



# LK BALANCED FUND

## FOCUSED LONG-TERM INVESTING

### **Institutional Class – LKBLX**

### **Statement of Additional Information**

**October 28, 2023**

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) provides general information about the LK Balanced Fund (the “Fund”), a series of Managed Portfolio Series (the “Trust”). This SAI is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Fund’s current prospectus dated October 28, 2023 (the “Prospectus”), as supplemented and amended from time to time. In addition, the Fund’s financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 are incorporated herein by reference to the Fund’s [annual report dated June 30, 2023](#). To obtain a copy of the Prospectus and/or annual report, free of charge, please write or call the Fund at the address or toll-free telephone number below, or visit the Fund’s website at <https://lkfunds.com/>.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>THE TRUST AND THE FUND .....</b>                                 | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>INVESTMENT POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS .....</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>FUNDAMENTAL AND NON-FUNDAMENTAL INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS .....</b> | <b>22</b> |
| <b>MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND .....</b>                                 | <b>24</b> |
| <b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES .....</b>                                      | <b>24</b> |
| <b>THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES .....</b>                      | <b>24</b> |
| <b>BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE .....</b>                             | <b>24</b> |
| <b>BOARD OVERSIGHT OF RISK MANAGEMENT .....</b>                     | <b>25</b> |
| <b>TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS .....</b>                                  | <b>26</b> |
| <b>TRUSTEE QUALIFICATIONS .....</b>                                 | <b>30</b> |
| <b>TRUSTEE AND MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP OF FUND SHARES .....</b>        | <b>31</b> |
| <b>BOARD COMMITTEES .....</b>                                       | <b>32</b> |
| <b>TRUSTEE COMPENSATION .....</b>                                   | <b>33</b> |
| <b>CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS .....</b>             | <b>33</b> |
| <b>INVESTMENT ADVISER .....</b>                                     | <b>34</b> |
| <b>PORTFOLIO MANAGERS .....</b>                                     | <b>35</b> |
| <b>SERVICE PROVIDERS .....</b>                                      | <b>36</b> |
| <b>LEGAL COUNSEL .....</b>  | <b>37</b> |
| <b>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM .....</b>          | <b>37</b> |
| <b>DISTRIBUTION OF FUND SHARES .....</b>                            | <b>37</b> |
| <b>PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE .....</b>                   | <b>38</b> |
| <b>PORTFOLIO TURNOVER .....</b>                                     | <b>40</b> |
| <b>CODE OF ETHICS .....</b>   | <b>40</b> |
| <b>PROXY VOTING PROCEDURES .....</b>                                | <b>40</b> |
| <b>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM .....</b>               | <b>41</b> |
| <b>PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION .....</b>                         | <b>42</b> |
| <b>DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE .....</b>                       | <b>43</b> |
| <b>PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF FUND SHARES .....</b>                 | <b>44</b> |
| <b>TAX MATTERS .....</b>  | <b>46</b> |
| <b>DISTRIBUTIONS .....</b>  | <b>51</b> |
| <b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS .....</b>                                   | <b>53</b> |

## **The Trust and the Fund**

The Trust is a Delaware statutory trust organized on January 27, 2011, and is registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) as an open-end management investment company. The Fund is one series, or mutual fund, of the Trust. Prior to July 1, 2012, the Fund’s investment adviser managed a limited partnership with an investment objective and investment policies that were, in all material respects, equivalent to those of the Fund. The limited partnership, which inceptioned on December 31, 1986, converted into, and the Fund commenced operations in, the Trust on, July 1, 2012. The Fund has one class of shares: Institutional Class. The Fund is a diversified series and has its own investment objective and policies. Shares of other series of the Trust are offered in separate prospectuses and SAIs. The Fund does not hold itself out as related to any other series within the Trust for purposes of investment and investor services, nor does it share the same investment adviser with any other series of the Trust. The Fund’s Prospectus and this SAI are a part of the Trust’s Registration Statement filed with the SEC. Copies of the Trust’s complete Registration Statement may be obtained from the SEC upon payment of the prescribed fee, or may be accessed free of charge at the SEC’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/>. As permitted by Delaware law, the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) may create additional classes of the Fund and may create additional series (and classes thereof) of the Trust and offer shares of these series and classes under the Trust at any time without the vote of shareholders.

All shares of a series shall represent an equal proportionate interest in the assets held with respect to that series (subject to the liabilities held with respect to that series and such rights and preferences as may have been established and designated with respect to classes of shares of such series), and each share of a series shall be equal to each other share of that series.

Shares are voted in the aggregate and not by series or class, except in matters where a separate vote is required by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), or when the matters affect only the interest of a particular series or class. When matters are submitted to shareholders for a vote, each shareholder is entitled to one vote for each full share owned and fractional votes for fractional shares owned.

The Trust does not normally hold annual meetings of shareholders. Meetings of the shareholders shall be called by any member of the Board upon written request of shareholders holding, in the aggregate, not less than 10% of the shares, such request specifying the purpose or purposes for which such meeting is to be called.

Interests in the Fund are represented by shares of beneficial interest, each with no par value per share. Each share of the Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to the Fund and is entitled to such distributions out of the income belonging to the Fund as may be declared by the Board.

The Board has the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series without materially changing the proportionate beneficial interest of the shares of that series in the assets belonging to that series or materially affecting the rights of shares of any other series. In case of the liquidation of a series, the holders of shares of the series being liquidated are entitled to receive a distribution out of the assets, net of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series (or class thereof) are borne by that series (or class). Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by, or under the direction of, the Board to all applicable series (and classes thereof) in such manner and on such basis as deemed fair and equitable. No shareholder is liable to further calls for the payment of any sum of money or assessment whatsoever with respect to the Trust or any series of the Trust without his or her express consent.

All consideration received by the Trust for the issue or sale of the Fund's shares, together with all assets in which such consideration is invested or reinvested, and all income, earnings, profits and proceeds thereof, including any proceeds derived from the sale, exchange or liquidation of such assets, and any funds or payments derived from any reinvestment of such proceeds, subject only to the rights of creditors, shall constitute the underlying assets of the Fund.

Lawson Kroeker Investment Management, Inc. (the "Adviser") serves as the investment adviser for the Fund.

## **Investment Policies, Strategies and Associated Risks**

The following discussion supplements the description of the Fund's investment objective and principal investment strategies and principal risks set forth in the Prospectus. Except for the fundamental investment limitations listed below (see "Fundamental and Non-Fundamental Investment Limitations"), the Fund's investment strategies and policies are not fundamental and may be changed by sole action of the Board, without shareholder approval. While the Fund is permitted to hold securities and engage in various strategies as described hereafter, it is not obligated to do so. The Fund might not invest in all of these types of securities or use all of these techniques at any one time. The Fund's transactions in a particular type of security or use of a particular technique is subject to limitations imposed by the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions described in the Fund's Prospectus and/or this SAI, as well as the federal securities laws.

**Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the Fund is set forth under the “Summary Section” in the Fund’s Prospectus.

**Diversification**

The Fund is diversified. A diversified fund is a fund that satisfies the definition of a “diversified company” set forth in the 1940 Act. A “diversified company” means that as to 75% of the Fund’s total assets, excluding cash, government securities and securities of other investment companies, (1) no more than 5% may be invested in the securities of a single issuer, and (2) the Fund may not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer.

Because the Fund intends to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the “Code”), the Fund will limit its investment, excluding cash, cash items (including receivables), U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, so that at the close of each quarter of the taxable year, (1) not more than 25% of the Fund’s total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer, and (2) with respect to 50% of its total assets, not more than 5% of the Fund’s total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and the Fund will not hold more than 10% of the issuer’s outstanding voting securities.

**Percentage Limitations**

The Fund’s compliance with its investment policy and limitations will be determined immediately after and as a result of the Fund’s acquisition of such security or other asset. Accordingly, except with respect to borrowing or illiquid investments, any subsequent change in values, net assets or other circumstances will not be considered when determining whether an investment complies with the Fund’s investment policies and limitations. In addition, if a bankruptcy or other extraordinary event occurs concerning a particular investment by the Fund, the Fund may receive stock, real estate or other investments that the Fund would not, or could not, buy. If this happens, the Fund will sell such investments as soon as practicable while trying to maximize the return to its shareholders.

**Market Volatility**

U.S. and international markets have from time to time experienced significant volatility. Certain social, political, economic, environmental and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters and weather-related phenomena generally, epidemics and pandemics, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) may adversely interrupt the global economy and result in prolonged periods of significant market volatility. During certain volatile periods, the fixed income markets have experienced substantially lower valuations, reduced liquidity, price volatility, credit downgrades, increased likelihood of default and valuation difficulties. At times, concerns have spread to domestic and international equity markets. In some cases, the stock prices of individual companies have been negatively affected even though there may be little or no apparent degradation in the financial conditions or prospects of that company. Continued volatility may have adverse effects on the Fund, and may increase the risks discussed below.

**Equity Securities**

An equity security represents a proportionate share of the ownership of a company. Its value is based on the success of the company's business, any income paid to stockholders, the value of its assets and general market conditions. The value of equity securities will be affected by changes in the stock markets, which may be the result of domestic or international political or economic news, changes in interest rates or changing investor sentiment. At times, stock markets can be volatile and stock prices can change substantially. Equity securities risk affects the Fund's net asset value per share ("NAV"), which will fluctuate as the value of the securities it holds changes. Not all stock prices change uniformly or at the same time, and not all stock markets move in the same direction at the same time. Other factors affect a particular stock's prices, such as poor earnings reports by an issuer, loss of major customers, major litigation against an issuer, or changes in governmental regulations affecting an industry. Adverse news affecting one company can sometimes depress the stock prices of all companies in the same industry. Not all factors can be predicted. Common stocks and preferred stocks are examples of equity securities. The fundamental risk of investing in common and preferred stock is the risk that the value of the stock might decrease.

**Common Stock**

Common stock represents an ownership interest in a company. In addition to the general risks set forth above, investments in common stocks are subject to the risk that in the event a company in which the Fund invests is liquidated, the holders of preferred stock and creditors of that company will be paid in full before any payments are made to the Fund as holders of common stock. It is possible that all assets of that company will be exhausted before any payments are made to the Fund.

**Preferred Stock**

Preferred stock represents an ownership interest in a company, often pays dividends at a specific rate and has a preference over common stocks in dividend payments and liquidation of assets. A preferred stock is a blend of the characteristics of a bond and common stock. It can offer the higher yield of a bond and has priority over common stock in equity ownership, but does not have the seniority of a bond and, unlike common stock its participation in the issuer's growth may be limited. Although the dividend is set at a fixed annual rate, in some circumstances it can be changed or omitted by the issuer. In addition, preferred stock usually does not have voting rights.

**Foreign Investments and Currencies**

The Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers that are not traded in the United States and/or are not U.S. dollar denominated, purchase and sell foreign currency on a spot basis. The Fund may also invest in American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") and foreign securities that are traded on a U.S. exchange. Investments in ADRs and foreign securities involve certain inherent risks, including the following:

*Depository Receipts.* Generally, ADRs, in registered form, are denominated in U.S. dollars and are designed for use in the U.S. securities markets. ADRs are receipts typically issued by a U.S. bank or trust company evidencing ownership of the underlying securities. ADRs may be purchased through “sponsored” or “unsponsored” facilities. A sponsored facility is established jointly by the issuer of the underlying security and a depository, whereas a depository may establish an unsponsored facility without participation by the issuer of the depository security. Holders of unsponsored depository receipts generally bear all the costs of such facilities, and the depository of an unsponsored facility frequently is under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the issuer of the deposited security or to pass through voting rights to the holders of such receipts of the deposited securities. Accordingly, available information concerning the issuer may not be current and the prices of unsponsored depository receipts may be more volatile than the prices of sponsored depository receipts. For purposes of the Fund’s investment policies, ADRs are deemed to have the same classification as the underlying securities they represent. Thus, an ADR representing ownership of common stock will be treated as common stock.

*Political and Economic Factors.* Individual foreign economies of certain countries may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, diversification and balance of payments position. The internal politics of certain foreign countries may not be as stable as those of the United States. Governments in certain foreign countries also continue to participate to a significant degree, through ownership interest or regulation, in their respective economies. Action by these governments could include restrictions on foreign investment, nationalization, expropriation of goods or imposition of taxes, and could have a significant effect on market prices of securities and payment of interest. The economies of many foreign countries are heavily dependent upon international trade and are accordingly affected by the trade policies and economic conditions of their trading partners. Enactment by these trading partners of protectionist trade legislation could have a significant adverse effect upon the securities markets of those countries. Ongoing concerns regarding the economies of certain European countries and/or their sovereign debt, as well as the possibility that one or more countries might leave the European Union (the “EU”), create risks for investing in the EU. In 2020, the United Kingdom (the “UK”) withdrew from the EU (known as “Brexit”). As a result of Brexit, the financial markets experienced high levels of volatility and there is considerable uncertainty as to the arrangements that will apply to the UK’s relationship with the EU and other countries going forward. This prolonged uncertainty may affect other countries in the EU and elsewhere. The exit by the UK or other member states will likely result in increased uncertainty, volatility, illiquidity and potentially lower economic growth in the affected markets.

*Currency Fluctuations.* The Fund may invest in securities denominated in foreign currencies. Accordingly, a change in the value of any such currency against the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding change in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund’s assets denominated in that currency. Such changes will also affect the Fund’s income. The value of the Fund’s assets may also be affected significantly by currency restrictions and exchange control regulations enacted from time to time.

*Market Characteristics.* The Adviser expects that many foreign securities in which the Fund may invest could be purchased in over-the-counter (“OTC”) markets or on exchanges located in the countries in which the principal offices of the issuers of the various securities are located, if that is the best available market. Foreign exchanges and markets may be more volatile than those in the United States. While growing in volume, they usually have substantially less volume than U.S. markets, and the Fund’s investments in foreign securities may be less liquid and more volatile than investments in U.S. securities. Moreover, settlement practices for transactions in foreign markets may differ from those in U.S. markets, and may include delays beyond periods customary in the United States. Foreign security trading practices, including those involving securities settlement where Fund assets may be released prior to receipt of payment or securities, may expose the Fund to increased risk in the event of a failed trade or the insolvency of a foreign broker-dealer.

*Legal and Regulatory Matters.* Certain foreign countries may have less supervision of securities markets, brokers and issuers of securities, non-uniform accounting standards and less financial information available from issuers, than is available in the United States. It may be more difficult to obtain and enforce a judgment against a foreign issuer. Legal remedies available to investors in certain foreign countries may be more limited than those available with respect to investments in the United States or in other foreign countries. The laws of some foreign countries may limit the Fund’s ability to invest in securities of certain issuers located in those foreign countries.

*Taxes.* The interest and dividends payable on certain of the Fund’s foreign portfolio securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, thus reducing the net amount of income available for distribution to Fund shareholders. Foreign issuers may not be subject to auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements comparable to those which apply to U.S. companies.

*Costs.* To the extent that the Fund invests in foreign securities, its expense ratio is likely to be higher than those of investment companies investing only in domestic securities, because related brokerage costs and the cost of maintaining the custody of foreign securities may be higher.

*Additional Risks of Emerging Markets.* In addition, the Fund may invest in foreign securities of companies that are located in developing or emerging markets. Investing in securities of issuers located in these markets may pose greater risks not typically associated with investing in more established markets, such as increased risk of social, political and economic instability. Emerging market countries typically have smaller securities markets than developed countries and therefore less liquidity and greater price volatility than more developed markets. Securities traded in emerging markets may also be subject to risks associated with the lack of modern technology, poor governmental and/or judicial infrastructures relating to private or foreign investment or to judicial redress for injury to private property, the lack of capital base to expand business operations, foreign taxation and the inexperience of financial intermediaries, custodians and transfer agents. Emerging market countries are also more likely to impose restrictions on the repatriation of an investor’s assets and even where there is no outright restriction on repatriation, the mechanics of repatriations may delay or impede the Fund’s ability to obtain possession of its assets. As a result, there may be an increased risk or price volatility associated with the Fund’s investments in emerging market countries, which may be magnified by currency fluctuations.

**Real Estate Securities**

The real estate securities in which the Fund may invest consist of securities issued by Real Estate Investment Trusts (“REITs”) or Real Estate Operating Companies (“REOCs”) that are listed on a securities exchange or traded over-the-counter. A REIT is a corporation or trust that invests in fee or leasehold ownership of real estate, mortgages or shares issued by other REITs and that receives favorable tax treatment provided it meets certain conditions. REITs may be characterized as equity REITs (i.e., REITs that primarily invest in fee ownership and leasehold ownership of land), mortgage REITs (i.e., REITs that primarily invest in mortgages on real estate and other real estate debt) or hybrid REITs which invest in both fee and leasehold ownership of land and mortgages. A REIT that meets the applicable requirements of the Code may deduct dividends paid to shareholders, effectively eliminating any corporate level federal tax. As a result, REITs are able to distribute a larger portion of their earnings to investors than other corporate entities subject to the federal corporate tax. There is the risk that a REIT held by the Fund will fail to qualify for this tax-free pass-through treatment of its income. By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, in addition to bearing a proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, investors will also indirectly bear similar expenses of the REITs in which the Fund invests. A REOC is typically structured as a “C” corporation under the tax code and is not required to distribute any portion of its income. A REOC, therefore, does not receive the same favorable tax treatment that is accorded a REIT. In addition, the value of the Fund’s securities issued by REOCs may be adversely affected by income streams derived from businesses other than real estate ownership.

**Fixed-Income Securities**

The Fund may invest in a wide range of fixed-income securities, which may include obligations of any rating or maturity. The Fund may invest in investment grade debt securities and below investment grade debt securities (commonly known as “junk bonds” or “high yield bonds”). Investment grade debt securities are those rated BBB- or better by Standard & Poor’s Rating Service, Inc. (“S&P”) or Baa3 or better by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”), each of which are considered a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSRO”), or an equivalent rating by another NRSRO. Securities rated BBB- by S&P are considered investment grade, but Moody’s considers securities rated Baa3 to have speculative characteristics. The Fund will not invest in securities that are rated below D by S&P or Moody’s. The Fund may hold a debt security rated below D if a downgrade occurs after the security has been purchased. The Fund may also invest in unrated debt securities that the Adviser believes are of comparable quality to the rated securities which the Fund may purchase.

The Adviser selects debt securities identically to how it selects equity securities except that the valuation study is not done using traditional equity valuation, but rather using historical studies of interest levels for the appropriate company given its financial strength to allow for a determination of the value of the debt instrument. The total return potential of the debt instrument is reviewed relative to the total return potential of other investment opportunities in determining whether to invest in a debt security.

Debt securities carry credit risk, interest rate risk and prepayment risk. Credit risk is the risk that the Fund could lose money if the issuer of a debt security defaults or fails to pay interest or principal when it is due. Some debt securities that are rated below investment grade are generally considered speculative because they present a greater risk of loss, including default, than higher quality debt securities. The credit risk of a particular issuer's debt security may vary based on its priority for repayment. For example, higher ranking (senior) debt securities have a higher priority than lower ranking (subordinated) securities. This means that the issuer might not make payments on subordinated securities while continuing to make payments on senior securities. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, holders of higher-ranking senior securities may receive amounts otherwise payable to the holders of more junior securities.

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of certain debt securities will tend to fall when interest rates rise. In general, debt securities with longer terms tend to fall more in value when interest rates rise than debt securities with shorter terms. Prepayment risk occurs when issuers prepay fixed rate debt securities when interest rates fall, forcing the Fund to invest in securities with lower interest rates. Issuers of debt securities are also subject to the provisions of bankruptcy, insolvency and other laws affecting the rights and remedies of creditors that may restrict the ability of the issuer to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on its debt securities. The possibility exists therefore, that, as a result of bankruptcy, litigation or other conditions, the ability of an issuer to pay, when due, the principal of and interest on its debt securities may become impaired.

*Junk Bonds.* Junk bonds generally offer a higher current yield than that available for investment grade issues. However, below investment grade debt securities involve higher risks, in that they are especially subject to adverse changes in general economic conditions and in the industries in which the issuers are engaged, to changes in the financial condition of the issuers, and to price fluctuations in response to changes in interest rates. During periods of economic downturn or rising interest rates, highly leveraged issuers may experience financial stress that could adversely affect their ability to make payments of interest and principal and increase the possibility of default. At times in recent years, the prices of many below investment grade debt securities declined substantially, reflecting an expectation that many issuers of such securities might experience financial difficulties. As a result, the yields on below investment grade debt securities rose dramatically, reflecting the risk that holders of such securities could lose a substantial portion of their value as a result of the issuers' financial restructuring or default. There can be no assurance that such price declines will not recur. The market for below investment grade debt issues generally is thinner and less active than that for higher quality securities, which may limit the Fund's ability to sell such securities at fair value in response to changes in the economy or financial markets. Adverse publicity and investor perceptions, whether based on fundamental analysis, may also decrease the values and liquidity of below investment grade debt securities, especially in a thinly traded market. Changes by recognized rating services in their rating of a debt security may affect the value of these investments. The Fund will not necessarily dispose of a security when its rating is reduced below its rating at the time of purchase. However, the Adviser will monitor the investment to determine whether continued investment in the security will assist in meeting the Fund's investment objective.

*Variable and Floating Rate Securities.* Variable and floating rate securities provide for a periodic adjustment in the interest rate paid on the obligations. The terms of such obligations must provide that interest rates are adjusted periodically based upon an interest rate adjustment index as provided in the respective obligations. The adjustment intervals may be regular, and range from daily up to annually, or may be event-based, such as based on a change in the base rate. The base rate usually is a benchmark that “floats” or changes to reflect current interest rates, such as the prime rate offered by one or more major U.S. banks. The applicable benchmark is defined by the terms of an obligation and will remain the same for the life of such obligation. If the benchmark interest rate on a floating rate security changes, the rate payable will, in turn, change at the next scheduled adjustment date.

*Corporate Debt Securities.* Corporate debt securities are fixed-income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations, although corporate debt instruments may also include bank loans to companies. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary difference being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured.

The broad category of corporate debt securities includes debt issued by domestic or foreign companies of all kinds, including those with small, mid and large capitalizations. Corporate debt may be rated investment grade or below investment grade and may carry fixed, variable or floating rates of interest.

Because of the wide range of types and maturities of corporate debt securities, as well as the range of creditworthiness of its issuers, corporate debt securities have widely varying potentials for return and risk profiles. For example, commercial paper issued by a large established domestic corporation that is rated investment grade may have a modest return on principal, but carries relatively limited risk. On the other hand, a long-term corporate note issued by a small foreign corporation from an emerging market country that has not been rated may have the potential for relatively large returns on principal, but carries a relatively high degree of risk.

*Exchange-Traded Notes.* The Fund may invest in Exchange-Traded Notes (“ETNs”). An ETN is a type of unsecured, unsubordinated debt security that differs from other types of bonds and notes because ETN returns are typically based upon the performance of a market index. ETNs are publicly traded on a U.S. securities exchange. An ETN incurs certain expenses not incurred by its applicable index, and an investment in an ETN will bear its proportionate share of any fees and expenses borne by the ETN. The market value of an ETN share may differ from its NAV; the share may trade at a premium or discount to its NAV, which may be due to, among other things, differences in the supply and demand in the market for the share. Although an ETN is a debt security, it is unlike a typical bond, in that there are no periodic interest payments and principal is not protected. ETNs are subject to credit risk and the value of the ETN may drop due to a downgrade in the issuer’s credit rating, despite the underlying market benchmark or strategy remaining unchanged.

*Convertible Securities.* Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock or other equity security at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities entitle the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or dividends paid or accrued on preferred stock until the security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of "usable" bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. The investment characteristics of convertible securities vary widely, which allows convertible securities to be employed for a variety of investment strategies. The Fund will exchange or convert convertible securities into shares of underlying common stock when, in the opinion of the Adviser, the investment characteristics of the underlying common stock or other equity security will assist the Fund in achieving its investment objectives. The Fund may also elect to hold or trade convertible securities. In selecting convertible securities, the Adviser evaluates the investment characteristics of the convertible security as a fixed income instrument, and the investment potential of the underlying equity security for capital appreciation.

*Contingent Convertible Securities.* Contingent convertible securities ("CoCos") are a form of hybrid debt security that are intended to either convert into equity or have their principal written down upon the occurrence of certain "triggers." The triggers are generally linked to regulatory capital thresholds or regulatory actions calling into question the issuing banking institution's continued viability as a going concern. CoCos' unique equity conversion or principal write-down features are tailored to the issuing banking institution and its regulatory requirements. Some additional risks associated with CoCos include, but are not limited to:

- Loss absorption risk. CoCos have fully discretionary coupons. This means coupons can potentially be cancelled at the banking institution's discretion or at the request of the relevant regulatory authority in order to help the bank absorb losses.
- Subordinated instruments. CoCos will, in the majority of circumstances, be issued in the form of subordinated debt instruments in order to provide the appropriate regulatory capital treatment prior to a conversion. Accordingly, in the event of liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of an issuer prior to a conversion having occurred, the rights and claims of the holders of the CoCos, such as the Fund, against the issuer in respect of or arising under the terms of the CoCos shall generally rank junior to the claims of all holders of unsubordinated obligations of the issuer. In addition, if the CoCos are converted into the issuer's underlying equity securities following a conversion event (i.e., a "trigger"), each holder will be subordinated due to their conversion from being the holder of a debt instrument to being the holder of an equity instrument.
- Market value will fluctuate based on unpredictable factors. The value of CoCos is unpredictable and will be influenced by many factors including, without limitation: (i) the creditworthiness of the issuer and/or fluctuations in such issuer's applicable capital ratios; (ii) supply and demand for the CoCos; (iii) general market conditions and available liquidity; and (iv) economic, financial and political events that affect the issuer, its particular market or the financial markets in general.

*Asset-Backed Securities.* Asset-backed securities represent an interest in a pool of assets such as car loans and credit card receivables. Almost any type of fixed income assets (including other fixed income securities) may be used to create an asset-backed security. However, most asset-backed securities involve consumer or commercial debts with maturities of less than ten years. Asset-backed securities may have a higher level of default and lower recoveries than mortgage-backed securities. Asset-backed securities may take the form of commercial paper or notes, in addition to pass-through certificates or asset-backed bonds.

*Mortgage-Backed Securities.* Mortgage-backed securities generally represent interests in pools of mortgages on residential or commercial property. Mortgages may have fixed or adjustable interest rates. Interests in pools of adjustable rate mortgages are known as ARMs. Mortgage-backed securities come in a variety of forms. Many have extremely complicated terms. The simplest form of mortgage-backed securities is a “pass-through certificate.” Holders of pass-through certificates receive a pro rata share of the payments from the underlying mortgages. Holders also receive a pro rata share of any prepayments, so they assume all the prepayment risk of the underlying mortgages. Mortgage-backed securities tend to pay higher yields to compensate for prepayment risk.

Collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”) are complicated instruments that allocate payments and prepayments from an underlying pass-through certificate among holders of different classes of mortgage-backed securities. This creates different prepayment and market risks for each CMO class. In addition, CMOs may allocate interest payments to one class (Interest Only or IOs) and principal payments to another class (Principal Only or POs). POs increase in value when prepayment rates increase. In contrast, IOs decrease in value when prepayments increase, because the underlying mortgages generate less interest payments. However, IOs’ prices tend to increase when interest rates rise (and prepayments fall), making IOs a useful hedge against market risk.

Residential mortgage-backed securities include securities that reflect an interest in, and are secured by, mortgage loans on residential real property. Generally, homeowners have the option to prepay their mortgages at any time without penalty. Homeowners frequently refinance high rate mortgages when mortgage rates fall. This results in the prepayment of the mortgages underlying residential mortgage-backed securities, which deprives holders of the securities of the higher yields. Conversely, when mortgage rates increase, prepayments due to refinancings decline. This extends the life of residential mortgage-backed securities with lower yields. As a result, increases in prepayments of residential mortgage-backed securities purchased at a premium, or decreases in prepayments of residential mortgage-backed securities purchased at a discount, may reduce their yield and price. This relationship between interest rates and mortgage prepayments makes the price of residential mortgage-backed securities more volatile than most other types of fixed income securities with comparable credit risks.

Commercial mortgage-backed securities include securities that reflect an interest in, and are secured by, mortgage loans on commercial real property. In addition to prepayment and extension risk, commercial mortgage-backed securities also reflect the risks of investing in the real estate securing the underlying mortgage loans including, the effects of local and other economic conditions on real estate markets, the ability of the property owner to make loan payments, the ability of tenants to make lease payments, and the ability of a property to attract and retain tenants. Commercial mortgage-backed securities may be less liquid and exhibit greater price volatility than other types of mortgage- or asset-backed securities.

*Municipal Securities.* Municipal securities are fixed income securities issued by states, counties, cities and other political subdivisions and authorities. Although most municipal securities are exempt from federal income tax, municipalities also may issue taxable securities. Tax-exempt securities are generally classified by their source of payment.

*Zero-Coupon Securities.* Zero-coupon securities make no periodic interest payments, but are sold at a deep discount from their face value. 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. The discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity, as well as market interest rates, liquidity of the security, and the issuer's perceived credit quality. If the issuer defaults, the holder may not receive any return on its investment. Because zero-coupon securities bear no interest, their price fluctuates more than other types of bonds. Since zero-coupon bondholders do not receive interest payments, when interest rates rise, zero-coupon securities fall more dramatically in value than bonds paying interest on a current basis. When interest rates fall, zero-coupon securities rise more rapidly in value because the bonds reflect a fixed rate of return. An investment in zero-coupon may cause the Fund to recognize income and make distributions to shareholders before it receives any cash payments on its investment.

*Unrated Debt Securities.* The Fund may also invest in unrated debt securities. Unrated debt, while not necessarily lower in quality than rated securities, may not have as broad a market. Because of the size and perceived demand for the issue, among other factors, certain issuers may decide not to pay the cost of getting a rating for their bonds. The creditworthiness of the issuer, as well as any financial institution or other party responsible for payments on the security, will be analyzed to determine whether to purchase unrated bonds.

*Inflation-Indexed Securities.* Inflation-indexed securities are debt securities, the principal value of which is periodically adjusted to reflect the rate of inflation as indicated by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers before seasonal adjustment ("CPI"). Inflation-indexed securities may be issued by the U.S. government, agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government, and by corporations. The U.S. Treasury issues Treasury inflation-protected securities ("TIPS") and some other issuers use a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the CPI accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed securities is tied to the CPI, which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI is a measurement of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation, and energy. There can be no assurance that the CPI will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services.

Inflation, which is a general rise in prices of goods and services, erodes the purchasing power of an investor's portfolio. For example, if an investment provides a "nominal" total return of 5% in a given year and inflation is 2% during that period, the inflation-adjusted, or real, return is 3%. Inflation, as measured by the CPI, has occurred in almost each of the past 50 years, so investors should be conscious of both the nominal and real returns of their investments. Although inflation-indexed securities are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise because of reasons other than inflation (for example, because of changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond's inflation measure.

If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation (i.e., the CPI) falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed securities will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of TIPS, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the inflation-indexed securities is not guaranteed, and will fluctuate. Other inflation-indexed securities include inflation-related bonds, which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal.

The value of inflation-indexed securities should change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates, in turn, are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if inflation were to rise at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed securities. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increased at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed securities.

Coupon payments that the Fund receives from inflation-indexed securities are included in the Fund's gross income for the period during which they accrue. Any increase in principal for an inflation-indexed security resulting from inflation adjustments is considered by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations to be taxable income in the year it occurs. For direct holders of an inflation-indexed security, this means that taxes must be paid on principal adjustments, even though these amounts are not received until the bond matures. By contrast, a fund holding these securities distributes both interest income and the income attributable to principal adjustments each quarter in the form of cash or reinvested shares (which, like principal adjustments, are taxable to shareholders). It may be necessary for the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions, including when it is not advantageous to do so, in order to make required distributions.

### **U.S. Government Obligations**

The Fund may invest in U.S. government obligations. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government securities, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. U.S. government obligations include securities issued or guaranteed by government-sponsored enterprises.

Payment of principal and interest on U.S. government obligations may be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States or may be backed solely by the issuing or guaranteeing agency or instrumentality itself. In the latter case, the investor must look principally to the agency or instrumentality issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment, which agency or instrumentality may be privately owned. There can be no assurance that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies or instrumentalities, including government-sponsored enterprises, where it is not obligated to do so (see "Agency Obligations," below). In addition, U.S. government obligations are subject to fluctuations in market value due to fluctuations in market interest rates. As a general matter, the value of debt instruments, including U.S. government obligations, declines when market interest rates increase and rises when market interest rates decrease. Certain types of U.S. government obligations are subject to fluctuations in yield or value due to their structure or contract terms.

**Agency Obligations**

The Fund may invest in agency obligations, such as the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Tennessee Valley Authority, Resolution Funding Corporation, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, Federal Housing Administration, Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”), commonly known as “Ginnie Mae,” Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), commonly known as “Fannie Mae,” Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”), commonly known as “Freddie Mac,” and the Student Loan Marketing Association (“SLMA”), commonly known as “Sallie Mae.” Some, such as those of the Export-Import Bank of United States, are supported only by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury; others, such as those of the FNMA and FHLMC, are supported by only the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency’s obligations; still others, such as those of the SLMA, are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to U.S. government-sponsored instrumentalities because they are not obligated by law to do so. As a result, there is a risk that these entities will default on a financial obligation. For instance, in September 2008, at the direction of the U.S. Treasury, FNMA and FHLMC were placed into conservatorship under the Federal Housing Finance Agency (“FHFA”), a newly created independent regulator.

**Warrants and Rights**

The Fund may purchase, or receive as a distribution from other investments, warrants and rights, which are instruments that permit the Fund to acquire, by subscription, the capital stock of a corporation at a set price, regardless of the market price for such stock. The principal difference between warrants and rights is their term—rights typically expire within weeks while warrants have longer durations. Neither rights nor warrants have voting rights or pay dividends. The market price of warrants is usually significantly less than the current price of the underlying stock. Thus, there is a greater risk that warrants might drop in value at a faster rate than the underlying stock.

**When-Issued Securities**

When-issued securities transactions involve a commitment by the Fund to purchase or sell particular securities with payment and delivery taking place at a future date, and permit the Fund to lock in a price or yield on a security it owns or intends to purchase, regardless of future changes in interest rates or market action. Typically, no income accrues to the purchaser of a security on a when-issued basis prior to delivery. Such securities are recorded as an asset and its value may fluctuate. Purchasing a security on a when-issued basis can involve a risk that the market price at the time of delivery may be lower than the agreed-upon purchase price, in which case there could be an unrealized loss at the time of delivery. The Fund will only make commitments to purchase securities on a when-issued basis with the intention of actually acquiring the securities within 35 days of the trade date.

**Initial Public Offerings**

The Fund may invest in securities offered by companies in initial public offerings (“IPOs”). IPOs involve companies that have no public operating history and therefore entail more risk than established public companies. Because IPO shares frequently are volatile in price, the Fund may hold IPO shares for a very short period of time. This may increase the turnover of the Fund’s portfolio and may lead to increased expenses to the Fund, such as commissions and transaction costs. By selling IPO shares, the Fund may realize taxable capital gains that it will subsequently distribute to shareholders. Companies that offer securities in IPOs tend to typically have small market capitalizations and therefore their securities may be more volatile and less liquid than those issued by larger companies. Certain companies offering securities in an IPO may have limited operating experience and, as a result face a greater risk of business failure.

**Master Limited Partnerships**

The Fund may invest in publicly traded master limited partnerships (“MLPs”) that are registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Securities Exchange Act”), and listed on a major United States stock exchange, if the issuer meets the Fund’s investment criteria. MLPs are businesses organized as limited partnerships which trade their proportionate shares of the partnership (units) on a public exchange. MLPs often own or own interests in properties of business that are related to oil and gas industries, including pipelines, although MLPs may invest in other types of investments, including credit-related investments. MLPs are required to pay out most or all of their cash flow in distributions. This pass through creates passive income or losses, along with dividend and investment income. The MLPs the Fund may purchase are comprised of a general partner (the “GP”) and multiple limited partners (the “LP Holders”). The GP is responsible for the operations and the maintenance of the partnership’s businesses, while the LP Holders assume economic risk up to their level of investment. Typically, the GP has a 1% to 2% investment in the MLP, but can extract a higher percentage of the partnership’s profits as the MLP’s distributions increase. This serves as an incentive to the GP to grow the partnership’s distributions. Conflicts of interest may exist among unit holders, subordinated unit holders and the general partner of an MLP, including those arising from incentive distribution payments.

Generally speaking, MLP investment returns are enhanced during periods of declining or low interest rates and tend to be negatively influenced when interest rates are rising. As an income vehicle, the unit price can be influenced by general interest rate trends independent of specific underlying fundamentals. In addition, most MLPs are fairly leveraged and typically carry a portion of a “floating” rate debt. As such, a significant upward swing in interest rates would also drive interest expense higher. Furthermore, most MLPs grow by acquisitions partly financed by debt, and higher interest rates could make it more difficult to make acquisitions.

The manner and extent of the Fund’s investments in MLPs may be limited by its intention to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code, and any such investments by the Fund may adversely affect the ability of the Fund to so qualify.

**Private Placements and Restricted Securities**

The Fund may invest in restricted securities (securities with limited transferability under the securities laws) acquired from the issuer in “private placement” transactions. Private placement securities are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”), and are subject to restrictions on resale. They are eligible for sale only to certain qualified institutional buyers, like the Fund, and are not sold on a trading market or exchange. While private placement securities offer attractive investment opportunities otherwise not available on an open market, because such securities are available to few buyers, they are often both difficult to sell and to value. Certain of the Fund’s investments may be placed in smaller, less seasoned, issuers that present a greater risk due to limited product lines and/or financial resources. The issuer of privately placed securities may not be subject to the disclosure and other investor protection requirements of a public trade. Additionally, the Fund could obtain material non-public information from the issuer of such securities that would restrict the Fund’s ability to conduct transactions in underlying securities.

Privately placed securities can usually only be resold to other qualified institutional buyers, or in a private transaction, or to a limited number of purchasers, or in limited quantities after they have been held for a specified period of time and other conditions are met pursuant to an exemption from registration. The Fund may incur more cost in the disposition of such securities because of the time and legal expense required to negotiate a private placement. Because of the limited market, the Fund may find it difficult to sell the securities when it finds it advisable to do so and, to the extent such securities are sold in private negotiations, they may be sold for less than the price for which they were purchased or less than their fair market value.

Privately placed securities cannot be resold to the public unless they have been registered under the Securities Act or pursuant to an exemption, such as Rule 144A. The Fund may purchase Rule 144A securities subject to the limitation on investments in illiquid investments, described in the “Illiquid Investments” section below. The Fund may also purchase certain commercial paper issued in reliance on the exemption from regulations in Section 4(2) of the Securities Act (“4(2) Paper”). The liquidity of Rule 144A securities and 4(2) Paper will be determined in accordance with Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act.

**Cash Investments**

The Fund may invest in high-quality, short-term debt securities and money market instruments (“Cash Investments”) for (i) temporary defensive purposes in response to adverse market, economic, or political conditions and (ii) retaining flexibility in meeting redemptions, paying expenses, and identifying and assessing investment opportunities. Cash Investments include shares of other mutual funds, certificates of deposit, bankers’ acceptances, time deposits, savings association obligations, commercial paper, short-term notes (including discount notes), and other obligations.

The Fund may hold a substantial position in Cash Investments for long periods of time, which may result in the Fund not achieving its investment objective. If the market advances during periods when the Fund is holding a large Cash Investment, the Fund may not participate to the extent it would have if the Fund had been more fully invested. To the extent that the Fund uses a money market fund for its Cash Investment, there will be some duplication of expenses because the Fund would bear its pro rata portion of such money market fund’s advisory fees and operational expenses.

Cash Investments are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk, although to a lesser extent than longer-term debt securities, due to their short-term, significant liquidity, and the high credit quality typically associated with such securities.

The Fund may invest in any of the following Cash Investments:

*Money Market Mutual Funds.* Generally, money market mutual funds seek to earn income consistent with the preservation of capital and maintenance of liquidity. They primarily invest in high quality money market obligations, including U.S. government obligations, bank obligations and high-grade corporate instruments. These investments generally mature within 397 calendar days from the date of acquisition. An investment in a money market mutual fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any government agency.

To the extent that the Fund invests in money market mutual funds, your cost of investing in the Fund will generally be higher because you will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the underlying money market mutual funds in addition to the Fund's direct fees and expenses. Furthermore, investing in money market mutual funds could affect the timing, amount and character of distributions to you and therefore may increase the amount of taxes payable by you.

*Bank Certificates of Deposit, Bankers' Acceptances and Time Deposits.* The Fund may acquire certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and time deposits. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against monies deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are "accepted" by a bank, meaning in effect that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances acquired by the Fund will be dollar-denominated obligations of domestic or foreign banks or financial institutions which at the time of purchase have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million (including assets of both domestic and foreign branches), based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such bank obligations are fully insured by the U.S. government.

In addition to purchasing certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, to the extent permitted under the investment objective and policies stated above and in the Prospectus, the Fund may make interest-bearing time deposits or other interest-bearing deposits in commercial or savings banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained at a banking institution for a specified period of time at a specified interest rate.

*Savings Association Obligations.* The Fund may invest in certificates of deposit (interest-bearing time deposits) issued by savings banks or savings and loan associations that have capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of \$100 million, based on latest published reports, or less than \$100 million if the principal amount of such obligations is fully insured by the U.S. government.

*Commercial Paper, Short-Term Notes and Other Corporate Obligations.* The Fund may invest a portion of its assets in commercial paper, short-term notes, and other corporate obligations. Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations. Issues of commercial paper and short-term notes will normally have maturities of less than nine months and fixed rates of return, although such instruments may have maturities of up to one year.

Commercial paper and short-term notes will consist of issues rated at the time of purchase "A-2" or higher by S&P, "Prime-1" or "Prime-2" by Moody's, or similarly rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality.

Corporate obligations include bonds and notes issued by corporations to finance longer-term credit needs than supported by commercial paper. While such obligations generally have maturities of ten years or more, the Fund may purchase corporate obligations which have remaining maturities of one year or less from the date of purchase and which are rated “A” or higher by S&P or “A” or higher by Moody’s, similarly rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization, or, if unrated, determined by the Adviser to be of comparable quality.

### **Investment Companies**

The Fund may invest in other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act. The Fund generally may purchase or redeem, without limitation, shares of any affiliated or unaffiliated money market funds, including unregistered money market funds, so long as the Fund does not pay a sales load or service fee in connection with the purchase, sale or redemption or if such fees are paid, and the Fund’s investment adviser waives its management fee in an amount necessary to offset the amounts paid. With respect to other investments in investment companies, the 1940 Act generally limits the Fund from acquiring (i) more than 3% of the total outstanding shares of another investment company; (ii) shares of another investment company having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the total assets of the Fund; or (iii) shares of another registered investment company and all other investment companies having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the Fund.

Investments by the Fund in other investment companies will be subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act (including limitations on sales charges), and the rules and regulations thereunder. By investing in securities of an investment company, the Fund’s shareholders will indirectly bear the fees and expenses of that underlying fund in addition to the Fund’s own fees and expenses.

In October 2020, the SEC adopted regulatory changes related to the ability of an investment company to invest in other investment companies in excess of specified statutory limits. These changes include, among other things, amendments to Rule 12d1-1, the rescission of Rule 12d1-2, the adoption of new Rule 12d1-4, and the rescission of certain exemptive relief issued by the SEC permitting certain fund of funds arrangements. Rule 12d1-4, which became effective on January 19, 2021, permits the Fund to invest in other investment companies, including money market funds, beyond the statutory limits, subject to certain conditions. The rescission of the applicable exemptive orders and the withdrawal of the applicable no-action letters was effective on January 19, 2022. Following this effectiveness, an investment company is no longer able to rely on these exemptive orders and no-action letters, and is subject instead to Rule 12d1-4 and other applicable rules under Section 12(d)(1).

**Closed-End Funds.** Closed-end funds are investment companies that typically issue a fixed number of shares that trade on a securities exchange or OTC. The risks of investment in closed-end funds typically reflect the risk of the types of securities in which the funds invest. Investments in closed-end funds are subject to the additional risk that shares of the fund may trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value (“NAV”) per share. Closed-end funds come in many varieties and can have different investment objectives, strategies and investment portfolios. They also can be subject to different risks, volatility and fees and expenses. Although closed-end funds are generally listed and traded on an exchange, the degree of liquidity, or ability to be bought and sold, will vary significantly from one closed-end fund to another based on various factors including, but not limited to, demand in the marketplace. When the Fund invests in shares of a closed-end fund, shareholders of the Fund bear their proportionate share of the closed-end fund’s fees and expenses, as well as their share of the Fund’s fees and expenses.

*Open-End Mutual Funds.* Open-end mutual funds are investment companies that issue new shares continuously and redeem shares daily. The risks of investment of open-end mutual funds typically reflect securities in which the funds invest. The NAV per share of an open-end fund will fluctuate daily depending upon the performance of the securities held by the fund. Each open-end fund may have a different investment objective and strategy and different investment portfolio. Different funds may also be subject to different risks, volatility and fees and expenses. When the Fund invests in shares of an open-end fund, shareholders of the Fund bear their proportionate share of the open-end funds' fees and expenses, as well as their share of the Fund's fees and expenses.

*Exchange-Traded Funds.* Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs") are typically open-end investment companies that are bought and sold on a national securities exchange. When the Fund invests in an ETF, it will bear additional expenses based on its pro rata share of the ETF's operating expenses, including the potential duplication of management fees. The risk of owning an ETF generally reflects the risks of owning the underlying securities it holds. Many ETFs seek to replicate a specific benchmark index. However, an ETF may not fully replicate the performance of its benchmark index for many reasons, including because of the temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or discrepancies between the ETF and the index with respect to the weighting of securities or the number of stocks held. Some ETFs are actively managed and instead of replicating, they seek to outperform a particular index or basket or price of a commodity or currency. In addition, shares of an ETF may trade at a market price that is higher or lower than their NAV and an active trading market in such shares may not develop or continue. Lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in an ETF being more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities it holds. In addition, because of ETF expenses, compared to owning the underlying securities directly, it may be more costly to own an ETF.

If the Fund invests in shares of an ETF, shareholders will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the underlying ETF in which the Fund invests in addition to the Fund's direct fees and expenses. The Fund also will incur brokerage costs when it purchases ETFs. Furthermore, investments in other ETFs could affect the timing, amount and character of distributions to shareholders and therefore may increase the amount of taxes payable by investors in the Fund.

### **Securities Lending**

The Fund may lend its securities in order to increase the return on its portfolio. The SEC currently requires that the following conditions must be met whenever the Fund's portfolio securities are loaned: (1) the Fund must receive at least 100% cash collateral for domestic securities and 105% cash collateral for foreign securities from the borrower in the form of cash or cash equivalents; (2) the borrower must increase such collateral whenever the market value of the securities rises above the level of such collateral; (3) the Fund must be able to terminate the loan at any time; (4) the Fund must receive reasonable interest on the loan, as well as any dividends, interest or other distributions on the loaned securities, and any increase in market value; (5) the Fund may pay only reasonable custodian fees approved by the Board in connection with the loan; (6) while voting rights on the loaned securities may pass to the borrower, the Board must terminate the loan and regain the right to vote the securities if a material event adversely affecting the investment occurs, and (7) the Fund may not loan its portfolio securities so that the value of the loaned securities is more than one-third of its total asset value, including collateral received from such loans. These conditions may be subject to future modification. Such loans will be terminable at any time upon specified notice.

The Fund might experience the risk of loss if the institution with which it has engaged in a portfolio loan transaction breaches its agreement with the Fund. In addition, the Fund will not enter into any portfolio security lending arrangement having a duration of longer than one year. The principal risk of portfolio lending is potential default or insolvency of the borrower. In either of these cases, the Fund could experience delays in recovering securities or collateral or could lose all or part of the value of the loaned securities. As part of participating in a lending program, the Fund may be required to invest in collateralized debt or other securities that bear the risk of loss of principal. In addition, all investments made with the collateral received are subject to the risks associated with such investments. If such investments lose value, the Fund will have to cover the loss when repaying the collateral.

The Board appoints agents to be responsible for monitoring the creditworthiness of borrowers. To the extent the Fund is participating in securities lending, on a quarterly basis, the Board reviews a report regarding the Fund's loans. Such report includes, among other things, the identity and value of all securities comprising each loan, the length of time that the loan has been outstanding, the amount earned by the Fund, the amount of fees paid in connection with the loan and the ratio of the value of the collateral to the value of the loan.

Any loans of portfolio securities are fully collateralized based on values that are marked-to-market daily. Any securities that the Fund may receive as collateral will not become part of the Fund's investment portfolio at the time of the loan and, in the event of a default by the borrower, the Fund will, if permitted by law, dispose of such collateral except for such part thereof that is a security in which the Fund is permitted to invest. During the time securities are on loan, the borrower will pay the Fund any accrued income on those securities, and the Fund may invest the cash collateral and earn income or receive an agreed-upon fee from a borrower that has delivered cash-equivalent collateral.

### **Illiquid Investments**

The Fund may purchase illiquid investments, which may include securities that are not readily marketable and securities that are not registered under the Securities Act. The Fund may not acquire any illiquid investments if, immediately after the acquisition, the Fund would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments that are assets. The term "illiquid investments" for this purpose means any investment that a fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment, as determined pursuant to the provisions of Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act. The Fund may not be able to sell illiquid investments when the Adviser considers it desirable to do so or may have to sell such investments at a price that is lower than the price that could be obtained if the investments were more liquid. In addition, the sale of illiquid investments also may require more time and may result in higher dealer discounts and other selling expenses than does the sale of investments that are more liquid. Illiquid investments also may be more difficult to value due to the unavailability of reliable market quotations for such investments, and investments in illiquid investments may have an adverse impact on NAV.

Institutional markets for restricted securities have developed as a result of the promulgation of Rule 144A under the Securities Act, which provides a safe harbor from Securities Act registration requirements for qualifying sales to institutional investors. When Rule 144A restricted securities present an attractive investment opportunity and otherwise meet selection criteria, the Fund may make such investments. Whether or not such investments are illiquid depends on the market that exists for the particular investment. It is not possible to predict with assurance exactly how the market for Rule 144A restricted securities or any other security will develop. An investment which when purchased enjoyed a fair degree of marketability may subsequently become illiquid. In such event, appropriate remedies are considered to minimize the effect on the Fund's liquidity.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. Under such agreements, the Fund agrees to purchase U.S. government obligations from a counterparty and the counterparty agrees to repurchase the securities at a mutually agreed upon time and price. The repurchase price may be higher than the purchase price, the difference being income to the Fund, or the purchase and repurchase prices may be the same, with interest at a stated rate due to the Fund together with the repurchase price on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Fund is unrelated to the interest rate on the security itself. Such repurchase agreements will be made only with banks with assets of \$500 million or more that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or with government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Board and registered as broker-dealers with the SEC or exempt from such registration. The Fund will generally enter into repurchase agreements of short durations, from overnight to one week, although the underlying securities generally have longer maturities. The Fund may not enter into a repurchase agreement with more than seven days to maturity if, as a result, more than 15% of the value of the Fund's net assets would be invested in illiquid investments including such repurchase agreements. To the extent necessary to facilitate compliance with Section 12(d)(3) of the 1940 Act and Rule 12d3-1 promulgated thereunder, the Fund will ensure that repurchase agreements will be collateralized fully to the extent required by Rule 5b-3.

For purposes of the 1940 Act, a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan from the Fund to the seller of the U.S. government obligations that are subject to the repurchase agreement. It is not clear whether a court would consider the U.S. government obligations to be acquired by the Fund subject to a repurchase agreement as being owned by the Fund or as being collateral for a loan by the Fund to the seller. In the event of the commencement of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings with respect to the seller of the U.S. government obligations before its repurchase under a repurchase agreement, the Fund could encounter delays and incur costs before being able to sell the underlying U.S. government obligations. Delays may involve loss of interest or a decline in price of the U.S. government obligations. If a court characterizes the transaction as a loan and the Fund has not perfected a security interest in the U.S. government obligations, the Fund may be required to return the securities to the seller's estate and be treated as an unsecured creditor of the seller. As an unsecured creditor, the Fund would be at the risk of losing some or all of the principal and income involved in the transaction. As with any unsecured debt instrument purchased for the Fund, the Adviser seeks to minimize the risk of loss through repurchase agreements by analyzing the creditworthiness of the other party, in this case the seller of the U.S. government security.

Apart from the risk of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, there is also the risk that the seller may fail to repurchase the U.S. government obligations. However, the Fund will always receive as collateral for any repurchase agreement to which it is a party securities acceptable to the Adviser, the market value of which is equal to at least 100% of the repurchase price, and the Fund will make payment against such securities only upon physical delivery or evidence of book entry transfer to the account of its Custodian. If the market value of the U.S. government obligations subject to the repurchase agreement become less than the repurchase price (including interest), the Fund will direct the seller of the U.S. government obligations to deliver additional securities so that the market value of all securities subject to the repurchase agreement will equal or exceed the repurchase price. It is possible that the Fund could be unsuccessful in seeking to enforce on the seller a contractual obligation to deliver additional securities.

### **Borrowing**

The Fund may borrow money in amounts of up to one-third of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) from banks, for investment purposes. In addition, the Fund is authorized to borrow money from time to time for temporary, extraordinary or emergency purposes or for clearance of transactions. The use of borrowing by the Fund involves special risk considerations that may not be associated with other funds having similar objectives and policies. Since substantially all of the Fund's assets fluctuate in value, while the interest obligation resulting from a borrowing will be fixed by the terms of the Fund's agreement with its lender, the NAV per share of the Fund will tend to increase more when its portfolio securities increase in value and to decrease more when its portfolio assets decrease in value than would otherwise be the case if the Fund did not borrow funds. In addition, interest costs on borrowings, which are paid by the Fund, may fluctuate with changing market rates of interest and may partially offset or exceed the return earned on borrowed funds. Under adverse market conditions, the Fund might have to sell portfolio securities to meet interest or principal payments at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales.

### **Cybersecurity Risk**

The Fund, like all companies, may be susceptible to operational and information security risks. Cybersecurity failures or breaches of the Fund or its service providers or the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

### **Fundamental and Non-Fundamental Investment Limitations**

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

The Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, borrow money or pledge its assets, except that (i) the Fund may borrow from banks in amounts not exceeding one-third of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (other than borrowings); and (ii) this restriction shall not prohibit the Fund from engaging in options transactions, reverse repurchase agreements, purchasing securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery, or forward delivery basis, or short sales in accordance with its objectives and strategies;
2. Underwrite the securities of other issuers (except that the Fund may engage in transactions involving the acquisition, disposition or resale of its portfolio securities under circumstances where the Fund may be considered to be an underwriter under the Securities Act);
3. Purchase or sell real estate or interests in real estate, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities (although the Fund may purchase and sell securities that are secured by real estate and securities of companies that invest or deal in real estate);
4. Purchase or sell physical commodities or commodities contracts, unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments and provided that this restriction does not prevent the Fund from engaging in transactions involving currencies and futures contracts and options thereon or investing in securities or other instruments that are secured by physical commodities;
5. Make loans of money (except for the lending of the Fund's portfolio securities, repurchase agreements and purchases of debt securities consistent with the investment policies of the Fund);
6. Invest in the securities of any one industry or group of industries if, as a result, 25% or more of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of such industry or group of industries, except that the foregoing does not apply to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities; or
7. With respect to 75% of the Fund's total assets, purchase the securities of any issuer (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, or, to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations thereunder and any applicable exemptive relief, securities of other investment companies) if, as a result, (1) more than 5% of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer; or (2) the Fund would hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.

Except with respect to borrowing and investments in illiquid investments, if a percentage or rating restriction on investment or use of assets set forth herein or in the Prospectus is adhered to at the time a transaction is effected, later changes in percentage resulting from any cause other than actions by the Fund will not be considered a violation. With respect to borrowing, if at any time the Fund's borrowings exceed one-third of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) less liabilities (other than borrowings), such borrowings will be reduced within three days, (not including Sundays and holidays) or such longer period as may be permitted by the 1940 Act, to the extent necessary to comply with the one-third limitation. If at any time the Fund's illiquid investments are greater than 15% of its net assets, the Fund will determine how to remediate the excess illiquid investments in accordance with the 1940 Act and the Fund's policies and procedures.

## **Management of the Fund**

### **Board of Trustees**

The management and affairs of the Fund are supervised by the Board. The Board consists of four individuals. The Trustees are fiduciaries for the Fund's shareholders and are governed by the laws of the State of Delaware in this regard. The Board establishes policies for the operation of the Fund and appoints the officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund.

### **The Role of the Board of Trustees**

The Board provides oversight of the management and operations of the Trust. Like all mutual funds, the day-to-day responsibility for the management and operation of the Trust is the responsibility of various service providers to the Trust and its individual series, such as the Adviser; Quasar Distributors, LLC, the Fund's principal underwriter (the "Distributor"); U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services, the Fund's administrator (the "Administrator") and transfer agent (the "Transfer Agent"); and U.S. Bank, N.A., the Fund's Custodian, each of whom are discussed in greater detail in this SAI. The Board approves all significant agreements between the Trust and its service providers, including the agreements with the Adviser, Distributor, Administrator, Custodian and Transfer Agent. The Board has appointed various individuals of certain of these service providers as officers of the Trust, with responsibility to monitor and report to the Board on the Trust's day-to-day operations. In conducting this oversight, the Board receives regular reports from these officers and service providers regarding the Trust's operations. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") who reports directly to the Board and who administers the Trust's compliance program and regularly reports to the Board as to compliance matters, including an annual compliance review. Some of these reports are provided as part of formal "Board Meetings," which are held four times per year, in person, and such other times as the Board determines is necessary, and involve the Board's review of recent Trust operations. From time to time one or more members of the Board may also meet with Trust officers in less formal settings, between formal Board Meetings to discuss various topics. In all cases, however, the role of the Board and of any individual Trustee is one of oversight and not of management of the day-to-day affairs of the Trust and its oversight role does not make the Board a guarantor of the Trust's investments, operations or activities.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Board has structured itself in a manner that it believes allows it to effectively perform its oversight function. The Board is comprised of four Trustees that are not considered to be "interested persons" of the Fund, as defined by the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustees") – Messrs. David A. Massart, Leonard M. Rush, David M. Swanson and Robert J. Kern. Accordingly, 100% of the members of the Board are Independent Trustees, who are Trustees that are not affiliated with the investment adviser to the Fund or its affiliates or other service providers to the Fund. Prior to July 6, 2020, Mr. Kern was considered an "interested person" of the Trust as defined in the 1940 Act ("Interested Trustee"). He was considered an Interested Trustee by virtue of the fact that he had served as a board member of Quasar Distributors, LLC, which acts as principal underwriter to many of the Trust's underlying funds and had been an Executive Vice President of the Administrator. The Board has established two standing committees, an Audit Committee and a Nominating & Governance Committee which are discussed in greater detail under "Board Committees" below. Each of the Audit Committee and the Nominating & Governance Committee are comprised entirely of Independent Trustees. The Independent Trustees have engaged independent counsel to advise them on matters relating to their responsibilities in connection with the Trust, as well as the Fund.

The Independent Trustees have appointed Leonard M. Rush as Chairman. Prior to July 6, 2020, Mr. Kern served as Chairman of the Trust and Mr. Rush served as lead Independent Trustee with the responsibilities to coordinate activities of the Independent Trustees, act as a liaison with the Trust's service providers, officers, legal counsel, and other Trustees between meetings, help to set Board meeting agendas, and serve as chair during executive sessions of the Independent Trustees.

In accordance with the fund governance standards prescribed by the SEC under the 1940 Act, the Independent Trustees on the Nominating & Governance Committee select and nominate all candidates for Independent Trustee positions. Each Trustee was appointed to serve on the Board because of his experience, qualifications, attributes and skills as set forth in the subsection "Trustee Qualifications" below.

The Board reviews its structure regularly in light of the characteristics and circumstances of the Trust, including: the affiliated or unaffiliated nature of each investment adviser; the number of funds that comprise the Trust; the variety of asset classes that those funds reflect; the net assets of the Trust; the committee structure of the Trust; and the independent distribution arrangements of each of the Trust's underlying funds.

The Board has determined that the inclusion of all Independent Trustees as members of the Audit Committee and the Nominating & Governance Committee allows all such Trustees to participate in the full range of the Board's oversight duties, including oversight of risk management processes discussed below. Given the composition of the Board and the function and composition of its various committees as described above, the Trust has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate.

### **Board Oversight of Risk Management**

As part of its oversight function, the Board receives and reviews various risk management reports and assessments and discusses these matters with appropriate management and other personnel, including personnel of the Trust's service providers. Because risk management is a broad concept comprised of many elements (such as, for example, investment risk, issuer and counter-party risk, compliance risk, operational risks, business continuity risks, etc.) the oversight of different types of risks is handled in different ways. For example, the CCO regularly reports to the Board during Board Meetings and meets in executive session with the Independent Trustees and their legal counsel to discuss compliance and operational risks. In addition, Mr. Rush, the Independent Trustee designated as the Audit Committee's "audit committee financial expert," meets with the President, Treasurer and the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm to discuss, among other things, the internal control structure of the Fund's financial reporting function. The full Board receives reports from the investment advisers to the underlying funds and the portfolio managers as to investment risks.

## Trustees and Officers

The Trustees and officers of the Trust are listed below with their addresses, present positions with the Trust, and principal occupations over at least the last five years.

| Name, Address and Year of Birth   | Position(s) Held with the Trust                | Term of Office and Length of Time Served | Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee | Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years  | Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years            |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b><i>Independent Trustees</i></b>  |  |  |   |   |   |
| Leonard M. Rush, CPA<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI 53202<br>Year of Birth: 1946 | Chairman, Trustee and Audit Committee Chairman | Indefinite Term; Since April 2011        | 32  | Retired, Chief Financial Officer, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, (2000-2011).  | Independent Trustee, ETF Series Solutions (57 Portfolios) (2012-Present). |
| David A. Massart<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI 53202<br>Year of Birth: 1967     | Trustee  | Indefinite Term; Since April 2011        | 32  | Partner and Managing Director, Beacon Pointe Advisors, LLC (since 2022); Co-Founder and Chief Investment Strategist, Next Generation Wealth Management, Inc. (2005-2021). | Independent Trustee, ETF Series Solutions (57 Portfolios) (2012-Present). |

| <b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>   | <b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>                 | <b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b> | <b>Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee</b> | <b>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</b>                        | <b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| David M. Swanson<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1957 | Trustee and Nominating & Governance Committee Chairman | Indefinite Term; Since April 2011               | 32   | Founder and Managing Principal, SwanDog Strategic Marketing, LLC (2006-present). | Independent Trustee, ALPS Variable Investment Trust (7 Portfolios) (2006 to Present); Independent Trustee, RiverNorth Funds (3 Portfolios) (2018 to Present); RiverNorth Managed Duration Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2019 to Present); RiverNorth Opportunistic Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2018 to Present); RiverNorth Capital and Income Fund (1 Portfolio) (2018 to Present); RiverNorth Opportunities Fund (1 Portfolio) (2015 to Present); RiverNorth/DoubleLine Strategic Opportunity Fund, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2019 to Present); RiverNorth Flexible Municipal Income Fund, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2020 to Present); RiverNorth Flexible Municipal Income Fund II, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2021 to Present); RiverNorth Managed Duration Municipal Income Fund II, Inc. (1 Portfolio) (2022 to Present). |

| <b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>   | <b>Position(s) Held with the Trust</b>                                     | <b>Term of Office and Length of Time Served</b>  | <b>Number of Portfolios in Trust Overseen by Trustee</b> | <b>Principal Occupation(s) During the Past Five Years</b>   | <b>Other Directorships Held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b> |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| Robert J. Kern<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1958     | Trustee  | Indefinite Term; Since January 2011  | 32   | Retired (2018-present); Executive Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (1994-2018).                                | None  |
| <b>Officers</b>  |  |  |  |   |   |
| Brian R. Wiedmeyer<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1973 | President and Principal Executive Officer                                  | Indefinite Term, Since November 2018   | N/A  | Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2005-present).   | N/A   |
| Deborah Ward<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1966       | Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and Anti-Money Laundering Officer | Indefinite Term; Since April 2013  | N/A  | Senior Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2004-present).  | N/A   |
| Benjamin Eirich<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1981    | Treasurer, Principal Financial Officer and Vice President                  | Indefinite Term; Since August 2019 (Treasurer); Indefinite Term; Since November 2018 (Vice President)        | N/A  | Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2008-present).   | N/A   |
| John Hadermayer<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1977    | Secretary  | Indefinite Term; Since May 2022.   | N/A  | Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2022-present); Executive Director, AQR Capital Management, LLC (2013 -2022). | N/A   |
| Douglas Schafer<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1970    | Assistant Treasurer and Vice President                                     | Indefinite Term; Since May 2016 (Assistant Treasurer); Indefinite Term; Since November 2018 (Vice President) | N/A  | Assistant Vice President, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2002-present).   | N/A   |
| Sara J. Bollech<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1977    | Assistant Treasurer and Vice President                                     | Indefinite Term; Since November 2021   | N/A  | Officer, U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (2007-present).  | N/A   |

| <b>Name, Address and<br/>Year of Birth</b>  | <b>Position(s)<br/>Held with<br/>the Trust</b>  | <b>Term of<br/>Office and<br/>Length of<br/>Time Served</b> | <b>Number of<br/>Portfolios in<br/>Trust<br/>Overseen by<br/>Trustee</b> | <b>Principal<br/>Occupation(s)<br/>During the Past Five<br/>Years</b> | <b>Other<br/>Directorships<br/>Held by Trustee<br/>During the Past<br/>Five Years</b> |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Peter A. Walker,<br>CPA<br>615 E. Michigan St.<br>Milwaukee, WI<br>53202<br>Year of Birth: 1993 | Assistant<br>Treasurer<br>and Vice<br>President | Indefinite<br>Term: Since<br>November<br>2021               | N/A  | Officer, U.S. Bancorp<br>Fund Services, LLC<br>(2016-present).        | N/A   |

## **Trustee Qualifications**

The Board believes that each of the Trustees has the qualifications, experience, attributes and skills appropriate to their continued service as Trustees of the Trust in light of the Trust's business and structure. The Trustees have substantial business and professional backgrounds that indicate they have the ability to critically review, evaluate and assess information provided to them. Certain of these business and professional experiences are set forth in detail in the table above. In addition, the Trustees have substantial board experience and, in their service to the Trust, have gained substantial insight as to the operation of the Trust. The Board annually conducts a "self-assessment" wherein the effectiveness of the Board and the individual Trustees is reviewed.

In addition to the information provided in the table above, below is certain additional information concerning each individual Trustee. The information provided below, and in the table above, is not all-inclusive. Many of the Trustees' qualifications to serve on the Board involve intangible elements, such as intelligence, integrity, work ethic, the ability to work together, the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to exercise judgment, the ability to ask incisive questions, and commitment to shareholder interests.

Mr. Kern's trustee attributes include substantial industry experience, including over 35 years of service with U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (the fund accountant ("Fund Accountant"), Administrator, and Transfer Agent to the Trust) where he managed business development and the mutual fund transfer agent operation including investor services, account services, legal compliance, document processing and systems support. He also served as a board member of U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC and previously served as a board member of Quasar Distributors, LLC (the principal underwriter of many of the Trust's series). The Board believes Mr. Kern's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Massart's trustee attributes include substantial industry experience, including over two decades working with high net worth individuals, families, trusts and retirement accounts to make strategic and tactical asset allocation decisions, evaluate and select investment managers and manage client relationships. He is currently Partner and Managing Director of Beacon Pointe Advisors, LLC. Previously, he served as Chief Investment Strategist and lead member of the investment management committee of the SEC registered investment advisory firm he co-founded. He also previously served as Managing Director of Strong Private Client and as a Manager of Wells Fargo Investments, LLC. The Board believes Mr. Massart's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Rush's trustee attributes include substantial industry experience, including serving in several different senior executive roles at various global financial services firms. He most recently served as Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated and several other affiliated entities and served as the Treasurer for Baird Funds. He also served as the Chief Financial Officer for Fidelity Investments' four broker-dealers and has substantial experience with mutual fund and investment advisory organizations and related businesses, including Vice President and Head of Compliance for Fidelity Investments, a Vice President at Credit Suisse First Boston, a Manager with Goldman Sachs, & Co. and a Senior Manager with Deloitte & Touche. Mr. Rush has been determined to qualify as an Audit Committee Financial Expert for the Trust. The Board believes Mr. Rush's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee and as the Chairman to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

Mr. Swanson's trustee attributes include substantial industry experience, including over 35 years of senior management and marketing experience with over 30 years dedicated to the financial services industry. He is currently the Founder and Managing Principal of a marketing strategy boutique serving asset and wealth management businesses. He has also served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Marketing Officer of Van Kampen Investments, President and Chief Executive Officer of Scudder, Stevens & Clark, Canada, Ltd., Managing Director and Head of Global Investment Products at Morgan Stanley, Director of Marketing for Morgan Stanley Mutual Funds, Director of Marketing for Kemper Funds, and Executive Vice President and Head of Distribution for Calamos Investments. The Board believes Mr. Swanson's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that he possesses the requisite skills and attributes as a Trustee to carry out oversight responsibilities with respect to the Trust.

This discussion of the Trustees' experience and qualifications is pursuant to SEC requirements, does not constitute holding out the Board or any Trustee as having special expertise, and shall not impose any greater responsibility or liability on any such Trustee or the Board by reason thereof.

### **Trustee and Management Ownership of Fund Shares**

The following table shows the dollar range of Fund shares and shares in all portfolios of the Trust beneficially owned by the Trustees as of the calendar year ended December 31, 2022.

| <b>Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned</b><br><b>(None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, Over \$100,000)</b> |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Name</b>  | <b>LK Balanced Fund</b> | <b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares in the Trust</b> |
| <b>Independent Trustees</b>  |                         |  |
| David A. Massart   | None                    | None   |
| Leonard M. Rush  | None                    | None   |
| David M. Swanson   | \$1 - \$10,000          | \$50,001 - \$100,000                                 |
| Robert J. Kern   | None                    | None   |

As of September 30, 2023, the Trustees and Officers of the Trust as a group owned less than 1% of the outstanding shares of any Fund in the Trust.

## **Board Committees**

Audit Committee. The Trust has an Audit Committee, which is comprised of the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee reviews financial statements and other audit-related matters for the Fund. The Audit Committee also holds discussions with management and with the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm concerning the scope of the audit and the auditor's independence. The Audit Committee met twice with respect to the Fund during its fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Nominating & Governance Committee. The Trust has a Nominating & Governance Committee, which is comprised of the Independent Trustees. The Nominating & Governance Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for the position of trustee and meets only as necessary.

The Nominating & Governance Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders for vacancies on the Board. Recommendations for consideration by the Nominating & Governance Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning each such proposed nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust's Bylaws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required information, must be delivered to and received by the President of the Trust at the principal executive office of the Trust no fewer than 120 days, and no more than 150 days, prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. Shareholder recommendations for nominations to the Board will be accepted on an ongoing basis. The Nominating & Governance Committee's procedures with respect to reviewing shareholder nominations will be disclosed as required by applicable securities laws. The Nominating & Governance Committee met once during the Fund's fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

## Trustee Compensation

The Trustees receive an annual retainer of \$110,000. The Chairman of the Audit Committee receives additional compensation of \$14,000, the Chairman of the Nominating & Governance Committee receives additional compensation of \$8,000 and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees receives \$12,500 annually. Prior to January 1, 2023, the Trustees received \$6,000 for regularly scheduled meetings and \$2,500 for additional meetings. Effective January 1, 2023, the Trustees receive \$8,000 for regularly scheduled meetings and \$2,500 for additional meetings.

The following table sets forth the compensation received by the Independent Trustees for the Fund's fiscal year ended June 30, 2023:

| <b>Name of Person/Position</b>   | <b>Aggregate Compensation from the Fund<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses</b> | <b>Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b> | <b>Total Compensation from the Fund and the Trust<sup>2</sup> Paid to Trustees</b> |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Leonard M. Rush, Chairman, Independent Trustee and Audit Committee Chairman          | \$5,124   | None   | None   | \$172,500  |
| David A. Massart, Independent Trustee  | \$4,341   | None   | None   | \$146,000  |
| David M. Swanson, Independent Trustee and Nominating & Governance Committee Chairman | \$4,577   | None   | None   | \$154,000  |
| Robert J. Kern, Independent Trustee  | \$4,341   | None   | None   | \$146,000  |

<sup>1</sup> Trustees fees and expenses are allocated among the Fund and any other series comprising the Trust.

<sup>2</sup> The Trust includes other portfolios in addition to the Fund.

## Control Persons and Principal Shareholders

A principal shareholder is any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is one who owns beneficially 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. The following table lists the shareholders considered to be either a control person or a principal shareholder of the Fund as of September 30, 2023:

| <b>Name and Address</b>   | <b>% Ownership</b> | <b>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></b> |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Lawson Kroeker Investment Management Inc. PSP<br>U/A DTD 01/01/1988<br>1926 S 67th Street, Ste 201<br>Omaha, Nebraska 68106-3054      | 15.83%             | Beneficial                             |
| U.S. Bank NA Cust<br>Kenneth W. Kroeker IRA Rollover<br>17060 W. Links Drive<br>Surprise, Arizona 85387-7503                          | 11.70%             | Beneficial                             |
| UBATCO & Co<br>FBO Lamson Dugan & Murry PSP<br>PO Box 82535<br>Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-2535   | 6.44%              | Record                                 |
| Harold B Kosowsky & Alice D Kosowsky JTWROS<br>FBO Lamson Dugan & Murry PSP<br>1337 S 101st Street #105<br>Omaha, Nebraska 68124-1095 | 5.19%              | Beneficial                             |

(1) "Record" ownership means the shareholder of record, or the exact name of the shareholder on the account, e.g. "ABC Brokerage, Inc." "Beneficial" ownership refers to the actual pecuniary or financial interest in the security, e.g. "Jane Doe Shareholder."

## **Investment Adviser**

Investment advisory services are provided to the Fund by the Adviser, Lawson Kroeker Investment Management, Inc., pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement"). The Adviser is majority owned by Thomas J. Sudyka, Jr.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser provides the Fund with investment research and advice and furnishes the Fund with an investment program consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Adviser determines which portfolio securities will be purchased or sold, arranges for the placing of orders for the purchase or sale of portfolio securities, selects brokers or dealers to place those orders, maintains books and records with respect to the securities transactions, and reports to the Board on the Fund's investments and performance. The Adviser is solely responsible for making investment decisions on behalf of the Fund. The Board will have sole responsibility for selecting, evaluating the performance of, and replacing as necessary any of the service providers to the Fund, including the Adviser.

The Advisory Agreement will continue in effect from year to year, only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by: (i) the Board or the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund; and (ii) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Advisory Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, upon 60 days' written notice to the Adviser, when authorized by either: (i) a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders; or (ii) by a vote of a majority of the Board, or by the Adviser upon 60 days' written notice to the Trust. The Advisory Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment," as defined under the 1940 Act. The Advisory Agreement provides that the Adviser under such agreement shall not be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss arising out of any investment or for any act or omission in the execution of portfolio transactions for the Fund, except for willful misfeasance, bad faith or negligence in the performance of its duties, or by reason of reckless disregard of its obligations and duties thereunder.

In consideration of the services provided by the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser is entitled to receive from the Fund a management fee computed daily and paid monthly, based on a percentage of the Fund's net assets, as specified in the Prospectus. However, the Adviser may voluntarily agree to waive a portion of the management fees payable to it on a month-to-month basis, including additional fees above and beyond any contractual agreement the Adviser may have to waive management fees and/or reimburse Fund expenses.

*Fund Expenses.* The Fund is responsible for its own operating expenses. Pursuant to an Operating Expenses Limitation Agreement between the Adviser and the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, the Adviser has agreed to waive its management fee, and/or pay Fund expenses, as specified in the Prospectus. Fees waived and expenses paid by the Adviser may be recouped by the Adviser for a period of 36 months following the month during which such waiver and expense payment occurred, if such recoupment can be achieved without exceeding the expense limit in effect at the time the fee waiver and/or expense payment occurred, and the expense limit in effect at the time of the recoupment. The Operating Expenses Limitation Agreement is indefinite in term and cannot be terminated through at least October 28, 2024. Thereafter, the agreement may be terminated at any time upon 60 days' written notice by the Trust's Board or the Adviser.

The total advisory fees paid by the Fund during the fiscal years ended June 30 are as follows:

|                                     | 2023        | 2022        | 2021        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Advisory Fees Accrued               | \$210,098   | \$226,623   | \$205,032   |
| Advisory Fees Waived                | \$(131,231) | \$(115,812) | \$(133,920) |
| Total Advisory Fees Paid to Adviser | \$78,867    | \$110,811   | \$71,112    |

### Portfolio Managers

As disclosed in the Prospectus, Thomas J. Sudyka, Jr., Bruce H. Van Kooten, and Chad C. Clauser are the portfolio managers for the Fund (the "Portfolio Managers").

The following table provides information regarding other accounts managed jointly by the Portfolio Managers, other than the Fund, as of June 30, 2023:

| Account Category                 | # of Accounts | Total Assets of Accounts (in millions) | # of Accounts Paying a Performance Fee | Total Assets of Accounts Paying a Performance Fee |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|--|---|
| Registered investment companies  | 0             | \$0                                    | 0                                      | \$0   |
| Other pooled investment vehicles | 0             | \$0                                    | 0                                      | \$0   |
| Other accounts                   | 379           | \$565.9 million                        | 0                                      | \$0   |

The Portfolio Managers' management of "other accounts" may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with the management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts may have the same investment objective as the Fund. Therefore, a potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of the identical investment objectives, whereby a Portfolio Manager could favor one account over another. Another potential conflict could include a Portfolio Manager's knowledge about the size, timing and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby the Portfolio Manager could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund. However, the Adviser has established policies and procedures to ensure that the purchase and sale of securities among all accounts it manages are fairly and equitably allocated.

The Adviser compensates the Portfolio Managers for their management of the Fund. Each Portfolio Manager receives a competitive base salary, and as a shareholder of the Adviser, a share of the profits from the operations of the firm. The Portfolio Managers' entire compensation package is paid by the Adviser and not by any client account.

The following table indicates the dollar range of Fund shares beneficially owned by each Portfolio Manager as of as of June 30, 2023:

| <b>Portfolio Manager</b> | <b>Dollar Range of Fund Shares</b>  |
|--------------------------|---|
|                          | (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001 - \$500,000, \$500,001-\$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000) |
| Thomas J. Sudyka, Jr.    | Over \$1,000,000  |
| Bruce H. Van Kooten      | Over \$1,000,000  |
| Chad C. Clauser          | \$100,001 - \$500,000   |

## Service Providers

Pursuant to an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement") between the Trust and U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC, doing business as U.S. Bank Global Fund Services ("Fund Services"), 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202 acts as the Administrator to the Fund. Fund Services provides certain administrative services to the Fund, including, among other responsibilities, coordinating the negotiation of contracts and fees with, and the monitoring of performance and billing of, the Fund's independent contractors and agents; preparation for signature by an officer of the Trust of all documents required to be filed for compliance by the Trust and the Fund with applicable laws and regulations; arranging for the computation of performance data, including NAV and yield; responding to shareholder inquiries; arranging for the maintenance of books and records of the Fund, and providing, at its own expense, office facilities, equipment and personnel necessary to carry out its duties. In this capacity, Fund Services does not have any responsibility or authority for the management of the Fund, the determination of investment policy, or for any matter pertaining to the distribution of Fund shares. Pursuant to the Administration Agreement, for its services, Fund Services receives from the Fund a fee computed daily and payable monthly based on the Fund's average daily net assets, subject to an annual minimum fee. Fund Services also acts as Fund Accountant, Transfer Agent and dividend disbursing agent under separate agreements with the Trust.

The Fund paid fund administration and fund accounting fees to Fund Services during the fiscal years ended June 30, as follows:

| <b>Fund</b>      | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| LK Balanced Fund | \$82,448    | \$80,472    | \$82,659    |

Pursuant to a custody agreement between the Trust and the Fund, U.S. Bank, N.A., an affiliate of Fund Services, serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets. For its services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee based on a percentage of the Fund's assets, in addition to certain transaction-based fees, and is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. The Custodian's address is 1555 North Rivercenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53212. The Custodian does not participate in decisions relating to the purchase and sale of securities by the Fund. U.S. Bank, N.A. and its affiliates may participate in revenue sharing arrangements with service providers of mutual funds in which the Fund may invest.

### **Legal Counsel**

Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP, 2005 Market Street, Suite 2600, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, serves as counsel to the Trust and as independent legal counsel to the Board.

### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 342 North Water Street, Suite 830, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund. Its services include auditing the Fund's financial statements and the performance of related tax services.

### **Distribution of Fund Shares**

The Trust has entered into a distribution agreement (the "Distribution Agreement") with Quasar Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor"), 111 East Kilbourn Avenue, Suite 2200, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, pursuant to which the Distributor acts as the Fund's principal underwriter, provides certain administrative services and promotes and arranges for the sale of the Fund's shares on a best efforts basis. The offering of the Fund's shares is continuous. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA").

The Distribution Agreement will continue in effect only if such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by the Board or by vote of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities and, in either case, by a majority of the Independent Trustees. The Distribution Agreement is terminable without penalty by the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, on 60 days' written notice when authorized either by a majority vote of the Fund's shareholders or by vote of a majority of the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" (as defined under the 1940 Act) of the Trust, or by the Distributor on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment," as defined in the 1940 Act.

## **Portfolio Transactions and Brokerage**

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

Purchases of portfolio securities for the Fund will be effected through broker-dealers (including banks) that specialize in the types of securities that the Fund will be holding, unless better executions are available elsewhere. Dealers usually act as principal for their own accounts. Purchases from dealers will include a spread between the bid and the asked price. If the execution and price offered by more than one dealer are comparable, the order may be allocated to a dealer that has provided research or other services as discussed below.

In placing portfolio transactions, the Adviser will use reasonable efforts to choose broker-dealers capable of providing the services necessary to obtain the most favorable price and execution available. The full range and quality of services, such as the size of the order, the difficulty of execution, the operational facilities of the firm involved, the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities, and other factors available, will be considered in making these determinations. In those instances where it is reasonably determined that more than one broker-dealer can offer the services needed to obtain the most favorable price and execution available, consideration may be given to those broker-dealers that furnish or supply research and statistical information to the Adviser that it may lawfully and appropriately use in its investment advisory capacities, as well as provide other brokerage services incidental to execution services. Research and statistical information may include reports that are common in the industry such as industry research reports and periodicals, quotation systems, software for portfolio management and formal databases. Typically, the research will be used to service all of the Adviser's accounts, although a particular client may not benefit from all the research received on each occasion. The Adviser considers research information, which is in addition to and not in lieu of the services required to be performed by it under its Advisory Agreement with the Fund, to be useful in varying degrees, but of indeterminable value.

While it is the Fund's general policy to first seek to obtain the most favorable price and execution available in selecting a broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for the Fund, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services to the Fund or to the Adviser, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Fund and may be useful to the Adviser in advising other clients. In negotiating commissions with a broker or evaluating the spread to be paid to a dealer, the Fund may therefore pay a higher commission or spread than would be the case if no weight were given to the furnishing of these supplemental services, provided that the amount of such commission or spread has been determined in good faith by the Adviser to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer. The standard of reasonableness is to be measured in light of the Adviser's overall responsibilities to the Fund.

Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those of other client accounts of the Adviser and its affiliates. Nevertheless, it is possible that at times identical securities will be acceptable for both the Fund and one or more of such client accounts. In such event, the position of the Fund and such client account(s) in the same issuer may vary and the length of time that each may choose to hold its investment in the same issuer may likewise vary. However, to the extent any of these client accounts seek to acquire the same security as the Fund at the same time, the Fund may not be able to acquire as large a portion of such security as it desires, or it may have to pay a higher price or obtain a lower yield for such security. Similarly, the Fund may not be able to obtain as high a price for, or as large an execution of, an order to sell any particular security at the same time. If one or more of such client accounts simultaneously purchases or sells the same security that the Fund is purchasing or selling, each day's transactions in such security will be allocated between the Fund and all such client accounts in a manner deemed equitable by the Adviser, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount being purchased or sold. It is recognized that in some cases this system could have a detrimental effect on the price or value of the security insofar as the Fund is concerned. In other cases, however, it is believed that the ability of the Fund to participate in volume transactions may produce better executions for the Fund. Notwithstanding the above, the Adviser may execute buy and sell orders for accounts and take action in performance of its duties with respect to any of its accounts that may differ from actions taken with respect to another account, so long as the Adviser shall, to the extent practical, allocate investment opportunities to accounts, including the Fund, over a period of time on a fair and equitable basis and in accordance with applicable law.

Portfolio transactions may be placed with broker-dealers who sell shares of the Fund subject to rules adopted by FINRA and the SEC. Portfolio transactions may also be placed with broker-dealers in which the Adviser has invested on behalf of the Fund and/or client accounts.

The table set forth below shows the total commissions paid for research services by the Fund, along with the principal value of the transactions, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023:

| <b>Fund</b>      | <b>Commissions</b> | <b>Principal Value</b> |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| LK Balanced Fund | \$8,892            | \$8,340,926            |

The following table sets forth the amount of brokerage commissions paid by the Fund during the fiscal years ended June 30:

| <b>Fund</b>      | <b>2023<sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| LK Balanced Fund | \$8,892                   | \$3,117     | \$4,873     |

(1) The increase in brokerage commissions for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 was due to an increase in the number of shares traded by the Fund, which was primarily as a result of the average price of the stocks traded being lower than in prior years.

## Portfolio Turnover

Although the Fund generally will not invest for short-term trading purposes, portfolio securities may be sold without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Adviser, investment considerations warrant such action. Portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing (1) the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by (2) the monthly average of the value of portfolio securities owned during the fiscal year. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all the securities in the Fund's portfolio, with the exception of securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less, were sold and either repurchased or replaced within one year. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to above-average transaction costs and could generate capital gains that must be distributed to shareholders as short-term capital gains taxed at ordinary income rates (currently as high as 37%). To the extent that the Fund experiences an increase in brokerage commissions due to a higher portfolio turnover rate, the performance of the Fund could be negatively impacted by the increased expenses incurred by the Fund and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions.

The Fund's portfolio turnover rate for the fiscal years ended June 30, were as follows:

| <b>Fund</b>      | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| LK Balanced Fund | 18%         | 14%         |

## Code of Ethics

The Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor have each adopted Codes of Ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These codes permit, subject to certain conditions, personnel of the Trust, Adviser and Distributor to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund.

## Proxy Voting Procedures

The Board has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures ("Proxy Policies") wherein the Trust has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility for voting proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund as part of the Adviser's investment advisory services, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board. Notwithstanding this delegation of responsibilities, however, the Fund retains the right to vote proxies relating to its portfolio securities. The fundamental purpose of the Proxy Policies is to ensure that each vote will be in a manner that reflects the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders, taking into account the value of the Fund's investments.

The actual voting records relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 are available without charge, upon request, by calling toll-free, (800) SEC-0330 or by accessing the SEC's website at <https://www.sec.gov/>.

### *The Adviser's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures*

The Adviser will vote proxies on behalf of the Fund in a manner that it believes is consistent with the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. Absent special circumstances, all proxies will be voted consistent with guidelines established and described in the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures. A summary of the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures is as follows:

- The Adviser monitors for proxy proposals as it monitors for other corporate events that could affect the companies in which the Fund invests;
- When voting proxies, the Adviser follows the "Wall Street Rule" which means that it votes as management recommends or it sells the stock prior to the meeting of shareholders; and
- In the event that the interests of the Adviser conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the Fund, the Adviser will vote the proxy in accordance with its pre-determined policy to follow the Wall Street Rule only after disclosing the conflict to the Fund and affording the Fund an opportunity to direct the voting of such securities.

### **Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program**

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the "Program") as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 ("USA PATRIOT Act"). To ensure compliance with this law, the Trust's Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program. Ms. Deborah Ward has been designated as the Trust's Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to: determining that the Distributor and the Transfer Agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures; reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity; checking shareholder names against designated government lists, including Office of Foreign Asset Control ("OFAC"), and a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Fund will not transact business with any person or legal entity whose identity and beneficial owners, if applicable, cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As a result of the Program, the Fund may be required to "freeze" the account of a shareholder if the shareholder appears to be involved in suspicious activity or if certain account information matches information on government lists of known terrorists or other suspicious persons, or the Fund may be required to transfer the account or proceeds of the account to a governmental agency.

## **Portfolio Holdings Information**

The Trust, on behalf of the Fund, has adopted portfolio holdings disclosure policies (“Portfolio Holdings Policies”) that govern the timing and circumstances of disclosure of portfolio holdings of the Fund. Information about the Fund’s portfolio holdings will not be distributed to any third party except in accordance with these Portfolio Holdings Policies. The Board has considered the circumstances under which the Fund’s portfolio holdings may be disclosed under the Portfolio Holdings Policies. The Board has also considered actual and potential material conflicts that could arise in such circumstances between the interests of the Fund’s shareholders and the interests of the Adviser, Distributor or any other affiliated person of the Fund. After due consideration, the Board has determined that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for disclosing portfolio holdings to persons described in the Portfolio Holdings Policies. The Board has authorized its CCO to consider and authorize dissemination of portfolio holdings information to additional parties, after considering the best interests of the Fund’s shareholders and potential conflicts of interest in making such disclosures.

The Board exercises continuing oversight of the disclosure of the Fund’s portfolio holdings by (1) overseeing the implementation and enforcement of the Portfolio Holdings Policies, codes of ethics and other relevant policies of the Fund and its service providers by the CCO, (2) by considering reports and recommendations by the CCO concerning any material compliance matters (as defined in Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act), and (3) by considering whether to approve any amendment to these Portfolio Holdings Policies. The Board reserves the right to amend the Portfolio Holdings Policies at any time without prior notice in its sole discretion.

Disclosure of the Fund’s complete holdings is required to be made quarterly within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter, in the annual and semi-annual reports to Fund shareholders, and in the quarterly holdings report on Form N-PORT. These reports will be made available, free of charge, on the EDGAR database on the SEC’s website at <https://www.sec.gov/>. In addition, the Fund will publicly disclose its top ten equity holdings and equity sector breakdown on the Adviser’s website at <https://lkfunds.com/> within approximately 30 calendar days after each fiscal quarter end (September, December, March and June). Such portfolio holdings information may be separately provided to any person, including rating and ranking organizations such as Lipper and Morningstar, at the same time that it is filed with the SEC or posted to the Adviser’s website.

In the event of a conflict between the interests of the Fund and its shareholders and the interests of the Adviser or an affiliated person of the Adviser, the CCO of the Adviser, in consultation with the Trust’s CCO, shall make a determination in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders, and shall report such determination to the Board at the end of the quarter in which such determination was made. Any employee of the Adviser who suspects a breach of this obligation must report the matter immediately to the Adviser’s CCO or to his or her supervisor.

In addition, material non-public holdings information may be provided without lag as part of the normal investment activities of the Fund to each of the following entities which, by explicit agreement or by virtue of their respective duties to the Fund, are required to maintain the confidentiality of the information disclosed: the Administrator; the Fund's Accountant; the Custodian; the Transfer Agent; the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm; counsel to the Fund or the Board (current parties are identified in this SAI); broker-dealers (in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or requests for price quotations or bids on one or more securities); and regulatory authorities. Portfolio holdings information not publicly available with the SEC or on the Fund's website may only be provided to additional third parties, in accordance with the Portfolio Holdings Policies, when the Fund has a legitimate business purpose, and the third-party recipient is subject to a confidentiality agreement. Such portfolio holdings disclosure must be approved under the Portfolio Holdings Policies by the Trust's CCO.

In no event shall the Adviser, its affiliates or employees, or the Fund receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings.

There can be no assurance that the Portfolio Holdings Policies and these procedures will protect the Fund from potential misuse of Fund information by individuals or entities to which it is disclosed.

## **Determination of Net Asset Value**

The NAV of the Fund's shares will fluctuate and is determined by the Fund Accountant as of the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) each business day. The NYSE annually announces the days on which it will not be open for trading. The most recent announcement indicates that it will not be open on the following days: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. However, the NYSE may close on days not included in that announcement.

The NAV per share is computed by determining the Fund's "Net Assets" and dividing by the total number of shares outstanding at such time. Net Assets are calculated by (1) taking the value of all assets, less liabilities, held by the Fund; and (2) subtracting "Accrued Expenses."

$$\frac{\text{Net Assets}}{\text{Shares Outstanding}} = \text{Net Asset Value Per Share}$$

The Fund's assets are generally valued at their market price on the valuation date and are based on valuations provided by independent pricing services consistent with the Trust's valuation procedures.

When market prices are not readily available, a security or other asset is valued at its fair value as determined under fair value pricing procedures approved by the Board. The Board reviews, no less frequently than annually, the adequacy of the policies and procedures of the Fund and the effectiveness of their implementation. These fair value pricing procedures will also be used to price a security when corporate events, events in the securities market and/or world events cause the Adviser to believe that a security's last sale price may not reflect its actual market value. The intended effect of using fair value pricing procedures is to ensure that the Fund is accurately priced. The Board will regularly evaluate whether the Trust's fair value pricing procedures continue to be appropriate in light of the specific circumstances of the Fund and the quality of prices obtained through the application of such procedures.

Each security owned by the Fund that is listed on a securities exchange is valued at its last sale price on that exchange on the date as of which assets are valued. Where the security is listed on more than one exchange, the Fund will use the price of the exchange that the Fund generally considers to be the principal exchange on which the security is traded. If no sale is reported, the security is valued at the mean between the last available bid and asked price.

Portfolio securities primarily traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”) shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price (“NOCP”), which may not necessarily represent the last sale price. If the NOCP is not available, such securities shall be valued at the last sale price on the day of valuation, or if there has been no sale on such day, at the mean between the bid and asked prices. OTC securities that are not traded on NASDAQ shall be valued at the most recent trade price.

Fixed income securities are valued at the mean of the bid and asked prices as determined by an independent pricing service, taking into consideration recent transactions, yield, liquidity, risk, credit quality, coupon, maturity, type of issue and any other factors or market data the pricing service deems relevant. Participation Notes are valued at the mean between bid and ask prices. Investments in other investment companies, including money market funds, are valued at their NAV per share.

Foreign securities are generally valued in the same manner as the securities described above. Foreign securities are priced in the local currencies as of the close of their primary exchange or market or as of the close of trading on the NYSE, whichever is earlier. Foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate as provided by a pricing service as of the close of trading on the NYSE.

## **Purchase and Redemption of Fund Shares**

Shares of the Fund are sold in a continuous offering and shares may be purchased or redeemed on any business day that the Fund calculates its NAV. The Fund may also authorize one or more financial intermediaries to accept purchase and redemption orders on its behalf (“Authorized Intermediaries”). Authorized Intermediaries are authorized to designate other Authorized Intermediaries to accept orders on the Fund’s behalf. An order is deemed to be received when the Fund or an Authorized Intermediary accepts the order.

Orders received by the Fund or an Authorized Intermediary by the close of trading on the NYSE (generally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on a business day will be affected at the NAV per share determined as of the close of trading on the NYSE on that day. Otherwise, the orders will be processed based on the next determined NAV.

Orders received by financial intermediaries that are not Authorized Intermediaries will be processed at the NAV next calculated after the Transfer Agent receives the order from the financial intermediary.

### **Purchase Requests Must be Received in Good Order**

“Good order” means that your purchase request includes:

- The name of the Fund;
- The dollar amount of shares to be purchased;
- Your account application or investment stub; and
- A wire or check payable to the name of the Fund.

Shares of the Fund have not been registered for sale outside of the United States. The Fund generally does not sell shares to investors residing outside the United States, even if they are United States citizens or lawful permanent residents, except to investors with United States military APO or FPO addresses or in certain other circumstances where the CCO and Anti-Money Laundering Officer for the Trust conclude that such sale is appropriate and is not in contravention of United States law.

### **Redemption Requests Must be Received in Good Order**

Your share price will be based on the next NAV per share calculated after the Transfer Agent or an Authorized Intermediary receives your redemption request in good order. A redemption request will be deemed in “good order” if it includes:

- The shareholder’s name;
- The name of the Fund;
- The account number;
- The share or dollar amount to be redeemed; and
- Signatures by all shareholders on the account (with signature(s) guaranteed if applicable).

Unless you instruct the Transfer Agent otherwise, redemption proceeds will be sent to the address of record. The Fund will not be responsible for interest lost on redemption amounts due to lost or misdirected mail.

A signature guarantee of each owner is required in the following situations:

- If ownership is changed on your account;
- When redemption proceeds are payable or sent to any person, address or bank account not on record;
- When a redemption is received by the Transfer Agent and the account address has changed within the last 15 calendar days; or
- For all redemptions in excess of \$100,000 from any shareholder account.

Non-financial transactions, including establishing or modifying certain services on an account, may require a signature guarantee, signature verification from a Signature Validation Program member or other acceptable form of authentication from a financial institution source. Signature guarantees, from either a Medallion program member or a non-Medallion program member, can be obtained from banks and securities dealers, but not from a notary public.

The Fund may elect in the future to limit eligible signature guarantors to institutions that are members of a signature guarantee program. The Fund and the Transfer Agent reserve the right to amend these standards at any time without notice.

### **Redemption-In-Kind**

Under normal circumstances, the Fund does not intend to redeem shares in any form except cash. The Trust, however, has filed a notice of election under Rule 18f-1 of the 1940 Act that allows the Fund to redeem in-kind redemption requests during any 90-day period in excess of the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the net assets of the Fund, valued at the beginning of such period. If the Fund pays your redemption proceeds by a distribution of securities, you could incur brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash, and will bear any market risks associated with such securities until they are converted into cash.

## **Cancellations and Modifications**

The Fund will not accept a request to cancel or modify a written transaction once processing has begun.

## **Tax Matters**

The following discussion is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations affecting the Fund and its shareholders. The discussion reflects applicable U.S. federal income tax laws of the U.S. as of the date of this SAI, which tax laws may be changed or subject to new interpretations by the courts or the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”), possibly with retroactive effect. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of all U.S. federal income, estate or gift, or state, local or foreign tax concerns affecting the Fund and its shareholders (including shareholders owning large positions in the Fund). The discussion set forth herein does not constitute tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their own tax advisers to determine the tax consequences to them of investing in the Fund.

Each series of the Trust is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes. The Fund, a series of the Trust, intends to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company (“RIC”) under Subchapter M of the Code, provided it complies with all applicable requirements regarding the source of its income, diversification of its assets and timing of distributions, as discussed below.

If for any taxable year the Fund fails to qualify for the special federal income tax treatment afforded to RICs, all of its taxable income will be subject to federal income tax at the corporate income tax rate (without any deduction for distributions to the Fund’s shareholders) and its income available for distribution will be reduced.

As long as the Fund meets certain requirements that govern the Fund’s source of income, diversification of assets and distribution of earnings to its shareholders, the Fund will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income distributed (or treated as distributed, as described below) to its shareholders. With respect to the source of income requirement, the Fund must derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income (including tax-exempt interest) 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 but not limited to gains from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such shares, securities or currencies and (ii) net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships (“QPTP”). A QPTP is generally defined as a publicly traded partnership under Section 7704 of the Code, but does not include a publicly traded partnership if 90% or more of its income is described in (i) above.

With respect to the diversification of assets requirement, the Fund must diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of each 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, the securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities limited for purposes of such calculation, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other RICs), the securities (other than the securities of other RICs) of any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more QPTPs.

In addition, pursuant to the Code the Fund may invest no more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of MLPs and other entities treated as QPTPs. The Fund will not be required to reduce a position due solely to market value fluctuations in order to comply with the 25% limitation in publicly traded partnerships, inclusive of MLP investments, but will not be able to purchase additional MLP securities unless the Fund is in compliance with the restriction.

The Fund's policy is to distribute to its shareholders substantially all of its net investment company taxable income and any net realized long-term capital gains for each fiscal year in a manner that complies with the distribution requirements of the Code, so that the Fund will not be subject to any federal income or excise taxes based on net income. However, the Fund can give no assurances that its anticipated distributions will be sufficient to eliminate all taxes. If the Fund does not qualify as a RIC, it would be taxed as a corporation and, in such case, it would be more beneficial for a shareholder to directly own the Fund's underlying investments rather than indirectly owning the underlying investments through the Fund. If the Fund fails to distribute (or be deemed to have distributed) by December 31 of each calendar year (i) at least 98% of its ordinary income for such year, (ii) at least 98.2% of the excess of its realized capital gains over its realized capital losses for the 12-month period ending on October 31 during such year and (iii) any amounts from the prior calendar year that were not distributed and on which the Fund paid no federal income tax, the Fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax.

Net investment income generally consists of interest, dividends, and short-term capital gains, less expenses. Net realized capital gains for a fiscal period are computed by taking into account any capital loss carry-forward of the Fund. As of June 30, 2023, the Fund did not have any capital loss carryovers.

Distributions of net investment income are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. For individual shareholders, a portion of the distributions paid by the Fund may consist of qualified dividends eligible for taxation at the rate applicable to long-term capital gains to the extent the Fund designates the amount distributed as a qualified dividend and the shareholder meets certain holding period requirements with respect to his or her Fund shares. In the case of corporate shareholders, a portion of the distributions may qualify for the intercorporate dividends-received deduction to the extent that the Fund designates the amount distributed as eligible for deduction and the shareholder meets certain holding period requirements with respect to its Fund shares. The aggregate amount so designated to either individuals or corporate shareholders cannot, however, exceed the aggregate amount of such dividends received by the Fund for its taxable year. In view of the Fund's investment policies, it is expected that part of the distributions by the Fund may be eligible for the qualified dividend income treatment for individual shareholders and the dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. Any distributions to you in excess of the Fund's investment company taxable income and net capital gains will be treated by you, first, as a tax-deferred return of capital, which is applied against and will reduce the adjusted tax basis of your shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, will generally constitute capital gains.

Any long-term capital gain distributions are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains regardless of the length of time shares have been held. Net capital gains distributions are not eligible for the qualified dividend income treatment or the dividends-received deduction referred to in the previous paragraph.

Any distributions to you in excess of the Fund's investment company taxable income and net capital gains will be treated by you, first, as a tax-deferred return of capital, which is applied against and will reduce the adjusted tax basis of your shares and, after such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, will generally constitute capital gains to you.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act "qualified REIT dividends" (i.e., ordinary REIT dividends other than capital gain dividends and portions of REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income) are treated as eligible for a 20% deduction by noncorporate taxpayers. The TCJA does not contain a provision permitting a RIC, such as a Fund, to pass the special character of this income through to its shareholders. It is uncertain whether a future technical corrections bill or regulations issued by the IRS will address this issue to enable a Fund to pass through the special character of "qualified REIT dividends" to its shareholders.

Distributions of any net investment income and net realized capital gains will be taxable as described above, whether received in shares or in cash. Shareholders who choose to receive distributions in the form of additional shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the NAV of a share on the reinvestment date. Distributions are generally taxable when received. However, distributions declared in October, November or December to shareholders of record on a date in such a month and paid the following January are taxable as if received on December 31. Distributions are includable in alternative minimum taxable income in computing a shareholder's liability for the alternative minimum tax. (Under the TCJA corporations are no longer subject to the alternative minimum tax for taxable years of the corporation beginning after December 31, 2017.)

Investment income received by the Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign income tax withheld at the source and the amount of tax withheld generally will be treated as an expense of the Fund. The U.S. has entered into tax treaties with many foreign countries that entitle the Fund to a reduced rate of, or exemption from, tax on such income. Some countries require the filing of a tax reclaim or other forms to receive the benefit of the reduced tax rate; whether or when the Fund will receive the tax reclaim is within the control of the individual country. Information required on these forms may not be available to the Fund, such as shareholder information; therefore, the Fund may not receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries have conflicting and changing instructions and restrictive timing requirements which may cause the Fund not to receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries may subject capital gains realized by the Fund on sale or disposition of securities of that country to taxation. It is impossible to determine the effective rate of foreign tax in advance since the amount of the Fund's assets to be invested in various countries is not known.

A redemption of Fund shares may result in recognition of a taxable gain or loss and, if held as a capital asset, capital gain or loss. Any loss realized upon a redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions of long-term capital gains received on those shares. Any loss realized upon a redemption may be disallowed under certain wash sale rules to the extent Fund shares are purchased (through reinvestment of distributions or otherwise) within 30 days before or after the redemption.

The Fund is required to report to you and the IRS annually on Form 1099-B the cost basis of shares purchased or acquired. However, cost basis reporting is not required for certain shareholders, including shareholders investing in the Fund through a tax-advantaged retirement account, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. The Fund will calculate cost basis using the Fund's default method, unless you instruct the Fund to use a different calculation method. For additional information regarding the Fund's available cost basis reporting methods, including its default method, please contact the Fund. If you hold your Fund shares through a broker (or other nominee), please contact that broker (nominee) with respect to reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

Except in the case of certain exempt shareholders, if a shareholder does not furnish the Fund with its correct Taxpayer Identification Number and certain certifications or the Fund receives notification from the Internal Revenue Service requiring back-up withholding, the Fund is required by federal law to withhold federal income tax from the shareholder's distributions and redemption proceeds currently at a rate of 24% for U.S. residents.

Gain or loss recognized by the Fund on the sale or other disposition of portfolio investments will be a capital gain or loss. Such capital gain and loss may be long-term or short-term depending, in general, upon the length of time a particular investment position is maintained and, in some cases, upon the nature of the transaction. Property held for more than one year generally will be eligible for long-term capital gain or loss treatment. The application of certain rules described below may serve to alter the manner in which the holding period for a security is determined or may otherwise affect the characterization as long-term or short-term, and also the timing of the realization and/or character, of certain gains or losses.

A U.S. REIT is not subject to federal income tax on the income and gains it distributes to shareholders. Dividends paid by a U.S. REIT, other than capital gain distributions, will be taxable as ordinary income up to the amount of the U.S. REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Capital gain dividends paid by a U.S. REIT to a Fund will be treated as long-term capital gains by a Fund and, in turn, may be distributed by a Fund to its shareholders as a capital gain distribution. Because of certain noncash expenses, such as property depreciation, an equity U.S. REIT's cash flow may exceed its taxable income. The equity U.S. REIT, and in turn a Fund, may distribute this excess cash to shareholders in the form of a return of capital distribution. However, if a U.S. REIT is operated in a manner that fails to qualify as a REIT, an investment in the U.S. REIT would become subject to double taxation, meaning the taxable income of the U.S. REIT would be subject to federal income tax at the applicable corporate income tax rate without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders and the dividends would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

While non-U.S. REITs often use complex acquisition structures that seek to minimize taxation in the source country, an investment by a Fund in a non-U.S. REIT may subject a Fund, directly or indirectly, to corporate taxes, withholding taxes, transfer taxes and other indirect taxes in the country in which the real estate acquired by the non-U.S. REIT is located. A Fund's pro rata share of any such taxes will reduce a Fund's return on its investment. A Fund's investment in a non-U.S. REIT may be considered an investment in a PFIC, as discussed below. Additionally, foreign withholding taxes on distributions from the non-U.S. REIT may be reduced or eliminated under certain tax treaties. Also, a Fund in certain limited circumstances may be required to file an income tax return in the source country and pay tax on any gain realized from its investment in the non-U.S. REIT under rules similar to those in the United States which tax foreign persons on gain realized from dispositions of interests in U.S. real estate.

Investment in taxable mortgage pools (excess inclusion income). Under a Notice issued by the IRS, the Code and Treasury regulations to be issued, a portion of a Fund's income from a U.S. REIT that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit ("REMIC") or equity interests in a "taxable mortgage pool" (referred to in the Code as an excess inclusion) will be subject to federal income tax in all events. The excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as a Fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest or, if applicable, taxable mortgage pool directly. In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") to entities (including qualified pension plans, individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans, Keogh plans or other tax-exempt entities) subject to tax on UBTI, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a foreign stockholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (which generally includes certain cooperatives, governmental entities, and tax-exempt organizations not subject to UBTI) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the applicable corporate income tax rate. The Notice imposes certain reporting requirements upon regulated investment companies that have excess inclusion income. There can be no assurance that a Fund will not allocate to shareholders excess inclusion income.

These rules are potentially applicable to a Fund with respect to any income it receives from the equity interests of certain mortgage pooling vehicles, either directly or, as is more likely, through an investment in a U.S. REIT.

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. This treatment could increase or decrease the Fund's ordinary income distributions to you, and may cause some or all of the Fund's previously distributed income to be classified as a return of capital. In certain cases, the Fund may make an election to treat such gain or loss as capital.

The Fund may invest in securities of foreign companies that may be classified under the Code as a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"). In general, a foreign company is classified as a PFIC if at least one-half of its assets constitute investment-type assets or 75% or more of its gross income is investment-type income. When investing in PFIC securities, the Fund intends to mark-to-market these securities under certain provisions of the Code and recognize any unrealized gains as ordinary income at the end of the Fund's fiscal and excise tax years. Deductions for losses are allowable only to the extent of any current or previously recognized gains. These gains (reduced by allowable losses) are treated as ordinary income that the Fund is required to distribute, even though it has not sold or received dividends from these securities. You should also be aware that the designation of a foreign security as a PFIC security will cause its income dividends to fall outside of the definition of qualified foreign corporation dividends. These dividends generally will not qualify for the reduced rate of taxation on qualified dividends when distributed to you by the Fund. Foreign companies are not required to identify themselves as PFICs. Due to various complexities in identifying PFICs, the Fund can give no assurances that it will be able to identify portfolio securities in foreign corporations that are PFICs in time for the Fund to make a mark-to-market election. If the Fund is unable to identify an investment as a PFIC and thus does not make a mark-to-market election, the Fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the Fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on the Fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains.

Foreign taxpayers (including nonresident aliens) are generally subject to a flat withholding rate, currently 30% on U.S. source income. This withholding rate may be lower under the terms of a tax treaty.

This discussion and the related discussion in the Prospectus have been prepared by Fund management, and counsel to the Fund has expressed no opinion in respect thereof.

This section is not intended to be a full discussion of federal tax laws and the effect of such laws on you. There may be other federal, state, foreign or local tax considerations to a particular investor. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor.

## **Distributions**

The Fund will receive income in the form of dividends and interest earned on its investments in securities. This income, less the expenses incurred in its operations, is the Fund's net investment income, substantially all of which will be distributed to the Fund's shareholders.

The amount of the Fund's distributions is dependent upon the amount of net investment income received by the Fund from its portfolio holdings, is not guaranteed, and is subject to the discretion of the Board. The Fund does not pay "interest" or guarantee any fixed rate of return on an investment in its shares.

The Fund may also derive capital gains or losses in connection with sales or other dispositions of its portfolio securities. Any net gain the Fund may realize from transactions involving investments held less than the period required for long-term capital gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing short-term capital gains and losses (to the extent not offset by any capital loss carryovers), although a distribution from capital gains, will be distributed to shareholders with and as a part of the distributions of net investment income giving rise to ordinary income. If during any year the Fund realizes a net gain on transactions involving investments held for the period required for long-term capital gain or loss recognition or otherwise producing long-term capital gains and losses, the Fund will have a net long-term capital gain. After deduction of the amount of any net short-term capital loss, the balance (to the extent not offset by any capital losses carried over from the eight previous taxable years) will be distributed and treated as long-term capital gains in the hands of the shareholders regardless of the length of time the Fund's shares may have been held by the shareholders. For more information concerning applicable capital gains tax rates, see your tax advisor.

Any distribution paid by the Fund reduces the Fund's NAV per share on the date paid by the amount of the distribution per share. Accordingly, a distribution paid shortly after a purchase of shares by a shareholder would represent, in substance, a partial return of capital (to the extent it is paid on the shares so purchased), even though it would be subject to income taxes.

Distributions will be made in the form of additional shares of the Fund unless the shareholder has otherwise indicated. Investors have the right to change their elections with respect to the reinvestment of distributions by notifying the Transfer Agent in writing or by telephone. However, any such change will be effective only as to distributions for which the record date is five or more calendar days after the Transfer Agent has received the request.

## **Financial Statements**

The Fund's [annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023](#) is a separate document and the financial statements, accompanying notes and report of the independent registered public accounting firm appearing therein are incorporated by reference into this SAI.