

## NAVIGATOR TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND

Class A Ticker: NTBAX

Class C Ticker: NTBCX

Class I Ticker: NTBIX

## NAVIGATOR TACTICAL INVESTMENT GRADE BOND FUND

Class I Ticker: NTIIX

## NAVIGATOR TACTICAL U.S. ALLOCATION FUND

Class I Ticker: NTAIX

## NAVIGATOR ULTRA SHORT BOND FUND

Class A Ticker: NUSAX

Class I Ticker: NUSIX

(each a series of Northern Lights Fund Trust)

### Supplement dated March 15, 2024 to the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information dated February 28, 2024

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Effective March 15, 2024, Jon Fiebach will no longer serve as a portfolio manager for the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund.

Also, effective March 15, 2024, please be advised that Kevin Bellis has been added as a portfolio manager for the Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund.

Accordingly, the following has been added to the summary version of the Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund's prospectus in the section entitled "Portfolio Managers":

*Kevin Bellis, CFA, is a Portfolio Manager and member of the Adviser's investment committee. He has served the Fund as its Portfolio Manager since March 2024.*

Additionally, the disclosure for Mr. Bellis on page 45 of the Prospectus is hereby revised as follows:

***Kevin Bellis, CFA***

*Portfolio Manager of the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund*

*Mr. Bellis is a Portfolio Manager on Clark Capital's Cross Asset Management Team and is responsible for managing the Navigator<sup>®</sup> mutual funds. Mr. Bellis joined the adviser in 2014 and has over 10 years of industry experience across fixed income, equity, and derivatives. He comes to Clark Capital from Main Point Advisors, where he most recently served as a Portfolio Manager. He is a graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Finance and holds the CFA<sup>®</sup> designation.*

#### Statement of Additional Information

As of March 15, 2024, Mr. Bellis did not own any shares of the Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund.

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*The information in this supplement contains new and additional information beyond that in the Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, dated February 28, 2024. This supplement should be read in conjunction with the Prospectuses and Statements of Additional Information and should be retained for future reference.*

# Navigator Equity Hedged Fund

Class A Shares	NAVAX
Class I Shares	NAVIX
Class C Shares	NAVCX
(a series of Northern Lights Fund Trust)	

Supplement dated April 4, 2024 to  
the Prospectus and Statement of Information dated February 28, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Northern Lights Fund Trust (the “Board”) has determined based on the recommendation of the investment adviser of the Navigator Equity Hedged Fund (the “Fund”), that it is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders that the Fund cease operations. The Board has determined to close the Fund and redeem all outstanding shares on May 24, 2024.

Effective at the close of business April 4, 2024, the Fund will not accept any purchases and may no longer pursue its stated investment objectives. The Fund may begin liquidating its portfolio and may invest in cash equivalents such as money market funds until all shares have been redeemed. Any capital gains will be distributed as soon as practicable to shareholders. Shares of the Fund are otherwise not available for purchase.

Prior to May 24, 2024, you may redeem your shares, including reinvested distributions, in accordance with the “How to Redeem Shares” section in the Prospectus. Unless your investment in the Fund is through a tax-deferred retirement account, a redemption is subject to tax on any taxable gains. Please refer to the “Tax Status, Dividends and Distributions” section in the Prospectus for general information. You may wish to consult your tax advisor about your particular situation.

ANY SHAREHOLDERS WHO HAVE NOT REDEEMED THEIR SHARES OF THE FUND PRIOR TO MAY 24, 2024 WILL HAVE THEIR SHARES AUTOMATICALLY REDEEMED AS OF THAT DATE, AND PROCEEDS WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS OF RECORD. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR DIRECTLY OR THE FUND AT 1-877-766-2264.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RETIREMENT PLAN INVESTORS**

If you are a retirement plan investor, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the consequences of a redemption of Fund shares. If you receive a distribution from an Individual Retirement Account or a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA, you must roll the proceeds into another Individual Retirement Account within sixty (60) days of the date of the distribution in order to avoid having to include the distribution in your taxable income for the year. If you receive a distribution from a 403(b)(7) Custodian Account (Tax-Sheltered account) or a Keogh Account, you must roll the distribution into a similar type of retirement plan within sixty (60) days in order to avoid disqualification of your plan and the severe tax consequences that it can bring. If you are the trustee of a Qualified Retirement Plan, you may reinvest the money in any way permitted by the plan and trust agreement.

*This Supplement and the existing Prospectus dated February 28, 2024, provide relevant information for all shareholders and should be retained for future reference. Both the Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information dated February 28, 2024, have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, are incorporated by reference and can be obtained without charge by calling the Fund at 1-877-766-2264.*

## **NAVIGATOR TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NTBAX</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NTBCX</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NTBIX</b>

## **NAVIGATOR EQUITY HEDGED FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NAVAX</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>NAV CX</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NAVIX</b>

## **NAVIGATOR ULTRA SHORT BOND FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>NUSAX</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NUSIX</b>

## **NAVIGATOR TACTICAL INVESTMENT GRADE BOND FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NTIIX</b>

## **NAVIGATOR TACTICAL U.S. ALLOCATION FUND**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Class</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NTAIX</b>

*Each a Series of Northern Lights Fund Trust*

### **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

February 28, 2024

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This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund (individually a "Fund" collectively the "Funds") dated February 28, 2024. The Fund's Prospectus is hereby incorporated by reference, which means it is legally part of this SAI. You can obtain copies of the Funds' Prospectus, annual or semiannual reports without charge by contacting the Fund's transfer agent, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022 or by calling 1-877-766-2264. You may also obtain a Prospectus by visiting [www.navigatorfunds.com](http://www.navigatorfunds.com).

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# THE FUNDS

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The Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund (each a "Fund" and collectively the "Funds") each a series of Northern Lights Fund Trust, a Delaware statutory trust organized on January 19, 2005 (the "Trust"). The Trust is registered as an open-end management investment company. The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Trustees"). For the purposes of this SAI, unless otherwise noted references to a "Fund" shall be read to include the plural "Funds".

Each Fund may issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest. All shares of the Fund have equal rights and privileges. Each share of a Fund is entitled to one vote on all matters as to which shares are entitled to vote. In addition, each share of a Fund is entitled to participate equally with other shares (i) in dividends and distributions declared by the Fund and (ii) on liquidation, to its proportionate share of the assets remaining after satisfaction of outstanding liabilities. Shares of the Funds are fully paid, non-assessable and fully transferable when issued and have no pre-emptive, conversion or exchange rights. Fractional shares have proportionately the same rights, including voting rights, as are provided for a full share.

Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund are each a diversified series of the Trust. Navigator Equity Hedged Fund and Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, each offers three classes of shares: Class A, C and I. Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund offers two classes of shares: Class A and Class I. Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, each has authorized two classes of shares: Class A and Class I, currently only Class I shares are available for purchase. Each share class represents an interest in the same assets of the Fund, has the same rights and is identical in all material respects except that (i) each class of shares may be subject to different investment minimums; (ii) each class of shares may bear different distribution fees; (iii) certain other class specific expenses will be borne solely by the class to which such expenses are attributable, including transfer agent fees attributable to a specific class of shares, printing and postage expenses related to preparing and distributing materials to current shareholders of a specific class, registration fees incurred by a specific class of shares, the expenses of administrative personnel and services required to support the shareholders of a specific class, litigation or other legal expenses relating to a class of shares, Trustees' fees or expenses incurred as a result of issues relating to a specific class of shares and accounting fees and expenses relating to a specific class of shares and (iv) each class has exclusive voting rights with respect to matters relating to its own distribution arrangements. The Board may classify and reclassify the shares of the Fund into additional classes of shares at a future date.

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc., (the "Adviser") is each Fund's investment adviser. The Board may start other series and offer shares of a new fund under the Trust at any time. The Board may classify and reclassify the shares of a Fund into additional classes at a future date.

Under the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, each Trustee will continue in office until the termination of the Trust or his/her earlier death, incapacity, resignation or removal. Shareholders can remove a Trustee to the extent provided by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder. Vacancies may be filled by a majority of the remaining Trustees, except insofar as the 1940 Act may require the election by

shareholders. As a result, generally annual or regular meetings of shareholders will not be held unless matters arise requiring a vote of shareholders under the Agreement and Declaration of Trust or the 1940 Act.

## **TYPES OF INVESTMENTS**

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The investment objective of each Fund and a description of its principal investment strategies are set forth under each respective "Fund Summary" in the Prospectus. The Fund's investment objectives are not "fundamental" and each Fund's investment objective(s) may be changed without the approval of a majority of its outstanding voting securities, however, shareholders will be given at least 60 days' notice of such a change.

The following information describes securities in which the Funds may invest and their related risks.

### **EQUITY SECURITIES**

Equity securities include common stock and securities convertible into common stocks, such as convertible bonds, warrants, rights and options. The value of equity securities varies in response to many factors, including the activities and financial condition of individual companies, the business market in which individual companies compete and general market and economic conditions. Equity securities fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be significant.

#### **Common Stock**

Common stock represents an equity (ownership) interest in a company, and usually possesses voting rights and earns dividends. Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer. Common stock generally represents the riskiest investment in a company. In addition, common stock generally has the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential because increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's stock price.

The fundamental risk of investing in common and preferred stock is the risk that the value of the stock might decrease. Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. Historically, common stocks have provided greater long-term returns and have entailed greater short-term risks than preferred stocks, fixed-income securities and money market investments. The market value of all securities, including common and preferred stocks, is based upon the market's perception of value and not necessarily the book value of an issuer or other objective measures of a company's worth.

#### **Preferred Stock**

An Underlying Fund may invest in preferred stock with a minimum credit rating of investment grade. Preferred stock is a class of stock having a preference over common stock as to the payment of dividends and the recovery of investment should a company be liquidated, although preferred stock is usually junior to the debt securities of the issuer. Preferred stock typically does not possess voting rights and its market value may change based on changes in interest rates.

## Convertible Securities

The Fund may invest in convertible securities and non-investment grade 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 at the option of the holder during a specified period. 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. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure, but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. While providing a fixed-income stream (generally higher in yield than the income derivable from common stock but lower than that afforded by a similar nonconvertible security), a convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security's underlying common stock.

## Income Trusts

The Fund may invest in income trusts which are investment trusts that hold assets that are income producing. The income is passed on to the "unitholders." Each income trust has an operating risk based on its underlying business. The term may also be used to designate a legal entity, capital structure and ownership vehicle for certain assets or businesses. Shares or "trust units" are traded on securities exchanges just like stocks. Income is passed on to the investors, called unitholders, through monthly or quarterly distributions. Historically, distributions have typically been higher than dividends on common stocks. The unitholders are the beneficiaries of a trust, and their units represent their right to participate in the income and capital of the trust. Income trusts generally invest funds in assets that provide a return to the trust and its beneficiaries based on the cash flows of an underlying business. This return is often achieved through the acquisition by the trust of equity and debt instruments, royalty interests or real properties. The trust can receive interest, royalty or lease payments from an operating entity carrying on a business, as well as dividends and a return of capital.

Each income trust has an operating risk based on its underlying business; and, typically, the higher the yield, the higher the risk. They also have additional risk factors, including, but not limited to, poorer access to debt markets. Similar to a dividend paying stock, income trusts do not guarantee minimum distributions or even return of capital. If the business starts to lose money, the trust can reduce or even eliminate distributions; this is usually accompanied by sharp losses in a unit's market value. Since the yield is one of the main attractions of income trusts, there is the risk that trust units will decline in value if interest rates offering in competing markets, such as in the cash/treasury market, increase. Interest rate risk is also present within the trusts themselves because they hold very long term capital assets (e.g. pipelines, power plants, etc.), and much of the excess distributable income is derived from a maturity (or duration) mismatch between the life of the asset, and the life of the financing associated with it. In an increasing interest rate environment, not only does the attractiveness of trust distributions decrease, but quite possibly, the distributions may themselves decrease, leading to a double whammy of both declining yield and substantial loss of unitholder value. Because most income is passed on to unitholders, rather than reinvested in the business, in some cases, a trust can become a wasting asset unless more equity is issued. Because many income trusts pay out more than their net income, the unitholder equity (capital) may decline over time. To the extent that the value of the trust is driven by the deferral or reduction of tax, any change in government tax regulations to remove the benefit will reduce the value of the trusts. Generally, income trusts also carry the same risks as dividend paying stocks that are traded on stock markets.

## Publicly Traded Partnerships

The Fund may invest in publicly traded partnerships ("PTPs"). PTPs are limited partnerships the interests in which (known as "units") are traded on public exchanges, just like corporate stock. PTPs are limited partnerships that provide an investor with a direct interest in a group of assets (generally, oil and gas properties). PTP units typically trade publicly, like stock, and thus may provide the investor more liquidity than ordinary limited partnerships. PTPs are also called master limited partnerships and public limited partnerships. A limited partnership has one or more general partners (they may be individuals, corporations, partnerships or another entity) which manage the partnership, and limited partners, which provide capital to the partnership but have no role in its management. When an investor buys units in a PTP, he or she becomes a limited partner. PTPs are formed in several ways. A non-traded partnership may decide to go public. Several non-traded partnerships may "roll up" into a single PTP. A corporation may spin off a group of assets or part of its business into a PTP of which it is the general partner, either to realize what it believes to be the assets' full value or as an alternative to issuing debt. A corporation may fully convert to a PTP, although since 1986 the tax consequences have made this an unappealing; or, a newly formed company may operate as a PTP from its inception.

There are different types of risks to investing in PTPs including regulatory risks and interest rate risks. Currently most partnerships enjoy pass through taxation of their income to partners, which avoids double taxation of earnings. If the government were to change PTP business tax structure, unitholders would not be able to enjoy the relatively high yields in the sector for long. In addition, PTP's which charge government-regulated fees for transportation of oil and gas products through their pipelines are subject to unfavorable changes in government-approved rates and fees, which would affect a PTP's revenue stream negatively. PTPs also carry some interest rate risks. During increases in interest rates, PTPs may not produce decent returns to shareholders.

## Real Estate Investment Trusts

The Fund may invest in securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). REITs are publicly traded corporations or trusts that specialize in acquiring, holding and managing residential, commercial or industrial real estate. A REIT is not taxed at the entity level on income distributed to its shareholders or unitholders if it distributes to shareholders or unitholders at least 95% of its taxable income for each taxable year and complies with regulatory requirements relating to its organization, ownership, assets and income.

REITs generally can be classified as "Equity REITs," "Mortgage REITs" and "Hybrid REITs." An Equity REIT invests the majority of its assets directly in real property and derives its income primarily from rents and from capital gains on real estate appreciation, which are realized through property sales. A Mortgage REIT invests the majority of its assets in real estate mortgage loans and services its income primarily from interest payments. A Hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of an Equity REIT and a Mortgage REIT. Although the Fund can invest in all three kinds of REITs, its emphasis is expected to be on investments in Equity REITs.

Investments in the real estate industry involve particular risks. The real estate industry has been subject to substantial fluctuations and declines on a local, regional and national basis in the past and may continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property may decline due to general and local economic conditions, overbuilding and increased competition, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, casualty or condemnation losses, regulatory limitations



on rents, changes in neighborhoods and in demographics, increases in market interest rates, or other factors. Factors such as these may adversely affect companies that own and operate real estate directly, companies that lend to such companies, and companies that service the real estate industry.

Investments in REITs also involve risks. Equity REITs will be affected by changes in the values of and income from the properties they own, while Mortgage REITs may be affected by the credit quality of the mortgage loans they hold. In addition, REITs are dependent on specialized management skills and on their ability to generate cash flow for operating purposes and to make distributions to shareholders or unitholders REITs may have limited diversification and are subject to risks associated with obtaining financing for real property, as well as to the risk of self-liquidation. REITs also can be adversely affected by their failure to qualify for tax-free pass-through treatment of their income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or their failure to maintain an exemption from registration under the 1940 Act. By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, a shareholder bears not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also may indirectly bear similar expenses of some of the REITs in which it invests.

### Warrants

The Fund may invest in warrants. Warrants are options to purchase common stock at a specific price (usually at a premium above the market value of the optioned common stock at issuance) valid for a specific period of time. Warrants may have a life ranging from less than one year to twenty years, or they may be perpetual. However, most warrants have expiration dates after which they are worthless. In addition, a warrant is worthless if the market price of the common stock does not exceed the warrant's exercise price during the life of the warrant. Warrants have no voting rights, pay no dividends, and have no rights with respect to the assets of the corporation issuing them. The percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the warrant may tend to be greater than the percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the optioned common stock.

## DERIVATIVES

### Futures Contracts

A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific financial instrument (e.g., units of a stock index) for a specified price, date, time and place designated at the time the contract is made. Brokerage fees are incurred when a futures contract is bought or sold and margin deposits must be maintained. Entering into a contract to buy is commonly referred to as buying or purchasing a contract or holding a long position. Entering into a contract to sell is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position.

Unlike when the Fund purchases or sells a security, no price would be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Upon entering into a futures contract, and to maintain the Fund's open positions in futures contracts, the Fund would be required to deposit with its custodian or futures broker in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of cash, U.S. government securities, suitable money market instruments, or other liquid securities, known as "initial margin." The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded, and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margins that may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in underlying instrument or index in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) so that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract so that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Fund.

These subsequent payments, called "variation margin," to and from the futures broker, are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying assets fluctuate making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as "marking to the market." The Fund expects to earn interest income on its margin deposits.

Although certain futures contracts, by their terms, require actual future delivery of and payment for the underlying instruments, in practice most futures contracts are usually closed out before the delivery date. Closing out an open futures contract purchase or sale is effected by entering into an offsetting futures contract sale or purchase, respectively, for the same aggregate amount of the identical underlying instrument or index and the same delivery date. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is more, the Fund realizes a loss. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is less, the Fund realizes a loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If the Fund is not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, the Fund will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract.

For example, one contract in the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index future is a contract to buy 25 pounds sterling multiplied by the level of the UK Financial Times 100 Share Index on a given future date. Settlement of a stock index futures contract may or may not be in the underlying instrument or index. If not in the underlying instrument or index, then settlement will be made in cash, equivalent over time to the difference between the contract price and the actual price of the underlying asset at the time the stock index futures contract expires.

### Options on Futures Contracts

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

### *Regulation as a Commodity Pool Operator*

The Trust, on behalf of each Fund, has filed with the National Futures Association, a notice claiming an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the Commodity

Exchange Act, as amended, and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission promulgated thereunder, with respect to the Fund's operations. Accordingly, the Fund is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator.

### Options On Securities

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

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

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

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

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

*Certain Risks Regarding Options.* There are several risks associated with transactions in options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded over-the-counter or on an exchange, may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities or currencies; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading value; or one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

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

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

There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and for some options no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If the Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written

before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Fund was unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities that it has purchased, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

*Cover for Options Positions.* Transactions using options (other than options that the Fund has purchased) expose the Fund to an obligation to another party. The Fund will not enter into any such transactions unless it owns either (i) an offsetting ("covered") position in securities or other options or (ii) cash or liquid securities with a value sufficient at all times to cover its potential obligations not covered as provided in (i) above.

### *Dealer Options*

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

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

The Staff of the SEC has taken the position that purchased dealer options are illiquid investments. In such cases, the dealer option would be considered illiquid only to the extent the maximum purchase price under the formula exceeds the intrinsic value of the option. Accordingly, the Fund will treat dealer options as subject to the Fund's limitation on illiquid investments. If the SEC changes its position on the liquidity of dealer options, the Fund will change its treatment of such instruments accordingly.

### Spread Transactions

The Fund may purchase covered spread options from securities dealers. These covered spread options are not presently exchange-listed or exchange-traded. The purchase of a spread option gives the Fund the right to put securities that it owns at a fixed dollar spread or fixed yield spread in relationship to another security that the Fund does not own, but which is used as a benchmark. The risk to the Fund, in addition to the risks of dealer options described above, is the cost of the premium

paid as well as any transaction costs. The purchase of spread options will be used to protect the Fund against adverse changes in prevailing credit quality spreads, *i.e.*, the yield spread between high quality and lower quality securities. This protection is provided only during the life of the spread options.

### Swap Agreements and Options on Swap Agreements

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

The net amount of the excess, if any, of the Fund's obligations over its entitlements with respect to a swap agreement entered into on a net basis will be accrued daily and an amount of cash or liquid asset having an aggregate NAV at least equal to the accrued excess will be maintained in an account with the Fund's custodian that satisfies the 1940 Act. The Underlying Fund also will establish and maintain such accounts with respect to its total obligations under any swaps that are not entered into on a net basis.

Whether the Fund's use of swap agreements enhance the Fund's total return will depend on the adviser's ability correctly to predict whether certain types of investments are likely to produce greater returns than other investments. Because they are two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, swap agreements may be considered to be illiquid. Moreover, the Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. The Fund's adviser will cause the Fund to enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that would be eligible for consideration as repurchase agreement counterparties under the Fund's repurchase agreement guidelines. The swap market is a relatively new market and is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund's ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

Certain swap agreements are exempt from most provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") and, therefore, are not regulated as futures or commodity option transactions under the CEA, pursuant to regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC"). To qualify for this exemption, a swap agreement must be entered into by "eligible participants," which include the following, provided the participants' total assets exceed established levels: a bank or trust company, savings association or credit union, insurance company, investment company subject to regulation under the 1940 Act, commodity pool, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, organization, trust or other entity, employee benefit plan, governmental entity, broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, natural person, or regulated foreign person. To be eligible, natural persons and most other entities must have total assets exceeding \$10 million; commodity pools and employees benefit plans must have

assets exceeding \$5 million. In addition, an eligible swap transaction must meet three conditions. First, the swap agreement may not be part of a fungible class of agreements that are standardized as to their material economic terms. Second, the creditworthiness of parties with actual or potential obligations under the swap agreement must be a material consideration in entering into or determining the terms of the swap agreement, including pricing, cost or credit enhancement terms. Third, swap agreements may not be entered into and traded on or through a multilateral transaction execution facility.

A Fund may also enter into swaptions. A swaption is a contract that give a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) in return for payment of a premium, to enter into a new swap agreement or to shorten, extend, cancel or otherwise modify an existing swap agreement, at some designated future time on specified terms. Each Fund may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions. Depending on the terms of the particular option agreement, a Fund will generally incur a greater degree of risk when it writes a swaption than it will incur when it purchases a swaption. When a fund purchases a swaption, it risks losing only the amount of the premium it has paid should it decide to let the option expire unexercised. However, when a Fund write a swaption, upon exercise of the option the Fund will become obligated according to the terms of the underlying agreement.

#### *Certain Investment Techniques and Derivatives Risks.*

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

#### FIXED INCOME/DEBT/BOND SECURITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

*Risk of Corporate Obligations.* Investment in corporate debt obligations involves credit and interest rate risk. The value of fixed-income investments will fluctuate with changes in interest rates and bond market conditions, tending to rise as interest rates decline and to decline as interest rates rise. Corporate debt obligations generally offer less current yield than securities of lower quality, but lower-quality securities generally have less liquidity, greater credit and market risk, and as a result, more price volatility. Longer term bonds are, however, generally more volatile than bonds with shorter maturities.

### Ratings as Investment Criteria

High-quality, medium-quality and non-investment grade debt obligations are characterized as such based on their ratings by Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ("NRSROs"), such as Standard & Poor's or Moody's. In general, the ratings of NRSROs represent the opinions of these agencies as to the quality of securities that they rate. Such ratings, however, are relative and subjective, and are not absolute standards of quality and do not evaluate the market value risk of the securities. These ratings are used by the Fund as initial criteria for the selection of portfolio securities, but the Fund also relies upon the independent advice of the Adviser to evaluate potential investments. This is particularly important for lower-quality securities. Among the factors that will be considered is the long-term ability of the issuer to pay principal and interest and general economic trends, as well as

an issuer's capital structure, existing debt and earnings history. Appendix B to this SAI contains further information about the rating categories of NRSROs and their significance.

In the event that a security receives different ratings from different NRSROs, unless specific disclosure in the Fund's prospectus provides otherwise, the Adviser will treat the security as being rated in the highest rating category received from an NRSRO.

Subsequent to its purchase by the Fund, an issuer of securities may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum required for purchase by the Fund. In addition, it is possible that an NRSRO might not change its rating of a particular issuer to reflect subsequent events. None of these events generally will require sale of such securities, but the Adviser will consider such events in its determination of whether the Fund should continue to hold the securities. In addition, to the extent that the ratings change as a result of changes in an NRSRO or its rating systems, or due to a corporate reorganization, the Fund will attempt to use comparable ratings as standards for its investments in accordance with its investment objective and policies.

#### Investment-Grade Debt Securities

The Fund may purchase "investment-grade" bonds, which are those rated Aaa, Aa, A or Baa by Moody's or AAA, AA, A or BBB by Standard & Poor's or Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch") or a comparable rating by another NRSRO; or, if unrated, judged to be of equivalent quality as determined by the Adviser. Moody's considers bonds it rates Baa to have speculative elements as well as investment-grade characteristics. To the extent that a Fund invests in higher-grade securities, the Fund will not be able to avail itself of opportunities for higher income which may be available at lower grades.

#### Medium-Quality Debt Securities

The Fund may invest in medium-quality obligations, which are obligations rated in the fourth highest rating category by any NRSRO (e.g., rated Baa by Moody's or BBB by Standard & Poor's or Fitch). Medium-quality securities, although considered investment-grade, may have some speculative characteristics and may be subject to greater fluctuations in value than higher-rated securities. In addition, the issuers of medium-quality securities may be more vulnerable to adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances than issuers of higher-rated securities.

#### Lower Quality (High-Risk) Debt Securities

The Fund may invest in lower quality debt securities. Non-investment grade debt or lower quality/rated securities, commonly known as junk bonds (hereinafter referred to as "lower-quality securities") include (i) bonds rated as low as C by Moody's, Standard & Poor's, or Fitch, (ii) commercial paper rated as low as C by Standard & Poor's, Not Prime by Moody's or Fitch 4 by Fitch; and (iii) unrated debt securities of comparable quality. Lower-quality securities, while generally offering higher yields than investment grade securities with similar maturities, involve greater risks, including the possibility of default or bankruptcy. There is more risk associated with these investments because of reduced creditworthiness and increased risk of default. Under NRSRO guidelines, lower-quality securities and comparable unrated securities will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions. Lower-quality securities are considered to have extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing, to have a current identifiable vulnerability to default or to be in default, to be unlikely to have the capacity to make required interest payments and repay principal when due in the event of adverse

business, financial or economic conditions, or to be in default or not current in the payment of interest or principal. They are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. The special risk considerations in connection with investments in these securities are discussed in "High Yield Securities" below.

### Information Concerning Duration

Duration is a measure of the average life of a fixed-income security that was developed as a more precise alternative to the concepts of "term to maturity" or "average dollar weighted maturity" as measures of "volatility" or "risk" associated with changes in interest rates. Duration incorporates a security's yield, coupon interest payments, final maturity and call features into one measure.

Most debt obligations provide interest ("coupon") payments in addition to final ("par") payment at maturity. Some obligations also have call provisions. Depending on the relative magnitude of these payments and the nature of the call provisions, the market values of debt obligations may respond differently to changes in interest rates.

Traditionally, a debt security's "term-to-maturity" has been used as a measure of the sensitivity of the security's price to changes in interest rates (which is the "interest rate risk" or "volatility" of the security). However, "term-to-maturity" measures only the time until a debt security provides its final payment, taking no account of the pattern of the security's payments prior to maturity. Average dollar weighted maturity is calculated by averaging the terms of maturity of each debt security held with each maturity "weighted" according to the percentage of assets that it represents. Duration is a measure of the expected life of a debt security on a present value basis and reflects both principal and interest payments. Duration takes the length of the time intervals between the present time and the time that the interest and principal payments are scheduled or, in the case of a callable security, expected to be received, and weights them by the present values of the cash to be received at each future point in time. For any debt security with interest payments occurring prior to the payment of principal, duration is ordinarily less than maturity. In general, all other factors being the same, the lower the stated or coupon rate of interest of a debt security, the longer the duration of the security; conversely, the higher the stated or coupon rate of interest of a debt security, the shorter the duration of the security.

There are some situations where the standard duration calculation does not properly reflect the interest rate exposure of a security. For example, floating and variable rate securities often have final maturities of ten or more years; however, their interest rate exposure corresponds to the frequency of the coupon reset. Another example where the interest rate exposure is not properly captured by duration is the case of mortgage pass-through securities. The stated final maturity of such securities is generally 30 years, but current prepayment rates are more critical in determining the securities' interest rate exposure. In these and other similar situations, the Fund will use more sophisticated analytical techniques to project the economic life of a security and estimate its interest rate exposure. Since the computation of duration is based on predictions of future events rather than known factors, there can be no assurance that the Fund will at all times achieve its targeted portfolio duration.

The change in market value of U.S. government fixed-income securities is largely a function of changes in the prevailing level of interest rates. When interest rates are falling, a portfolio with a shorter duration generally will not generate as high a level of total return as a portfolio with a longer duration. When interest rates are stable, shorter duration portfolios generally will not generate as high a level of total return as longer duration portfolios (assuming that long-term interest rates are higher than short-

term rates, which is commonly the case). When interest rates are rising, a portfolio with a shorter duration will generally outperform longer duration portfolios. With respect to the composition of a fixed-income portfolio, the longer the duration of the portfolio, generally, the greater the anticipated potential for total return, with, however, greater attendant interest rate risk and price volatility than for a portfolio with a shorter duration.

### Certificates of Deposit and Bankers' Acceptances

The Fund may invest in certificates of deposit and bankers' acceptances, which are considered to be short-term money market instruments.

Certificates of deposit are receipts issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the receipt on the date specified on the certificate. The certificate usually can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. Bankers' acceptances typically arise from short-term credit arrangements designed to enable businesses to obtain funds to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then "accepted" by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an earning asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of discount for a specific maturity. Although maturities for acceptances can be as long as 270 days, most acceptances have maturities of six months or less.

### Loans

The Fund may invest in floating or adjustable rate loans ("Loans") made to U.S. and foreign borrowers that are corporations, partnerships, or other business entities ("Borrowers"). These Borrowers operate in a variety of industries and geographic regions. The Fund acquires Loans from lenders such as banks, insurance companies, finance companies, other investment companies, and private investment funds. The Loans are loans that are typically made to business borrowers to finance leveraged buy-outs, recapitalizations, mergers, stock repurchases, or internal growth. The Loans generally are negotiated between a Borrower and several financial institution lenders ("Lenders") represented by one or more Lenders acting as agent of all the Lenders ("Agent"). The Agent is responsible for negotiating the loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement") that establishes the terms and conditions of the Loan and the rights of the Borrower and the Lenders. The Fund may act as one of the group of original Lenders originating a Loan, may purchase assignments of portions of Loans from third parties and may invest in participations in Loans.

The Loans have the most senior position in a Borrower's capital structure or share the senior position with other senior debt securities of the Borrower. This capital structure position generally gives holders of the Loans a priority claim on some or all of the Borrower's assets in the event of default and therefore the Lenders will be paid before certain other creditors of the Borrower. The Loans also have contractual terms designed to protect Lenders. These covenants may include mandatory prepayment out of excess cash flows, restrictions on dividend payments, the maintenance of minimum financial ratios, limits on indebtedness and other financial tests. Breach of these covenants generally is an event of default and, if not waived by the Lenders, may give Lenders the right to accelerate principal and interest payments. The Fund generally acquires Loans of Borrowers that, among other things, in the Adviser's judgment, can make timely payments on their Loans and that satisfy other credit standards established by the Adviser. The Adviser performs its own independent credit analysis of the Borrower

and the collateral securing each loan in addition to utilizing information prepared and supplied by the Agent or other Lenders. The Loans are generally credit rated less than investment grade and may be subject to restrictions on resale. Below investment grade fixed income securities are securities rated BB/Ba or lower by Standard & Poor's, Fitch, or Moody's or similarly rated by another NRSRO.

Loans involve the risk that the Fund will not receive payment of principal, interest, and other amounts due in connection with these investments and will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower. Loans that are fully secured offer the Fund more protection than an unsecured loan in the event of non-payment of scheduled interest or principal, although there is no assurance that the liquidation of collateral from a secured loan would satisfy the corporate borrower's obligation, or that the collateral can be liquidated. Some loans or claims may be in default at the time of purchase. As the Fund may be required to rely upon another lending institution to collect and pass onto the Fund amounts payable with respect to the Loan and to enforce the Fund's rights under the Loan, an insolvency, bankruptcy, or reorganization of the lending institution may delay or prevent the Fund from receiving such amounts. The highly leveraged nature of many such Loans may make such loans especially vulnerable to adverse changes in economic or market conditions.

### Commercial Paper

The Fund may purchase commercial paper. Commercial paper consists of short-term (usually from 1 to 270 days) unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations in order to finance their current operations. It may be secured by letters of credit, a surety bond or other forms of collateral. Commercial paper is usually repaid at maturity by the issuer from the proceeds of the issuance of new commercial paper. As a result, investment in commercial paper is subject to the risk the issuer cannot issue enough new commercial paper to satisfy its outstanding commercial paper, also known as rollover risk. Commercial paper may become illiquid or may suffer from reduced liquidity in certain circumstances. Like all fixed income securities, commercial paper prices are susceptible to fluctuations in interest rates. If interest rates rise, commercial paper prices will decline. The short-term nature of a commercial paper investment makes it less susceptible to interest rate risk than many other fixed income securities because interest rate risk typically increases as maturity lengths increase. Commercial paper tends to yield smaller returns than longer-term corporate debt because securities with shorter maturities typically have lower effective yields than those with longer maturities. As with all fixed income securities, there is a chance that the issuer will default on its commercial paper obligation.

### Time Deposits and Variable Rate Notes

The Fund may invest in fixed time deposits, whether or not subject to withdrawal penalties.

Time deposits are issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the depositor on the date specified with respect to the deposit. Time deposits do not trade in the secondary market prior to maturity. However, some time deposits may be redeemable prior to maturity and may be subject to withdrawal penalties.

The commercial paper obligations, which the Fund may buy are unsecured and may include variable rate notes. The nature and terms of a variable rate note (i.e., a "Master Note") permit the Fund to invest fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to a direct arrangement between the Fund as Lender, and the issuer, as borrower. It permits daily changes in the amounts borrowed. The Fund has the right at any time to increase, up to the full amount stated in the note agreement, or to decrease the amount outstanding under the note. The issuer may prepay at any time and without

penalty any part of or the full amount of the note. The note may or may not be backed by one or more bank letters of credit. Because these notes are direct lending arrangements between the Fund and the issuer, it is not generally contemplated that they will be traded; moreover, there is currently no secondary market for them. Except as specifically provided in the Prospectus, there is no limitation on the type of issuer from whom these notes may be purchased; however, in connection with such purchase and on an ongoing basis, the Fund's advisor will consider the earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios of the issuer, and its ability to pay principal and interest on demand, including a situation in which all holders of such notes made demand simultaneously. Variable rate notes are subject to the Fund's investment restriction on illiquid investments unless such notes can be put back to the issuer on demand within seven days.

### Insured Bank Obligations

The Fund may invest in insured bank obligations. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insures the deposits of federally insured banks and savings and loan associations (collectively referred to as "banks") up to \$250,000. The Fund may purchase bank obligations that are fully insured as to principal by the FDIC. Currently, to remain fully insured as to principal, these investments must be limited to \$250,000 per bank; if the principal amount and accrued interest together exceed \$250,000, the excess principal and accrued interest will not be insured. Insured bank obligations may have limited marketability.

### High Yield Securities

The Fund may invest in high yield securities. High yield, high risk bonds are securities that are generally rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies (BB+ or lower by S&P and Ba1 or lower by Moody's). Other terms used to describe such securities include "lower rated bonds," "non-investment grade bonds," "below investment grade bonds," and "junk bonds." These securities are considered to be high-risk investments. The risks include the following:

*Greater Risk of Loss.* These securities are regarded as predominately speculative. There is a greater risk that issuers of lower rated securities will default than issuers of higher rated securities. Issuers of lower rated securities generally are less creditworthy and may be highly indebted, financially distressed, or bankrupt. These issuers are more vulnerable to real or perceived economic changes, political changes or adverse industry developments. In addition, high yield securities are frequently subordinated to the prior payment of senior indebtedness. If an issuer fails to pay principal or interest, the Fund would experience a decrease in income and a decline in the market value of its investments.

*Sensitivity to Interest Rate and Economic Changes.* The income and market value of lower-rated securities may fluctuate more than higher rated securities. Although non-investment grade securities tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than investment grade securities, non-investment grade securities are more sensitive to short-term corporate, economic and market developments. During periods of economic uncertainty and change, the market price of the investments in lower-rated securities may be volatile. The default rate for high yield bonds tends to be cyclical, with defaults rising in periods of economic downturn. For example, in 2000, 2001 and 2002, the default rate for high yield securities was significantly higher than in the prior or subsequent years.

*Valuation Difficulties.* It is often more difficult to value lower rated securities than higher rated securities. If an issuer's financial condition deteriorates, accurate financial and business information may be limited or unavailable. In addition, the lower rated investments may be thinly traded and there

may be no established secondary market. Because of the lack of market pricing and current information for investments in lower rated securities, valuation of such investments is much more dependent on judgment than is the case with higher rated securities.

*Liquidity.* There may be no established secondary or public market for investments in lower rated securities. Such securities are frequently traded in markets that may be relatively less liquid than the market for higher rated securities. In addition, relatively few institutional purchasers may hold a major portion of an issue of lower-rated securities at times. As a result, the Fund may be required to sell investments at substantial losses or retain them indefinitely when an issuer's financial condition is deteriorating.

*Credit Quality.* Credit quality of non-investment grade securities can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and even recently-issued credit ratings may not fully reflect the actual risks posed by a particular high-yield security.

*New Legislation.* Future legislation may have a possible negative impact on the market for high yield, high risk bonds. As an example, in the late 1980's, legislation required federally-insured savings and loan associations to divest their investments in high yield, high risk bonds. New legislation, if enacted, could have a material negative effect on the Fund's investments in lower rated securities.

High yield, high risk investments may include the following:

*Straight fixed-income debt securities.* These include bonds and other debt obligations that bear a fixed or variable rate of interest payable at regular intervals and have a fixed or resettable maturity date. The particular terms of such securities vary and may include features such as call provisions and sinking funds.

*Zero-coupon debt securities.* These bear no interest obligation but are issued at a discount from their value at maturity. When held to maturity, their entire return equals the difference between their issue price and their maturity value.

*Zero-fixed-coupon debt securities.* These are zero-coupon debt securities that convert on a specified date to interest-bearing debt securities.

*Pay-in-kind bonds.* These are bonds which allow the issuer, at its option, to make current interest payments on the bonds either in cash or in additional bonds. These are bonds sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("1933 Act"), usually to a relatively small number of institutional investors.

*Convertible Securities.* These are bonds or preferred stock that may be converted to common stock.

*Preferred Stock.* These are stocks that generally pay a dividend at a specified rate and have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and in liquidation.

*Loan Participations and Assignments.* These are participations in, or assignments of all or a portion of loans to corporations or to governments, including governments of less developed countries ("LDCs").

*Securities issued in connection with Reorganizations and Corporate Restructurings.* In connection with reorganizing or restructuring of an issuer, an issuer may issue common stock or other securities to holders of its debt securities. The Fund may hold such common stock and other securities even if it does not invest in such securities.

### Municipal Government Obligations

In general, municipal obligations are debt obligations issued by or on behalf of states, territories and possessions of the United States (including the District of Columbia) and their political subdivisions, agencies and instrumentalities. Municipal obligations generally include debt obligations issued to obtain funds for various public purposes. Certain types of municipal obligations are issued in whole or in part to obtain funding for privately operated facilities or projects. Municipal obligations include general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, industrial development bonds, notes and municipal lease obligations. Municipal obligations also include additional obligations, the interest on which is exempt from federal income tax, that may become available in the future as long as the Board of the Fund determines that an investment in any such type of obligation is consistent with the Fund's investment objectives. Municipal obligations may be fully or partially backed by local government, the

credit of a private issuer, current or anticipated revenues from a specific project or specific assets or domestic or foreign entities providing credit support such as letters of credit, guarantees or insurance.

*Bonds and Notes.* General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of interest and principal. Revenue bonds are payable only from the revenues derived from a project or facility or from the proceeds of a specified revenue source. Industrial development bonds are generally revenue bonds secured by payments from and the credit of private users. Municipal notes are issued to meet the short-term funding requirements of state, regional and local governments. Municipal notes include tax anticipation notes, bond anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, tax and revenue anticipation notes, construction loan notes, short-term discount notes, tax-exempt commercial paper, demand notes and similar instruments.

*Municipal Lease Obligations.* Municipal lease obligations may take the form of a lease, an installment purchase or a conditional sales contract. They are issued by state and local governments and authorities to acquire land, equipment and facilities, such as vehicles, telecommunications and computer equipment and other capital assets. The Fund may invest in Underlying Funds that purchase these lease obligations directly, or it may purchase participation interests in such lease obligations (See "Participation Interests" section). States have different requirements for issuing municipal debt and issuing municipal leases. Municipal leases are generally subject to greater risks than general obligation or revenue bonds because they usually contain a "non-appropriation" clause, which provides that the issuer is not obligated to make payments on the obligation in future years unless funds have been appropriated for this purpose each year. Such non-appropriation clauses are required to avoid the municipal lease obligations from being treated as debt for state debt restriction purposes. Accordingly, such obligations are subject to "non-appropriation" risk. Municipal leases may be secured by the underlying capital asset and it may be difficult to dispose of any such asset in the event of non-appropriation or other default.



## United States Government Obligations

These consist of various types of marketable securities issued by the United States Treasury, i.e., bills, notes and bonds. Such securities are direct obligations of the United States government and differ mainly in the length of their maturity. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government security, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. The Fund may also invest in Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities ("TIPS"). TIPS are special types of treasury bonds that were created in order to offer bond investors protection from inflation. The values of the TIPS are automatically adjusted to the inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). If the CPI goes up by half a percent, the value of the bond (the TIPS) would also go up by half a percent. If the CPI falls, the value of the bond does not fall because the government guarantees that the original investment will stay the same. TIPS decline in value when real interest rates rise. However, in certain interest rate environments, such as when real interest rates are rising faster than nominal interest rates, TIPS may experience greater losses than other fixed income securities with similar duration.

## United States Government Agency Obligations

These consist of debt securities issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States government, including the various types of instruments currently outstanding or which may be offered in the future. Agencies include, among others, the Federal Housing Administration, government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), Farmer's Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Maritime Administration, and General Services Administration. Instrumentalities include, for example, each of the Federal Home Loan Banks, the National Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"), the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA"), and the United States Postal Service. These securities are either: (i) backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government (e.g., United States Treasury Bills); (ii) guaranteed by the United States Treasury (e.g., GNMA mortgage-backed securities); (iii) supported by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's right to borrow from the United States Treasury (e.g., FNMA Discount Notes); or (iv) supported only by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's own credit (e.g., Tennessee Valley Association). On September 7, 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Housing Finance Authority (the "FHFA") announced that FNMA and FHLMC had been placed into conservatorship, a statutory process designed to stabilize a troubled institution with the objective of returning the entity to normal business operations. The U.S. Treasury Department and the FHFA at the same time established a secured lending facility and a Secured Stock Purchase Agreement with both FNMA and FHLMC to ensure that each entity had the ability to fulfill its financial obligations. The FHFA announced that it does not anticipate any disruption in pattern of payments or ongoing business operations of FNMA and FHLMC.

Government-related guarantors (i.e. not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government) include FNMA and FHLMC. FNMA is a government-sponsored corporation owned entirely by private stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. FNMA purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

FHLMC was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned entirely by private stockholders. FHLMC issues Participation Certificates (“PC’s”), which represent interests in conventional mortgages from FHLMC’s national portfolio. FHLMC guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-related securities. Pools created by such nongovernmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools because there are no direct or indirect government or agency guarantees of payments in the former pools. However, timely payment of interest and principal of these pools may be supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance and letters of credit. The insurance and guarantees are issued by governmental entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers.

### Mortgage Pass-Through Securities

Interests in pools of mortgage pass-through securities differ from other forms of debt securities (which normally provide periodic payments of interest in fixed amounts and the payment of principal in a lump sum at maturity or on specified call dates). Instead, mortgage pass-through securities provide monthly payments consisting of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments are a “pass-through” of the monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on the underlying residential mortgage loans, net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities. Unscheduled payments of principal may be made if the underlying mortgage loans are repaid or refinanced or the underlying properties are foreclosed, thereby shortening the securities’ weighted average life. Some mortgage pass-through securities (such as securities guaranteed by GNMA) are described as “modified pass-through securities.” These securities entitle the holder to receive all interest and principal payments owed on the mortgage pool, net of certain fees, on the scheduled payment dates regardless of whether the mortgagor actually makes the payment.

The principal governmental guarantor of mortgage pass-through securities is GNMA. GNMA is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury, the timely payment of principal and interest on securities issued by lending institutions approved by GNMA (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks and mortgage bankers) and backed by pools of mortgage loans. These mortgage loans are either insured by the Federal Housing Administration or guaranteed by the Veterans Administration. A “pool” or group of such mortgage loans is assembled and after being approved by GNMA, is offered to investors through securities dealers.

Government-related guarantors of mortgage pass-through securities (i.e., not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury) include FNMA and FHLMC. FNMA is a government-sponsored corporation owned entirely by private stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. FNMA purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved sellers/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Mortgage pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury.

FHLMC was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a U.S. government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned entirely by private stockholders. FHLMC issues Participation Certificates ("PCs"), which represent interests in conventional mortgages from FHLMC's national portfolio. FHLMC guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury.

Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage pass-through securities. The Fund does not purchase interests in pools created by such non-governmental issuers.

*Resets.* The interest rates paid on the Adjustable Rate Mortgage Securities ("ARMs") in which the Fund may invest generally are readjusted or reset at intervals of one year or less to an increment over some predetermined interest rate index. There are two main categories of indices: those based on U.S. Treasury securities and those derived from a calculated measure, such as a cost of funds index or a moving average of mortgage rates. Commonly utilized indices include the one-year and five-year constant maturity Treasury Note rates, the three-month Treasury Bill rate, the 180-day Treasury Bill rate, rates on longer-term Treasury securities, the National Median Cost of Funds, the one-month or three-month London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the prime rate of a specific bank, or commercial paper rates. Some indices, such as the one-year constant maturity Treasury Note rate, closely mirror changes in market interest rate levels. Others tend to lag changes in market rate levels and tend to be somewhat less volatile.

*Caps and Floors.* The underlying mortgages which collateralize the ARMs in which the Fund invests will frequently have caps and floors which limit the maximum amount by which the loan rate to the residential borrower may change up or down: (1) per reset or adjustment interval, and (2) over the life of the loan. Some residential mortgage loans restrict periodic adjustments by limiting changes in the borrower's monthly principal and interest payments rather than limiting interest rate changes. These payment caps may result in negative amortization. The value of mortgage securities in which the Fund invests may be affected if market interest rates rise or fall faster and farther than the allowable caps or floors on the underlying residential mortgage loans. Additionally, even though the interest rates on the underlying residential mortgages are adjustable, amortization and prepayments may occur, thereby causing the effective maturities of the mortgage securities in which the Fund invests to be shorter than the maturities stated in the underlying mortgages.

### Foreign Securities

The Fund may invest in securities of foreign issuers and exchange traded funds ("ETFs") and other investment companies that hold a portfolio of foreign securities. Investing in securities of foreign companies and countries involves certain considerations and risks that are not typically associated with investing in U.S. government securities and securities of domestic companies. There may be less publicly available information about a foreign issuer than a domestic one, and foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. There may also be less government supervision and regulation of foreign securities exchanges, brokers and listed companies than exists in the United States. Interest and dividends paid by foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other foreign

taxes, which may decrease the net return on such investments as compared to dividends and interest paid to the Fund by domestic companies or the U.S. government. There may be the possibility of expropriations, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits, confiscatory taxation, political, economic or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect assets of the Fund held in foreign countries. Finally, the establishment of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions could adversely affect the payment of obligations.

To the extent the Fund's currency exchange transactions do not fully protect the Fund against adverse changes in currency exchange rates, decreases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Fund will invest relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding decrease in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets denominated in those currencies (and possibly a corresponding increase in the amount of securities required to be liquidated to meet distribution requirements). Conversely, increases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Fund invests relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding increase in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets (and possibly a corresponding decrease in the amount of securities to be liquidated).

*Emerging Markets Securities.* The Fund may purchase securities of emerging market issuers and ETFs and other closed end funds that invest in emerging market securities. Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales; future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include: greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability; more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; unavailability of currency hedging techniques; companies that are newly organized and small; differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; and less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

*Depositary Receipts.* The Fund may invest in sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), which are receipts issued by an American bank or trust company evidencing ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign issuer. ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets. Unsponsored ADRs may be created without the participation of the foreign issuer. Holders of these ADRs generally bear all the costs of the ADR facility, whereas foreign issuers typically bear certain costs in a sponsored ADR. The bank or trust company depositary of an unsponsored ADR may be under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the foreign issuer or to pass through voting rights. Many of the risks described above regarding foreign securities apply to investments in ADRs.

## Asset-Backed Securities

The Fund may invest in asset-backed securities. Such securities may include pools of loans, receivables or other assets. Payment of principal and interest may be largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities. Asset-backed securities present certain risks that are not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities may not have the benefit of any security interest in the related assets. Credit card receivables are generally unsecured and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. There is the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities. Asset-backed securities are often backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations of a number of different parties. To lessen the effect of failures by obligors on underlying assets to make payments, the securities may contain elements of credit support which fall into two categories: (i) liquidity protection, and (ii) protection against losses resulting from ultimate default by an obligor on the underlying assets. Liquidity protection refers to the provision of advances, generally by the entity administering the pool of assets, to ensure that the receipt of payments on the underlying pool occurs in a timely fashion. Protection against losses results from payment of the insurance obligations on at least a portion of the assets in the pool. This protection may be provided through guarantees, policies or letters of credit obtained by the issuer or sponsor from third parties, through various means of structuring the transaction or through a combination of such approaches. The Fund will not pay any additional or separate fees for credit support. The degree of credit support provided for each issue is generally based on historical information respecting the level of credit risk associated with the underlying assets. Delinquency or loss in excess of that anticipated or failure of the credit support could adversely affect the return on an investment in such a security. The availability of asset-backed securities may be affected by legislative or regulatory developments. It is possible that such developments may require the Fund to dispose of any then-existing holdings of such securities. Additionally, the risk of default by borrowers is greater during periods of rising interest rates and/or unemployment rates. In addition, instability in the markets for asset-backed securities may affect the liquidity of such securities, which means the Fund may be unable to sell such securities at an advantageous time and price. As a result, the value of such securities may decrease and the Fund may incur greater losses on the sale of such securities than under more stable market conditions. Furthermore, instability and illiquidity in the market for lower-rated asset-backed securities may affect the overall market for such securities thereby impacting the liquidity and value of higher-rated securities.

## Illiquid Investments and Restricted Securities

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. Illiquid investments include securities subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale (e.g., because they have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act")) and securities that are otherwise not readily marketable (e.g., because trading in the security is suspended or because market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers). Securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act are referred to as private placements or restricted securities and are purchased directly from the issuer or in the secondary market. Foreign securities that are freely tradable in their principal markets are not considered to be illiquid.

Restricted and other illiquid investments may be subject to the potential for delays on resale and uncertainty in valuation. The Fund might be unable to dispose of illiquid investments promptly or at reasonable prices and might thereby experience difficulty in satisfying redemption requests from

shareholders. The Underlying Fund might have to register restricted securities in order to dispose of them, resulting in additional expense and delay. Adverse market conditions could impede such a public offering of securities.

A large institutional market exists for certain securities that are not registered under the Securities Act, including foreign securities. The fact that there are contractual or legal restrictions on resale to the general public or to certain institutions may not be indicative of the liquidity of such investments. Rule 144A under the Securities Act allows such a broader institutional trading market for securities otherwise subject to restrictions on resale to the general public. Rule 144A establishes a "safe harbor" from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for resale of certain securities to qualified institutional buyers. Rule 144A has produced enhanced liquidity for many restricted securities, and market liquidity for such securities may continue to expand as a result of this regulation and the consequent existence of the PORTAL system, which is an automated system for the trading, clearance and settlement of unregistered securities of domestic and foreign issuers sponsored by NASDAQ.

Under guidelines adopted by the Trust's Board, the adviser of the Fund may determine that particular Rule 144A securities, and commercial paper issued in reliance on the private placement exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act, are liquid even though they are not registered. A determination of whether such a security is liquid or not is a question of fact. In making this determination, the adviser will consider, as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and among other factors: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security; (3) the number of other potential purchasers of the security; (4) dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; (5) the nature of the security (e.g., debt or equity, date of maturity, terms of dividend or interest payments, and other material terms) and the nature of the marketplace trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers, and the mechanics of transfer); and (6) the rating of the security and the financial condition and prospects of the issuer. In the case of commercial paper, the adviser will also determine that the paper (1) is not traded flat or in default as to principal and interest, and (2) is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least two National Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO") or, if only one NRSRO rates the security, by that NRSRO, or, if the security is unrated, the adviser determines that it is of equivalent quality.

Rule 144A securities and Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper that have been deemed liquid as described above will continue to be monitored by the Fund adviser to determine if the security is no longer liquid as the result of changed conditions. Investing in Rule 144A securities or Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper could have the effect of increasing the amount of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid investments if institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities.

### Investment Companies

The Fund may invest in investment companies such as open-end funds (mutual funds), closed-end funds, and exchange traded funds (also referred to as "Underlying Funds"). The 1940 Act provides that the mutual funds may not: (1) purchase more than 3% of an investment company's outstanding shares; (2) invest more than 5% of its assets in any single such investment company (the "5% Limit"), and (3) invest more than 10% of its assets in investment companies overall (the "10% Limit"), unless: (i) the underlying investment company and/or the Fund has received an order for exemptive relief from such limitations from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"); and (ii) the underlying investment company and the Fund take appropriate steps to comply with any conditions in such order.

The Fund may exceed these statutory limits when permitted by SEC order or other applicable law or regulatory guidance, such as is the case with many ETFs. The SEC recently adopted certain regulatory changes and took other actions related to the ability of an investment company to invest in the securities of another investment company. These changes include, among other things, the rescission of certain SEC exemptive orders permitting investments in excess of the statutory limits and the withdrawal of certain related SEC staff no-action letters, and the adoption of Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act. Rule 12d1-4 permits the Fund to invest in other investment companies beyond the statutory limits, subject to certain conditions. The rescission of the applicable exemptive orders and the withdrawal of the applicable no-action letters is effective on January 19, 2022. After such time, an investment company will no longer be able to rely on the aforementioned exemptive orders and no-action letters, and will be subject instead to Rule 12d1-4 and other applicable rules under Section 12(d)(1).

In addition, Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended provides that the provisions of paragraph 12(d)(1) shall not apply to securities purchased or otherwise acquired by the Fund if (i) immediately after such purchase or acquisition not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such registered investment company is owned by the Fund and all affiliated persons of the Fund; and (ii) the Fund has not, and is not proposing to offer or sell any security issued by it through a principal underwriter or otherwise at a public or offering price which includes a sales load of more than 1 ½% percent. An investment company that issues shares to the Fund pursuant to paragraph 12(d)(1)(F) shall not be required to redeem its shares in an amount exceeding 1% of such investment company's total outstanding shares in any period of less than thirty days. The Fund (or the Adviser acting on behalf of the Fund) must comply with the following voting restrictions: when the Fund exercises voting rights, by proxy or otherwise, with respect to investment companies owned by the Fund, the Fund will either seek instruction from the Fund's shareholders with regard to the voting of all proxies and vote in accordance with such instructions, or vote the shares held by the Fund in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such security.

Further, the Fund may rely on Rule 12d1-3, which allows unaffiliated mutual funds to exceed the 5% Limitation and the 10% Limitation, pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F) provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired funds) does not exceed the limits on sales loads established by the FINRA for funds of funds.

Under certain circumstances an Underlying Fund may determine to make payment of a redemption by the Fund wholly or partly by a distribution in kind of securities from its portfolio, in lieu of cash, in conformity with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In such cases, the Fund may hold securities distributed by an Underlying Fund until the Adviser determines that it is appropriate to dispose of such securities.

Investment decisions by the investment advisors of the Underlying Funds are made independently of the Fund and its Adviser. Therefore, the investment advisor of one Underlying Fund may be purchasing shares of the same issuer whose shares are being sold by the investment advisor of another such fund. The result would be an indirect expense to the Fund without accomplishing any investment purpose. Because other investment companies employ an investment adviser, such investments by the Fund may cause shareholders to bear duplicate fees.

*Closed-End Investment Companies.* The Fund may invest its assets in "closed-end" investment companies (or "closed-end funds"), subject to the investment restrictions set forth above. Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public

offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as "NASDAQ") and, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as the Fund), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

The Fund generally will purchase shares of closed-end funds only in the secondary market. The Fund will incur normal brokerage costs on such purchases similar to the expenses the Fund would incur for the purchase of securities of any other type of issuer in the secondary market. The Fund may, however, also purchase securities of a closed-end fund in an initial public offering when, in the opinion of the Adviser, based on a consideration of the nature of the closed-end fund's proposed investments, the prevailing market conditions and the level of demand for such securities, they represent an attractive opportunity for growth of capital. The initial offering price typically will include a dealer spread, which may be higher than the applicable brokerage cost if the Fund purchased such securities in the secondary market.

The shares of many closed-end funds, after their initial public offering, frequently trade at a price per share that is less than the net asset value per share, the difference representing the "market discount" of such shares. This market discount may be due in part to the investment objective of long-term appreciation, which is sought by many closed-end funds, as well as to the fact that the shares of closed-end funds are not redeemable by the holder upon demand to the issuer at the next determined net asset value but rather are subject to the principles of supply and demand in the secondary market. A relative lack of secondary market purchasers of closed-end fund shares also may contribute to such shares trading at a discount to their net asset value.

The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to net asset value. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by the Fund will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and the Fund may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of the Fund's shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by the Fund at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Fund.

Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (including preferred stock and debt obligations) for the purpose of leveraging the closed-end fund's common shares in an attempt to enhance the current return to such closed-end fund's common shareholders. The Fund's investment in the common shares of closed-end funds that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure.

*Exchange Traded Funds.* ETFs are typically passive funds that track their related index and have the flexibility of trading like a security. They are managed by professionals and provide the investor with diversification, cost and tax efficiency, liquidity, margin ability, are useful for hedging, have the ability to go long and short, and some provide quarterly dividends. Additionally, some ETFs are unit investment trusts (UITs), which are unmanaged portfolios overseen by trustees and some ETFs may be grantor trusts. An ETF typically holds a portfolio of securities or contracts designed to track a particular market segment or index. Some examples of ETFs are Rydex Shares<sup>TM</sup>, ProShares®, SPDRs®, streetTRACKS, DIAMONDS<sup>SM</sup>, NASDAQ 100 Index Tracking Stock<sup>SM</sup> ("QQQs<sup>SM</sup>"), and iShares®. The



Fund expects to use EFT's as part of its overall investment strategy and as part of its hedging strategy. To offset the risk of declining security prices, the Fund may invest in inverse ETFs. Inverse EFTs are funds designed to rise in price when stock prices are falling. Additionally, inverse EFT's may employ leverage which magnifies the changes in the underlying stock index upon which they are based. Inverse ETF index funds seek to provide investment results that will match a certain percentage of the inverse of the performance of a specific benchmark on a daily basis. For example, if an inverse ETF's current benchmark is 200% of the inverse of the Russell 2000 Index and the ETF meets its objective, the value of the ETF will tend to increase on a daily basis when the value of the underlying index decreases (e.g., if the Russell 2000 Index goes down 5% then the inverse ETF's value should go up 10%). ETFs generally have two markets. The primary market is where institutions swap "creation units" in block-multiples of 50,000 shares for in-kind securities and cash in the form of dividends. The secondary market is where individual investors can trade as little as a single share during trading hours on the exchange. This is different from open-ended mutual funds that are traded after hours once the net asset value (NAV) is calculated. ETFs share many similar risks with open-end and closed-end funds.

There is a risk that an ETFs in which the Fund invests may terminate due to extraordinary events that may cause any of the service providers to the ETFs, such as the trustee or sponsor, to close or otherwise fail to perform their obligations to the ETF. Also, because the ETFs in which the Fund intends to principally invest may be granted licenses by agreement to use the indices as a basis for determining their compositions and/or otherwise to use certain trade names, the ETFs may terminate if such license agreements are terminated. In addition, an ETF may terminate if its entire net asset value falls below a certain amount. Although the Fund believes that, in the event of the termination of an underlying ETF, it will be able to invest instead in shares of an alternate ETF tracking the same market index or another market index with the same general market, there is no guarantee that shares of an alternate ETF would be available for investment at that time. To the extent the Fund invests in a sector product, the Fund is subject to the risks associated with that sector.

The Fund could also purchase an ETF to temporarily gain exposure to a portion of the U.S. or foreign market while awaiting an opportunity to purchase securities directly. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities they are designed to track, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities and ETFs have management fees that increase their costs versus the costs of owning the underlying securities directly.

ETFs are listed on national stock exchanges and are traded like stocks listed on an exchange. ETF shares may trade at a discount or a premium in market price if there is a limited market in such shares. Investments in ETFs are subject to brokerage and other trading costs, which could result in greater expenses to the Fund. ETFs also are subject to investment advisory and other expenses, which will be indirectly paid by the Fund. As a result, your cost of investing in the Fund will be higher than the cost of investing directly in ETFs and may be higher than other mutual funds that invest exclusively in stocks and bonds. You will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the ETFs in addition to the Fund's direct fees and expenses. Finally, because the value of ETF shares depends on the demand in the market, the Adviser may not be able to liquidate the Fund's holdings at the most optimal time, adversely affecting the Fund's performance.

ETFs may also include high beta index funds ("HBIFs"), which track an index by investing in leveraged instruments such as equity index swaps, futures contracts and options on securities, futures contracts, and stock indices. HBIFs are more volatile than the benchmark index they track and typically don't invest directly in the securities included in the benchmark, or in the same proportion that those

securities are represented in that benchmark. On a day-to-day basis, HBIFs will target a volatility that is a specific percentage of the volatility of the underlying index. HBIFs seek to provide investment results that will match a certain percentage greater than 100% of the performance of a specific benchmark on a daily basis. For example, if a HBIF's current benchmark is 200% of the S&P 500 Index and it meets its objective, the value of the HBIF will tend to increase on a daily basis 200% of any increase in the underlying index (if the S&P 500 Index goes up 5% then the HBIF's value should go up 10%). When the value of the underlying index declines, the value of the HBIF's shares should also decrease on a daily basis by 200% of the value of any decrease in the underlying index (if the S&P 500 Index goes down 5% then the value of the HBIF should go down 10%).

The Fund may also invest in inverse ETFs as a hedge. Positions in inverse securities are speculative and can be more risky than "long" positions (purchases). Under certain circumstances, the adviser may invest in ETFs known as "inverse funds," which are designed to produce results opposite to market trends. Inverse funds seek daily investment results, before fees and expenses, which correspond to the inverse (opposite) of the daily performance of a specific benchmark. Inverse ETFs are funds designed to rise in price when stock prices are falling. Inverse ETF index funds seek to provide investment results that will match a certain percentage of the inverse of the performance of a specific benchmark on a daily basis. For example, if a fund's current benchmark is 100% of the inverse of the S&P 500 Index and the fund meets its objective, the value of the fund will tend to increase on a daily basis when the value of the underlying index decreases (if the S&P 500 Index goes down 5% then the fund's value should go up 5%). Conversely, when the value of the underlying index increases, the value of the fund's shares tend to decrease on a daily basis (if the S&P 500 Index goes up 5% then the fund's value should go down 5%). Additionally, inverse ETFs may employ leverage, which magnifies the changes in the underlying stock index upon which they are based. For example, if an inverse ETF's current benchmark is 200% of the inverse of the S&P 500 Index and the ETF meets its objective, the value of the ETF will tend to increase on a daily basis when the value of the underlying index decreases (e.g., if the S&P 500 Index goes down 5% then the inverse ETF's value should go up 10%). You should be aware that any strategy that includes inverse securities could suffer significant losses.

### Lending Portfolio Securities

For the purpose of achieving income, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities, provided (1) the loan is secured continuously by collateral consisting of U.S. government securities or cash or cash equivalents (cash, U.S. government securities, negotiable certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances or letters of credit) maintained on a daily mark-to-market basis in an amount at least equal to the current market value of the securities loaned, (2) the Fund may at any time call the loan and obtain the return of securities loaned, (3) the Fund will receive any interest or dividends received on the loaned securities, and (4) the aggregate value of the securities loaned will not at any time exceed one-third of the total assets of the Fund.

### Repurchase Agreements

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, an investor (such as the Fund) purchases a security (known as the "underlying security") from a securities dealer or bank. Any such dealer or bank must be deemed creditworthy by the Advisor. At that time, the bank or securities dealer agrees to repurchase the underlying security at a mutually agreed upon price on a designated future date. 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 an agreed upon rate due to the Fund on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Fund generally will be unrelated to the interest rate on the underlying securities. Repurchase agreements must be "fully

collateralized," in that the market value of the underlying securities (including accrued interest) must at all times be equal to or greater than the repurchase price. Therefore, a repurchase agreement can be considered a loan collateralized by the underlying securities.

Repurchase agreements are generally for a short period of time, often less than a week, and will generally be used by the Fund to invest excess cash or as part of a temporary defensive strategy. Repurchase agreements that do not provide for payment within seven days will be treated as illiquid investments. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default by the seller of a repurchase agreement, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses. These losses could result from: (a) possible decline in the value of the underlying security while the Fund is seeking to enforce its rights under the repurchase agreement; (b) possible reduced levels of income or lack of access to income during this period; and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

### When-Issued, Forward Commitments and Delayed Settlements

The Fund may purchase and sell securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis.

The Fund does not intend to engage in these transactions for speculative purposes but only in furtherance of its investment objectives. The Fund will purchase securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis only with the intention of completing the transaction. If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, however, the Fund may dispose of or renegotiate a commitment after it is entered into, and may sell securities it has committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Fund on the settlement date. In these cases the Fund may realize a taxable capital gain or loss. When the Fund engages in when-issued, forward commitment and delayed settlement transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of such party to do so may result in the Fund incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price credited to be advantageous.

The market value of the securities underlying a when-issued purchase, forward commitment to purchase securities, or a delayed settlement and any subsequent fluctuations in their market value is taken into account when determining the market value of the Fund starting on the day the Fund agrees to purchase the securities. The Fund does not earn interest on the securities it has committed to purchase until it has paid for and delivered on the settlement date.

### Short Sales

The Fund may sell securities short. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own or have the right to acquire (or that it owns but does not wish to deliver) in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline.

When the Fund makes a short sale, the broker-dealer through which the short sale is made must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the party purchasing the security. The Fund is required to make a margin deposit in connection with such short sales; the Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and will often be obligated to pay over any dividends and accrued interest on borrowed securities.

If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund covers its short position, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs

described above. The successful use of short selling may be adversely affected by imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the security sold short and the securities being hedged.

To the extent the Fund sells securities short, it will provide collateral to the broker-dealer.

## INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

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The Funds have each adopted the following investment restrictions that may not be changed without approval by a "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund which, as used in this SAI, means the vote of the lesser of (a) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund represented at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

1. Borrowing Money. The Fund will not borrow money, except: (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of the Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made.

2. Senior Securities. The Fund will not issue senior securities. This limitation is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Fund, provided that the Fund's engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the SEC or its staff.

3. Underwriting. The Fund will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.

4. Real Estate. The Fund will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including real estate investment trusts).

5. Commodities. The Fund will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.

6. Loans. The Fund will not make loans to other persons, except: (a) by loaning portfolio securities; (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements; or (c) by purchasing nonpublicly offered debt securities. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.

7. Concentration. Each of the Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Sentry Managed Volatility Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries. The Fund will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in any investment company that concentrates. This limitation is not applicable to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto

**THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS OF THE FUNDS. THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS ARE DESIGNATED AS NON-FUNDAMENTAL AND MAY BE CHANGED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF SHAREHOLDERS.**

1. Pledging. The Fund will not mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any assets of the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings described in limitation (1) above. Margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques are not deemed to be a mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of assets for purposes of this limitation.

2. Borrowing. The Fund will not purchase any security while borrowings representing more than one third of its total assets are outstanding.

3. Margin Purchases. The Fund will not purchase securities or evidences of interest thereon on "margin." This limitation is not applicable to short-term credit obtained by the Fund for the clearance of purchases and sales or redemption of securities, or to arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investment techniques.

4. Illiquid Investments. The Fund will not hold 15% or more of its net assets in securities for which there are legal or contractual restrictions on resale and other illiquid investments.

5. 80% Investment Policy. The Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund has adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes) in particular name-related "fixed income" investments, as defined in the Fund's Prospectus, under normal market conditions. The Navigator Equity Hedged Fund has adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes) in particular name-related "equity securities" as defined in the Fund's Prospectus under normal market conditions. The Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund has adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in particular name related "fixed income" instruments, as defined in the Fund's Prospects, under normal market conditions. The Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund has adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in particular name related "investment grade fixed income" instruments, as defined in the Fund's Prospects under normal market conditions. The Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund has adopted a policy to invest at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) in particular name related "U.S. equity and fixed income" instruments, as defined in the Fund's Prospects, under normal market conditions. Shareholders will be provided with at least 60 days' prior notice of any change in a Fund's 80% policy. The notice will be provided in a separate written document containing the following, or similar, statement, in boldface type: "Important Notice Regarding Change in Investment Policy." The statement will also appear on the envelope in which the notice is delivered, unless the notice is delivered separately from other communications to the shareholder.

If a restriction on the Fund's investments is adhered to at the time an investment is made, a subsequent change in the percentage of Fund assets invested in certain securities or other instruments, or change in average duration of the Fund's investment portfolio, resulting from changes in the value of the Fund's total assets, will not be considered a violation of the restriction; provided, however, that the asset coverage requirement applicable to borrowings shall be maintained in the manner contemplated by applicable law.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

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The Trust has adopted policies and procedures that govern the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio holdings. These policies and procedures are designed to ensure that such disclosure is in the best interests of Fund shareholders.

The Funds will disclose its portfolio holdings by mailing its annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders approximately two months after the end of the fiscal year and semi-annual period. The Funds may also disclose its portfolio holdings by mailing a quarterly report to its shareholders. In addition, the Funds will disclose its portfolio holdings reports on Forms N-CSR and N-PORT 60 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. The Funds' Form N-CSR and Form N-PORT are available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

The Funds may, from time to time, make available the portfolio's top ten holdings information on its website at [navigatorfund.com](http://navigatorfund.com). The Funds' top ten holdings are generally posted to the website within ten days of the end of each month and remain available until new information for the next month is posted.

The Funds may choose to make available to rating agencies such as Lipper, Morningstar or Bloomberg earlier and more frequently on a confidential basis.

Under limited circumstances, as described below, the Funds' portfolio holdings may be disclosed to, or known by, certain third parties in advance of their filing with the SEC on Form N-CSR or N-Port. In each case, a determination has been made that such advance disclosure is supported by a legitimate business purpose and that the recipient is subject to a duty to keep the information confidential and to not trade on any confidential information.

- **The Adviser.** Personnel of the Funds' Adviser, including personnel responsible for managing the Fund's portfolio, may have full daily access to Fund portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for the Adviser to provide its management, administrative, and investment services to the Fund. As required for purposes of analyzing the impact of existing and future market changes on the prices, availability, demand and liquidity of such securities, as well as for the assistance of a portfolio manager in the trading of such securities, Adviser personnel may also release and discuss certain portfolio holdings with various broker-dealers.
- **Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC.** Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC is the transfer agent, fund accountant and administrator for the Funds; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to the Funds' portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.

- **The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation.** Bank of New York Mellon Corporation is the custodian for the Funds; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to the Funds' portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Funds.
- **Cohen & Company, Ltd.** Cohen & Company, Ltd. is the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm; therefore, its personnel have access to the Funds' portfolio holdings in connection with auditing of the Funds' annual financial statements and providing assistance and consultation in connection with SEC filings.
- **Thompson Hine LLP.** Thompson Hine LLP is counsel to the Funds; therefore its personnel have access to the Funds' portfolio holdings in connection with the review of the Funds' annual and semi-annual shareholder reports and SEC filings.
- **Counsel to the Independent Trustees.** Counsel to the Independent Trustees and its respective personnel have access to the Funds' portfolio holdings in connection with the review of the Funds' annual and semi-annual shareholder reports and SEC filings.
- **Derivatives Risk Consultant.** The Trust has engaged a derivatives risk consultant ("Consultant") to consult with the Board, and the Adviser regarding the effectiveness of derivatives risk management. The Consultant therefore may have access to the Fund's portfolio holdings in order to provide such services to the Trust.

**Additions to List of Approved Recipients.** The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer is the person responsible, and whose prior approval is required, for any disclosure of the Funds' portfolio securities at any time or to any persons other than those described above. In such cases, the recipient must have a legitimate business need for the information and must be subject to a duty to keep the information confidential and to not trade on any confidential information. There are no ongoing arrangements in place with respect to the disclosure of portfolio holdings. In no event shall the Funds, the Adviser or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Funds' portfolio holdings.

**Compliance with Portfolio Holdings Disclosure Procedures.** The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer will report periodically to the Board with respect to compliance with the Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure procedures, and from time to time will provide the Board any updates to the portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures.

There is no assurance that the Trust's policies on disclosure of portfolio holdings will protect the Funds from the potential misuse of holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of that information.

# MANAGEMENT

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The business of the Trust is managed under the direction of the Board in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and the Trust's By-laws (the "Governing Documents"), which have been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and are available upon request. The Board consists of six (6) individuals, all of whom are not "interested persons" (as that term is defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of the Trust and the Adviser ("Independent Trustees"). Pursuant to the Governing Documents of the Trust, the Trustees shall elect officers including a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Principal Executive Officer, a Principal Accounting Officer and a Chief Compliance Officer. The Board retains the power to conduct, operate and carry on the business of the Trust and has the power to incur and pay any expenses, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary or incidental to carry out any of the Trust's purposes. The Trustees, officers, employees and agents of the Trust, when acting in such capacities, shall not be subject to any personal liability except for his or her own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties.

## **Board Leadership Structure**

The Trust is led by Anthony Hertl, an Independent Trustee, who has served as the Chairman of the Board since July 2013. The Board of Trustees is comprised of Mr. Hertl and five (5) additional Independent Trustees. Additionally, under certain 1940 Act governance guidelines that apply to the Trust, the Independent Trustees will meet in executive session, at least quarterly. Under the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust and By-Laws, the Chairman of the Board is responsible for (a) presiding at Board meetings, (b) calling special meetings on an as-needed basis, (c) execution and administration of Trust policies including (i) setting the agendas for Board meetings and (ii) providing information to Board members in advance of each Board meeting and between Board meetings. Generally, the Trust believes it best to have a non-executive Chairman of the Board, who together with the President (principal executive officer), are seen by its shareholders, business partners and other stakeholders as providing strong leadership. The Trust believes that its Chairman, the independent chair of the Audit Committee, and, as an entity, the full Board of Trustees, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust, its Funds and each shareholder.

## **Board Risk Oversight**

The Board of Trustees has a standing independent Audit Committee with a separate chair, Mark H. Taylor. The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from its Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial and reporting risk within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information.

## **Trustee Qualifications**

Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits including: (i) experience, (ii) qualifications, (iii) attributes and (iv) skills.



Anthony J. Hertl has over 20 years of business experience in the financial services industry and related fields including serving as chair of the finance committee for the Borough of Interlaken, New Jersey and Vice President-Finance and Administration of Marymount College, holds a Certified Public Accountant designation, serves or has served as a member of other mutual fund boards outside of the group of Funds managed by the Adviser (the “Fund Complex”) and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate based on his years of service to this Board and other fund boards.

Gary W. Lanzen has over 20 years of business experience in the financial services industry, holds a Master’s degree in Education Administration, is a Certified Financial Planner, serves as a member of two other mutual fund boards outside of the Fund Complex and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate based on his years of service to this Board and other mutual fund boards.

Mark H. Taylor holds PhD, Masters and Bachelors degrees in Accountancy, is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and has over 30 years of academic and professional experience in the accounting and auditing fields, all of which make him particularly qualified to chair the Trust’s Audit Committee. Dr. Taylor is the Director of the Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy at the Muma College of Business at the University of South Florida and is serving a three-year term as President of the American Accounting Association (AAA) commencing August 2022 (President-Elect 2022-2023, President 2023-2024; Past President 2024-2025). Dr. Taylor previously served as AAA Vice President-Finance, and as President of the Auditing Section of the AAA. Dr. Taylor serves as a member of three other mutual fund boards within the Northern Lights Fund Complex. He served a three-year term on the AICPA’s Auditing Standards Board (2010-2012) and previously completed a fellowship in the Professional Practice Group of the Office of the Chief Accountant at the headquarters of the United States Securities Exchange Commission. Dr. Taylor is a member of two research teams that have received grants from the Center for Audit Quality to study how accounting firms’ tone-at-the-top messaging impacts audit performance and how auditors manage the process of auditing fair value measurements and other complex estimates in financial statements. Dr. Taylor has published extensively in leading academic accounting journals, has teaching interests in corporate governance and accounting policy as well as auditing and assurance services at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies operate.

John V. Palancia has over 30 years of business experience in financial services industry including serving as the Director of Futures Operations for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc. (“Merrill Lynch”). Mr. Palancia holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He also possesses a strong understanding of risk management, balance sheet analysis and the regulatory framework under which regulated financial entities must operate based on service to Merrill Lynch. Additionally, he is well versed in the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate and serves as a member of three other fund boards.

Mark D. Gersten has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry, having served in executive roles at AllianceBernstein LP and holding key industry positions at Prudential-Bache Securities and PriceWaterhouseCoopers. He also serves as a member of two other mutual fund boards outside of the Fund Complex. Mr. Gersten is a certified public accountant and holds an MBA in accounting. Like other Trustees, his experience has given him a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies operate.

Mark S. Garbin has more than 30 years of experience in corporate balance sheet and income statement risk management for large asset managers, serving as Managing Principal of Coherent Capital Management LLC since 2007. Mr. Garbin has extensive derivatives experience and has provided consulting services to alternative asset managers. He is both a Chartered Financial Analyst and Professional Risk Manager charterholder and holds advanced degrees in international business. The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee's qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes them each highly qualified.

The Trustees and the executive officers of the Trust are listed below with their present positions with the Trust and principal occupations over at least the last five years. The business address of each Trustee and Officer is 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, OH 45246. All correspondence to the Trustees and Officers should be directed to c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, P.O. Box 541150, Omaha, Nebraska 68154.

**Independent Trustees**

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
Mark Garbin Born in 1951	Trustee Since 2013	Managing Principal, Coherent Capital Management LLC (since 2007).	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2013); Two Roads Shared Trust (since 2012); Forethought Variable Insurance Trust (since 2013); Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2013); iDirect Private Markets Fund (since 2014); Carlyle Tactical Private Credit Fund (since March 2018); Independent Director OHA CLO Enhanced Equity II Genpar LLP (since June 2021); and Caryle Credit Income Fund (since July 2023)
Mark D. Gersten Born in 1950	Trustee Since 2013	Independent Consultant (since 2012).	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2013); Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2013); Two Roads Shared Trust (since 2012); Altegris KKR Commitments Master Fund (since 2014); previously, Ramius Archview Credit and Distressed Fund (2015-2017); and Schroder Global Series Trust (2012 to 2017).
Anthony J. Hertl Born in 1950	Trustee Since 2005; Chairman of the Board since 2013	Retired, previously held several positions in a major Wall Street firm including Capital Markets Controller, Director of Global Taxation, and CFO of	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2005); Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2006); Alternative Strategies Fund (since 2010); Satuit Capital Management Trust (2007-2019).

		the Specialty Finance Group.		
Gary W. Lanzen Born in 1954	Trustee Since 2005	Retired (since 2012). Formerly, Founder, President, and Chief Investment Officer, Orizon Investment Counsel, Inc. (2000-2012).	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2005) Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2006); AdvisorOne Funds (since 2003); Alternative Strategies Fund (since 2010); and previously, CLA Strategic Allocation Fund (2014-2015).
John V. Palancia Born in 1954	Trustee Since 2011	Retired (since 2011). Formerly, Director of Futures Operations, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc. (1975-2011).	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2011); Northern Lights Fund Trust III (since February 2012); Alternative Strategies Fund (since 2012) and Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2011).
Mark H. Taylor Born in 1964	Trustee Since 2007; Chairman of the Audit Committee since 2013	PhD (Accounting), CPA; Professor and Director, Lynn Pippenger School of Accountancy, Muma College of Business, University of South Florida (2019 – present); Professor and Department of Accountancy Chair, Case Western Reserve University (2009-2019); President, American Accounting Association (AAA) commencing August 2022 (President-Elect 2022-2023, President 2023-2024; Past President 2024-2025). AAA Vice President-Finance (2017-2020); President, Auditing Section of the AAA; Member, AICPA Auditing Standards Board (2009-2012); Academic Fellow, Office of the Chief Accountant, United States Securities Exchange Commission (2005-2006); Center for Audit Quality research grants (2014, 2012).	5	Northern Lights Fund Trust (for series not affiliated with the Funds since 2007); Alternative Strategies Fund (since 2010); Northern Lights Fund Trust III (since 2012); and Northern Lights Variable Trust (since 2007).

**Officers**

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position/Term of Office*	Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee During the Past Five Years
Kevin E. Wolf Born in 1969	President Since June 2017	Executive Vice President, Head of Fund Administration, and Product; Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since 2020); Vice President of The Ultimus Group, LLC (since 2019); Executive Vice President, Gemini Fund Services, LLC (2019-2020); President, Gemini Fund Services, LLC (2012-2019); Treasurer of the Trust (2006-June 2017).	N/A	N/A
Timothy Burdick Born in 1986	Vice President Since November 2023	Vice President and Senior Managing Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since 2023); Vice President and Managing Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (2022-2023); Assistant Vice President and Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (2019-2022).	N/A	N/A
James Colantino Born in 1969	Treasurer Since June 2017	Senior Vice President Fund Administration, Ultimus Fund Solutions (since 2020); Senior Vice President Fund Administration, Gemini Fund Services, LLC (2012-2020); Assistant Treasurer of the Trust (2006-June 2017).	N/A	N/A
Stephanie Shearer Born in 1979	Secretary Since February 2017	Assistant Secretary of the Trust (2012-February 2017); Associate Director, Ultimus Fund Solutions (since 2022); Manager of Legal Administration, Ultimus Fund Solutions (2020-2022); Manager of Legal Administration, Gemini Fund Services, LLC (2018-2020); Senior Paralegal, Gemini Fund Services, LLC (2013 - 2018).	N/A	N/A

Michael J. Nanosky Born in 1966	Chief Compliance Officer Since January 2021	Chief Compliance Officer, of the Trust (since January 2021); Vice President-Senior Compliance Officer, Ultimus Fund Solutions (since 2020); Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer for Williamsburg Investment Trust (2020-current); Senior Vice President- Chief Compliance Officer, PNC Funds (2014-2019).	N/A	N/A
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\*The term of office for each Trustee and officer listed above will continue indefinitely until the individual resigns or is removed.

\*\*As of December 31, 2023, the Trust was comprised of 64 active portfolios managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the Funds in the Trust advised by the Fund's Adviser. The Funds do not hold themselves out as related to any other series within the Trust that is not advised by the Fund's Adviser.

## **Board Committees**

### **Audit Committee**

The Board has an Audit Committee that consists of all the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include: (i) recommending to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the Trust's independent auditors; (ii) reviewing with the independent auditors the scope, performance and anticipated cost of their audit; (iii) discussing with the independent auditors certain matters relating to the Trust's financial statements, including any adjustment to such financial statements recommended by such independent auditors, or any other results of any audit; (iv) reviewing on a periodic basis a formal written statement from the independent auditors with respect to their independence, discussing with the independent auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the statement that may impact the objectivity and independence of the Trust's independent auditors and recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response thereto to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto with respect to the quality and adequacy of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and internal controls. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing nominee candidates for consideration as Independent Trustees as is from time to time considered necessary or appropriate. The Audit Committee generally will not consider shareholder nominees. The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing and setting Independent Trustee compensation from time to time when considered necessary or appropriate. During the past fiscal year, the Audit Committee held eleven meetings.

### **Compensation**

Effective January 1, 2024, each Trustee who is not affiliated with the Trust or an investment adviser to any series of the Trust will receive a quarterly fee of \$50,000, allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trust and Northern Lights Variable Trust (together, the "Trusts"), a separate registrant that shares a common board with the Trust, for his attendance at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board, to be paid in advance of each calendar quarter, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred. In addition to which, the Chairman of the Board

receives a quarterly fee of \$13,750 and the Audit Committee Chairman receives a quarterly fee of \$10,000.

Prior to January 1, 2024, each Trustee who was not affiliated with the Trusts or an investment adviser to any series of the Trusts received a quarterly fee of \$48,750, allocated among each of the various portfolios comprising the Trusts. In addition to the quarterly fees and reimbursements, the Chairman of the Board previously received a quarterly fee of \$13,750 and the Audit Committee Chairman receives a quarterly fee of \$10,000.

Additionally, in the event a meeting of the Board other than its regularly scheduled meetings (a "Special Meeting") is required, each Independent Trustee will receive a fee of \$2,500 per Special Meeting, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred, to be paid by the relevant series of the applicable Trust or its investment adviser depending on the circumstances necessitating the Special Meeting.

None of the executive officers receive compensation from the Trusts.

The table below details the amount of compensation the Trustees received from the Navigator Funds during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023. Each Independent Trustee attended all quarterly meetings during the period. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

Name and Position	Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Funds Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund Complex* Paid to Trustees
Anthony J. Hertl	\$2,945	\$2,945	\$2,945	None	None	\$8,835
Gary Lanzen	\$2,480	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$7,440
Mark H. Taylor	\$2,635	\$2,635	\$2,635	None	None	\$7,905
John V. Palancia	\$2,480	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$7,440
Mark D. Gersten	\$2,480	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$7,440
Mark Garbin	\$2,480	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$7,440

Name and Position	Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund	Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Funds Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Fund Complex* Paid to Trustees
Anthony J. Hertl	\$2,945	\$2,945	None	None	\$5,890
Gary Lanzen	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$4,960
Mark H. Taylor	\$2,635	\$2,635	None	None	\$5,270
John V. Palancia	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$4,960
Mark D. Gersten	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$4,960
Mark Garbin	\$2,480	\$2,480	None	None	\$4,960

\* The term "Fund Complex" includes series of the Northern Lights Fund Trust ("NLFT"), Northern Lights Variable Trust ("NLVT") that are advised by the adviser.

## Trustee Ownership

The following table indicates the dollar range of equity securities that each Trustee beneficially owned in the Fund as December 31, 2023.

<b>Name of Trustee</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund</b>	<b>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies</b>
Anthony J. Hertl	None	\$50,001-\$100,000
Gary Lanzen	None	None
John V. Palancia	None	None
Mark Taylor	None	None
Mark D. Gersten	None	\$10,001-\$50,000
Mark Garbin	None	None

## **Management Ownership**

As of February 1, 2024, the Trustees and officers, as a group, owned less than 1.00% of the Fund's outstanding shares and less than 1.00% of the Fund Complex's outstanding shares.

## **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS**

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A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a fund. A control person is one who owns, either directly or indirectly more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control.

As of February 1, 2024, the following shareholders of record owned 5% or more of the outstanding shares of each class of the respective Funds.

### **Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund**

<b>Class A</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO INC SPECIAL CUSTODY AC FBO CUSTOMERS ATTN MUTUAL FUNDS 211 MAIN STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	3,019,772	62.64 %
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	620,570	12.87 %
LPL FINANCIAL OMNIBUS CUSTOMER ACCOUNT ATTN LINDSAY O'TOOLE 4707 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92121	274,362	5.69 %
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC 499 WASHINGTON BLVD JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310	290,670	6.03 %

<b>Class C</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	1,492,540	61.66 %
LPL FINANCIAL OMNIBUS CUSTOMER ACCOUNT ATTN LINDSAY O'TOOLE 4707 EXECUTIVE DRIVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92121	463,752	19.16 %

<b>Class I</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>

LINCOLN INVESTMENT PLANNING /FBO LINCOLN CUSTOMERS 601 OFFICE CENTER DR STE 300 FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034	43,662,869	6.20 %
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	130,371,235	18.52 %
LPL FINANCIAL ATTN LINDSAY O TOOLE 4707 EXECUTIVE DR SAN DIEGO, CA 92121-3091	36,706,621	5.22 %
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO INC INC/SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C FBO CUSTOMERS ATTN MUTUAL FUNDS 211 MAIN STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	67,481,584	9.59 %
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC 499 WASHINGTON BLVD JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310	189,186,278	26.88 %

**Navigator Equity Hedged Fund**

<b>Class A</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	15,736	18.48 %
CONSTELLATION TRUST CO CUST FBO/BRUNO, KAREN A IRA 1075 LA GUARDIA LANE RENO< NV 89511	5,268	6.19 %
LINCOLN INVESTMENT PLANNING FBO LINCOLN CUSTOMERS 601 OFFICE CENTER DR STE 300 FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034	9,875	11.60 %
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC 499 WASHINGTON BLVD JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310	17,434	20.47 %



NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES LLC 499 WASHINGTON BLVD JERSEY CITY, NJ 07310	10,654	12.51 %

<b>Class C</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	24,533	78.12 %
NTC & CO FBO WILLIAM C. PASSMORE PO BOX 981012 DENVER, CO 02298-1012	2,147	6.84 %

<b>Class I</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	2,436,482	71.38 %

#### Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund

<b>Class A</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	549	98.08 %

<b>Class I</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
MAC & CO ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS 500 GRANT STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15258	5,295,759	85.24 %
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399	584,402	9.41 %

#### Navigator Tact U.S. Allocation

<b>Class I</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
MAC & CO ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS 500 GRANT STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15258	5,690,301	100.00 %

#### Navigator Tact Investment Grade

<b>Class I</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares</b>
PERSHING LLC 1 PERSHING PLAZA JERSEY CITY, NJ 07399-0002	26,227,449	20.62 %
LINCOLN INVESTMENT PLANNING PLANNING LLC/FBO LINCOLN CUSTOMERS 601 OFFICE CENTER DR STE 300 FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034	18,135,339	14.26 %

CHARLES SCHWAB & CO INC INC/SPECIAL CUSTODY A/C FBO CUSTOMERS ATTN MUTUAL FUNDS 211 MAIN STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105	17,185,853	13.51 %
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## INVESTMENT ADVISER

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc. (the "Adviser"), 1650 Market Street, 53rd floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 serves as investment adviser to the Funds. Subject to the supervision and direction of the Trustees, the Adviser manages the Fund's securities and investments in accordance with the Fund's stated investment objectives, policies and restrictions, makes investment decisions and places orders to purchase and sell securities on behalf of the Funds. The Adviser was established in 2010 and provides investment advisory services to mutual funds. The adviser also manages other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts. The fee paid to the Adviser is governed by an investment advisory agreement ("Advisory Agreement") between the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, and the Adviser.

Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser, under the supervision of the Board, agrees to invest the assets of the Funds in accordance with applicable law and the investment objective, policies and restrictions set forth in the Fund's current Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, and subject to such further limitations as the Trust may from time to time impose by written notice to the Adviser. Pursuant to the respective investment advisory agreement, the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund each pay the Adviser an annual management fee of, 0.85%, 0.75%, 0.30%, 0.85% and 0.85% of the Fund's average daily net assets, computer daily and payable monthly, respectively. The Adviser shall act as the investment adviser to the Funds and, as such shall (i) obtain and evaluate such information relating to the economy, industries, business, securities markets and securities as it may deem necessary or useful in discharging its responsibilities here under, (ii) formulate a continuing program for the investment of the assets of the Funds in a manner consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, and (iii) determine from time to time securities to be purchased, sold, retained or lent by the Funds, and implement those decisions, including the selection of entities with or through which such purchases, sales or loans are to be effected; provided, that the Adviser will place orders pursuant to its investment determinations either directly with the issuer or with a broker or dealer, and if with a broker or dealer, (a) will attempt to obtain the best price and execution of its orders, and (b) may nevertheless in its discretion purchase and sell portfolio securities from and to brokers who provide the Adviser with research, analysis, advice and similar services and pay such brokers in return a higher commission or spread than may be charged by other brokers. The Adviser also provides the Funds with all necessary office facilities and personnel for servicing the Fund's investments, compensates all officers, Trustees and employees of the Trust who are officers, directors or employees of the Adviser, and all personnel of the Funds or the Adviser performing services relating to research, statistical and investment activities. The advisory agreements with regard to the Funds were renewed by the Board of the Trust, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at a meeting held on June 21-22, 2023. A discussion of matters considered by the Board in connection with the renewal of that the advisory agreements with regard to the Funds is available in the Funds' annual report to shareholders dated October 31, 2023.

In addition, the Adviser, directly subject to the supervision of the Board, provides the management and administrative services necessary for the operation of the Funds. These services include assisting the Trust in selecting and coordinating the activities of the Funds' custodians, transfer and pricing agents, accountants, underwriters and other persons dealing with the Funds; preparing all general shareholder communications and conducting shareholder relations; maintaining the records of the Adviser on behalf of the Funds as required by applicable laws and regulations; and furnishing reports, evaluations and analyses on a variety of subjects to the Trustees.

The following table sets forth the annual management fee rate payable by the Funds to the Adviser pursuant to advisory agreements, expressed as a percentage of the Fund's average daily net assets, computed daily and payable monthly:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Management Fee</b>
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	0.75%
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	0.30%

Pursuant to advisory agreements between Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund and the Adviser, the Adviser is entitled to receive, on a monthly basis, an annual advisory fee equal to a percentage of the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and the Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund average daily net assets in accordance with an advisory fee schedule which includes breakpoints according to the table below.

Advisory Fee Breakpoint Table  
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator, Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund  
and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund

<b>Portion of Net Assets</b>	<b>Advisory Fee</b>
Less than \$4.5 billion	0.85%
Greater than \$4.5 billion and less than or equal to \$5.5 billion	0.80%
Greater than \$5.5 billion	0.75%

The Adviser has agreed contractually to waive its management fee and to reimburse expenses, (excluding any front-end or contingent deferred loads, brokerage fees and commissions, acquired fund fees and expenses, fees and expenses associated with instruments in other collective investment vehicles or derivative instruments (including for example options and swap fees and expenses), borrowing costs (such as interest and dividend expense on securities sold short), taxes, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses, such as litigation expenses (which may include indemnification of Fund officers and Trustees and contractual indemnification of Fund service providers (other than the adviser)), at least until February 28, 2025, such that net annual fund operating expenses of the Navigator Equity Hedged Fund do not exceed 1.35%, 2.10%, and 1.10% of average daily net assets attributable to Class A, Class C and Class I shares, respectively, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund do not exceed 0.65%, and 0.40% of average daily net assets attributable to Class A, and Class I shares, respectively, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund do not exceed 1.26% and 1.01% for Class A and Class I shares respectively and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund do not exceed 1.26% and 1.01% for Class A and Class I shares respectively. Any waiver/reimbursement is subject to possible recoupment from the Fund in future years on a rolling three-year basis (within three years after the end of the fiscal year during which fees were waived or reimbursed) if such recoupment can be achieved within the foregoing expense limits. No reimbursement amount will be paid to the Adviser in any fiscal quarter unless the Board has determined

in advance that a reimbursement is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. Fee waiver and reimbursement arrangements can decrease the Fund's expenses and increase its performance.

Expenses not expressly assumed by the Adviser under the Advisory Agreement are paid by the Fund. Under the terms of the Advisory Agreement, the Fund is responsible for the payment of the following expenses among others: (a) the fees payable to the Adviser, (b) the fees and expenses of Trustees who are not affiliated persons of the Adviser (c) the fees and certain expenses of the Custodian and Transfer and Dividend Disbursing Agent (as defined under the section entitled "Transfer Agent"), including the cost of maintaining certain required records of the Fund and of pricing the Fund's shares, (d) the charges and expenses of legal counsel and independent accountants for the Fund, (e) brokerage commissions and any issue or transfer taxes chargeable to the Fund in connection with its securities transactions, (f) all taxes and corporate fees payable by the Fund to governmental agencies, (g) the fees of any trade association of which the Fund may be a member, (h) the cost of share certificates representing shares of the Fund, (i) the cost of fidelity and liability insurance, (j) the fees and expenses involved in registering and maintaining registration of the Fund and of its shares with the SEC, qualifying its shares under state securities laws, including the preparation and printing of the Fund's registration statements and prospectuses for such purposes, (k) all expenses of shareholders and Trustees' meetings (including travel expenses of Trustees and officers of the Fund who are directors, officers or employees of the Adviser) and of preparing, printing and mailing reports, proxy statements and prospectuses to shareholders in the amount necessary for distribution to the shareholders and (l) litigation and indemnification expenses and other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business.

The following table sets forth the annual management fee rate payable by the Funds to the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreements, expressed as a percentage of each Fund's average daily net assets, computed daily and payable monthly:

The following table displays the advisory fees that were paid by the Funds during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2021:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Advisory Fees Paid</b>	<b>Advisory Fees Waived</b>
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	\$60,827,942	\$537,353
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	\$250,218	\$173,138
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	\$160,312	\$88,375
Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund	\$68,135	\$41,650
Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund	\$165,856	\$52,165

The following table displays the advisory fees that were paid by the Funds during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Advisory Fees Paid</b>	<b>Advisory Fees Waived</b>
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	\$63,234,013	\$1,037,709
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	\$258,513	\$160,843
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	\$158,663	\$128,968
Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund	\$5,674,333	\$632,196
Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund	\$425,204	\$112,432

The following table displays the advisory fees that were paid by the Funds during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023:

Fund	Advisory Fees Paid	Advisory Fees Waived
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	\$55,023,172	\$833,041
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	\$214,593	\$187,177
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	\$175,087	\$161,276
Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund	\$8,844,101	\$774,444
Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund	\$425,986	\$111,067

The Advisory Agreement shall continue from year-to-year provided such continuance is approved at least annually by (a) a vote of the majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval and by (b) the majority vote of either all of the Trustees or the vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of each Fund. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated without penalty on 60 days' written notice by a vote of a majority of the Trustees or by the Adviser, or by holders of a majority of that Trust's outstanding shares. The Advisory Agreement shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment.

The Adviser may use the Funds in managing its separately managed and wrap-fee program accounts ("Client Accounts"). In connection with providing advisory and other services to Client Accounts, the Adviser may receive advisory, management and other fees from Client Accounts. Such fees are separate from the investment advisory fee the Adviser receives from each Fund and are in addition to the indirect fees that a Fund shareholder bears as a result of owning shares of a Fund.

### **Codes of Ethics**

The Trust, the Adviser, and the Distributor each have adopted code of ethics (each a "Code") under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that govern the personal securities transactions of their board members, officers and employees who may have access to current trading information of the Trust. Under each Code, the Trustees are permitted to invest in securities that may also be purchased by the Funds.

In addition, the Trust has adopted a separate Code that applies only to the Trust's executive officers to ensure that these officers promote professional conduct in the practice of corporate governance and management. The purpose behind these guidelines is to promote i) honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships; ii) full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that the Trust files with, or submits to, the SEC and in other public communications made by the Fund; iii) compliance with applicable governmental laws, rule and regulations; iv) the prompt internal reporting of violations of the Code to an appropriate person or persons identified in; and v) accountability for adherence to the Code.

### **Proxy Voting Policies**

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Policies") on behalf of the Trust, which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies of securities held by the Fund to the Adviser and responsibility for voting proxies of securities held by the Fund to the Adviser, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Policies require that the Adviser vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Funds and its shareholders. The Policies also require the Adviser to

present to the Board, at least annually, the Adviser's Proxy Policies and a record of each proxy voted by the Adviser on behalf of the Funds, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Adviser as involving a conflict of interest. A copy of the Adviser's Proxy Voting Policies is attached hereto as an Appendix.

*More information.* Information regarding how the Funds voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Funds during the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 will be available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-877-766-2264; and (2) on the U.S. SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available by calling 1-877-766-2264 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

## DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES

Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, located at 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022 (the "Distributor") serves as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Fund pursuant to an Underwriting Agreement with the Trust (the "Underwriting Agreement"). The Distributor is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and each state's securities laws and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). The offering of the Fund's shares is continuous. The Underwriting Agreement provides that the Distributor, as agent in connection with the distribution of Fund shares, will use reasonable efforts to facilitate the sale of the Fund's shares. The Underwriting Agreement provides that, unless sooner terminated, it will continue in effect for two years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year, subject to annual approval by (a) the Board or a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, and (b) by a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of the Distributor by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Underwriting Agreement may be terminated by the Funds at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the entire Board of the Trust or by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Funds on 60 days' written notice to the Distributor, or by the Distributor at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Funds. The Underwriting Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

The following table sets forth the total compensation received by the Distributor from the Funds during the fiscal period ended October 31, 2021:

Fund	Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases	Brokerage Commissions	Other Compensation
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class A	\$410	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund A	\$17,754	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund A	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Sentry Managed Volatility Fund Class A	\$0	\$0	\$0	*

The Distributor also receives 12b-1 fees from the Funds as described under the following section entitled "Rule 12b-1 Plan".

The following table sets forth the total compensation received by the Distributor from the Funds during the fiscal period ended October 31, 2022:

Fund	Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases	Brokerage Commissions	Other Compensation
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class A	\$206	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund A	\$5,715	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund A	\$0	\$0	\$0	*

The Distributor received \$236,634 from the Adviser as compensation for its distribution services to the Funds.

The Distributor also receives 12b-1 fees from the Funds as described under the following section entitled "Rule 12b-1 Plans".

The following table sets forth the total compensation received by the Distributor from the Funds during the fiscal period ended October 31, 2023:

Fund	Net Underwriting Discounts and Commissions	Compensation on Redemptions and Repurchases	Brokerage Commissions	Other Compensation
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class A	\$141	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund Class C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund A	\$3,023	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund C	\$0	\$0	\$0	*
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund A	\$0	\$0	\$0	*

The Distributor received \$323,587 from the Adviser as compensation for its distribution services to the Funds.

The Distributor also receives 12b-1 fees from the Funds as described under the following section entitled "Rule 12b-1 Plans".

The Distributor may enter into selling agreements with broker-dealers that solicit orders for the sale of shares of the Funds and may allow concessions to dealers that sell shares of the Funds. The Distributor receives the portion of the sales charge on all direct initial investments in the Funds and on all investments in accounts with no designated dealer of record.

### **Rule 12b-1 Plans**

The Trust, with respect to the Funds, has adopted the Trust's Master Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plans, pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, for each of the Fund's Class A and Class C shares (the "Plans") pursuant to which the Funds is authorized to pay the Distributor, as compensation for Distributor's account maintenance services under the respective Plans, a distribution and shareholder servicing fee at the rate of up to 0.25% for Class A shares and up to 1.00% for Class C shares of the Funds' average daily net assets attributable to the relevant class. There is no Plan for Class I shares. Such fees are to be paid by the Funds monthly, or at such other intervals, as the Board shall determine. Such fees shall be based upon each share class's average daily net assets during the preceding month, and shall be calculated and accrued daily. The Funds may pay fees to the Distributor at a lesser rate, as agreed upon by the Board of the Trust and the Distributor. The Plans authorize payments to the Distributor as compensation for providing account maintenance services to Funds shareholders, including arranging for certain securities dealers or brokers, administrators and others ("Recipients") to provide these services and paying compensation for these services. The Funds will

bear its own costs of distribution with respect to its shares and the Funds may make other payments, such as contingent deferred sales charges imposed on certain redemptions of shares, which are separate and apart from payments made pursuant to the Plans.

The services to be provided by Recipients may include, but are not limited to, the following: assistance in the offering and sale of Funds shares and in other aspects of the marketing of the shares to clients or prospective clients of the respective recipients; answering routine inquiries concerning the Funds; assisting in the establishment and maintenance of accounts or sub-accounts in the Funds and in processing purchase and redemption transactions; making the Funds' investment plan and shareholder services available; and providing such other information and services to investors in shares of the Funds as the Distributor or the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, may reasonably request. The distribution services shall also include any advertising and marketing services provided by or arranged by the Distributor with respect to the Funds. The Adviser may be compensated by the Distributor for its distribution and marketing efforts.

During the fiscal period ended October 31, 2021, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund paid \$392,405, \$5,600 and \$154 respectively, in distribution related fees pursuant to the Plans.

The Funds allocated distribution expenses as follows:

**Actual 12b-1 Expenditures Paid by the Funds  
During the Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2021**

	TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class A	TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class C	EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class A	EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class C	ULTRA SHORT BOND FUND Class A
Advertising/Marketing	None	None	None	None	None
Printing/Postage	None	None	None	None	None
Payment to distributor	\$93,935	\$154,166	\$502	\$2,170	\$144
Payment to dealers	\$54,315	\$69,375	\$1,729	\$982	\$0
Compensation to sales personnel	None	None	None	None	None
Other	\$8,057	\$12,558	\$41	\$176	\$10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$156,307</b>	<b>\$236,099</b>	<b>\$2,272</b>	<b>\$3,328</b>	<b>\$154</b>

During the fiscal period ended October 31, 2022, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund paid \$441,783, \$5,845 and \$45 respectively, in distribution related fees pursuant to the Plans. The Funds allocated distribution expenses as follows:

**Actual 12b-1 Expenditures Paid by the Funds  
During the Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2022**

	TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class A	TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class C	EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class A	EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class C	ULTRA SHORT BOND FUND Class A
Advertising/Marketing	None	None	None	None	None
Printing/Postage	None	None	None	None	None
Payment to distributor	\$26,196	\$61,577	\$228	\$602	\$16
Payment to dealers	\$50,978	\$75,440	\$2,020	\$912	\$0
Compensation to sales personnel	None	None	None	None	None
Other	\$71,509	\$156,083	\$490	\$1,590	\$29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$148,683</b>	<b>\$293,100</b>	<b>\$2,738</b>	<b>\$3,107</b>	<b>\$45</b>



During the fiscal period ended October 31, 2023, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund paid \$353,985, \$4,933 and \$17 respectively, in distribution related fees pursuant to the Plans. The Funds allocated distribution expenses as follows:

**Actual 12b-1 Expenditures Paid by the Funds  
During the Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2023**

	<b>TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class A</b>	<b>TACTICAL FIXED INCOME FUND Class C</b>	<b>EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class A</b>	<b>EQUITY HEDGED FUND Class C</b>	<b>ULTRA SHORT BOND FUND Class A</b>
Advertising/Marketing	None	None	None	None	None
Printing/Postage	None	None	None	None	None
Payment to distributor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Payment to dealers	\$34,922	\$52,170	\$1,414	\$740	\$0
Compensation to sales personnel	None	None	None	None	None
Other	\$85,836	\$181,057	\$592	\$2,187	\$17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$120,758</b>	<b>\$233,227</b>	<b>\$2,006</b>	<b>\$2,927</b>	<b>\$17</b>

The Distributor is required to provide a written report, at least quarterly to the Board of the Trust, specifying in reasonable detail the amounts expended pursuant to the Plans and the purposes for which such expenditures were made. Further, the Distributor will inform the Board of any Rule 12b-1 fees to be paid by the Distributor to Recipients.

The initial term of the Plans is one year and will continue in effect from year to year thereafter, provided such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board and a majority of the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust and do not have a direct or indirect financial interest in the Plans ("Rule 12b-1 Trustees") by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plans. The Plans may be terminated at any time by the Trust or the Funds by vote of a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting shares of the Funds.

The Plans may not be amended to increase materially the amount of the Distributor's compensation to be paid by the Funds, unless such amendment is approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the affected class of the Funds (as defined in the 1940 Act). All material amendments must be approved by a majority of the Board of the Trust and a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on a Plan. During the term of a Plan, the selection and nomination of non-interested Trustees of the Trust will be committed to the discretion of current non-interested Trustees. The Distributor will preserve copies of the Plans, any related agreements, and all reports, for a period of not less than six years from the date of such document and for at least the first two years in an easily accessible place.

Any agreement related to the Plans will be in writing and provide that: (a) it may be terminated by the Trust or the applicable Funds at any time upon sixty days' written notice, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the respective Rule 12b-1 Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Trust or Funds; (b) it will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act); and (c) it will continue in effect for a period of more than one year from the date of its execution or adoption only so long as such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board and a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such agreement.

## Securities Lending

During the fiscal year, the securities lending agent, or the investment adviser (where the fund does not use a securities lending agent) monitored loan opportunities for each fund, negotiated the terms of the loans with borrowers, monitored the value of securities on loan and the value of the corresponding collateral, communicated with borrowers and the fund's custodian regarding marking to market the collateral, selected securities to be loaned and allocated those loan opportunities among lenders, and arranged for the return of the loaned securities upon the termination of the loan.

Income and fees from securities lending activities for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, are shown in the following table:

Fund	Gross income from securities lending activities	Fees paid to securities lending agent from a revenue split	Administrative fees	Rebate (paid to borrower)	Aggregate fees/compensation for securities lending activities	Net income from securities lending activities
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	\$165,134.00	\$11,885.23	\$0	\$104,381.77	\$0	\$48,867.00
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	\$21,844,784.80	\$870,255.81	\$0	\$17,501,394.99	\$0	\$3,473,134.00

A fund does not pay cash collateral management fees, separate indemnification fees, or other fees not reflected above.

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

The following table lists the number and types of accounts managed by the portfolio managers of the Funds, in addition to those of the Navigator Funds and assets under management in those accounts as of October 31, 2023:

### **Total Other Accounts Managed**

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Company Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Pooled Investment Vehicle Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Other Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)
<b>K. Sean Clark, CFA</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	0	N/A	1	\$18.0	165,298	\$15.3
<b>Jon Fiebach</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>Robert S. Bennett, Jr.</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A

Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)						
<b>David J. Rights</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, & Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>Mason Wev, CFA, CMT, CAIA</b> (Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	0	N/A	1	\$18.0	143,651	\$14.4
<b>Alexander Meyer, CFA</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
<b>Kevin Bellis, CFA</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund)	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A

#### Other Accounts Managed Subject to Performance-Based Fees

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Company Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Pooled Investment Vehicle Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)	Other Accounts	Assets Managed (\$ millions)
K. Sean Clark, CFA	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
David J. Rights	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Mason Wev, CFA, CMT, CAIA	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Robert S. Bennett, Jr.	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Jon Fiebach	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Alexander Meyer, CFA	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Kevin Bellis, CFA	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A

#### *Conflicts of Interest.*

As indicated in the table above, portfolio managers at the Adviser may manage numerous accounts for multiple clients. These accounts may include registered investment companies, other types of pooled accounts (e.g., collective investment funds), and separate accounts (i.e., accounts managed on behalf of individuals or public or private institutions). The portfolio managers make investment decisions for each account based on the investment objectives and policies and other relevant investment considerations applicable to that portfolio.

When the portfolio managers have responsibility for managing more than one account, potential conflicts of interest may arise. Those conflicts could include preferential treatment of one account over others in terms of allocation of resources or of investment opportunities. For instance, the Adviser may

receive fees from certain accounts that are higher than the fee it receives from the Funds, or it may receive a performance-based fee on certain accounts. In those instances, the portfolio managers may have an incentive to favor the higher and/or performance-based fee accounts over the Funds. The Adviser has adopted policies and procedures designed to address these potential material conflicts. For instance, the portfolio managers are normally responsible for all accounts within a certain investment discipline, and does not, absent special circumstances, differentiate among the various accounts when allocating resources. Additionally, the Adviser utilizes a system for allocating investment opportunities among portfolios that is designed to provide a fair and equitable allocation.

Each Adviser portfolio manager receives a salary and may be eligible for a discretionary bonus based upon the firm's overall performance, and a share of the profits of the Adviser, if any.

*Ownership.*

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the portfolio manager of the Funds as of October 31, 2023.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Navigator Funds
<b>K. Sean Clark, CFA</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund: \$50,001 - \$100,000
<b>Jon Fiebach</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)	None
<b>Robert S. Bennett, Jr.</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)	None
<b>David J. Rights</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, & Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	None
<b>Mason Wev, CFA, CMT, CAIA</b> (Navigator Equity Hedged Fund)	None
<b>Alexander Meyer, CFA</b> (Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund, and Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund)	None
<b>Kevin Bellis, CFA</b> ((Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund, and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund)	None

## ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE

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Specific decisions to purchase or sell securities for the Funds are made by the portfolio managers, who are employees of the Adviser. The Adviser is authorized by the Trustees to allocate the orders placed on behalf of the Funds to brokers or dealers who may, but need not, provide research or statistical material or other services to the Funds or the Adviser for a Fund's use. Such allocation is to be in such amounts and proportions as the Adviser may determine.

In selecting a broker or dealer to execute each particular transaction, the Adviser will take the following into consideration:

- the best net price available,
- the reliability, integrity and financial condition of the broker or dealer,
- the size of and difficulty in executing the order, and
- the value of the expected contribution of the broker or dealer to the investment performance of the Fund on a continuing basis.

Brokers or dealers executing a portfolio transaction on behalf of the Funds may receive a commission in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for executing the transaction if the Adviser determines in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of brokerage, research and other services provided to the Funds. In allocating portfolio brokerage, the Adviser may select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage, research and other services to other accounts over which the Adviser exercises investment discretion. Some of the services received as the result of Funds transactions may primarily benefit accounts other than the Funds, while services received as the result of portfolio transactions effected on behalf of those other accounts may primarily benefit the Funds.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2021, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$389,687, \$53,547, \$0, \$0 and \$0 respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$329,963, \$325,443, \$0, \$750 and \$0 respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid brokerage commissions of \$860,988, \$257,055, \$0, \$6,750 and \$0 respectively.

## PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

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The Funds' portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Funds' during the fiscal year. The calculation excludes from both the numerator and the denominator securities with maturities at the time of acquisition of one year or less. High portfolio turnover may involve correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transaction costs,

which will be borne directly by the Funds. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all of the Funds' portfolio securities were replaced once within a one-year period. The portfolio turnover rates for the Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund are expected to be over 100%, annually.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, the portfolio turnover rate of Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund were 197%, 728%, 36%, 1,502% and 14% respectively. The turnover increased for the Navigator Equity Hedged Fund and the Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund as the Adviser navigated dynamic market conditions during the period. The turnover decreased for the Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund as the Adviser invested opportunistically during the period's market conditions. The Adviser will continue to monitor the investment landscape as new opportunities arise. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, the portfolio turnover rate of Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund were 250%, 517%, 36%, 1,368% and 25% respectively. The turnover decreased for the Navigator Equity Hedged Fund and the Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund as the Funds navigated, arguably, less volatile market conditions during the period. The Adviser will continue to monitor the investment landscape as new opportunities arise.

## **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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### Fund Administration, Fund Accounting and Transfer Agent Services

Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, ("UFS"), which has its principal office at 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022, serves as the administrator, fund accountant and transfer agent for the Fund pursuant to a Fund Services Agreement (the "Agreement") with the Funds and subject to the supervision of the Board. UFS is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds. UFS is an affiliate of the Distributor. UFS may also provide persons to serve as officers of the Fund. Such officers may be directors, officers or employees of UFS or its affiliates.

Effective February 1, 2019, NorthStar Financial Services Group, LLC, the parent company of UFS and its affiliated companies including Northern Lights Distributors, LLC and Northern Lights Compliance Services, LLC (collectively, the "Gemini Companies"), sold its interest in the Gemini Companies to a third party private equity firm that contemporaneously acquired Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (an independent mutual fund administration firm) and its affiliates (collectively, the "Ultimus Companies"). As a result of these separate transactions, the Gemini Companies and the Ultimus Companies are now indirectly owned through a common parent entity, The Ultimus Group, LLC.

The Agreement became effective on June 22, 2011, and will remain in effect for two years from the applicable effective date with respect to each Fund, and will continue in effect for successive twelve-month periods provided that such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board. The Agreement is terminable by the Board or UFS on 90 days' written notice and may be assigned by either party, provided that the Trust may not assign this agreement without the prior written consent of UFS. The Agreement provides that UFS shall be without liability for any action reasonably taken or omitted pursuant to the Agreement.

Under the Agreement, UFS performs administrative services, including: (1) monitoring the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to the Trust by others service providers; (2) monitoring Fund holdings and operations for post-trade compliance with the Funds' registration statement and applicable laws and rules; (3) preparing and coordinating the printing of semi-annual and annual financial statements; (4) preparing selected management reports for performance and compliance analyses; (5) preparing and disseminating materials for and attending and participating in meetings of the Board; (6) determining income and capital gains available for distribution and calculating distributions required to meet regulatory, income, and excise tax requirements; (7) reviewing the Trust's federal, state, and local tax returns as prepared and signed by the Trust's independent public accountants; (8) preparing and maintaining the Trust's operating expense budget to determine proper expense accruals to be charged to each Fund to calculate its daily net asset value; (9) assisting in and monitoring the preparation, filing, printing and where applicable, dissemination to shareholders of amendments to the Trust's Registration Statement on Form N-1A, periodic reports to the Trustees, shareholders and the SEC, notices pursuant to Rule 24f-2, proxy materials and reports to the SEC on Forms N-SAR, N-CSR, N-PORT and N-PX; (10) coordinating the Trust's audits and examinations by assisting each Funds' independent public accountants; (11) determining, in consultation with others, the jurisdictions in which shares of the Trust shall be registered or qualified for sale and facilitating such registration or qualification; (12) monitoring sales of shares and ensure that the shares are properly and duly registered with the SEC; (13) monitoring the calculation of performance data for the Funds; (14) preparing, or cause to be prepared, expense and financial reports; (15) preparing authorizations for the payment of Trust expenses and pay, from Trust assets, all bills of the Trust; (16) providing information typically supplied in the investment company industry to companies that track or report price, performance or other information with respect to investment companies; (17) upon request, assisting each of the Funds in the evaluation and selection of other service providers, such as independent public accountants, printers, EDGAR providers and proxy solicitors (such parties may be affiliates of UFS) and (18) performing other services, recordkeeping and assistance relating to the affairs of the Trust as the Trust may, from time to time, reasonably request.

For the administrative services rendered to the Funds by UFS, the Funds pay UFS the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee which scales downward based upon net assets. The Funds also pay UFS for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2021, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$1,200,912, \$66,151, \$74,199, \$11,784 and \$27,419 for combined administrative and accounting services fees, respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$1,224,993, \$70,798, \$76,398, \$328,389 and \$76,465 for combined administrative and accounting services fees, respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$1,085,290, \$77,207, \$77,373, \$511,611 and \$82,041 for combined administrative and accounting services fees, respectively.

UFS also provides the Funds with accounting services, including: (i) daily computation of net asset value; (ii) maintenance of security ledgers and books and records as required by the 1940 Act; (iii) production of the Funds' listing of portfolio securities and general ledger reports; (iv) reconciliation of accounting records; (v) calculation of yield and total return for the Funds; (vi) maintaining certain books and records described in Rule 31a-1 under the 1940 Act, and reconciling account information

and balances among the Funds' custodian and Adviser; and (vii) monitoring and evaluating daily income and expense accruals, and sales and redemptions of shares of the Funds.

For the fund accounting services rendered to the Funds under the Agreement, the Funds pay a combined fee included with the administrative fees noted above; therefore, there is no separate base annual fee per fund or share class. The Funds will pay UFS the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee which scales downward based upon net assets. The Funds also pay UFS for any out-of-pocket expenses.

UFS also acts as transfer, dividend disbursing, and shareholder servicing agent for the Funds pursuant to the Agreement. Under the Agreement, UFS is responsible for administering and performing transfer agent functions, dividend distribution, shareholder administration, and maintaining necessary records in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. For such services rendered to the Fund under the Agreement, the Funds pay UFS the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee which scales downward based upon net assets. The Fund also pays the Transfer Agent for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For the period ended October 31, 2021, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$806,410, \$27,661, \$18,465, \$2,015 and \$5,703 for transfer agency fees, respectively. For the period ended October 31, 2022, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$935,990, \$27,588, \$19,962, \$277,041 and \$18,951 for transfer agency fees, respectively. For the period ended October 31, 2023, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$1,053,812, \$28,441, \$18,316, \$461,210 and \$19,128 for transfer agency fees, respectively.

### Custodian

The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (the "Custodian"), 240 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10286, serves as the custodian of the Funds' assets pursuant to a Custody Agreement by and between the Custodian and the Trust on behalf of the Funds. The Custodian's responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling the Funds' cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, and collecting interest and dividends on the Funds' investments. Pursuant to the Custody Agreement, the Custodian also maintains original entry documents and books of record and general ledgers; posts cash receipts and disbursements; and records purchases and sales based upon communications from the Adviser. The Funds may employ foreign sub-custodians that are approved by the Board to hold foreign assets.

### Compliance Services

Northern Lights Compliance Services, LLC ("NLCS"), 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, NE 68022, an affiliate of UFS and the Distributor, provides a Chief Compliance Officer to the Trust as well as related compliance services pursuant to a consulting agreement between NLCS and the Trust. NLCS's compliance services consist primarily of reviewing and assessing the policies and procedures of the Trust and its service providers pertaining to compliance with applicable federal securities laws, including Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act. For the compliance services rendered to the



Funds, the Funds pay NLCS an annual fixed fee and an asset based fee, which scales downward based upon the Fund's net assets. The Funds also pays NLCS for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2021, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$136,645, \$27,171, \$30,468, \$2,557 and \$9,982 for compliance service fees, respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2022, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond, Fund Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$128,823, \$23,740, \$23,960, \$31,610 and \$ 23,867 for compliance service fees, respectively. For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2023, Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund, Navigator Equity Hedged Fund, Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund, Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund and Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund paid \$119,497, \$22,849, \$23,228, \$37,583 and \$ 23,063 for compliance service fees, respectively.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

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Each share of beneficial interest of the Trust has one vote in the election of Trustees. Cumulative voting is not authorized for the Trust. This means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of Trustees can elect 100% of the Trustees if they choose to do so, and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will be unable to elect any Trustees.

Shareholders of the Trust and any other future series of the Trust will vote in the aggregate and not by series except as otherwise required by law or when the Board determines that the matter to be voted upon affects only the interest of the shareholders of a particular series. Matters such as ratification of the independent public accountants and election of Trustees are not subject to separate voting requirements and may be acted upon by shareholders of the Trust voting without regard to series.

The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest. Each share has equal dividend, distribution and liquidation rights. There are no conversion or preemptive rights applicable to any shares of the Funds. All shares issued are fully paid and non-assessable.

## **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM**

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The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the "Program") as required by Section 352 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 is written and has been approved by the Board. The Program provides for the development of policies, procedures and internal controls reasonably designed to prevent money laundering, the designation of an anti-money laundering compliance officer who is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Program, ongoing anti-money laundering training for appropriate persons and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Funds' Distributor, and Transfer Agent have established reasonable anti-money laundering procedures, have

reported suspicious and/or fraudulent activity and have completed thorough reviews of all new opening account applications. The Trust will not transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA Patriot Act.

As a result of the Program, the Trust 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 Trust may be required to transfer the account or proceeds of the account to a governmental agency.

## **PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES**

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### Calculation of Share Price

As indicated in the Prospectus under the heading "Net Asset Value," the net asset value ("NAV") of the Funds' shares, by class, is determined by dividing the total value of the Funds' portfolio investments and other assets, less any liabilities, by the total number of shares outstanding of the Funds, by class.

Generally, the Fund's domestic securities (including underlying ETFs which hold portfolio securities primarily listed on foreign (non-U.S.) exchanges) are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on each security's primary exchange. Securities traded or dealt in upon one or more securities exchanges for which market quotations are readily available and not subject to restrictions against resale shall be valued at the last quoted sales price on the primary exchange or, in the absence of a sale on the primary exchange, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on such exchange. Securities primarily traded in the National Association of Securities Dealers' Automated Quotation System ("NASDAQ") National Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. If market quotations are not readily available, securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined in good faith by the Adviser in accordance with procedures approved by the Board and as further described below. Securities that are not traded or dealt in any securities exchange (whether domestic or foreign) and for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available generally shall be valued at the last sale price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask price on such over-the-counter market.

Certain securities or investments for which daily market quotes are not readily available may be valued, pursuant to guidelines established by the Board, with reference to other securities or indices. Debt securities not traded on an exchange may be valued at prices supplied by a pricing agent(s) based on broker or dealer supplied valuations or matrix pricing, a method of valuing securities by reference to the value of other securities with similar characteristics, such as rating, interest rate and maturity. Short-term investments having a maturity of 60 days or less may be valued at amortized cost when it is approximate to fair value.

Exchange traded options are valued at the last quoted sales price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on the exchange on which such options are traded. Futures and options on futures are valued at the settlement price determined by the exchange. Other securities for which market quotes are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Board or persons acting at their direction. Swap agreements and other derivatives are

generally valued daily based upon quotations from market makers or by a pricing service in accordance with the valuation procedures approved by the Board.

Under certain circumstances, the Fund may use an independent pricing service to calculate the fair market value of foreign equity securities on a daily basis by applying valuation factors to the last sale price or the mean price as noted above. The fair market values supplied by the independent pricing service will generally reflect market trading that occurs after the close of the applicable foreign markets of comparable securities or the value of other instruments that have a strong correlation to the fair-valued securities. The independent pricing service will also take into account the current relevant currency exchange rate. A security that is fair valued may be valued at a price higher or lower than actual market quotations or the value determined by other funds using their own fair valuation procedures. Because foreign securities may trade on days when Fund shares are not priced, the value of securities held by the Fund can change on days when Fund shares cannot be redeemed or purchased. In the event that a foreign security's market quotations are not readily available or are deemed unreliable (for reasons other than because the foreign exchange on which it trades closed before the Fund's calculation of NAV), the security will be valued at its fair market value as determined in good faith by the Adviser in accordance with procedures approved by the Board as discussed below. Without fair valuation, it is possible that short-term traders could take advantage of the arbitrage opportunity and dilute the NAV of long-term investors. Fair valuation of the Fund's portfolio securities can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that it will prevent dilution of the Fund's NAV by short-term traders. In addition, because the Fund may invest in underlying ETFs which hold portfolio securities primarily listed on foreign (non-U.S.) exchanges, and these exchanges may trade on weekends or other days when the underlying ETFs do not price their shares, the value of these portfolio securities may change on days when you may not be able to buy or sell Fund shares.

Investments initially valued in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted to U.S. dollars using exchange rates obtained from pricing services. As a result, the NAV of the Funds' shares may be affected by changes in the value of currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar. The value of securities traded in markets outside the United States or denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar may be affected significantly on a day that the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is closed and an investor is not able to purchase, redeem or exchange shares.

The Funds shares are valued at the close of regular trading on the NYSE (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) (the "NYSE Close") on each day that the NYSE is open. For purposes of calculating the NAV, the Funds normally use pricing data for domestic equity securities received shortly after the NYSE Close and does not normally take into account trading, clearances or settlements that take place after the NYSE Close. Domestic fixed income and foreign securities are normally priced using data reflecting the earlier closing of the principal markets for those securities. Information that becomes known to the Funds or its agents after the NAV has been calculated on a particular day will not generally be used to retroactively adjust the price of the security or the NAV determined earlier that day.

When market quotations are insufficient or not readily available, the Funds may value securities at fair value or estimate their value as determined in good faith by the Board or its designees, pursuant to procedures approved by the Board. Fair valuation may also be used by the Board if extraordinary events occur after the close of the relevant market but prior to the NYSE Close.

The Funds may hold securities, such as private placements, interests in commodity pools, other non-traded securities or temporarily illiquid investments, for which market quotations are not readily

available or are determined to be unreliable. These securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined using the "fair value" procedures approved by the Board. The Board has designated the Adviser as its "Valuation Designee" to execute these procedures. The Adviser may also enlist third party consultants such as an audit firm or financial officer of a security issuer on an as-needed basis to assist in determining a security-specific fair value. The Board reviews the execution of this process and the resultant fair value prices at least quarterly to assure the process produces reliable results.

Valuation Process. Fair value determinations are required for the following securities: (i) securities for which market quotations are insufficient or not readily available on a particular business day (including securities for which there is a short and temporary lapse in the provision of a price by the regular pricing source), (ii) securities for which, in the judgment of the Adviser, the prices or values available do not represent the fair value of the instrument. Factors which may cause the Adviser to make such a judgment include, but are not limited to, the following: only a bid price or an asked price is available; the spread between bid and asked prices is substantial; the frequency of sales; the thinness of the market; the size of reported trades; and actions of the securities markets, such as the suspension or limitation of trading; (iii) securities determined to be illiquid; (iv) securities with respect to which an event that will affect the value thereof has occurred (a "significant event") since the closing prices were established on the principal exchange on which they are traded, but prior to the Funds' calculation of its net asset value. Specifically, interests in commodity pools or managed futures pools are valued on a daily basis by reference to the closing market prices of each futures contract or other asset held by a pool, as adjusted for pool expenses. Restricted or illiquid investments, such as private placements or non-traded securities are valued via inputs from the Adviser or valuation based upon the current bid for the security from two or more independent dealers or other parties reasonably familiar with the facts and circumstances of the security (who should take into consideration all relevant factors as may be appropriate under the circumstances). If the Adviser is unable to obtain a current bid from such independent dealers or other independent parties, the Adviser shall determine the fair value of such security using the following factors: (i) the type of security; (ii) the cost at date of purchase; (iii) the size and nature of the Funds' holdings; (iv) the discount from market value of unrestricted securities of the same class at the time of purchase and subsequent thereto; (v) information as to any transactions or offers with respect to the security; (vi) the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition of the security and the existence of any registration rights; (vii) how the yield of the security compares to similar securities of companies of similar or equal creditworthiness; (viii) the level of recent trades of similar or comparable securities; (ix) the liquidity characteristics of the security; (x) current market conditions; and (xi) the market value of any securities into which the security is convertible or exchangeable.

Standards For Fair Value Determinations. As a general principle, the fair value of a security is the amount that the Funds might reasonably expect to realize upon its current sale. The Trust has adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards Codification Topic 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures ("ASC 820"). In accordance with ASC 820, fair value is defined as the price that the Funds would receive upon selling an investment in a timely transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market of the investment. ASC 820 establishes a three-tier hierarchy to maximize the use of observable market data and minimize the use of unobservable inputs and to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Inputs refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk, for example, the risk inherent in a particular valuation technique used to measure fair value including such a pricing model and/or the risk inherent in the inputs to the valuation technique. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the

asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, developed based on the best information available under the circumstances.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of each Funds' investments relating to ASC 820. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below.

Level 1 – quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 – other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.)

Level 3 – significant unobservable inputs (including the Funds' own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The Adviser takes into account the relevant factors and surrounding circumstances, which may include: (i) the nature and pricing history (if any) of the security; (ii) whether any dealer quotations for the security are available; (iii) possible valuation methodologies that could be used to determine the fair value of the security; (iv) the recommendation of a portfolio manager of the Funds with respect to the valuation of the security; (v) whether the same or similar securities are held by other Funds managed by the Adviser or other Funds and the method used to price the security in those Funds; (vi) the extent to which the fair value to be determined for the security will result from the use of data or formulae produced by independent third parties and (vii) the liquidity or illiquidity of the market for the security.

Board Determination. The Board meets at least quarterly to consider the valuations provided by the Adviser and to ratify the valuations for the applicable securities. The Board considers the reports provided by the Adviser, including follow up studies of subsequent market-provided prices when available, in reviewing and determining in good faith the fair value of the applicable portfolio securities.

The Trust expects that the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

### Purchase of Shares

Orders for shares received by the Funds in good order prior to the close of business on the NYSE on each day during such periods that the NYSE is open for trading are priced at NAV per share computed as of the close of the regular session of trading on the NYSE. Orders received in good order after the close of the NYSE, or on a day it is not open for trading, are priced at the close of such NYSE on the next day on which it is open for trading at the next determined NAV or offering price per share.

## Notice to Texas Shareholders

Under section 72.1021(a) of the Texas Property Code, initial investors in a Fund who are Texas residents may designate a representative to receive notices of abandoned property in connection with Fund shares. Texas shareholders who wish to appoint a representative should notify the Trust's Transfer Agent by writing to the address below to obtain a form for providing written notice to the Trust:

Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund  
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund  
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund  
Navigator Tactical U.S. Allocation Fund  
Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund  
c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC  
P.O. Box 541150  
Omaha, Nebraska 68154  
**or overnight to**  
4221 North 203rd Street, Suite 100  
Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474

## Redemption of Shares

The Funds will redeem all or any portion of a shareholder's shares in the Funds when requested in accordance with the procedures set forth in the "Redemptions" section of the Prospectus. Under the 1940 Act, a shareholder's right to redeem shares and to receive payment therefore may be suspended at times:

- (a) when the NYSE is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings;
- (b) when trading on that exchange is restricted for any reason;
- (c) when an emergency exists as a result of which disposal by the Funds of securities owned by it is not reasonably practicable or it is not reasonably practicable for the Funds to fairly determine the value of its net assets, provided that applicable rules and regulations of the SEC (or any succeeding governmental authority) will govern as to whether the conditions prescribed in (b) or (c) exist; or
- (d) when the SEC by order permits a suspension of the right to redemption or a postponement of the date of payment on redemption.

In case of suspension of the right of redemption, payment of a redemption request will be made based on the NAV next determined after the termination of the suspension.

The Funds may purchase shares of Underlying Funds which charge a redemption fee to shareholders (such as the Funds) that redeem shares of the Underlying Fund within a certain period of time (such as one year). The fee is payable to the Underlying Fund. Accordingly, if the Funds were to invest in an Underlying Fund and incur a redemption fee as a result of redeeming shares in such Underlying Fund, the Funds would bear such redemption fee. The Funds will not, however, invest in shares of an Underlying Fund that is sold with a contingent deferred sales load.

Supporting documents in addition to those listed under "Redemptions" in the Prospectus will be required from executors, administrators, Trustees, or if redemption is requested by someone other than the shareholder of record. Such documents include, but are not restricted to, stock powers, Trust instruments, certificates of death, appointments as executor, certificates of corporate authority and waiver of tax required in some states when settling estates.

## **TAX STATUS**

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The following discussion is general in nature and should not be regarded as an exhaustive presentation of all possible tax ramifications. All shareholders should consult a qualified tax advisor regarding their investment in the Funds.

The Funds intends to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "IRS Code"), which requires compliance with certain requirements concerning the sources of its income, diversification of its assets, and the amount and timing of its distributions to shareholders. Such qualification does not involve supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency or bureau. By so qualifying, the Funds should not be subject to federal income or excise tax on its net investment income or net capital gain, which are distributed to shareholders in accordance with the applicable timing requirements. Net investment income and net capital gain of the Funds will be computed in accordance with Section 852 of the IRS Code.

Net investment income is made up of dividends and interest less expenses. Net capital gain for a fiscal year is computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Funds. Capital losses incurred in tax years beginning after December 22, 2010 may now be carried forward indefinitely and retain the character of the original loss. Under previously enacted laws, capital losses could be carried forward to offset any capital gains for only eight years, and carried forward as short-term capital losses, irrespective of the character of the original loss. Capital loss carryforwards are available to offset future realized capital gains. To the extent that these carryforwards are used to offset future capital gains it is probable that the amount offset will not be distributed to shareholders.

The Funds intend to distribute all of its net investment income, any excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, and any excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the IRS Code and therefore should not be required to pay any federal income or excise taxes. Distributions of net investment income and net capital gain will be made after the end of each fiscal year, and no later than December 31 of each year. Both types of distributions will be in shares of the Funds unless a shareholder elects to receive cash.

At October 31, 2023, the Funds had capital loss carry forwards for federal income tax purposes available to offset future capital gains as follows:

	<u>Short-Term</u>	<u>Long-Term</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Carry Forward Utilized</u>
Navigator Equity Hedged Fund	\$ 4,115,915	\$ 376,700	4,492,615	\$ 1,661,205
Navigator Tactical Fixed Income Fund	633,227,738	130,630,043	763,857,781	17,741,107
Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund*	73,662,213	4,331,303	77,993,516*	—
Navigator Tactical US Allocation Fund	2,174,811	2,955,466	5,130,277	3,036,827
Navigator Ultra Short Bond Fund	81,742	13,225	94,967	30,467

\*The Navigator Tactical Investment Grade Bond Fund experienced a shareholder change in ownership resulting in an annual limitation on the amount of pre-change capital loss carry forwards available to be recognized in each year. Due to IRC Section 382 limitations, utilization of these carry forwards is limited to a maximum of \$1,543,207 per year (\$959,748 in the initial year.)

To be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the IRS Code, the Funds must also (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, net income from certain publicly traded partnerships and gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in such securities or currencies, and (b) diversify its holding so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Funds' assets is represented by cash, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities (for purposes of this calculation, generally limited in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the market value of the Funds' assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities of (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) any one issuer, two or more issuers which the Funds controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or the securities of certain publicly traded partnerships.

If the Funds fail to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M in any fiscal year, it will be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. As such the Funds would be required to pay income taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, at the rates generally applicable to corporations. Shareholders of the Funds generally would not be liable for income tax on the Funds' net investment income or net realized capital gains in their individual capacities. Distributions to shareholders, whether from the Funds' net investment income or net realized capital gains, would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Funds.

The Funds are subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on certain undistributed amounts of ordinary income and capital gain under a prescribed formula contained in Section 4982 of the IRS Code. The formula requires payment to shareholders during a calendar year of distributions representing at least 98% of the Funds' ordinary income for the calendar year and at least 98.2% of its capital gain net income (i.e., the excess of its capital gains over capital losses) realized during the one-year period ending October 31 during such year plus 100% of any income that was neither distributed



nor taxed to the Funds during the preceding calendar year. Under ordinary circumstances, the Funds expects to time its distributions so as to avoid liability for this tax.

The following discussion of tax consequences is for the general information of shareholders that are subject to tax. Shareholders that are IRAs or other qualified retirement plans are exempt from income taxation under the IRS Code.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In most cases the Funds will hold shares in Underlying Funds for less than 12 months, such that its sales of such shares from time to time will not qualify as long-term capital gains for those investors who hold shares of the Funds in taxable accounts.

Distributions of net capital gain ("capital gain dividends") generally are taxable to shareholders as short-term capital gain; regardless of the length of time the shares of the Trust have been held by such shareholders.

For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain U.S. shareholders, including individuals and estates and trusts, will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which should include dividends from the Funds and net gains from the disposition of shares of the Funds. U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax Advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from an investment in the Funds.

Redemption of shares of the Funds by a shareholder will result in the recognition of taxable gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's tax basis in his or her shares in the Funds. Such gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets. However, any loss realized upon the 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 capital gain dividends during such six-month period. All or a portion of any loss realized upon the redemption of shares may be disallowed to the extent shares are purchased (including shares acquired by means of reinvested dividends) within 30 days before or after such redemption.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain will be taxable as described above, whether received in additional cash or shares. Shareholders electing to reinvest 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 net asset value of a share on the reinvestment date.

All distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain, whether received in shares or in cash, must be reported by each taxable shareholder on his or her federal income tax return. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31, if paid during January of the following year. Redemptions of shares may result in tax consequences (gain or loss) to the shareholder and are also subject to these reporting requirements.

Under the IRS Code, the Funds will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all distributions of taxable income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of shares of the Funds, except in the case of certain exempt shareholders. Under the backup withholding provisions of Section 3406 of the IRS Code, distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain and proceeds from the redemption or exchange of the shares of a regulated

investment company may be subject to withholding of federal income tax in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the investment company with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law, or if the Funds are notified by the IRS or a broker that withholding is required due to an incorrect TIN or a previous failure to report taxable interest or dividends. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld.

### Other Reporting and Withholding Requirements

Payments to a shareholder that is either a foreign financial institution (“FFI”) or a non-financial foreign entity (“NFFE”) within the meaning of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“FATCA”) may be subject to a generally nonrefundable 30% withholding tax on: (a) income dividends paid by the Funds after June 30, 2014 and (b) certain capital gain distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of shares of the Funds paid by the Funds after December 31, 2016. FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, subject to any applicable intergovernmental agreement or other exemption, if it enters into a valid agreement with the IRS to, among other requirements, report required information about certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reports information relating to them. Funds may disclose the information that it receives from its shareholders to the IRS, non-U.S. taxing authorities or other parties as necessary to comply with FATCA. Withholding also may be required if a foreign entity that is a shareholder of the Funds fail to provide the Funds with appropriate certifications or other documentation concerning its status under FATCA.

### Options, Futures, Forward Contracts and Swap Agreements

To the extent such investments are permissible for the Funds, the Funds’ transactions in options, futures contracts, hedging transactions, forward contracts, straddles and foreign currencies will be subject to special tax rules (including mark-to-market, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the Funds, defer losses to the Funds, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Funds’ securities, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

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

## Passive Foreign Investment Companies

Investment by the Funds in certain "passive foreign investment companies" ("PFICs") could subject the Funds to a U.S. federal income tax (including interest charges) on distributions received from the company or on proceeds received from the disposition of shares in the company, which tax cannot be eliminated by making distributions to the Funds' shareholders. However, the Funds may elect to treat a PFIC as a "qualified electing fund" ("QEF"), in which case the Funds will be required to include its share of the company's income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives any distribution from the company.

The Funds also may make an election to mark the gains (and to a limited extent losses) in such holdings "to the market" as though it had sold and repurchased its holdings in those PFICs on the last day of the Funds' taxable year. Such gains and losses are treated as ordinary income and loss. The QEF and mark-to-market elections may accelerate the recognition of income (without the receipt of cash) and increase the amount required to be distributed for the Funds to avoid taxation. Making either of these elections therefore may require the Funds to liquidate other investments (including when it is not advantageous to do so) to meet its distribution requirement, which also may accelerate the recognition of gain and affect the Funds' total return.

## Foreign Currency Transactions

The Funds' transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt securities 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.

## Foreign Taxation

Income received by the Funds from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties and conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of the value of the Funds' total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of securities of foreign corporations, the Funds may be able to elect to "pass through" to its shareholders the amount of eligible foreign income and similar taxes paid by the Funds. If this election is made, a shareholder generally subject to tax will be required to include in gross income (in addition to taxable dividends actually received) his or her pro rata share of the foreign taxes paid by the Funds, and may be entitled either to deduct (as an itemized deduction) his or her pro rata share of foreign taxes in computing his or her taxable income or to use it as a foreign tax credit against his or her U.S. federal income tax liability, subject to certain limitations. In particular, a shareholder must hold his or her shares (without protection from risk of loss) on the ex-dividend date and for at least 15 more days during the 30-day period surrounding the ex-dividend date to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to a gain dividend. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. Each shareholder will be notified within 60 days after the close of the Funds' taxable year whether the foreign taxes paid by the Funds will "pass through" for that year.

Generally, a credit for foreign taxes is subject to the limitation that it may not exceed the shareholder's U.S. tax attributable to his or her total foreign source taxable income. For this purpose, if the pass-through election is made, the source of the Funds' income will flow through to shareholders of the Funds. With respect to the Funds, gains from the sale of securities will be treated as derived from

U.S. sources and certain currency fluctuation gains, including fluctuation gains from foreign currency-denominated debt securities, receivables and payables will be treated as ordinary income derived from U.S. sources. The limitation on the foreign tax credit is applied separately to foreign source passive income, and to certain other types of income. A shareholder may be unable to claim a credit for the full amount of his or her proportionate share of the foreign taxes paid by the Funds. The foreign tax credit can be used to offset only 90% of the revised alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations and individuals and foreign taxes generally are not deductible in computing alternative minimum taxable income.

### Original Issue Discount and Pay-In-Kind Securities

Current federal tax law requires the holder of a U.S. Treasury or other fixed income zero coupon security to accrue as income each year a portion of the discount at which the security was purchased, even though the holder receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. In addition, pay-in-kind securities will give rise to income, which is required to be distributed and is taxable even though the Funds holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Funds may be treated as debt securities that are issued originally at a discount. Generally, the amount of the original issue discount ("OID") is treated as interest income and is included in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. A portion of the OID includable in income with respect to certain high-yield corporate debt securities (including certain pay-in-kind securities) may be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Funds in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. Generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily installments. The Funds may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

Some debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Funds may be treated as having acquisition discount, or OID in the case of certain types of debt securities. Generally, the Funds will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. The Funds may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

If the Funds hold the foregoing kinds of securities, it may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Funds actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Funds or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary (including when it is not advantageous to do so). The Funds may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Funds realize net capital gains from such transactions,

its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution, if any, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

Shareholders of the Funds may be subject to state and local taxes on distributions received from the Funds and on redemptions of the Funds' shares.

A brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution accompany each distribution. In January of each year the Funds issue to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions.

Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state and local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

## **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., located at 1835 Market Street, Suite 310, Philadelphia, PA, 19103 serves as the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm providing services including (1) audit of annual financial statements, and (2) audit and tax services to the Funds.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

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Thompson Hine LLP, 41 South High Street, Suite 1700, Columbus, Ohio 43215 serves as the Trust's legal counsel.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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The financial statements and report of the independent registered public accounting firm required to be included in this SAI are hereby incorporated by reference to the [Annual Report](#) for the Funds for the fiscal period ended October 31, 2023. You can obtain a copy of the Annual Report without charge by calling the Funds at 1-877-766-2264.

## APPENDIX A

### **PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES FOR**

### **Clark Capital Management Group, Inc.**

#### Policies and Procedures Proxy Voting and Corporate Actions

#### **Policy**

Clark Capital Management Group, Inc. ("ADVISER"), as a matter of policy and as a fiduciary, has responsibility for voting proxies for portfolio securities consistent with the best economic interests of the, Portfolios and clients. Our firm maintains written policies and procedures as to the handling, research, voting and reporting of proxy voting and makes appropriate disclosures about our firm's proxy policies and practices. Our policy and practice includes the responsibility to monitor corporate actions, receive and vote client proxies and disclose any potential conflicts of interest as well as making information available to clients about the voting of proxies for their portfolio securities and maintaining relevant and required records.

#### **Background**

Proxy voting is an important right of shareholders and reasonable care and diligence must be undertaken to ensure that such rights are properly and timely exercised.

Investment advisers registered with the SEC, and which exercise voting authority with respect to client securities, are required by Rule 206(4)-6 of the Advisers Act to (a) adopt and implement written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that client securities are voted in the best interests of clients, which must include how an adviser addresses material conflicts that may arise between an adviser's interests and those of its Funds, Portfolios and clients; (b) to disclose to Funds, Portfolios and clients how they may obtain information from the adviser with respect to the voting of proxies for their securities; (c) to describe to clients a summary of its proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy to its clients; and (d) maintain certain records relating to the adviser's proxy voting activities when the adviser does have proxy voting authority.

#### **Responsibility**

Denise Williams has the responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of our proxy voting policy, practices, disclosures and record keeping, including outlining our voting guidelines in our procedures.

#### **Procedure**

ADVISER has adopted procedures to implement the firm's policy and reviews to monitor and insure the firm's policy is observed, implemented properly and amended or updated, as appropriate, which include the following:

## **Voting Procedures**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

ADVISER has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures as required by Rule 206(4)-6 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. These policies and procedures are effective on September 21, 2010 and related only to the Funds (not applicable to separately managed accounts).

### **II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINE**

#### Proposals Specific to Mutual Funds & ETFs

ADVISER serves as investment adviser to certain investment companies under the Northern Lights Fund Trust. These funds invest in other investment companies that are not affiliated ("Underlying Funds") and are required by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") Act to handle proxies received from Underlying Funds in a certain manner. Notwithstanding the guidelines provided in these procedures, it is the policy of ADVISER to vote all proxies received from the Underlying Funds in the same proportion that all shares of the Underlying Funds are voted, or in accordance with instructions received from fund shareholders, pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F) of the 1940 Act. After properly voted, the proxy materials are placed in a file maintained by the Chief Compliance Officer for future reference.

#### **Procedures**

When the mail arrives, the person responsible for separating the mail gives any proxy materials to the person who handles compliance issues. The proxy materials are then opened by the Compliance person. The Compliance person will send a "mirror vote" letter (sample attached) to the address of record on the proxy. A copy of the letters sent will be maintained according to the Books and Records policy.

#### **Disclosure**

The ADVISER will provide conspicuously displayed information in its Form ADV Part II in the Supporting Schedules, summarizing this proxy voting policy and procedures.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **DESCRIPTION OF BOND RATINGS**

#### **STANDARD & POOR'S DEBT RATINGS**

A Standard & Poor's corporate or municipal debt rating is a current assessment of the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific obligation. This assessment may take into consideration obligors such as guarantors, insurers, or lessees.

The debt rating is not a recommendation to purchase, sell, or hold a security, inasmuch as it does not comment as to market price or suitability for a particular investor. The ratings are based on current information furnished by the issuer or obtained by Standard & Poor's from other sources it considers reliable. Standard & Poor's does not perform an audit in connection with any rating and may, on occasion, rely on unaudited financial information. The ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or unavailability of, such information, or for other circumstances.

The ratings are based, in varying degrees, on the following considerations:

1. Likelihood of default - capacity and willingness of the obligor as to the timely payment of interest and repayment of principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation.
2. Nature of and provisions of the obligation.
3. Protection afforded by, and relative position of, the obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting.

#### **INVESTMENT GRADE**

AAA - Debt rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. Capacity to pay interest and repay principal is extremely strong.

AA - Debt rated "AA" has a very strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal and differs from the highest rated issues only in small degree.

A - Debt rated "A" has a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal although it is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than debt in higher rated categories.

BBB - Debt rated "BBB" is regarded as having an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Whereas it normally exhibits adequate protection parameters, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to pay interest and repay principal for debt in this category than in higher rated categories.

#### **SPECULATIVE GRADE**

Debt rated "BB", "B", "CCC", "CC" and "C" is regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal. "BB" indicates the least degree of speculation and "C" the highest. While such debt will likely have some quality and



protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions.

BB - Debt rated "BB" is less vulnerable to default than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to inadequate capacity to meet timely interest and principal payments.

B - Debt rated "B" has a greater vulnerability to default than obligations rated BB but currently has the capacity to meet interest payments and principal repayments. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair capacity or willingness to pay interest and repay principal.

CCC - Debt rated "CCC" is currently vulnerable to default, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions to meet timely payment of interest and repayment of principal. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, it is not likely to have the capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

CC - Debt rated "CC" typically is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

C - Debt rated "C" signifies that a bankruptcy petition has been filed, but debt service payments are continued.

D - Debt rated "D" is in payment default. The "D" rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the date due even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grace period. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition if debt service payments are jeopardized.

## **MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE INC. ("Moody's") LONG-TERM DEBT RATINGS**

Aaa - Bonds which are rated Aaa are judged to be of the best quality. They carry the smallest degree of investment risk and are generally referred to as "gilt edged." Interest payments are protected by a large or by an exceptionally stable margin and principal is secure. While the various protective elements are likely to change, such changes as can be visualized are most unlikely to impair the fundamentally strong position of such issues.

Aa - Bonds which are rated Aa are judged to be of high quality by all standards. Together with the Aaa group they comprise what are generally known as high grade bonds. They are rated lower than the best bonds because margins of protection may not be as large as in Aaa securities or fluctuation of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be other elements present which make the long-term risk appear somewhat larger than in Aaa securities.

A - Bonds which are rated A possess many favorable investment attributes and are to be considered as upper-medium grade obligations. Factors giving security to principal and interest are considered adequate, but elements may be present which suggest a susceptibility to impairment sometime in the future.

Baa - Bonds which are rated Baa are considered as medium-grade obligations (i.e., they are neither highly protected nor poorly secured). Interest payments and principal security

appear adequate for the present but certain protective elements may be lacking or may be characteristically unreliable over any great length of time. Such bonds lack outstanding investment characteristics and in fact have speculative characteristics as well.

Ba - Bonds which are rated Ba are judged to have speculative elements; their future cannot be considered well-assured. Often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate, and thereby not well safeguarded during both good and bad times over the future. Uncertainty of position characterizes bonds in this class.

B - Bonds which are rated B generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment. Assurance of interest and principal payments or of maintenance of other terms of the contract over any long period of time may be small.

Caa - Bonds which are rated Caa are of poor standing. Such issues may be in default or there may be present elements of danger with respect to principal or interest.

Ca - Bonds which are rated Ca represent obligations which are speculative in a high degree. Such issues are often in default or have other marked shortcomings.

C - Bonds which are rated C are the lowest rated class of bonds, and issues so rated can be regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing.

## **STATE AND MUNICIPAL NOTES**

Excerpts from Moody's description of state and municipal note ratings:

MIG-1- Notes bearing this designation are of the best quality, enjoying strong protection from established cash flows of funds for their servicing from established and board-based access to the market for refinancing, or both.

MIG-2- Notes bearing this designation are of high quality, with margins of protection ample although not so large as in the preceding group.

MIG-3- Notes bearing this designation are of favorable quality, with all security elements accounted for but lacking the strength of the preceding grade. Market access for refinancing, in particular, is likely to be less well established.

## **FITCH, INC. BOND RATINGS**

Fitch investment grade bond ratings provide a guide to investors in determining the credit risk associated with a particular security. The ratings represent Fitch's assessment of the issuer's ability to meet the obligations of a specific debt issue or class of debt in a timely manner.

The rating takes into consideration special features of the issue, its relationship to other obligations of the issuer, the current and prospective financial condition and operating performance of the issuer and any guarantor, as well as the economic and political environment that might affect the issuer's future financial strength and credit quality.

Fitch ratings do not reflect any credit enhancement that may be provided by insurance policies or financial guaranties unless otherwise indicated.

Bonds that have the same rating are of similar but not necessarily identical credit quality since the rating categories do not fully reflect small differences in the degrees of credit risk.

Fitch ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell, or hold any security ratings do not comment on the adequacy of market price, the suitability of any security for a particular investor, or the tax-exempt nature or taxability of payments made in respect of any security.

Fitch ratings are based on information obtained from issuers, other obligors, underwriters, their experts, and other sources Fitch believes to be reliable. Fitch does not audit or verify the truth or accuracy of such information. Ratings may be changed, suspended, or withdrawn as a result of changes in, or the unavailability of, information or for other reasons.

AAA Bonds considered investment grade and representing the lowest expectation of credit risk. The obligor has an exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, a capacity that is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA Bonds considered to be investment grade and of very high credit quality. This rating indicates a very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, a capacity that is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A Bond considered to be investment grade and represent a low expectation of credit risk. This rating indicates a strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in economic conditions or circumstances than long term debt with higher ratings.

BBB Bonds considered to be in the lowest investment grade and indicates that there is currently low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in economic conditions and circumstances are more likely to impair this capacity.

BB Bonds are considered speculative. This rating indicates that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.

B Bonds are considered highly speculative. This rating indicates that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.

CCC, CC Bonds are considered a high default risk. Default is a real and C possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. A "CC" rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. "C" rating signal imminent default.

DDD, DD Bonds are in default. Such bonds are not meeting current and D obligations and are extremely speculative. "DDD" designates the highest potential for recovery of amounts outstanding on any securities involved and "D" represents the lowest potential for recovery.

## **SHORT-TERM RATINGS**

### **STANDARD & POOR'S COMMERCIAL PAPER RATINGS**

A Standard & Poor's commercial paper rating is a current assessment of the likelihood of timely payment of debt considered short-term in the relevant market.

Ratings are graded into several categories, ranging from 'A-1' for the highest quality obligations to "D" for the lowest. These categories are as follows:

A-1 - This highest category indicates that the degree of safety regarding timely payment is strong. Those issues determined to possess extremely strong safety characteristics are denoted with a plus sign (+) designation.

A-2 - Capacity for timely payment on issues with this designation is satisfactory. However, the relative degree of safety is not as high as for issues designated "A-1".

A-3 - Issues carrying this designation have adequate capacity for timely payment. They are, however, more vulnerable to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances than obligations carrying the higher designations.

B - Issues rated "B" are regarded as having only speculative capacity for timely payment.

C - This rating is assigned to short-term debt obligations with doubtful capacity for payment.

D - Debt rated "D" is in payment default. The "D" rating category is used when interest payments or principal payments are not made on the date due, even if the applicable grace period has not expired, unless Standard & Poor's believes that such payments will be made during such grade period.

### **STANDARD & POOR'S NOTE RATINGS**

A Standard & Poor's note rating reflects the liquidity factors and market-access risks unique to notes. Notes maturing in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes maturing beyond three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating.

The following criteria will be used in making the assessment:

1. Amortization schedule - the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely the issue is to be treated as a note.

2. Source of payment - the more the issue depends on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it is to be considered a note.

Note rating symbols and definitions are as follows:

SP-1 - Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. Issues determined to possess very strong capacity to pay principal and interest are given a plus (+) designation.

SP-2 - Satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

SP-3 - Speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

### **MOODY'S SHORT-TERM RATINGS**

Moody's short-term debt ratings are opinions on the ability of issuers to repay punctually senior debt obligations. These obligations have an original maturity not exceeding one year, unless explicitly noted. Moody's employs the following three designations, all judged to be investment grade, to indicate the relative repayment capacity of rated issuers:

Issuers rated Prime-1 (or supporting institutions) have a superior capacity for repayment of senior short-term debt obligations. Prime-1 repayment capacity will normally be evidenced by the following characteristics: (I) leading market positions in well-established industries, (II) high rates of return on funds employed, (III) conservative capitalization structures with moderate reliance on debt and ample asset protection, (IV) broad margins in earnings coverage of fixed financial charges and high internal cash generation, and (V) well established access to a range of financial markets and assured sources of alternative liquidity.

Issuers rated Prime-2 (or supporting institutions) have a strong capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations. This will normally be evidenced by many of the characteristics cited above, but to a lesser degree. Earnings trends and coverage ratios, while sound, will be more subject to variation. Capitalization characteristics, while still appropriate, may be more affected by external conditions. Ample alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Prime-3 (or supporting institutions) have an acceptable capacity for repayment of short-term promissory obligations. The effect of industry characteristics and market composition may be more pronounced. Variability in earnings and profitability may result in changes in the level of debt protection measurements and may require relatively high financial leverage. Adequate alternate liquidity is maintained.

Issuers rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the prime rating categories.

### **MOODY'S NOTE RATINGS**

MIG 1/VMIG 1 - This designation denotes best quality. There is present strong protection by established cash flows, superior liquidity support or demonstrated broad based access to the market for refinancing.

MIG 2/VMIG 2 - This designation denotes high quality. Margins of protection are ample although not so large as in the preceding group.

MIG 3/VMIG 3 - This designation denotes favorable quality. All security elements are accounted for but there is lacking the undeniable strength of the preceding grades. Liquidity and cash flow protection may be narrow and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well established.

SG - This designation denotes speculative quality. Debt instruments in this category lack margins of protection.

### **FITCH'S SHORT-TERM RATINGS**

Fitch's short-term ratings apply to debt obligations that are payable on demand or have original maturities of up to three years, including commercial paper, certificates of deposit, medium-term notes, and municipal and investment notes.

The short-term rating places greater emphasis than a long-term rating on the existence of liquidity necessary to meet the issuer's obligations in a timely manner.

F-1+ - Exceptionally strong credit quality. Issues assigned this rating are regarded as having the strongest degree of assurance for timely payment.

F-1 - Very strong credit quality. Issues assigned this rating reflect an assurance of timely payment only slightly less in degree than issues rated F-1+.

F-2 - Good credit quality. Issues assigned this rating have a satisfactory degree of assurance for timely payment but the margin of safety is not as great as for issues assigned F-1+ and F-1 ratings.

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