when requested to do so in writing by the record holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Trust. Shareholders may, under certain circumstances, communicate with other shareholders in connection with requesting a special meeting of shareholders. However, at any time that less than a majority of the Trustees holding office were elected by the shareholders, the Trustees will call a special meeting of shareholders for the purpose of electing Trustees.

In the event of liquidation, shareholders are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets of the Fund available for distribution to these shareholders. Shares entitle their holders to one vote per share (and fractional votes for fractional shares), are freely transferable and have no preemptive, subscription or conversion rights. When issued, Shares are fully paid and non-assessable.

The Declaration of Trust disclaims shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust. The Declaration of Trust further provides for indemnification out of the Fund's property for all loss and expense of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Fund by reason of owning Shares of the Fund. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is considered remote since it is limited to circumstances in which the disclaimer is inoperative and the Fund itself would be unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration of Trust further provides that the Board will not be liable for errors of judgment or mistakes of fact or law. However, nothing in the Declaration of Trust protects a Trustee against any liability to which the Trustee would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. The Declaration of Trust of the Trust provides for indemnification by the Trust of Trustees and officers of the Trust; however, such persons may not be indemnified against any liability to the Trust or the Trust's shareholders to whom he or she would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Miscellaneous**

The Prospectus and this SAI do not contain all the information included in the Registration Statement filed with the Commission under the 1933 Act with respect to the securities offered by the Prospectus. Certain portions of the Registration Statement have been omitted from the Prospectus and this SAI pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Commission. The Registration Statement including the exhibits filed therewith may be examined at the office of the Commission in Washington, D.C.

Statements contained in the Prospectus or in this SAI as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to are not necessarily complete, and, in each instance, reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which the Prospectus and this SAI form a part, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

In the interest of economy and convenience, the Fund does not issue certificates representing the Fund's shares. Instead, the Transfer Agent maintains a record of each shareholder's ownership. Each shareholder receives confirmation of purchase and repurchase orders from the Transfer Agent. Fund shares and any dividends and distributions paid by the Fund are reflected in account statements from the Transfer Agent.

## **CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The consolidated annual financial statements, including the notes thereto, and the report of Ernst & Young LLP thereon, as included in the Fund's Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021, as filed with the Commission on May 10, 2021 (the "Annual Report") (Accession Nos. 0001193125-21-156232, 0001193125-21-156260 and 0001193125-21-156283), are hereby incorporated by reference into this SAI. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained at no charge by calling the Fund at (855) 609-3680.

## APPENDIX A

### SECURITIES RATINGS

The rating of a rating service represents the service's opinion as to the credit quality of the security being rated. However, the ratings are general and are not absolute standards of quality or guarantees as to the creditworthiness of an issuer. Consequently, the Adviser believes that the quality of debt securities in which the Fund invests should be continuously reviewed. A rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a security, because it does not take into account market value or suitability for a particular investor. When a security has received a rating from more than one service, each rating should be evaluated independently. Ratings are based on current information furnished by the issuer or obtained by the ratings services from other sources, which they consider reliable. Ratings may be changed, suspended or withdrawn as a result of changes in or unavailability of such information or for other reasons.

The following is a description of the characteristics of ratings used by Moody's and S&P Global Ratings.

#### **Moody's Ratings\***

**Aaa**—Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.

**Aa**—Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.

**A**—Obligations rated A are judged to be upper-medium-grade and are subject to low credit risk.

**Baa**—Obligations rated Baa are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics.

**Ba**—Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.

**B**—Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.

**Caa**—Obligations rated Caa are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.

**Ca**—Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.

**C**—Obligations rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

\*Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2 and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

#### **S&P Global Ratings\***

**AAA**—An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is extremely strong.

**AA**—An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest-rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is very strong.



**A**—An obligation rated ‘A’ is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher-rated categories. However, the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is still strong.

**BBB**—An obligation rated ‘BBB’ exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

**BB; B; CCC; CC; and C**—Obligations rated ‘BB’, ‘B’, ‘CCC’, ‘CC’ and ‘C’ are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. ‘BB’ indicates the least degree of speculation and ‘C’ the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.

**BB**—An obligation rated ‘BB’ is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial or economic conditions that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

**B**—An obligation rated ‘B’ is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated ‘BB’, but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. Adverse business, financial or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor’s capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

**CCC**—An obligation rated ‘CCC’ is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

**CC**—An obligation rated ‘CC’ is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The ‘CC’ rating is used when a default has not yet occurred but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

**C**—An obligation rated ‘C’ is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, and the obligation is expected to have lower relative seniority or lower ultimate recovery compared with obligations that are rated higher.

**D**—An obligation rated ‘D’ is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the ‘D’ rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The ‘D’ rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to ‘D’ if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer.

**NR**—This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

\*The ratings from ‘AA’ to ‘CCC’ may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

## APPENDIX B

### STONE RIDGE ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### *I. Governing Standards*

The Registered Funds have delegated to the Adviser the responsibility for voting Registered Fund securities. Private Funds or Managed Account Clients may delegate such responsibility to the Adviser.<sup>1</sup> As a fiduciary, an investment adviser with proxy voting authority has a duty to monitor corporate events and to vote proxies, as well as a duty to cast votes in the best interest of clients and not subrogate client interests to its own interests. The Adviser has adopted these written proxy voting policies and procedures (the “Proxy Policy”) as required under Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act. In addition to covering the voting of equity securities, the Proxy Policy also applies generally to voting and/or consent rights of fixed income securities, including but not limited to, plans of reorganization, and waivers and consents under applicable indentures. The Proxy Policy does not apply, however, to consent rights that primarily entail decisions to buy or sell investments, such as tender or exchange offers, conversions, put options, redemption and Dutch auctions. The Proxy Policy, which has been designed to ensure that the Adviser votes proxies in the best interest of its Clients and provides Clients with information about how their proxies are voted, contains procedures to mitigate material conflicts of interests between Clients and the Adviser and its affiliated persons when voting proxies.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Proxy Policy applies to shareholder votes and consents that the Adviser has authority to exercise on behalf of a Client, including votes and consents for private entities that do not involve proxies. All references to votes by proxy in this Proxy Policy shall be interpreted to include both votes by proxy and votes and consents that do not involve proxies.

##### *II. Policy*

The Proxy Policy applies to those Client accounts that contain voting securities and for which the Adviser has been delegated the authority to vote client proxies. When voting proxies for Client accounts, the Adviser’s primary objective is to make voting decisions solely in the best interest of all Clients for which it manages assets. The Adviser has selected an unaffiliated third party proxy research and voting service, Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (“ISS” or the “Proxy Voting Service”), to assist it in researching, recordkeeping and voting of proxies. With respect to each proxy received, the Proxy Voting Service researches the financial implications of the proposals and provides a recommendation to the Adviser as to how to vote on each proposal based on the Proxy Voting Service’s research of the individual facts and circumstances and the Proxy Voting Service’s application of its research findings to an applicable set of guidelines, the ISS’ Proxy Voting Summary Guidelines (“ISS Guidelines”). The ISS Guidelines are intended to provide a general overview by highlighting the key policies that ISS applies to companies listed in the applicable geographic region. However, ISS’ analysis is on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration sector, industry and business performance factors. These guidelines have been approved by the Adviser and, although the Adviser intends to vote consistently with the voting recommendation of the Proxy Voting Service, upon the recommendation of the applicable portfolio managers, the Adviser may determine to override any recommendation made by the Proxy Voting Service or abstain from voting. In the event that the Proxy Voting Service does not provide a recommendation with respect to a proposal, as in the case of votes involving private issuers, the Adviser may determine to vote on the proposals directly and will do so in a manner consistent with the principles set forth in this Proxy Policy.

The Adviser may determine not to vote a proxy if: (1) the effect on the applicable economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is insignificant in relation to an individual Client account or in the aggregate with

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<sup>1</sup> The specific obligations that the Adviser bears depend upon the scope of voting authority assumed by the Adviser.

all Client accounts; (2) the cost of voting the proxy outweighs the possible benefit to the applicable Client account, including situations where a jurisdiction imposes share blocking restrictions that may affect the ability of the portfolio managers to effect trades in the related security; or (3) the Adviser otherwise has determined that it is consistent with its fiduciary obligations not to vote the proxy.

In addition, neither the Adviser nor the Proxy Voting Service will be able to vote for any securities on loan by an account. In the event that the Adviser is aware of a material vote on behalf of a Client with respect to securities on loan by the custodian, the Adviser will call back the loan to vote the proxy if the Adviser determines that the benefits to the Client of voting on such proposal outweigh the benefits to the client of having the security remain out on loan, and if time permits.

The Adviser will not accept direction on how to vote individual proxies for which it has voting responsibility from any other person or organization other than Adviser personnel or the Proxy Voting Service.

### *III. Conflicts of Interest Procedures*

For voting of securities, the Adviser believes that application of the ISS Guidelines to vote proxies should, in most cases, adequately address any possible conflicts of interest, as the ISS Guidelines are predetermined. As a general practice, the Adviser will vote in accordance with the voting recommendation provided by ISS. In the event that the Adviser wishes to vote against the independent voting recommendation, the Adviser requires CCO approval prior to a vote being cast.

Upon the identification or notice received by the CCO that there is a potential conflict of interest with respect to casting a vote, the CCO will discuss the proxy with the relevant portfolio manager(s) and other senior management in order to determine if the potential conflict is material. In instances where a portfolio manager proposes to vote a proxy inconsistent with the ISS Guidelines and a potential immaterial conflict is identified, the CCO will review the proxy votes in order to determine whether a portfolio manager's voting rationale appears reasonable. Upon the detection of a material potential conflict of interest, the CCO has final decision-making authority regarding the Adviser's course of action for the proxy. The CCO will seek to cause the proxy to be voted in a manner consistent with the Client's best interests.

### *IV. Review*

The Adviser will supervise and, no less frequently than annually, review its proxy voting activities and the implementation of the Proxy Voting Policy.

### *V. Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures Specific to Registered Funds*

The Registered Funds will disclose in their SAIs and for closed-end funds, in item 7 of the Form N-CSR, a description of their policies and procedures used to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities, including the procedures used when a vote presents a conflict between the interests of Registered Fund shareholders, on the one hand, and those of the Registered Fund's investment adviser; principal underwriter; or any affiliated person of the Fund, its investment adviser, or its principal underwriter, on the other.

The Registered Funds are also required to include in their SAIs any policies and procedures of the Adviser or any other third party that the Registered Funds use, or that are used on the Registered Funds' behalf, to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities.

Rule 30b1-4 under the 1940 Act requires mutual funds to file with the SEC an annual record of proxies voted by a fund on Form N-PX. Form N-PX must be filed each year no later than August 31 and must contain each Registered Fund's proxy voting record for the most recent twelve-month period ending June 30.

The Registered Funds must also state in their disclosure documents (in their SAIs and shareholder reports) that information regarding how the Registered Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most

recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling a specified toll-free (or collect) telephone number; or on or through the Registered Fund's website at a specified Internet address; or both; and (2) on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

If a Registered Fund discloses that its proxy voting record is available by calling a toll-free (or collect) telephone number, and the Registered Fund (or financial intermediary through which shares of the Registered Fund may be purchased or sold) receives a request for this information, the Registered Fund (or financial intermediary) must send the information disclosed in the Registered Fund's most recently filed report on Form N-PX within three business days of receipt of the request, by first-class mail or other means designed to ensure equally prompt delivery.

If a Registered Fund discloses that its proxy voting record is available on or through its website, the Registered Fund must make available free of charge the information disclosed in the Registered Fund's most recently filed report on Form N-PX on or through its website as soon as reasonably practicable after filing the report with the SEC. The information disclosed in the Fund's most recently filed report on Form N-PX must remain available on or through the Registered Fund's website for as long as the Registered Fund remains subject to the requirements of Rule 30b1-4 and discloses that the Registered Fund's proxy voting record is available on or through its website.

It is the responsibility of Legal and Compliance to ensure that the Registered Funds satisfy the disclosure requirements.