

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**STONE RIDGE TRUST**

STONE RIDGE U.S. LARGE CAP VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND

Class I	VRLIX
Class M	VRLMX

STONE RIDGE U.S. SMALL CAP VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND

Class I	VRSIX
Class M	VRSMX

STONE RIDGE U.S. VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM MASTER FUND

Class I	VRPIX
Class M	VRPMX

STONE RIDGE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPED MARKETS VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND

Class I	VRFIX
Class M	VRFMX

STONE RIDGE GLOBAL EQUITY VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM MASTER FUND

Class I	VRGIX
Class M	VRGMX

May 14, 2018

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Stone Ridge Trust consists of eleven funds, including Stone Ridge U.S. Large Cap Variance Risk Premium Fund, Stone Ridge U.S. Small Cap Variance Risk Premium Fund, Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Master Fund, Stone Ridge International Developed Markets Variance Risk Premium Fund and Stone Ridge Global Equity Variance Risk Premium Master Fund (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”).

Each of the Funds is an investment portfolio of Stone Ridge Trust, an open-end series management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust.

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus and is only authorized for distribution when preceded or accompanied by the Funds’ current prospectus dated May 14, 2018, as supplemented from time to time (the “Prospectus”). This SAI supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus. The audited financial statements and notes thereto in the Funds’ Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal period ended on October 31, 2017, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) on January 8, 2018 (File No. 811-22761) (the “Annual Report”), are incorporated into this SAI by reference. The financial statements included in the Annual Report have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, whose report thereon is also incorporated herein by reference. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. Copies of the Prospectus and/or Annual Report may be obtained without charge by writing the Funds at the address, or by calling the toll-free telephone number, listed above.

**STONE RIDGE TRUST**

**STONE RIDGE U.S. LARGE CAP VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND**  
**STONE RIDGE U.S. SMALL CAP VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND**  
**STONE RIDGE U.S. VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM MASTER FUND**  
**STONE RIDGE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPED MARKETS VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM FUND**  
**STONE RIDGE GLOBAL EQUITY VARIANCE RISK PREMIUM MASTER FUND**

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## ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION, RISKS AND RESTRICTIONS

The Prospectus discusses the investment objectives of Stone Ridge U.S. Large Cap Variance Risk Premium Fund (the “U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund”), Stone Ridge U.S. Small Cap Variance Risk Premium Fund (the “U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund”), Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Master Fund (the “U.S. VRP Master Fund”), Stone Ridge International Developed Markets Variance Risk Premium Fund (the “Developed Markets VRP Fund”) and Stone Ridge Global Equity Variance Risk Premium Master Fund (the “Global Equity VRP Master Fund”), as well as the principal investment strategies they employ to achieve those objectives and the principal investment risks associated with those strategies. There is no assurance that a Fund’s investment objective will be achieved. Additionally, because each Fund’s investment objective has been adopted as a non-fundamental investment policy, a Fund’s investment objective may be changed without a vote of shareholders. Additional information about the strategies and other investment practices the Funds may employ and certain related risks of the Funds are described below. Each of the U.S. VRP Master Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund (collectively, the “Master Funds”) may be exposed to the different types of investments described below through its investments in other mutual funds (the “Underlying Funds”). Each of the Funds is a diversified investment portfolio of Stone Ridge Trust (the “Trust”), an open-end series management investment company organized as a Delaware statutory trust on September 28, 2012.

Effective as of February 28, 2015, Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Fund, Stone Ridge U.S. Master Variance Risk Premium Fund and Stone Ridge International Master Variance Risk Premium Fund changed their names to Stone Ridge U.S. Large Cap Variance Risk Premium Fund, Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Master Fund and Stone Ridge International Variance Risk Premium Master Fund, respectively.

Capitalized terms used in this SAI and not otherwise defined have the meanings given to them in the Prospectus.

### Additional Investment Information and Risks

**Additional Information Regarding Derivatives.** In addition to the derivatives transactions described in the Prospectus, the Funds may also enter into derivatives contracts with respect to any security or other instrument in which they are permitted to invest or with respect to any related security, instrument or index (“reference instruments” or “reference securities”). The Funds may enter into a variety of derivative contracts, but typically expect to enter into put and call options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts and swaps. This universe of investments is subject to change under varying market conditions and as these instruments evolve over time. Over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivatives may be standardized or have customized features and may have limited or no liquidity. The Funds’ derivatives contracts may be centrally cleared or settled bilaterally directly with a counterparty. The Funds’ derivatives contracts may be cash settled or physically settled.

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

The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the reference instrument, due to failure of a counterparty or due to tax or regulatory constraints. Derivatives may create economic leverage in a Fund, which magnifies the Fund’s exposure to the reference instrument and magnifies potential losses. When derivatives are used to gain or limit exposure to a particular market or market segment, their performance may not correlate as expected to the performance of such market, thereby causing a Fund to fail to achieve its original purpose for using such derivatives. A decision as to whether, when and how to use derivatives involves the exercise of specialized skill and judgment, and a transaction may be unsuccessful in whole or in part because of market behavior, unexpected events or the failure of the Fund’s investment adviser, Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC (the “Adviser”) to use derivatives effectively. Derivative instruments may be difficult to value, may be illiquid and may be subject to wide swings in valuation caused by changes in the value of the reference instrument.

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

*Options Generally.* The Funds write (sell) put options and call options on reference instruments, including, but not limited to, single equity securities, American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), exchange traded funds (“ETFs”), indices, currencies, commodities and other securities that may provide exposure to the relevant markets. The premium, the exercise price and the market value of the applicable underlying instrument together will determine the gain or loss realized by the Funds as the seller of the option.

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

Special risks are presented by internationally traded options. Such transactions may not be regulated as effectively as similar transactions in the U.S. and may be subject to greater risks than trading on domestic exchanges. For example, some foreign exchanges may be principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and a trader may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. The lack of a common clearing facility creates counterparty risk. Because of the differences in trading hours between the U.S. and various foreign countries, and because different holidays are observed in different countries, foreign options markets may be open for trading during hours or on days when U.S. markets are closed.

The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying instruments are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying instruments, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. Options are marked to market daily and their value will be affected by changes in the value of the underlying securities, changes in the dividend rates of the underlying securities, an increase in interest rates, changes in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market and the underlying instruments and the remaining time to the options’ expiration. Additionally, the exercise price of an option may be adjusted downward before the option’s expiration as a result of the occurrence of certain corporate or other events affecting the underlying instrument, such as extraordinary dividends, stock splits, merger or other extraordinary distributions or events. A reduction in the exercise price of an option would reduce a Fund’s capital appreciation potential on the underlying instrument.

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

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

by trading in options could result in a Fund's net asset value being more sensitive to changes in the value of the underlying investment.

As a result of each Fund's option strategy and the possibility of leverage arising from the Fund's use of certain types of derivatives, the derivatives risk (described further above) will be significant in the Funds.

*Put and Call Options.* The Funds can buy and sell exchange-traded and OTC puts and calls, including, but not limited to, index options, securities options, currency options, commodities options and options on futures. A Fund's options transactions potentially will result in a substantial portion of a Fund's income consisting of short-term capital gains, which are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income when distributed to them. An option position may be closed out only on a market that provides secondary trading for options of the same series, and there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. A Fund might experience losses if it could not close out a position because of an illiquid market for the future or option.

- *Writing Put Options.* The Funds may write (that is, sell) put options. A put option on securities gives the purchaser the right to sell, and the writer the obligation to buy, the underlying investment at the exercise price during the option period.

The premium a Fund receives from writing a put represents a profit, as long as the price of the underlying investment remains equal to or above the exercise price. However, a Fund also assumes the obligation during the option period to buy the underlying investment from the buyer of the put at the exercise price if the value of the investment falls below the exercise price.

If a put a Fund has written expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a gain in the amount of the premium, less the transaction costs incurred. If the put is exercised, the Fund must fulfill its obligation to purchase the underlying investment from the put option buyer at the exercise price. That price will usually exceed the market value of the investment at that time. A Fund will incur a loss upon the exercise of the put option to the extent that the premium received (less the Fund's transaction costs) does not outweigh the exercise price.

As long as a Fund's obligation as the put writer continues, it may be assigned an exercise notice by the broker-dealer through which the put was sold. That notice will require the Fund to take delivery of the underlying security and pay the exercise price. The Fund has no control over when it may be required to purchase the underlying security, since it may be assigned an exercise notice at any time prior to the termination of its obligation as the writer of the put. That obligation terminates upon expiration of the put. It may also terminate if, before it receives an exercise notice, the Fund effects a closing purchase transaction by purchasing a put of the same series as it sold. Once a Fund has been assigned an exercise notice, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction.

A Fund may decide to effect a closing purchase transaction to realize a profit on an outstanding put option it has written or to prevent the underlying security from being put. Effecting a closing purchase transaction will also permit a Fund to write another put option on the security, or to sell the security and use the proceeds from the sale for other investments. A Fund will realize a profit or loss from a closing purchase transaction depending on whether the cost of the transaction is less or more than the premium received from writing the put option.

- *Writing Call Options.* The Funds may write (that is, sell) calls. When a Fund writes a call on a security, it receives cash (a premium). The Fund agrees to sell the underlying security to the purchaser of the call on that security during the call period at a fixed exercise price regardless of market price changes during the call period. The call period is usually not more than nine months.

The exercise price may differ from the market price of the underlying security. When a Fund writes covered call options (meaning the Fund owns or has the right to acquire the underlying security at all times during the option period), the Fund has the risk of loss that the price of the underlying security may decline during the call period. That risk may be offset to some extent by the premium the Fund receives. If the value of the investment does not rise above the call price, it is likely that the call will lapse without being exercised. In that case the Fund would keep the cash premium.

When a Fund writes a call on an index, it receives cash (a premium). If the buyer of the call exercises it, the Fund will pay an amount of cash equal to the difference between the closing price of the call and the exercise price, multiplied by a specific multiple that determines the total value of the call for each point of difference. If the value of the underlying investment does not rise above the call price, it is likely that the call will lapse without being exercised. In that case, the Fund would keep the cash premium.

To terminate its obligation on a call it has written, a Fund may purchase a corresponding call in a “closing purchase transaction.” The Fund will then realize a profit or loss, depending upon whether the net of the amount of the option transaction costs and the premium received on the call the Fund wrote is more or less than the price of the call the Fund purchases to close out the transaction. Once a Fund receives an exercise notice for its option, however, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option and must deliver the underlying security at the exercise price. Thus, the use of covered call options may require a Fund to sell portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, will limit the amount of appreciation the Fund can realize above the exercise price of an option on a security, or may cause the Fund to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. The Fund may realize a profit if the call expires unexercised, because the Fund will retain the underlying security and the premium it received when it wrote the call. If the Fund cannot effect a closing purchase transaction due to the lack of a market, it will have to hold the callable securities until the call expires or is exercised.

If a covered call written by a Fund is exercised on an underlying investment that has increased in value, the Fund will be required to sell the investment at the call price. It will not be able to realize any profit if the investment has increased in value above the call price.

The Funds may also write calls without owning the reference instruments or reference securities deliverable under the contract.

- *Purchasing Puts and Calls.* The Funds may purchase call options. When a Fund buys a call (other than in a closing purchase transaction), it pays a premium. The Fund then has the right to buy the underlying investment from a seller of a corresponding call on the same investment during the call period at a fixed exercise price.

A Fund benefits only if it sells the call at a profit or if, during the call period, the market price of the underlying investment is above the sum of the call price plus the transaction costs and the premium paid for the call and the Fund exercises the call. If a Fund does not exercise the call or sell it (whether or not at a profit), the call will become worthless at its expiration date. In that case the Fund will have paid the premium but lost the right to purchase the underlying investment.

A Fund can buy puts whether or not it owns the underlying investment. When a Fund purchases a put, it pays a premium and, except as to puts on underlying investments in which the Fund cannot trade directly (such as, for example, indices), has the right to sell the underlying investment to a seller of a put on a corresponding investment during the put period at a fixed exercise price.

Buying a put on an investment a Fund does not own (such as an index or a future) permits the Fund either to resell the put or to buy the underlying investment and sell it at the exercise price. The resale price will vary inversely to the price of the underlying investment. If the market price of the underlying investment is above the exercise price and, as a result, the put is not exercised, the put will become worthless on its expiration date.

Buying a put on securities or futures a Fund owns enables the Fund to attempt to protect itself during the put period against a decline in the value of the underlying investment below the exercise price by selling the underlying investment at the exercise price to a seller of a corresponding put. If the market price of the underlying investment is equal to or above the exercise price and, as a result, the put is not exercised or resold, the put will become worthless at its expiration date. In that case the Fund will have paid the premium but lost the right to sell the underlying investment. However, the Fund may sell the put prior to its expiration. That sale may or may not be at a profit.

When a Fund purchases a call or put on an underlying investment in which it cannot invest directly (such as an index), it pays a premium, but settlement is in cash rather than by delivery of the underlying investment to the Fund. Gain or loss depends on changes in the index in question (and thus on price movements in the securities market generally) rather than on price movements in individual securities or futures contracts.

- *Buying and Selling Options on Foreign Currencies.* The Funds can buy and sell exchange-traded and OTC put options and call options on foreign currencies. The Funds could use these calls and puts to try to generate income from premiums or to protect against declines in the dollar value of foreign securities and increases in the dollar cost of foreign securities a Fund wants to acquire.

If the Adviser anticipates a rise in the dollar value of a foreign currency in which securities to be acquired are denominated, the increased cost of those securities may be partially offset by purchasing calls or writing puts on that foreign currency. If the Adviser anticipates a decline in the dollar value of a foreign currency, the decline in the dollar value of portfolio securities denominated in that currency might be partially offset by writing calls or purchasing puts on that foreign currency. However, the currency rates could fluctuate in a direction adverse to a Fund's position. A Fund will then have incurred option premium payments and transaction costs without a corresponding benefit.

The Fund could write a call on a foreign currency to provide a hedge against a decline in the U.S. dollar value of a security that the Fund owns or has the right to acquire and that is denominated in the currency underlying the option. That decline might be one that occurs due to an expected adverse change in the exchange rate. This is known as a "cross-hedging" strategy.

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

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

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

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

At any time prior to expiration of the future, a Fund may elect to close out its position by taking an opposite position, at which time a final determination of variation margin is made and any additional cash must be paid by or released to that Fund. All futures transactions (except forward contracts) are effected through a clearinghouse associated with the exchange on which the contracts are traded.

*Options on Futures.* The Funds may enter into options on futures contracts. An option on a futures contract gives the buyer, in return for the premium paid, the right (but not the obligation) to either buy or sell the underlying futures contract during a certain period of time for a fixed price. The writing of a put or call option on a futures contract involves risks similar to the risks applicable to the purchase or sale of futures contracts. However, the difficulty of predicting changes in the value of the underlying futures contract may expose the Funds to a somewhat different set of risks. For example, variations in speculative market demand for futures on the relevant underlying reference asset can cause the value of the futures to change at an unanticipated time or to an unanticipated degree; this or other factors may bring the value of the underlying future closer to the option's strike price, increasing the potential for risk of loss to a Fund. To the extent that a Fund enters into options on futures contracts for hedging purposes, an imperfect correlation between this derivative position and the value of the instrument underlying such a position could lead to losses.

*Swaps.* The Funds may enter into swap agreements, including interest rate, total return, credit default and volatility or variance swaps. Swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors for a specified period of time typically ranging from a few weeks to more than one year. The swapped returns are generally calculated with respect to a notional amount, that is, the return on a particular dollar amount invested in the underlying asset. In a standard swap transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or the difference between the returns) earned or realized on a particular asset, such as an equity or debt security, commodity or currency or non-asset reference, such as an interest rate or index. The Funds may enter into swap agreements to, among other reasons, gain exposure to certain markets in the most economical way possible, protect against currency fluctuations, reduce risk arising from a particular portfolio position or generate revenue.

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

Swap agreements may effectively add leverage to a Fund's portfolio because the Fund would be subject to investment exposure on the notional amount of the swap. Swap agreements also involve liquidity risk.

The Funds may enter into swaps, both directly ("unfunded swaps") and indirectly ("funded swaps") in the form of a swap embedded within a structured security. Unfunded and funded credit default swaps may refer to a single security or a basket of securities.

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

- *Interest Rate Swaps.* In an interest rate swap, a Fund and another party exchange the right to receive or the obligation to pay interest on a security or other reference rate. For example, they might swap the right to receive floating rate payments for fixed rate payments. There is a risk that, based on movements of interest rates, the payments made by a Fund under a swap agreement will be greater than the payments it receives.
- *Total Return Swaps.* In a total return swap, one party agrees to pay the other the total return of a defined underlying asset, such as a security or basket of securities, or non-asset reference, such as a securities index, during the specified period in return for periodic payments based on a fixed or variable interest rate or the total return from different underlying assets or references. Total return swaps could result in losses if the underlying asset or reference does not perform as anticipated by the Adviser.
- *Credit Default Swaps.* A credit default swap enables an investor to buy or sell protection against a credit event, such as a borrower's or issuer's failure to make timely payments of interest or principal, bankruptcy or restructuring. The Funds may seek to enhance returns by selling protection or attempt to mitigate credit risk by buying protection against the occurrence of a credit event by a specified borrower or issuer.

If a Fund buys credit protection using a credit default swap and a credit event occurs, the Fund will deliver the defaulted bond underlying the swap and the swap counterparty will pay the par amount of the bond. If a Fund sells credit protection using a credit default swap and a credit event occurs, the Fund will pay the par amount of the defaulted bond underlying the swap and the swap counterparty will deliver the bond. If the swap is on a basket of assets, the notional amount of the swap is reduced by the par amount of the defaulted asset, and the fixed payments are then made on the reduced notional amount.

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

- *Volatility and Variance Swap Contracts.* Volatility swaps and variance swaps are transactions in which counterparties agree to buy or sell the future realized volatility or variance (which equals volatility squared), as the case may be, of the underlying asset or reference at a specific level over a fixed period. Volatility and variance swaps are subject to all the risks of OTC derivatives generally, including counterparty credit risks (if the counterparty fails to meet its obligations), and the risk that the Adviser is incorrect in forecasts of volatility and/or variance of the underlying asset or reference.

- *Swaptions and Swap Forwards.* A swaption is a contract that gives a counterparty the right (but not the obligation) to enter into a new swap agreement or to shorten, extend, cancel or otherwise modify an existing swap agreement on pre-designated terms. The Funds may write (sell) and purchase put and call swaptions. A swap forward is an agreement to enter into a swap agreement at some point in the future, usually three to six months from the date of the contract.

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

- *Correlation Swaps.* Correlation swaps are transactions in which counterparties agree to buy or sell the future realized correlation on an underlying reference basket of securities or instruments at a specific level over a fixed period. Correlation swaps are subject to all the risks of OTC derivatives generally, including counterparty credit risks (if the counterparty fails to meet its obligations) and the risk that the Adviser is incorrect in forecasts of correlation on the underlying reference basket.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The values of these notes will fall or rise in response to changes in the values of the underlying asset or reference and the Funds might receive less principal or interest if the underlying asset or reference does not perform as anticipated. In some cases, these notes may pay an amount based on a multiple of the relative change in value of the asset or reference. This type of note offers the potential for increased income or principal payments but at a greater risk of loss than a typical debt security of the same maturity and credit quality.

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

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

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

The Funds can use derivatives to hedge by taking or long or short positions in the underlying securities, related securities or other derivatives positions. To gain long investment exposure, the Funds may invest in securities directly. To gain short investment exposure, the Funds may use derivatives (including futures) and make short sales, including short sales of assets the Funds do not own. Some of the hedging strategies the Funds can use are described below. The Funds may use additional hedging strategies as discussed elsewhere in this SAI, and they may employ new hedging strategies when they are developed, if those investment methods are consistent with the Funds’ investment objectives and are permissible under applicable regulations governing the Funds.

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

There is a risk in using short hedging by selling futures, entering into swaps or purchasing puts on broadly-based indices or futures to attempt to protect against declines in the value of a Fund's portfolio securities. The risk is that the prices of the futures or the value of the swap or the applicable index will correlate imperfectly with the behavior of the cash prices of a Fund's securities. For example, it is possible that while a Fund has used derivative instruments in a short hedge, the market may advance and the value of the securities held in the Fund's portfolio might decline. If that occurred, a Fund would lose money on the derivative instruments and also experience a decline in the value of its portfolio securities. If a Fund has used derivatives to hedge or otherwise reduce the Fund's risk exposure to a particular position and then disposes of that position at a time at which it cannot also settle, terminate or close out the corresponding hedge position, this may create short investment exposure. Certain "short" derivative positions involve investment leverage, and the amount of a Fund's potential loss is theoretically unlimited.

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

The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets are subject to distortions, due to differences in the nature of those markets. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to margin deposit and maintenance requirements. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions which could distort the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into offsetting transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, thus producing distortion. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities markets. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions.

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

*Additional Information Regarding Derivatives Counterparty Risk.* The Funds are exposed to the credit risk of the counterparties with which, or the brokers, dealers and exchanges through which, they deal in derivatives, whether they engage in exchange traded or off-exchange transactions. If a Fund's FCM becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or otherwise defaults on its obligations to a Fund, the Fund may not receive all amounts owed to it in respect of its trading, despite the clearinghouse fully discharging all of its obligations. The Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA") requires an FCM to segregate all funds received from its customers with respect to cleared derivatives transactions from such FCM's proprietary funds.

If an FCM were not to do so to the full extent required by law, the assets of an account might not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of an FCM. Furthermore, in the event of an FCM's bankruptcy, a Fund would be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds segregated on behalf of an FCM's combined customer accounts, even though certain property specifically traceable to the Fund (for example, U.S. Treasury bills deposited by the Fund) may be held

by the FCM. FCM bankruptcies have occurred in which customers were unable to recover from the FCM's estate the full amount of their funds owed and on deposit with such FCM. Such situations could arise due to various factors, or a combination of factors, including inadequate FCM capitalization, inadequate controls on customer trading and inadequate customer capital. In addition, an FCM will generally provide the clearinghouse the net amount of variation margin required for cleared swaps for all of its customers in the aggregate, rather than individually for each customer. The Funds are, therefore, subject to the risk that a clearinghouse will not make variation margin payments owed to a Fund if another customer of the clearing member has suffered a loss and is in default. A Fund may also be subject to the risk that it will be required to provide additional variation margin to the clearinghouse before the clearinghouse will move the Fund's cleared derivatives transactions to another clearing member. Furthermore, in the event of the bankruptcy or insolvency of a clearinghouse, a Fund might experience a loss of funds deposited through its FCM as margin with the clearinghouse, a loss of unrealized profits on its open positions and the loss of funds owed to it as realized profits on closed positions. Such a bankruptcy or insolvency might also cause a substantial delay before a Fund could obtain the return of funds owed to it by an FCM who was a member of such clearinghouse.

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

In the case of cleared swaps, the FCM is required to notify the clearinghouse of the initial margin provided by the clearing member to the clearinghouse that is attributable to each customer. However, if the FCM does not accurately report a Fund's initial margin, the Fund is subject to the risk that a clearinghouse will use the Fund's assets held in an omnibus account at the clearinghouse to satisfy payment obligations of a defaulting customer of the clearing member to the clearinghouse.

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

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

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

Fund, including posting collateral directly with a futures commission merchant, broker or the option clearinghouse.

*Asset Segregation/Cover.* To the extent obligations created by a Fund may be deemed to create “senior securities” (as defined in the 1940 Act), the Fund may be required to segregate or earmark liquid assets. Each Fund segregates with its custodian or otherwise designates on its records (“earmarks”) cash, cash equivalents or liquid assets in an amount the Fund believes to be adequate to ensure that it has sufficient liquid assets to meet its obligations under its derivatives contracts, or the Fund may engage in other measures to “cover” its obligations with respect to such transactions. The amounts that are segregated or earmarked may be based on the derivative’s notional value or on the daily mark-to-market obligation under the derivatives contract and may be reduced by amounts on deposit with the applicable broker or counterparty to the derivatives transaction. A Fund may segregate or earmark amounts in addition to the amounts described above. For example, if a Fund writes a physically settled put option, it will typically segregate or earmark liquid assets equal to the exercise price of the option, less margin on deposit or hold the reference instrument directly; if the Fund writes a cash settled put option, it will typically segregate or earmark liquid assets equal to the amount the option is in the money (meaning the difference between the exercise price of the option and the current market price of the reference instrument, when the exercise price of the option is higher than the market price of the reference instrument), marked to market on a daily basis, less margin on deposit. Alternatively, a Fund may, in certain circumstances, enter into an offsetting position rather than segregating or designating liquid assets (e.g., the Fund may cover a written put option with a purchased put option with the same or higher exercise price or cover a written call option with a purchased call option with the same or lower exercise price). Although the Adviser attempts to ensure that a Fund has sufficient liquid assets in respect of its obligations under its derivative contracts, it is possible that the Fund’s liquid assets may be insufficient to support such obligations under its derivatives positions. A Fund may be unable to use such segregated or earmarked assets for certain other purposes, which could result in the Fund earning a lower return on its portfolio than it might otherwise earn if it did not have to segregate those assets in respect of, or otherwise cover, such portfolio positions. To the extent a Fund’s assets are segregated or committed as cover, it could limit the Fund’s investment flexibility. A Fund may modify its asset segregation policies from time to time.

*Regulatory Issues.* With respect to the Funds, the Adviser has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term CPO under the Commodity Exchange Act (the “CEA”) pursuant to CFTC Rule 4.5. Accordingly, the Adviser (with respect to each Fund) is not subject to registration or regulation as a CPO under the CEA.

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

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

**Additional Information Regarding Leverage.** The Funds may use leverage. Although the use of leverage may create an opportunity for increased returns of a Fund, it also results in additional risks and can magnify the effect of any losses and thus could negatively impact a Fund’s business and results of operation and have important

adverse consequences to a Fund's investments. The loss on leverage transactions may substantially exceed the initial investment.

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

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

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

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

For example, unauthorized third parties may attempt to improperly access, modify, disrupt the operations of or prevent access to these systems or data within them (a "cyber attack"), whether systems of the Funds, the Funds' service providers, counterparties or other market participants. Power or communications outages, acts of God, information technology equipment malfunctions, operational errors (both human and systematic) and inaccuracies within software or data processing systems may also disrupt business operations or impact critical data. Market events also may occur at a pace that overloads current information technology and communication systems and processes of the Funds, the Funds' service providers or other market participants, impacting the ability to conduct the Funds' operations.

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

Similar types of operational (both human and systematic) and technology risks are also present for issuers of securities or other instruments in which the Funds invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers and may cause the Funds' investments to lose value. In addition, cyber attacks involving a Fund

counterparty could affect such counterparty's ability to meet its obligations to a Fund, which may result in losses to a Fund and its shareholders. Furthermore, as a result of cyber attacks, disruptions or failures, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities or the entire market, which may result in, among other things, a Fund's inability to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or to accurately price its investments. The Funds cannot directly control any cyber-security plans or systems put in place by its service providers, Fund counterparties, issuers in which the Funds invest or securities markets and exchanges.

**Additional Information Regarding Equity Securities.** The Funds may invest directly or indirectly in public or private equity securities, including common stock, preferred stock, convertible stock and/or warrants. Equity investments may afford the Fund voting rights as well as the opportunity to receive dividends and/or capital appreciation. The Funds may also invest directly or indirectly in equity securities of both foreign and U.S. companies. Certain equity securities may be purchased because they may provide dividend income. These equity investments may take any of the following forms:

*Common Stock.* Holders of common stock generally have voting rights in the issuer and are entitled to receive common stock dividends when, as and if declared by the corporation's board of directors. Common stock normally occupies the most subordinated position in an issuer's capital structure

*Preferred Stocks.* Preferred stock, unlike common stock, has a stated dividend rate payable from the corporation's earnings. Preferred stock dividends may be cumulative or non-cumulative, participating or auction rate. "Cumulative" dividend provisions require all or a portion of prior unpaid dividends to be paid. Preferred stock may be "participating" stock, which means that it may be entitled to a dividend exceeding the stated dividend in certain cases. Preferred stock may have mandatory sinking fund provisions, as well as provisions allowing calls or redemption prior to maturity, which also can have a negative impact on prices when interest rates decline. Preferred stock may pay fixed or adjustable rates of return. Preferred stock generally pays a dividend and ranks ahead of common stocks and behind debt securities in claims for dividends and for assets of the issuer in a liquidation or bankruptcy.

*Rights and Warrants.* Warrants are securities permitting the holder to purchase equity securities at specific prices valid for a specific period of time. Their values do not necessarily move parallel to the prices of the underlying securities. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have a short duration and certain other distinguishing features. Rights and warrants are typically distributed directly by the issuer to its shareholders. Rights and warrants have no voting rights, receive no dividends and have no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer unless and until they are exercised for the underlying equity securities.

*Convertible Securities.* Convertible securities are debt securities or preferred stock that may be converted in whole or in part into common stock or other equity securities. Their prices do not necessarily move parallel to the prices of the underlying securities. Convertible securities generally have no voting rights. The value of a convertible security is a function of its "bond value," which is the value of the debt or preferred stock component of the security, and its "conversion value," which is the value of the right to convert the securities into common stock or other equity securities. The bond value will likely increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise, and the conversion value will likely increase when the value of the underlying equity security increases and decrease when the value of the underlying equity security decreases. If the bond value is relatively high compared to the conversion value, the security will behave more like a debt security, and if the conversion value is relatively high compared to the bond value, the security will behave more like an equity security.

*Additional Information Regarding Risks of Investing in Equities.* Equities fluctuate in price, and their short-term volatility at times may be great. Many factors can affect a particular equity security's price, such as poor earnings reports by the issuer, loss of major customers, major litigation against the issuer or changes in government regulations affecting the issuer or its industry. To the extent that a Fund obtains exposure to equity securities, the value of that Fund's portfolio will be affected by changes in

the stock markets. Market risk can affect the Funds' net asset value per share, which will fluctuate as the values of the Funds' portfolio securities change. The prices of individual equity securities do not all move in the same direction uniformly or at the same time. Different stock markets may behave differently from one another. The value of preferred securities will usually react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects. Preferred securities may also be sensitive to changes in interest rates. When interest rates rise, the fixed dividend on preferred securities may be less attractive, causing the price of preferred stocks to decline. Preferred securities of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than preferred stock of larger companies.

**Developed Markets VRP Fund's Subsidiary.** The assets of the Developed Markets VRP Fund may be invested in a wholly-owned and controlled subsidiary (the "Subsidiary") formed under the laws of the Cayman Islands. The Subsidiary is expected to write call and put options related to developed markets securities.

By investing in its Subsidiary, the Developed Markets VRP Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments. The instruments held by the Subsidiary are in many respects similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments if held directly by the Fund. There can be no assurance that the investment objective of the Subsidiary will be achieved.

**Additional Information Regarding Small and Mid-Capitalization Investing.** The Funds may gain exposure to the securities of small capitalization companies, ETFs whose portfolios consist primarily of common stocks of small-capitalization companies, mid-capitalization companies, recently organized companies and derivative instruments related to those securities. Historically, such securities, and particularly securities of smaller capitalization companies, have been more volatile in price than those of larger capitalization, more established companies. Many of the risks that apply to small capitalization companies also apply to mid-capitalization companies, and such companies are included in the term "small capitalization companies" for the purposes of this risk factor. The securities of small capitalization and recently organized companies pose greater investment risks because such companies may have limited product lines, distribution channels and financial and managerial resources. In particular, small capitalization companies may be operating at a loss or have significant variations in operating results; may be engaged in a rapidly changing business with products subject to substantial risk of obsolescence; may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, to finance expansion or to maintain their competitive position; and may have substantial borrowings or may otherwise have a weak financial condition. In addition, these companies may face intense competition, including competition from companies with greater financial resources, more extensive development, manufacturing, marketing and other capabilities, and a larger number of qualified managerial and technical personnel. The equity securities of small capitalization companies are often traded over the counter or on regional exchanges and may not be traded in the volumes typical on a national securities exchange. Consequently, the Funds or entities in which the Funds obtain exposure may be required to dispose of such securities or remain in a short position over a longer (and potentially less favorable) period of time than is required to dispose of or close out of a short position with respect to the securities of larger, more established companies. Investments in equity or debt instruments issued by small capitalization companies may also be more difficult to value than other types of securities because of the foregoing considerations as well as, if applicable, lower trading volumes. Investments in companies with limited or no operating histories are more speculative and entail greater risk than do investments in companies with an established operating record.

**Large Capitalization Investing.** The equity securities of large capitalization companies can perform differently from other segments of the equity market as a whole. Companies with large capitalization tend to go in and out of favor based on market and economic conditions and, while they can be less volatile than companies with smaller capitalizations, they may also be less flexible in evolving markets or unable to implement changes as quickly as their smaller counterparts. Accordingly, the value of equity securities issued by large capitalization companies may not rise to the same extent as the value of equity securities issued by small or mid-cap companies under certain market conditions or during certain periods. Market capitalizations of companies change over time.

**Investment in Other Investment Companies.** The Funds may invest in the securities of other investment companies, which can include open-end funds, closed-end funds and unit investment trusts, subject to the limits set forth in the 1940 Act that apply to those types of investments. The Funds may invest, for example, in ETFs, which are typically open-end funds or unit investment trusts, listed on a stock exchange. The Funds might do so as a way of gaining exposure to the segments of the equity markets represented by the ETFs' portfolio, at times when the Funds may not be able to buy those portfolio securities directly.

The shares of other investment companies may fluctuate in price and may be worth more or less when a Fund sells them. Investing in another investment company through the secondary market may involve the payment of substantial premiums above the value of such investment company's portfolio securities. As a shareholder of an investment company, a Fund would be subject to its ratable share of that investment company's expenses, including its advisory and administration expenses.

**Exchange-Traded Funds.** Each Fund may invest directly or indirectly in ETFs, which are investment companies or special purpose trusts whose primary objective is to achieve the same rate of return as a particular market index while trading throughout the day on an exchange. The Funds may purchase and sell individual shares of ETFs in the secondary market. These secondary market transactions require the payment of commissions.

Investments in ETFs are subject to the same risks as investments in other investment companies, as described above. Certain risks of investing in an index-based ETF are similar to those of investing in an indexed mutual fund, including tracking error risk (the risk of errors in matching the ETF's underlying assets to the index); and the risk that because an ETF is not actively managed, it cannot sell poorly performing stocks as long as they are represented in the index. Other ETF risks include the risk that ETFs may trade in the secondary market at a discount from their NAVs and the risk that the ETFs may not be liquid. Furthermore, there may be times when the exchange halts trading, in which case the investors owning ETF shares would be unable to sell them until trading is resumed. In addition, because ETFs often invest in a portfolio of common stocks and "track" a designated index, an overall decline in stocks comprising an ETF's benchmark index could have a greater impact on the ETF and investors than might be the case in an investment company with a more widely diversified portfolio. Losses could also occur if the ETF is unable to replicate the performance of the chosen benchmark index. Other risks associated with ETFs include the possibility that: (i) an ETF's distributions may decline if the issuers of the ETF's portfolio securities fail to continue to pay dividends; and (ii) under certain circumstances, an ETF could be terminated. Should termination occur, the ETF could have to liquidate its portfolio when the prices for those assets are falling. In addition, inadequate or irregularly provided information about an ETF or its investments could expose investors in ETFs to unknown risks.

**Debt Investments.** The Funds can invest directly or indirectly in debt securities. The Funds may have exposure to the debt securities of U.S. or foreign issuers. These debt securities may have fixed or floating interest rates; may or may not be collateralized; and may be below investment grade. The Funds have no limits as to the maturity of debt securities in which they invest directly or indirectly or as to the market capitalization range of the issuers. The Funds do not have investment policies establishing specific maturity ranges for their investments, and they may be within any maturity range (short, medium or long) depending on the Adviser's evaluation of investment opportunities available within the debt securities markets.

**Corporate Debt Securities.** The Funds can purchase or gain exposure to a variety of debt securities of varying maturities issued by U.S. and foreign corporations, partnerships or other business entities. Corporate debt securities include bills, notes, debentures, money market instruments and similar instruments and securities and are generally used by corporations and other issuers to borrow money from investors for such purposes as working capital or capital expenditures. The issuer pays the investor a variable or fixed rate of interest and normally must repay the amount borrowed on or before maturity. Certain bonds are "perpetual" in that they have no maturity date. The debt securities in which a Fund is directly or indirectly invested may be subordinate to other liabilities of the issuer. If a borrower becomes insolvent, the borrower's assets may be insufficient to meet its obligations to the holders of its subordinated debt. The investment return of corporate debt securities reflects interest earnings and changes in the market value of the security. The rate of return or return of principal on some

debt obligations may be linked or indexed to the level of exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and a foreign currency or currencies.

**Below Investment Grade Securities.** The Funds can invest directly or indirectly in below-investment-grade fixed income securities. Below investment grade debt securities, which are commonly called “junk bonds,” are bonds rated below BBB- by Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services (“S&P”) or Baa3 by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., (“Moody’s”) or that have comparable ratings by another rating organization. Securities held directly or indirectly by the Funds may be downgraded to below investment grade status after a Fund purchases them. Issuers of high yield debt are in many cases highly leveraged, and their relatively high debt-to-equity ratios create increased risks that their operations might not generate sufficient cash flow to service their debt obligations. Issuers of high yield debt may also be in poor financial condition, face special competitive or product obsolescence problems or be in bankruptcy or other reorganizations or corporate liquidations.

**Obligations Issued or Guaranteed by U.S. Government Agencies or Instrumentalities.** These include direct obligations and mortgage-related securities that have different levels of credit support from the U.S. government. Some are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States, such as Government National Mortgage Association pass-through mortgage certificates. Some are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury under certain circumstances, such as Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”) bonds and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”) obligations. Others are supported only by the credit of the entity that issued them. Securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are also supported by commitments from the U.S. Treasury to purchase certain of those agencies’ securities during market conditions in which the U.S. Treasury deems it necessary for the promotion of market stability. In September 2008, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, an independent regulatory agency, placed the Federal National Mortgage Association and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Association into conservatorship. The U.S. Department of Treasury also entered into a secured lending credit facility with those companies and a preferred stock purchase agreement. The preferred stock purchase agreement was designed to ensure that each company maintain a positive net worth, be able to meet its outstanding obligations and continue providing liquidity to the mortgage market.

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

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

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

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

The Funds may also obtain exposure to zero-coupon and delayed interest securities and “stripped” securities of U.S. and foreign corporations and of foreign government issuers. These are similar in structure to zero-coupon and “stripped” U.S. government securities, but in the case of foreign government securities may or may not be backed by the “full faith and credit” of the issuing foreign government. Zero-coupon securities issued by foreign

governments and by corporations will be subject to greater credit risks than U.S. government zero-coupon securities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Floating rate and variable rate demand notes that have a stated maturity in excess of one year may have features that permit the holder to recover the principal amount of the underlying security at specified intervals not exceeding one year and upon no more than 30 days’ notice. The issuer of that type of note normally has a corresponding right in its discretion, after a given period, to prepay the outstanding principal amount of the note plus accrued interest. Generally the issuer must provide a specified number of days’ notice to the holder. The Funds can also invest directly or indirectly in step-coupon bonds that have a coupon rate that changes periodically during the life of the security on pre-determined dates that are set when the security is issued.

**Exchange-Traded Notes (“ETNs”).** An investment in an ETN involves risks, including possible loss of principal. ETNs are a type of structured note, and are unsecured debt securities that are linked to the total return

of a market index. Risks of investing in ETNs also include limited portfolio diversification, uncertain principal payment and illiquidity. Additionally, the investor fee will reduce the amount of return on maturity or at redemption and as a result the investor may receive less than the principal amount a maturity or upon redemption, even if the value of the relevant index has increased.

**Additional Information Regarding Foreign Securities.** The Funds invest or have exposure to investments in foreign (non-U.S.) securities. “Foreign securities” include equity and debt securities of companies organized under the laws of countries other than the United States and debt securities issued or guaranteed by governments other than the U.S. government or issued by foreign supra-national entities.

Investments in foreign securities may offer special opportunities for investing but also present special additional risks and considerations not typically associated with investments in domestic securities. Some of these additional risks are:

- transaction charges for currency exchange;
- greater difficulties in commencing lawsuits;
- higher brokerage commission rates than in the United States;
- increased risks of delays in settlement of portfolio transactions or loss of certificates for portfolio securities;
- unfavorable differences between the U.S. economy and foreign economies;

Foreign countries may have reporting requirements with respect to the ownership of securities, and those reporting requirements may be subject to interpretation or change without prior notice to investors. While the Funds make efforts to stay informed of foreign reporting requirements relating to the Funds’ foreign portfolio securities (e.g., through Funds’ brokerage contacts and the Funds’ custodial network), no assurance can be given that the Funds will satisfy applicable foreign reporting requirements at all times.

**Information Regarding Emerging Market Securities.** The Funds may invest directly or indirectly in the securities of issuers economically tied to emerging market or frontier market countries. Emerging markets and frontier markets are collectively referred to as “emerging markets” for purposes of this risk factor.

*General Emerging Market Risks.* Nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, currency blockage, political changes or diplomatic developments could adversely affect a Fund’s investments in a foreign country, and may be more likely in emerging markets than in developed markets. In the event of nationalization, expropriation or other confiscation, a Fund could lose its entire investment in that country. Adverse conditions in a certain region can adversely affect securities of other countries whose economies appear to be unrelated. To the extent that a Fund invests a significant portion of assets in a concentrated geographic area, the Fund will generally have more exposure to regional economic risks associated with those investments.

*Restrictions on Foreign Investment.* A number of emerging securities markets restrict foreign investment to varying degrees. Furthermore, repatriation of investment income, capital and the proceeds of sales by foreign investors may require governmental registration and/or approval in some countries. In addition, new or additional repatriation or other restrictions might be imposed subsequent to the Fund’s investment. If such restrictions were to be imposed subsequent to a Fund’s investment in the securities markets of a particular country, the Fund’s response might include, among other things, applying to the appropriate authorities for a waiver of the restrictions or engaging in transactions in other markets designed to offset the risks of decline in that country. Such restrictions will be considered in relation to a Fund’s liquidity needs and all other acceptable positive and negative factors. Some emerging markets limit foreign investment, which may decrease returns relative to domestic investors. A Fund may seek exceptions to those restrictions. If those restrictions are present and cannot be avoided by the Fund, the Fund’s returns may be lower.

*Settlement Risks.* Settlement systems in emerging markets may be less well organized than in developed markets. Supervisory authorities may also be unable to apply standards comparable with those in developed markets. Thus there may be risks that settlement may be delayed and that cash or securities belonging to a Fund may be in jeopardy because of failures of or defects in the systems. In particular, market practice may require that payment be made prior to receipt of the security which is being purchased or that delivery of a security must be made before payment is received. In such cases, default by a broker or bank through whom the relevant transaction is effected might result in a loss being suffered by the Fund. A Fund seeks, when possible, to use counterparties whose financial status is such that this risk is reduced. However, there can be no certainty that a Fund will be successful in eliminating or reducing this risk, particularly as counterparties operating in emerging markets frequently lack the substance, capitalization and/or financial resources of those in developed countries.

There may also be a danger that, because of uncertainties in the operation of settlement systems in individual markets, competing claims may arise in respect of securities held by or to be transferred to a Fund. Furthermore, compensation schemes may be non-existent, limited or inadequate to meet a Fund's claims in any of these events.

*Counterparty and Third Party Risk.* Trading in the securities of emerging markets presents additional credit and financial risks. A Fund may have limited access to, or there may be a limited number of, potential counterparties that trade in the securities of emerging market issuers. Governmental regulations may restrict potential counterparties to certain financial institutions located or operating in the particular emerging market. Potential counterparties may not possess, adopt or implement creditworthiness standards, financial reporting standards or legal and contractual protections similar to those in developed markets. Currency hedging techniques may not be available or may be limited. A Fund may not be able to reduce or mitigate risks related to trading with emerging market counterparties. The Funds seek, when possible, to use counterparties whose financial status is such that the risk of default is reduced, but the risk of losses resulting from default is still possible.

*Government in the Private Sector.* Government involvement in the private sector varies in degree among the emerging markets in which a Fund may invest. Such involvement may, in some cases, include government ownership of companies in certain sectors, wage and price controls or imposition of trade barriers and other protectionist measures. With respect to any emerging market, there is no guarantee that some future economic or political crisis will not lead to price controls, forced mergers of companies, expropriation or creation of government monopolies, to the possible detriment of a Fund's investments in that country.

*Litigation.* A Fund may encounter substantial difficulties in obtaining and enforcing judgments against individuals and companies located in certain emerging markets. It may be difficult or impossible to obtain or enforce legislation or remedies against governments, their agencies and sponsored entities.

*Fraudulent Securities.* It is possible, particularly in emerging markets, that purported securities in which a Fund invests may subsequently be found to be fraudulent and as a consequence the Fund could suffer losses.

*Local Taxation.* The local taxation of income and capital gains accruing to non-residents varies among emerging market countries and, in some cases, is comparatively high. In addition, emerging market countries typically have less well-defined tax laws and procedures and such laws may permit retroactive taxation so that a Fund could in the future become subject to local tax liabilities that had not been anticipated in conducting its investment activities or valuing its assets. The Funds seek to reduce these risks by careful management of assets. However, there can be no assurance that these efforts will be successful.

*Political Risks/Risks of Conflicts.* Recently, various countries have seen significant internal conflicts and in some cases, civil wars have had an adverse impact on the securities markets of the countries concerned.

These concerns may be greater in emerging markets than in developed markets. In addition, the occurrence of new disturbances due to acts of war or other political developments cannot be excluded. Apparently stable systems may experience periods of disruption or improbable reversals of policy. Nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, currency blockage, political changes, government regulation, political, regulatory or social instability or uncertainty or diplomatic developments could adversely affect a Fund's investments. The transformation from a centrally planned, socialist economy to a more market oriented economy has also resulted in many economic and social disruptions and distortions. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the economic, regulatory and political initiatives necessary to achieve and sustain such a transformation will continue or, if such initiatives continue and are sustained, that they will be successful or that such initiatives will continue to benefit foreign (or non-national) investors. Certain instruments, such as inflation indexed instruments, may depend upon measures compiled by governments (or entities under their influence), which are also the obligors.

**Additional Information Regarding Borrowing Risk.** Each Fund may borrow to meet redemption requests or for investment purposes (*i.e.*, to purchase additional portfolio securities). A Fund's investment portfolio may limit the number of lenders willing to enter into a borrowing arrangement with the Fund, result in higher borrowing costs to the Fund, or less favorable terms under the arrangement because such securities are higher risk instruments. As a result, a Fund may be required to modify its investment program in order to meet the terms of any borrowing arrangement. If so, the Fund may not meet its investment objectives.

**Additional Information Regarding Repurchase Agreements.** The Funds may enter into repurchase agreements with banks and broker-dealers, with the Funds as the initial purchasers of securities held by the banks or broker-dealers. They might do so with temporarily available cash (e.g., pending the investment of the proceeds from sales of Fund shares or pending the settlement of portfolio securities transactions) or for temporary defensive purposes. In this case, a repurchase agreement is a contract under which a Fund acquires a security, typically for a relatively short period (usually less than a week) for cash and subject to the commitment of the seller to repurchase the security for an agreed-upon price on a specified date. The repurchase price exceeds the acquisition price and reflects an agreed-upon market rate unrelated to any coupon rate on the purchased security. Approved sellers for repurchase agreements on U.S. government securities include U.S. commercial banks, U.S. branches of foreign banks or broker-dealers that have been designated as primary dealers in government securities. They must meet credit requirements set by the Adviser from time to time. Repurchase agreements afford a Fund the opportunity to earn a return on temporarily available cash without market risk, although the Fund bears the risk of a seller's failure to meet its obligation to pay the repurchase price when it is required to do so. Such a default may subject the Fund to expenses, delays and risks of loss including: (i) possible declines in the value of the underlying security while the Fund seeks to enforce its rights thereto, (ii) possible reduced levels of income and lack of access to income during this period and (iii) the inability to enforce its rights and the expenses involved in attempted enforcement. Entering into repurchase agreements entails certain risks, which include the risk that the counterparty to the repurchase agreement may not be able to fulfill its obligations, as discussed above and in the Prospectus, that the parties may disagree as to the meaning or application of contractual terms, or that the instrument may not perform as expected. There is no limit on the amount of the Fund's net assets that may be subject to repurchase agreements, subject to any limitations on illiquid investments.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** The Funds may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks and brokers with the Fund as the initial seller of securities to the banks or brokers. In this case, a reverse repurchase agreement involves a sale by the Fund of portfolio securities concurrently with an agreement by the Fund to repurchase the same securities at a later date at a fixed price. During the reverse repurchase agreement period, the Fund continues to receive principal and interest payments on the securities.

If the buyer in a reverse repurchase agreement files for bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, a Fund's use of proceeds from the sale of its securities may be restricted while the other party or its trustee or receiver determines whether to honor the Fund's right to repurchase the securities. Furthermore, in that situation a Fund may be unable to recover the securities it sold in connection with a reverse repurchase agreement and as a result would realize a loss equal to the difference between the value of the securities and the payment it received for them.

This loss would be greater to the extent the buyer paid less than the value of the securities the Fund sold to it (e.g., a buyer may only be willing to pay \$95 for a security with a market value of \$100). A Fund's use of reverse repurchase agreements also subjects the Fund to interest costs based on the difference between the sale and repurchase price of a security involved in such a transaction. Additionally, reverse repurchase agreements entail the same risks as OTC derivatives. These include the risk that the counterparty to the reverse repurchase agreement may not be able to fulfill its obligations, that the parties may disagree as to the meaning or application of contractual terms, or that the instrument may not perform as expected. Reverse repurchase agreements and dollar rolls are not considered borrowings by a Fund for purposes of a Fund's fundamental investment restriction on borrowings if a Fund covers its obligations under these transactions or maintains liquid assets equal in value to its obligations in respect of these transactions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bank Loans.** Each Fund may invest in bank loans. By purchasing a loan, a Fund acquires some or all of the interest of a bank or other lending institution in a loan to a particular borrower. A Fund may hold an interest in a loan through another financial institution, and in such cases would be purchasing a “participation” in the loan. A

Fund also may purchase loans by assignment from another lender, and in such cases would act as part of a lending syndicate. Many loans are secured by the assets of the borrower, and most impose restrictive covenants that must be met by the borrower. These loans are typically made by a syndicate of banks, represented by an agent bank which has negotiated and structured the loan and which is responsible generally for collecting interest, principal and other amounts from the borrower on its own behalf and on behalf of the other lending institutions in the syndicate, and for enforcing its and their other rights against the borrower. Each of the lending institutions, typically including the agent bank, lends to the borrower a portion of the total amount of the loan, and retains the corresponding interest in the loan.

A Fund's ability to receive payments of principal and interest and other amounts in connection with loan participations held by it will depend primarily on the financial condition of the borrower as well as the financial institution from which it purchases the participation interest. The value of collateral, if any, securing a loan can decline, or may be insufficient to meet the borrower's obligations or difficult to liquidate. In addition, a Fund's access to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or other insolvency laws. The failure by a Fund to receive scheduled interest or principal payments on a loan would adversely affect the income of the Fund and would likely reduce the value of its assets, which would be reflected in a reduction in the Fund's NAV. Banks and other lending institutions generally perform a credit analysis of the borrower before originating a loan or participating in a lending syndicate. In selecting the loans in which a Fund will invest, however, the Adviser will not rely solely on that credit analysis, but will perform its own investment analysis of the borrowers. The Adviser's analysis may include consideration of the borrower's financial strength and managerial experience, debt coverage, additional borrowing requirements or debt maturity schedules, changing financial conditions and responsiveness to changes in business conditions and interest rates. The Adviser generally will not have access to non-public information to which other investors in syndicated loans may have access. Because loans in which a Fund may invest generally are not rated by independent credit rating agencies, a decision by the Fund to invest in a particular loan will depend almost exclusively on the Adviser's, and the original lending institution's credit analysis of the borrower. Investments in loans may be of any quality, including "distressed" loans, and will be subject to a Fund's credit quality policy. The loans in which a Fund may invest include those that pay fixed rates of interest and those that pay floating rates — *i.e.*, rates that adjust periodically based on a known lending rate, such as a bank's prime rate.

Investing directly in loans or other direct debt instruments exposes a Fund to various risks similar to those borne by a creditor. Such risks include the risk of default, the risk of delayed repayment, and the risk of inadequate collateral. Transactions in many loans settle on a delayed basis, and the Fund may not receive the proceeds from the sale of a loan for a substantial period after the sale. As a result, those proceeds will not be available to make additional investments or to meet the Fund's redemption obligations.

In addition, when holding a loan participation, the Fund is subject to the credit risk of the intermediary financial institution. If the Fund holds its interest in a loan through another financial institution, the Fund likely would not be able to exercise its rights directly against the borrower and may not be able to cause the financial institution to take what it considers to be appropriate action. If the Fund relies on a financial institution to administer a loan, the Fund is subject to the risk that the financial institution may be unwilling or unable to demand and receive payments from the borrower in respect of the loan, or otherwise unwilling or unable to perform its administrative obligations.

**Legal and Regulatory Risks.** The Funds may be adversely affected by new (or revised) laws or regulations that may be imposed by the CFTC, the Commission, the U.S. Federal Reserve or other banking regulators, or other governmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets. These agencies are empowered to promulgate a variety of rules pursuant to financial reform legislation in the United States, such as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), which was signed into law in July 2010. The Funds may also be adversely affected by changes in the enforcement or interpretation of existing statutes and rules. In addition, the securities and futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations and margin requirements. The CFTC, the Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, other regulators and self-regulatory organizations and exchanges are authorized to take

extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The regulation of derivatives transactions and funds that engage in such transactions is an evolving area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action. The ultimate impact of the Dodd-Frank Act, and any resulting regulation, is not yet certain and issuers in which the Funds invest may also be affected by the new legislation and regulation in ways that are currently unforeseeable. Governments or their agencies also may acquire distressed assets from financial institutions and acquire ownership interests in those institutions. The long-term implications of government ownership and disposition of these assets are unclear, and may have positive or negative effects on the liquidity, valuation and performance of the Funds' portfolio holdings.

The Dodd-Frank Act provides for, among other things, new regulation of the derivatives market, including new clearing, margin, reporting and registration requirements. While some of the relevant rules have been finalized and implemented, others are still not in effect, so its ultimate impact remains unclear. New regulations could, among other things, adversely affect the value of the investments held by a Fund, restrict the Fund's ability to engage in derivatives transactions (for example, by making certain types of derivatives transactions no longer available to the Fund) and/or increase the costs of such derivatives transactions (for example, by increasing margin or capital requirements) and the Fund's ability to execute certain investment strategies may be adversely affected as a result. It is unclear how the regulatory changes will affect counterparty risk.

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

**Liquidity and Restricted Securities.** The Trust's Board of Trustees has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility for determining whether the securities in which the Funds invest are liquid or illiquid, which the Adviser carries out on a case-by-case basis based on procedures approved by the Board that set forth various factors relating to a Fund's ability to dispose of such securities in an appropriate manner. The Board reviews periodic reports provided by the Adviser in accordance with the procedures. Each Fund may invest at the time of purchase up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are illiquid, which may be difficult to value properly and may involve greater risks than liquid securities. The value of a Fund's holdings of illiquid securities may exceed the percentage limitation applicable at the time of acquisition due to subsequent fluctuations in value or other reasons. A Fund is not required to hold a certain level of cash at all times.

**Investment in Relatively New Issuers.** The Funds may occasionally gain exposure to the equities of selected new issuers. Direct or indirect investments in relatively new issuers, *i.e.*, those having continuous operating histories of less than three years, may carry special risks and may be more speculative because such companies are relatively unseasoned. Such companies also may lack sufficient resources, may be unable to generate internally the funds necessary for growth and may find external financing to be unavailable on favorable terms or even totally unavailable. Those companies will often be involved in the development or marketing of a new product with no established market, which could lead to significant losses. The securities of such issuers may have a limited trading market, which may adversely affect their disposition and can result in their being priced lower than might otherwise be the case. If other investors who invest in such issuers trade the same securities when a Fund attempts to dispose of its holdings, the Fund may receive lower prices than might otherwise be the case.

**Adjustable Rate and Auction Preferred Securities.** The Funds may invest in adjustable rate or auction rate preferred securities. Typically, the dividend rate on an adjustable rate preferred security is determined prospectively each quarter by applying an adjustment formula established at the time of issuance of the security. Although adjustment formulas vary among issues, they typically involve a fixed premium or discount relative to rates on specified debt securities issued by the U.S. Treasury. Typically, an adjustment formula will provide for a fixed premium or discount adjustment relative to the highest base yield of three specified U.S. Treasury securities: the 90-day Treasury bill, the 10-year Treasury note and the 20-year Treasury bond. The premium or discount adjustment to be added to or subtracted from this highest U.S. Treasury base rate yield is fixed at the

time of issue and cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of the security. The dividend rate on other preferred securities, commonly known as auction preferred securities, is adjusted at intervals that may be more frequent than quarterly, such as every 49 days, based on bids submitted by holders and prospective purchasers of such securities and may be subject to stated maximum and minimum dividend rates. The issues of most adjustable rate and auction preferred securities currently outstanding are perpetual, but are redeemable after a specified date at the option of the issuer. Certain issues supported by the credit of a high-rated financial institution provide for mandatory redemption prior to expiration of the credit arrangement. No redemption can occur if full cumulative dividends are not paid. Although the dividend rates on adjustable and auction preferred securities generally are adjusted or reset frequently, the market values of these preferred securities still may fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. Market values of adjustable preferred securities also may substantially fluctuate if interest rates increase or decrease once the maximum or minimum dividend rate for a particular security is approached.

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

For reporting purposes, a Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. In determining such portfolio turnover, all securities whose maturities at the time of acquisition were one year or less are excluded. A 100% portfolio turnover rate would occur, for example, if all of the securities in a Fund's investment portfolio (other than short-term money market securities) were replaced once during the fiscal year. Portfolio turnover will not be a limiting factor should the Adviser deem it advisable to purchase or sell securities. The historical portfolio turnover rate for each Fund is shown under the heading "Financial Highlights" in the Fund's Prospectus. Changes in portfolio turnover rates are generally anticipated to be the result of increased or decreased trading volume in long-term securities.

**Additional Information Regarding Securities Lending.** Each Fund may earn additional income from lending securities. Voting rights or rights to consent with respect to the loaned securities pass to the borrower. Each Fund generally will have the right to call securities loans at any time on reasonable notice, and generally intends to do so if both (i) the Adviser receives adequate notice of a proposal upon which shareholders are being asked to vote, and (ii) the Adviser believes that the benefits to the Fund of voting on such proposal outweigh the benefits to the Fund of having the security remain out on loan. However, as described in the Prospectus, the Fund bears the risk of delay in the return of the security, impairing the Fund's ability to vote on such matters. As with other extensions of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery or even loss of rights in the securities loaned if the borrower of the securities fails financially. Securities loans currently are required to be secured continuously by collateral in cash, cash equivalents (such as money market instruments) or other liquid securities held by the custodian and maintained in an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned.

During the time a security is on loan and the issuer of the security makes an interest or dividend payment, the borrower pays a Fund a substitute payment equal to any interest or dividends the Fund would have received directly from the issuer of the security if the Fund had not loaned the security. When a Fund receives dividends directly from domestic or certain foreign corporations, a portion of the dividends paid by the Fund itself to its shareholders and attributable to those dividends (but not the portion attributable to substitute payments) may be eligible for: (i) treatment as "qualified dividend income" in the hands of individuals; or (ii) the federal dividends received deduction in the hands of corporate shareholders. The Adviser therefore may cause a Fund to terminate a securities loan — and forego any income on the loan after the termination — in anticipation of a dividend payment. By doing so, a Fund would receive the dividend directly from the issuer of the securities, rather than a substitute payment from the borrower of the securities, and thereby preserve the possibility of those tax benefits

for certain Fund shareholders. However, the Adviser is under no obligation to do so, and there can be no assurance that the Adviser will do so in all circumstances or at all.

## **Investment Restrictions**

### **Fundamental Investment Restrictions of the Funds.**

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

Under these restrictions, U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund, U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund and U.S. VRP Master Fund:

- (1) may not issue senior securities, except as permitted borrowings or as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act;<sup>1</sup>
- (2) may not borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act;
- (3) may not underwrite securities issued by other persons except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio investments, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under federal securities laws;
- (4) may not purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, including securities of real estate investment trusts, and may purchase securities which are secured by interests in real estate;
- (5) may not make loans, except by purchase of debt obligations in which the Fund may invest consistent with its investment policies, by entering into repurchase agreements, or by lending its portfolio securities. A Fund may loan no more than one-third of its total assets;
- (6) may not purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options, may enter into foreign exchange contracts, and may enter into swap agreements and other financial transactions not requiring the delivery of physical commodities; and
- (7) may not invest more than 25% of its net assets in a particular industry or group of industries (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities).

In determining whether a transaction is permitted under the 1940 Act, restriction (1) above will not be construed to prohibit any transaction that is permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time.

The Developed Markets VRP Fund:

- (1) may not issue senior securities, except as permitted borrowings or as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act and other applicable law, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time;

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<sup>1</sup> Section 18(f)(1) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits registered open-end investment companies from issuing senior securities other than with respect to bank borrowings. Section 18(g) defines "senior security," in pertinent part, as "any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness and any stock of a class having priority over any other class as to distribution of assets or payment of dividends." To the extent obligations created by a Fund may be deemed to create senior securities such Fund will segregate or earmark liquid assets with its custodian in accordance with 1940 Act Release No. 10666 (Apr. 18, 1979), and the guidance of related no-action letters issued by the Commission, to cover these obligations.

- (2) may not borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and other applicable law, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time;
- (3) may not underwrite securities issued by other persons except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio investments, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under federal securities laws;
- (4) may not purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, including securities of real estate investment trusts, and may purchase securities which are secured by interests in real estate;
- (5) may not make loans, except by purchase of debt obligations in which the Fund may invest consistent with its investment policies, by entering into repurchase agreements, or by lending its portfolio securities. A Fund may loan no more than one-third of its total assets;
- (6) may not purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options contracts foreign exchange contracts, and may enter into swap agreements and other financial transactions not requiring the delivery of physical commodities; and
- (7) may not invest more than 25% of its net assets in a particular industry or group of industries (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities).

Section 18(f)(1) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits registered open-end investment companies from issuing senior securities other than with respect to bank borrowings. Section 18(g) defines “senior security,” in pertinent part, as “any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness, and any stock of a class having priority over any other class as to distribution of assets or payment of dividends.” To the extent obligations created by an Underlying Fund may be deemed to create “senior securities” (as defined in the 1940 Act), such Fund may be required to segregate or earmark liquid assets, or enter into offsetting transactions or own positions covering its obligations.

The Global Equity VRP Master Fund:

- (1) may not issue senior securities, except as permitted borrowings or as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act and other applicable law, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time;
- (2) may not borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act and other applicable law, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time;
- (3) may not underwrite securities issued by other persons except to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio investments, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under federal securities laws;
- (4) may not purchase or sell real estate, although it may purchase securities of issuers which deal in real estate, including securities of real estate investment trusts, and may purchase securities which are secured by interests in real estate;
- (5) may not make loans, except by purchase of debt obligations in which the Fund may invest consistent with its investment policies, by entering into repurchase agreements, or by lending its portfolio securities. A Fund may loan no more than one-third of its total assets;
- (6) may not purchase or sell commodities, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures, options and foreign exchange contracts, and may enter into swap agreements and other financial transactions not requiring the delivery of physical commodities; and
- (7) may not invest more than 25% of its net assets in a particular industry or group of industries (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities).

In determining whether a transaction is permitted under the 1940 Act, restriction (1) above will not be construed to prohibit any transaction that is permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time.

Section 18(f)(1) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits registered open-end investment companies from issuing senior securities other than with respect to bank borrowings. Section 18(g) defines “senior security,” in pertinent part, as “any bond, debenture, note, or similar obligation or instrument constituting a security and evidencing indebtedness, and any stock of a class having priority over any other class as to distribution of assets or payment of dividends.” To the extent obligations created by an Underlying Fund may be deemed to create “senior securities” (as defined in the 1940 Act), such Fund may be required to segregate or earmark liquid assets, or enter into offsetting transactions or own positions covering its obligations.

For all Funds:

In determining whether a transaction is permitted under the 1940 Act, restriction (1) above will not be construed to prohibit any transaction that is permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted or modified, or as otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction from time to time.

All percentage limitations on investments will apply at the time of investment and shall not be considered violated unless an excess or deficiency occurs or exists immediately after and as a result of such investment. Except for the investment restrictions listed above as fundamental or to the extent designated as such in the Prospectus, the other investment policies described in this SAI or in the Prospectus are not fundamental and may be changed by approval of the Trustees.

The 1940 Act permits an open-end investment company to borrow money from a bank so long as the ratio which the value of the total assets of the investment company (including the amount of any such borrowing), less the amount of all liabilities and indebtedness (other than such borrowing) of the investment company, bears to the amount of such borrowing is at least 300%. The 1940 Act provides that, in the event that such asset coverage shall at any time fall below 300%, a mutual fund shall, within three days thereafter (not including Sundays and holidays) or such longer period as the Commission may prescribe by rules and regulations, reduce the amount of its borrowings to such an extent that the asset coverage of such borrowing shall be at least 300%.

The 1940 Act permits an open-end investment company to borrow money from a bank or other person; *provided* that such loan is for temporary purposes only and is in an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of the investment company’s total assets at the time when the loan is made. A loan is presumed to be for temporary purposes if it is repaid within sixty days and is not extended or renewed.

### **Temporary Defensive Positions**

Normally, each Fund, including the U.S. VRP Master Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund, invests substantially all of its assets to meet its investment objective. A Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with remaining maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or may hold cash. For temporary defensive purposes, including during periods of unusual cash flows, the Funds may depart from their principal investment strategies and invest part or all of their assets in these securities or may hold cash. The Funds may adopt defensive strategies when the Adviser believes securities in which the Funds normally invest have special or unusual risks or are less attractive due to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions.

### **DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

The Board has adopted, on behalf of the Funds, policies and procedures relating to disclosure of each Fund’s portfolio securities. These policies and procedures are designed to protect the confidentiality of each Fund’s portfolio holdings that are not publicly available (“Confidential Portfolio Holdings”) and to prevent the selective disclosure of such information. These policies and procedures may be modified at any time with the approval of the Board.

The holdings of each Fund will be disclosed in quarterly filings with the Commission on Form N-Q as of the end of the first and third quarters of each Fund's fiscal year and on Form N-CSR as of the second and fourth quarters of each Fund's fiscal year. In addition, each Fund may disclose to the general public its holdings information from time to time.

The Trust may disclose Confidential Portfolio Holdings to certain persons, including shareholders of the Trust (including shareholders of record of indirect investments in a Fund through another fund managed by the Adviser), qualified potential shareholders as determined by the Adviser (including qualified potential shareholders who are considering an indirect investment in a Fund through another fund managed by the Adviser), and their consultants or agents ("Permitted Recipients"). This information may be made available as soon as the business day following the date to which the information relates.

Except as otherwise noted, to receive Confidential Portfolio Holdings, Permitted Recipients must enter into a confidentiality agreement with the Adviser and the Trust that requires that the Confidential Portfolio Holdings be used solely for purposes determined by senior management of the Adviser to be in the best interest of the shareholders of the Fund to which the information relates.

If the Adviser becomes aware that a recipient has or is likely to violate the terms of a confidentiality agreement regarding Confidential Portfolio Holdings, the Adviser shall cease providing such information to such recipient.

If senior management of the Adviser identifies a potential conflict with respect to the disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Holdings between the interest of a Fund's shareholders, on the one hand, and the Adviser or an affiliated person of the Adviser or the Fund, on the other, the Adviser is required to inform the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") of the potential conflict, and the CCO has the power to decide whether, in light of the circumstances, disclosure should be permitted under the circumstances. The CCO also is required to report her decision to the Board of Trustees.

In addition, the Trust may also disclose Confidential Portfolio Holdings on a selective basis if the CCO (or an individual designated by the CCO) approves the disclosure and determines that: (i) there is a legitimate business purpose for such disclosure; (ii) recipients are subject to a duty of confidentiality, including a duty not to trade on the nonpublic information; and (iii) the disclosure is in the best interests of Fund shareholders.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Confidential Portfolio Holdings of a Fund may generally be made available more frequently and prior to its public availability (i) to the Adviser, the Funds' administrator, custodian, principal underwriter and certain other service providers (such as pricing services, proxy voting services, financial printers, pricing information vendors, third parties that deliver analytical, statistical or consulting services, ratings and rankings agencies and other unaffiliated third parties or their affiliates that provide services and may require Confidential Portfolio Holdings to provide services to the Funds (collectively, "Service Providers"); (ii) to an accounting firm, an auditing firm, or outside legal counsel retained by the Service Providers, their affiliates, or a Fund; (iii) to certain Fund affiliates; (iv) as required by law; and (v) to any other party for a legitimate business purpose upon waiver or exception, with the approval of the CCO.

The policies and procedures of the Funds provide that none of the Funds, their service providers, the Adviser or any other party may receive compensation in connection with the disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Holdings.

The Adviser has primary responsibility for ensuring that a Fund's Confidential Portfolio Holdings are disclosed only in accordance with these policies. As part of this responsibility, the Adviser will maintain such internal policies and procedures as it believes are reasonably necessary for preventing the unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Portfolio Holdings.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS

### Board of Trustees

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

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

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

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

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

### Independent Trustees

Name (Year of Birth)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in the Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Directorships / Trusteeships Held by Trustee During the Past 5 Years
Jeffery Ekberg (1965)	Trustee	since 2012	Self-employed (personal investing), since 2011; Principal, TPG Capital, L.P. (private equity firm), until 2011; Chief Financial Officer, Newbridge Capital, LLC (private equity firm), until 2011	15	None.
Daniel Charney (1970)	Trustee	since 2012	Head of Equities, Cowen Group (financial services firm), since 2012; Jefferies & Co. (investment bank), until 2011	15	None.

### Interested Trustee

Name (Year of Birth)	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(1)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During the Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in the Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee <sup>(2)</sup>	Other Directorships / Trusteeships Held by Trustee During the Past 5 Years
Ross Stevens <sup>(3)</sup> (1969)	Trustee, Chairman	since 2012	Founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC since 2012; Investment Committee and Co-Head of Portfolio Managers Committee, Magnetar Capital (investment advisory firm), until 2012	15	None.

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

(2) The Fund Complex includes the Trust and Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV and Stone Ridge Trust V, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

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

### Additional Information about the Trustees.

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

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

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

**Additional Information about the Board’s Committees.** The Trust has an Audit Committee and a Valuation Committee. The members of both the Audit Committee and the Valuation Committee consist of all the Independent Trustees, namely Messrs. Ekberg and Charney. Mr. Ekberg is the Audit Committee Chair and has been designated as the Audit Committee financial expert. Mr. Charney is the Valuation Committee Chair.

In accordance with its written charter, the Audit Committee’s primary purposes are: (1) to oversee the Trust’s accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, and its internal controls and procedures; (2) to oversee the quality and objectivity of the Trust’s and each Fund’s financial statements and the independent audit thereof; (3) to oversee the activities of the CCO; (4) to oversee the Trust’s compliance program adopted pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act, and the Trust’s implementation and enforcement of its compliance policies and procedures thereunder; (5) to oversee the Trust’s compliance with applicable laws in foreign jurisdictions, if any; and (6) to oversee compliance with the Code of Ethics by the Trust and the Adviser.

The Audit Committee reviews the scope of the Funds’ audits, the Funds’ accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and its internal controls. The Audit Committee approves, and recommends to the Independent Trustees for their ratification, the selection, appointment, retention or termination of the Funds’ independent registered public accounting firm and approves the compensation of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Audit Committee also approves all audit and permissible non-audit services provided to the Funds by the independent registered public accounting firm and all permissible non-audit services provided by the Funds’ independent registered public accounting firm to the Adviser and any affiliated service providers if the engagement relates directly to the Funds’ operations and financial reporting. The Audit Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

The Valuation Committee also operates pursuant to a written charter. The duties and powers, to be exercised at such times and in such manner as the Valuation Committee shall deem necessary or appropriate, are as follows: (1) reviewing, from time to time, the Trust’s valuation policy and procedures (the “Valuation Policy”), which Valuation Policy serves to establish policies and procedures for the valuation of the Funds’ assets; (2) making any recommendations to the Trust’s audit committee and/or the Board regarding (i) the functioning of the Valuation Policy, or (ii) the valuation(s) of individual assets; (3) consulting with the Adviser regarding the valuation of the Funds’ assets, including fair valuation determinations of any such assets; (4) periodically reviewing information regarding fair value and other determinations made pursuant to the Trust’s valuation procedures; (5) reporting to the Board on a regular basis regarding the Valuation Committee’s duties; (6) making recommendations in conjunction with the Board’s annual (or other periodical) review of the Trust’s Valuation Policy; (7) periodically reviewing information regarding industry developments in connection with valuation of assets; and (8) performing such other duties as may be assigned to it, from time to time, by the Board. The Valuation Committee met four times during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

**Trustee Ownership of the Funds.** The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities owned by the Trustees in the Funds and in other investment companies overseen by the Trustee within the same family of investment companies as of December 31, 2017 (except as otherwise noted). Investment companies are considered to be in the same family if they share the same investment adviser or principal underwriter and hold themselves out to investors as related companies for purposes of investment and investor services. The information as to ownership of securities which appears below is based on statements furnished to the Funds by its Trustees and executive officers.

	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds</u>		<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies<sup>(1)</sup></u>
<b>Independent Trustees</b>			
Jeffery Ekberg	Over \$100,000	U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund	Over \$100,000
	Over \$100,000	U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund	
	\$0	U.S. VRP Master Fund	
	\$10,001 - \$50,000	Developed Markets VRP Fund	
	\$0	Global Equity VRP Master Fund	

	<u>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Funds</u>		<u>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Daniel Charney	\$50,001 - \$100,000	U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund	Over \$100,000
	\$10,001 - \$50,000	U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund	
	\$0	U.S. VRP Master Fund	
	\$10,001 - \$50,000	Developed Markets VRP Fund	
	\$0	Global Equity VRP Master Fund	

### Interested Trustee

Ross Stevens <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	Over \$100,000	U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund	Over \$100,000
	Over \$100,000	U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund	
	None	U.S. VRP Master Fund	
	Over \$100,000	Developed Markets VRP Fund	
	None	Global Equity VRP Master Fund	

(1) Family of Investment Companies includes the Trust as well as Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV, Stone Ridge Trust V, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

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

(3) Information provided as of February 28, 2018.

None of the Independent Trustees or their family members beneficially owned any class of securities of the Adviser or principal underwriter of the Fund, or a person (other than a registered investment company) directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Adviser or the principal underwriter of the Fund, as of December 31, 2017.

**Compensation of Board Members.** Each Trustee who is not an employee of the Adviser is compensated by an annual retainer. Each such Trustee's compensation is invested in Stone Ridge funds. The Trust does not pay retirement benefits to its Trustees and officers. Each Fund pays a portion of the compensation of the CCO. Other officers and Interested Trustees of the Trust are not compensated by the Funds. The following table sets forth compensation received by Independent Trustees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017:

<u>Independent Trustees</u>	<u>Aggregate Compensation From the Funds</u>	<u>Total Compensation From the Fund Complex<sup>(1)</sup> Paid to Trustee</u>
Jeffery Ekberg	\$17,356	\$300,000
Daniel Charney	\$17,356	\$300,000

(1) The Fund Complex includes the Trust and Stone Ridge Trust II, Stone Ridge Trust III, Stone Ridge Trust IV and Stone Ridge Trust V, other investment companies managed by the Adviser.

### Officers of the Trust

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

Name (Year of Birth) and Address <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Position(s) Held with the Trust	Term of Office and Length of Time Served <sup>(3)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years
Anthony Zuco (1975)	Treasurer, Principal Financial Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer	since February 2018	Supervising Fund Controller at the Adviser, since 2013; prior to that Controller at Owl Creek Asset Management L.P. (investment advisory firm).
Alexander Nyren (1980)	Assistant Secretary	since January 2018	Head of Reinsurance of the Adviser, since 2018; member of Reinsurance portfolio management team at the Adviser, since 2013.
Richard Taylor (1980)	Assistant Treasurer	since 2015	Head of Operations of the Adviser, since 2013; prior to that Budget Analyst at Integrated Rehabilitation and Recovery Care Service (construction firm) and Head of Operations at Ruby Capital Partners LLP (investment advisory firm).

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

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

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

**Codes of Ethics.** Each of the Trust and the Adviser has adopted a code of ethics in accordance with Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. These codes of ethics permit the personnel of these entities to invest in securities, including securities that the Funds may purchase or hold. The codes of ethics are on public file with, and are available from, the Commission.

### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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

### CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

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

As of January 31, 2018, the following persons owned of record or beneficially more than 5% of the outstanding shares of a particular class of the applicable Fund.

**U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund — Class I Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Master Fund c/o U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC 615 East Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202	52.00%	Stone Ridge Trust	DE	Record
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	23.41%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	10.05%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	9.66%	N/A	N/A	Record

**U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund — Class M Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	47.20%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	25.84%	N/A	N/A	Record
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	25.30%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record

**U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund — Class I Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Stone Ridge U.S. Variance Risk Premium Master Fund c/o U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC 615 East Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202	68.50%	Stone Ridge Trust	DE	Record
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	24.08%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
Stone Ridge Global Equity Risk Premium Master Fund c/o U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC 615 East Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202	6.20%	Stone Ridge Trust	DE	Record

**U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund — Class M Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	75.49%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	12.37%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	12.14%	N/A	N/A	Record

**U.S. VRP Master Fund — Class I Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	81.87%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	8.32%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
Pershing, LLC One Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399	8.28%	Pershing Group, LLC	DE	Record

**U.S. VRP Master Fund — Class M Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	69.63%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
Pershing, LLC One Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399	12.09%	Pershing Group, LLC	DE	Record
Zion First National Bank 1 South Main St. Salt Lake City, UT 84133	11.74%	N/A	N/A	Record

**Developed Markets VRP Fund — Class I Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	68.44%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
Stone Ridge Global Equity Risk Premium Master Fund c/o U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC 615 East Michigan St. Milwaukee, WI 53202	25.41%	Stone Ridge Trust	DE	Record

**Developed Markets VRP Fund — Class M Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	59.42%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	40.58%	N/A	N/A	Record

**Global Equity VRP Master Fund — Class I Shares**

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	44.85%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record
Charles Schwab & Co. 211 Main St. San Francisco, CA 94105	29.06%	The Charles Schwab Corporation	DE	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. 200 S. 108th Ave. Omaha, NE 68154	24.95%	N/A	N/A	Record

## Global Equity VRP Master Fund — Class M Shares

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Parent Company</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Type of Ownership<sup>(1)</sup></u>
National Financial Services, LLC 200 Liberty St. New York, NY 10281	96.26%	Fidelity Global Brokerage Group, Inc.	DE	Record

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

As of January 31, 2018, the Trustees and officers of the Trust as a group owned beneficially less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each class of each Fund.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES

### The Adviser

Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC is the Adviser of the Funds. The Adviser was organized as a Delaware limited liability company in 2012. The Manager of the General Partner of the managing member of the Adviser is Ross Stevens.

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

*For the U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund, U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund and U.S. VRP Master Fund*

Pursuant to the investment management agreement, the Adviser agrees (i) to make investment decisions and provide a program of continuous investment management for each Fund; prepare, obtain, evaluate and make available to each Fund research and statistical data in connection therewith; obtain and evaluate such information and advice relating to the economy, securities markets and securities as it deems necessary or useful to discharge its duties hereunder; engage in or supervise the selection, acquisition, retention and sale of investments, securities and/or cash; engage in or supervise the selection, acquisition, retention and sale of registered and unregistered investment funds and/or other investment vehicles (the “Investment Funds”); select brokers or dealers to execute transactions; and all of the aforementioned is required to be done in material accordance with each Fund’s investment objective, policies and limitations as stated in the Registration Statement and in accordance with guidelines and directions from the Board and any applicable laws and regulations; (ii) subject to the direction and control of the Board, to assist each Fund as it may reasonably request in the conduct of such Fund’s business, including oral and written research, analysis, advice, statistical and economic data, judgments regarding individual investments, general economic conditions and trends and long-range investment policies; determine or recommend the securities, instruments, repurchase agreements, options and other investments (including the Investment Funds) and techniques that a Fund will purchase, sell, enter into, use or provide in an ongoing evaluation of a Fund’s portfolio; continuously manage and supervise the investment program of a Fund and the composition of its investment portfolio in a manner consistent with the investment objective, policies and restrictions of a Fund, as set forth in the Registration Statement and as may be adopted from time to time by the Board and applicable laws and regulations; determine or recommend the extent to which a Fund’s portfolio shall be invested in securities, Investment Funds and other assets and what portion, if any, should be held uninvested;

and undertake to do anything incidental to the foregoing to facilitate the performance of its obligations hereunder; (iii) to furnish to or place at the disposal of each Fund information, evaluations, analyses and opinions formulated or obtained by the Adviser in the discharge of its duties as the Board may, from time to time, reasonably request and maintain or cause to be maintained for each Fund all books, records, reports and any other information required under the 1940 Act, to the extent that such books, records and reports and other information are not maintained or furnished by the custodian, transfer agent, administrator, subadministrator or other agent of a Fund; (iv) to furnish to or place at the disposal of each Fund, such office space, telephone, utilities and facilities as a Fund may require for its reasonable needs and to furnish at the expense of the Adviser, or an affiliate of the Adviser, clerical services related to research, statistical and investment work; (v) to render or make available to each Fund management and administrative assistance in connection with the operation of a Fund that shall include (i) compliance with all reasonable requests of the Board for information, including information required in connection with a Fund's filings with the Commission, other federal and state regulatory organizations and self-regulatory organizations and (ii) such other services as the Adviser shall from time to time determine to be necessary or useful to the administration of a Fund.

The Adviser pays the reasonable salaries, fees and expenses of each Fund's employees and officers (including each Fund's share of any payroll taxes) and any fees and expenses of each Fund's Trustees who are partners, directors, trustees or employees of or otherwise affiliated with the Adviser; however, each Fund bears travel expenses (or an appropriate portion thereof) of Trustees or Fund officers who are partners, directors, trustees or employees of the Adviser to the extent that such expenses relate to attendance at meetings of the Board or any committees thereof or Advisers thereto and each Fund bears all or a portion of the expenses related to each Fund's chief compliance officer, as may be approved by the Board from time to time.

The Adviser is not responsible, except to the extent of the reasonable compensation of the Trust's employees who are partners, directors, trustees or employees of the Adviser whose services may be involved, for the following expenses of each Fund: all fees and expenses directly related to portfolio transactions and positions for each Fund's account such as direct and indirect expenses associated with each Fund's investments, including its investments in Investment Funds, and enforcing the Trust's rights in respect of such investments; brokerage commissions; interest and fees on any borrowings by each Fund; professional fees (including, without limitation, expenses of consultants, experts and specialists); research expenses and costs relating to the pricing and return data of Fund assets and related indices; fees and expenses of outside legal counsel (including fees and expenses associated with the review of documentation for prospective investments by each Fund), including foreign legal counsel; accounting, auditing, insurance and tax preparation expenses; fees and expenses in connection with repurchase offers and any repurchases or redemptions of Fund shares of beneficial interest; taxes and governmental fees (including tax preparation fees); fees and expenses of any custodian, subcustodian, transfer agent, registrar and any other agent of a Fund; all costs and charges for equipment or services used in communicating information regarding each Fund's transactions among the Adviser and any custodian or other agent engaged by a Fund; bank services fees; expenses of preparing, printing and distributing copies of offering memoranda and any other sales material (and any supplements or amendments thereto), reports, notices, other communications to shareholders and proxy materials; expenses of preparing, printing and filing reports and other documents with government agencies; expenses of shareholders' meetings; expenses of corporate data processing and related services; shareholder recordkeeping and shareholder account services, fees and disbursements; expenses relating to investor and public relations; and extraordinary expenses such as litigation expenses.

*For the Developed Markets VRP Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund*

Pursuant to the investment management agreement, the Adviser agrees to manage the investment and reinvestment of each Fund's assets, determine what investments will be purchased, held, sold or exchanged by each Fund and what portion, if any, of the assets of each Fund will be held uninvested, and continuously review, supervise and administer the investment program of each Fund. The Adviser bears its own operating and overhead expenses attributable to its duties under the investment management agreement (such as salaries, bonuses, rent, office and administrative expenses, depreciation and amortization and auditing expenses), except

that each Fund bears travel expenses (or an appropriate portion thereof) of Trustees or Fund officers who are partners, directors, trustees or employees of the Adviser to the extent that such expenses relate to attendance at meetings of the Board or any committees thereof or advisers thereto, and each Fund bears all or a portion of the expenses related to the Funds' chief compliance officer, as may be approved by the Board from time to time.

Each Fund bears all other costs of its operations, including, without limitation, the compensation of the Independent Trustees; ordinary administrative and operating expenses, including the management fee and all expenses associated with the pricing of Fund assets; risk management expenses; ordinary and recurring investment expenses, including all fees and expenses directly related to portfolio transactions and positions for each Fund's account (including brokerage, clearing and settlement costs), custodial costs and interest charges; professional fees (including, without limitation, expenses of consultants, experts and specialists); fees and expenses in connection with repurchase offers and any repurchases or redemptions of Fund shares; legal expenses (including legal and other out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the organization of each Fund and the offering of its shares); accounting and auditing expenses incurred in preparing, printing and delivering all reports (including such expenses incurred in connection with any Fund document) and tax information for shareholders and regulatory authorities, and all filing costs, fees, travel expenses and any other expenses directly related to the investment of each Fund's assets. Each Fund will pay any extraordinary expenses it may incur, including any litigation expenses.

As compensation for its advisory services, each Fund, except the U.S. VRP Master Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund, pays the Adviser a fee, computed daily and paid monthly in arrears, at the annual rate of 1.25% of each Fund's average daily net assets. In consideration of investment management fees to be paid to the Adviser by the Underlying Funds, the Adviser offers its services to the U.S. VRP Master Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund at no additional investment management fee.

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

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

For the Developed Markets VRP Fund, the Adviser contractually agreed to waive its management fee and/or pay or otherwise bear operating and other expenses of the Fund or a Class thereof (including offering expenses, but excluding brokerage and transactional expenses, borrowing and other investment-related costs and fees including interest and commitment fees, short dividend expense, acquired fund fees and expenses (but not excluding the fees and expenses of any Subsidiary of the Fund, except to the extent of such Subsidiary's Excluded Fees and Expenses (as defined below), taxes, litigation and indemnification expenses, judgments and extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business (collectively, the "Excluded Fees and Expenses") solely to the extent necessary to limit the total annualized expenses of the applicable Class to the percentage specified below of the average daily net assets attributable to such Class.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Expense Cap</u>
Developed Markets VRP Fund	1.75% for Class I Shares 1.90% for Class M Shares

For the U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund, U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund, the Adviser contractually agreed to waive its management fee and/or pay or otherwise bear operating and other expenses of the applicable Fund or a Class thereof (including offering expenses, but excluding brokerage and transactional expenses, borrowing and other investment-related costs and fees including interest and commitment fees, short dividend expense, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes, litigation and indemnification expenses, judgments and extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business (collectively, the "Excluded Fees and Expenses")) solely to the extent necessary to limit the total annualized expenses of the applicable Class to the percentage specified below of the average daily net assets attributable to such Class.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Expense Cap</u>
U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund	1.75% for Class I Shares 1.90% for Class M Shares
U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund	1.75% for Class I Shares 1.90% for Class M Shares
Global Equity VRP Master Fund	0.25% for Class I Shares 0.40% for Class M Shares

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

The Funds paid the following fees to the Adviser during the most recent three fiscal years ended October 31:

**U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund**

	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2017</u>
Gross Advisory Fees Accrued . . . . .	\$4,687,253	\$4,717,970	\$4,440,472
Fees Waived/Expenses Reimbursed . . . . .	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (60,860)
Net Advisory Fees Paid . . . . .	\$4,687,253	\$4,717,970	\$4,379,612

**U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund**

	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2017</u>
Gross Advisory Fees Accrued . . . . .	\$1,599,580	\$1,649,486	\$1,604,408
Fees Waived/Expenses Reimbursed . . . . .	\$ (12,511)	0	\$ (163,897)
Net Advisory Fees Paid . . . . .	\$1,587,069	\$1,649,486	\$1,440,511

**Developed Markets VRP Fund**

	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal year ended October 31, 2017</u>
Gross Advisory Fees Accrued <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	\$1,298,317	\$1,286,439	\$1,191,719
Fees Waived/Expenses Reimbursed . . . . .	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (190,217)
Net Advisory Fees Paid . . . . .	\$1,298,317	\$1,286,439	\$1,001,502

<sup>(1)</sup> Amounts include any fees paid by the Subsidiary to the Adviser.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2015, the Adviser recouped, pursuant to its expense limitation agreements, advisory fees that it had previously waived and/or expenses that it had previously borne in the amount of

\$132,063 for the Developed Markets VRP Fund. The Adviser also bore, pursuant to its expense limitation agreements, expenses of \$125,491 for the Global Equity VRP Master Fund.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2016, the Adviser recouped, pursuant to its expense limitation agreements, advisory fees that it had previously waived and/or expenses that it had previously borne in the amount of \$12,511 and \$95,204 for the U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund and the Developed Markets VRP Fund, respectively. The Adviser also bore, pursuant to its expense limitation agreement, expenses of \$54,253 for the Global Equity VRP Master Fund.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017, the Adviser bore, pursuant to its expense limitation agreement, expenses of \$41,939 for the Global Equity VRP Master Fund.

### Portfolio Managers

Mr. Erik Buischi, Mr. Daniel Fleder and Mr. Ross Stevens are primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Funds. The following tables set forth certain additional information with respect to Mr. Buischi, Mr. Fleder and Mr. Stevens. The information is as of October 31, 2017.

### Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Managers

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

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number of Accounts <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)
Erik Buischi	8	\$ 2,108	0	\$0	0	\$0
Daniel Fleder	13	\$ 4,340	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ross Stevens	17	\$13,243	0	\$0	0	\$0

(1) Includes the Funds.

(2) Stone Ridge Emerging Markets Variance Risk Premium Fund and Stone Ridge International Variance Risk Premium Master Fund, both series of Stone Ridge Trust that were managed by Mr. Buischi, Mr. Fleder and Mr. Stevens, liquidated as of December 21, 2017, and December 22, 2017, respectively.

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

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles managed for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee		Other Accounts managed for which the Adviser receives a performance-based fee	
	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)	Number of Accounts	Total Assets (in millions)
Erik Buischi	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Daniel Fleder	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Ross Stevens	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

## Potential Conflicts of Interest

Each of the Portfolio Managers may also be responsible for managing other accounts in addition to the Funds, including other accounts of the Adviser or its affiliates. Other accounts may include, without limitation, other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act, unregistered investment companies that rely on Section 3(c)(1) or Section 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act, separately managed accounts, foreign investment companies and accounts or investments owned by the Adviser or its affiliates or the Portfolio Managers. Management of other accounts in addition to the Funds can present certain conflicts of interest, as described below.

From time to time, potential conflicts of interest may arise between a Portfolio Manager's management of the investments of a Fund, on the one hand and the management of other accounts, on the other. The other accounts might have similar or different investment objectives or strategies as a Fund, or otherwise hold, purchase, or sell securities that are eligible to be held, purchased or sold by a Fund, or may take positions that are opposite in direction from those taken by a Fund.

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

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

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

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

the Fund or the Adviser could have a detrimental effect on the price or amount of the securities available to the Funds from time to time.

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

**Conflicts of Interest Among Strategies.** At times, a Portfolio Manager may determine that an investment opportunity may be appropriate for only some of the accounts for which he or she exercises investment responsibility, or may decide that certain of the accounts should take differing positions with respect to a particular security. In these cases, the Portfolio Manager may place separate transactions for one or more accounts, which may affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment or benefit of one or more other accounts. Similarly, the Adviser or its affiliates may take positions in accounts or investments owned by them that are different from those taken by one or more client accounts.

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

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

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

**Broad and Wide-Ranging Activities.** The Adviser and its related parties engage in a broad spectrum of activities and may expand the range of services that they provide over time. The Adviser and its related parties will generally not be restricted in the scope of their business or in the performance of any such services (whether now offered or undertaken in the future), even if such activities could give rise to conflicts of interest, and whether or not such conflicts are described herein. In the ordinary course of their business activities, including, but not limited to, activities with third-party service providers and lenders, the Adviser and its related parties may engage in activities where the interests of the Adviser and its related parties or the interests of their clients may conflict with the interests of the shareholders of a Fund.

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

**Investments in a Fund by the Adviser.** The Adviser or its affiliates may purchase shares from a Fund from time to time, and may hold a material position in a Fund. The Adviser or its affiliates may face conflicting interests in determining whether, when and in what amount to redeem Fund shares. If the Adviser or its affiliate redeems a significant amount of Fund shares, this may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is required to sell investments when it would not otherwise do so.

**Investments by Adviser or Related Entities.** The Adviser or a related entity may invest in entities that may provide financial or other services for a Fund.

### **Portfolio Manager Compensation**

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

### **Portfolio Manager Securities Ownership**

As of October 31, 2017 (except as otherwise noted), the Portfolio Managers beneficially owned the following shares of each Fund:

#### **Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned**

<u>Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund</u>	<u>U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund</u>	<u>U.S. VRP Master Fund</u>
Erik Buischi <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	\$1 - \$10,000	\$1 - \$10,000	None
Daniel Fleder . . . . .	\$1 - \$10,000	\$1 - \$10,000	None
Ross Stevens <sup>(2)(3)</sup> . . . . .	\$100,001 - \$500,000	\$100,001 - \$500,000	None

(1) Information provided as of January 31, 2018.

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

(3) Information provided as of February 28, 2018.

<u>Portfolio Manager</u>	<u>Developed Markets VRP Fund</u>	<u>Global Equity VRP Master Fund</u>
Erik Buischi <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	\$1 - \$10,000	None
Daniel Fleder . . . . .	\$1 - \$10,000	None
Ross Stevens <sup>(2)(3)</sup> . . . . .	\$100,001 - \$500,000	None

(1) Information provided as of January 31, 2018.

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

(3) Information provided as of February 28, 2018.

## Principal Underwriter

Subject to the conditions described in the “Shareholder Information” section of the Prospectus, shares of the Funds are offered on a continuous basis through ALPS Distributors, Inc. (the “Distributor”), located at 1290 Broadway, Suite 1100, Denver, Colorado 80203, as distributor pursuant to a distribution agreement (the “Distribution Agreement”) between the Distributor and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor shall devote its best efforts to effect sales of shares of the Funds but shall not be obligated to sell any certain number of shares. The Distributor receives no compensation from the Funds for distribution of the Funds’ shares.

### Distribution Plans Pursuant to Rule 12b-1

The Funds have adopted Rule 12b-1 plans for their Class M shares (the “Class M 12b-1 Plan”) and for their Class I shares (the “Class I 12b-1 Plan” and collectively the “12b-1 Plans”). The Class M 12b-1 Plan, among other things, permits the Class M share class to pay Rule 12b-1 fees to financial intermediaries through the Distributor at annual rates not exceeding 0.15% of the average daily net assets of the Class M share class, such fee to be calculated and accrued daily and paid monthly. No fees are charged pursuant to the Class I 12b-1 Plan. Pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act, the 12b-1 Plans (together with the Distribution Agreement) were approved by the Board, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Funds (as defined in the 1940 Act) and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operations of the 12b-1 Plans or the Distribution Agreement. The 12b-1 Plans may benefit the Funds by providing additional ongoing shareholder services to Fund shareholders.

The table below reflects the 12b-1 fees incurred by the Funds’ Class M shares during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

<b>U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$90,478
<b>U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$21,095
<b>U.S. VRP Master Fund</b> .....	\$54,503
<b>Developed Markets VRP Fund</b> .....	\$30,274
<b>Global Equity VRP Master Fund</b> .....	\$11,013

The tables below reflect the amounts each Fund’s Class M shares paid for the principal types of activities under its Class M 12b-1 Plan during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

	<b>U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund</b>	<b>U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund</b>	<b>U.S. VRP Master Fund</b>
Advertising/Marketing .....	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Printing/Postage .....	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Payment to distributor .....	\$ 6,786	\$ 2,279	\$ 2,149
Payment to dealers .....	\$56,549	\$14,302	\$39,896
Compensation to sales personnel .....	\$27,143	\$ 4,514	\$12,458
Other .....	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$90,478</b>	<b>\$21,095</b>	<b>\$54,503</b>

	<u>Developed Markets VRP Fund</u>	<u>Global Equity VRP Master Fund</u>
Advertising/Marketing .....	\$ 0	\$ 0
Printing/Postage .....	\$ 0	\$ 0
Payment to distributor .....	\$ 1,605	\$ 330
Payment to dealers .....	\$20,253	\$ 8,117
Compensation to sales personnel .....	\$ 8,416	\$ 2,566
Other .....	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total</b> .....	<b><u>\$30,274</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,013</u></b>

The Class M 12b-1 Plan and the Class I 12b-1 Plan may be terminated by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Class M shares and the Class I shares, respectively, of the relevant Fund. The 12b-1 Plans may be amended by a vote of the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose. Any change in the Class M 12b-1 Plan or the Class I 12b-1 Plan that would materially increase the fees payable thereunder by the Class M shares or Class I shares, respectively, of the relevant Fund requires approval by a vote of the holders of a majority of such shares outstanding. The Board reviews quarterly a written report detailing the costs that have been incurred.

The 12b-1 Plans will continue in effect for successive one-year periods; *provided* that each such continuance is specifically approved (i) by the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees and (ii) by the vote of a majority of the entire Board cast in person at a meeting called for that purpose or by a vote of a majority of the outstanding securities of the relevant class.

No Independent Trustee has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the 12b-1 Plans. Except as disclosed in the Prospectus, no interested person of the Funds has any direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the 12b-1 Plans except to the extent that the Distributor, the Adviser or certain of their employees may be deemed to have such an interest as a result of benefits derived from the successful operation of the 12b-1 Plans.

#### **Other Service Providers**

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

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

The Funds paid the following administration and fund accounting fees to the Administrator during the most recent three fiscal years ended October 31.

	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2017</u>
<b>U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$239,805	\$212,897	\$162,285
<b>U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$ 70,459	\$ 64,417	\$ 56,273
<b>U.S. VRP Master Fund</b> .....	\$ 0	\$ 2,404	\$ 2,027
<b>Developed Markets VRP Fund</b> .....	\$ 56,770	\$ 51,211	\$ 44,174
<b>Global Equity VRP Master Fund<sup>(1)</sup></b> .....	\$ 0	\$ 2,145	\$ 2,006

(1) Inception date of the Fund was November 14, 2014

**Transfer Agent/Dividend Disbursing Agent.** U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC (the “Transfer Agent”) is the transfer agent for the Funds’ shares and the dividend disbursing agent for payment of dividends and distributions on Fund shares. The principal business address of the Transfer Agent is 615 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

**Custodian.** U.S. Bank NA (the “Custodian”), located at 1555 N. Rivercenter Drive, Suite 302, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212, serves as the custodian for the Funds. As such, the Custodian holds in safekeeping certificated securities and cash belonging to each Fund and, in such capacity, is the registered owner of securities in book-entry form belonging to each Fund. Upon instruction, the Custodian receives and delivers cash and securities of each Fund in connection with Fund transactions and collects all dividends and other distributions made with respect to portfolio securities of the Funds. The Custodian also maintains certain accounts and records of the Funds.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** Ernst & Young, LLP serves as each Fund’s independent registered public accountant. Ernst & Young, LLP provides audit services and assistance and consultation in connection with the review of Commission filings and certain tax compliance services. Ernst & Young, LLP is located at 220 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

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

## TAX STATUS

The following discussion of U.S. federal income tax consequences of investment in a Fund is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), U.S. Treasury regulations and other applicable authority, as of the date of the preparation of this SAI. These authorities are subject to change by legislative or administrative action, possibly with retroactive effect. The following discussion is only a summary of some of the important U.S. federal income tax considerations generally applicable to investments in the Funds. There may be other tax considerations applicable to particular shareholders. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers regarding their particular situation and the possible application of federal, state, local or non-U.S. tax laws.

### Taxation of the Funds

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

- (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from (i) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies or other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and (ii) net income derived from interests in “qualified publicly traded partnerships” (as defined below);

- (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets is represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, (x) in the securities (other than those of the U.S. government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or (y) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships (as defined below); and
- (c) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid — generally taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and any net tax-exempt interest income for such year.

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

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

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

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

If a Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on income distributed in a timely manner to its shareholders in the

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

Each Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders, at least annually, substantially all of its investment company taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends-paid deduction), its net tax-exempt income, if any, and any net capital gain. Investment company taxable income that is retained by a Fund will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates. A Fund may also retain for investment its net capital gain. If a Fund retains any net capital gain, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained, but it may designate the retained amount as undistributed capital gains in a notice mailed within 60 days of the close of the Fund’s taxable year to its shareholders who, in turn, (i) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their shares of such undistributed amount, and (ii) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds on a properly-filed U.S. tax return to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. If a Fund makes this designation, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of shares owned by a shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal under current law to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder’s gross income under clause (i) of the preceding sentence and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder under clause (ii) of the preceding sentence. A Fund is not required to, and there can be no assurance that a Fund will, make this designation if it retains all or a portion of its net capital gain in a taxable year.

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

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

## Fund Distributions

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

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions of investment income generally are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. Taxes to shareholders on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long a Fund owned (and is treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as having owned) the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned his or her shares. In general, the Fund will recognize long-term capital gain or loss on investments it has owned (or is deemed to have owned) for more than one year, and short-term capital gain or loss on investments it has owned (or is deemed to have owned) for one year or less. Tax rules can alter the Fund's holding period in investments and thereby affect the tax treatment of gain or loss on such investments. Distributions of net capital gain (that is, the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss, in each case determined with reference to any loss carryforwards) that are properly reported by the Fund as capital gain dividends ("Capital Gain Dividends") generally will be taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gains includible in net capital gain and taxed to individuals at reduced rates relative to ordinary income. Distributions of net short-term capital gain (as reduced by any long-term capital loss for the taxable year) will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income, and shareholders will not be able to offset distributions of a Fund's net short-term capital gains with capital losses that they recognize with respect to their other investments. As required by federal law, detailed federal tax information with respect to each calendar year will be furnished to each shareholder early in the succeeding year.

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

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

"Qualified dividend income" received by an individual will be taxed at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain. In order for some portion of the dividends received by a Fund shareholder to be qualified dividend income, the Fund must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to some portion of the dividend-paying stocks in its portfolio and the shareholder must meet holding period and other requirements with respect to the Fund's shares. In general, a dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of stock held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (or, in the case of certain preferred stock, 91 days during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date), (2) to the extent that the recipient is under an obligation (whether

pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) if the recipient elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a PFIC (as defined below).

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

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

In general, dividends of net investment income received by corporate shareholders of a Fund will qualify for the 70% dividends-received deduction generally available to corporations to the extent of the amount of eligible dividends received by the Fund from domestic corporations for the taxable year. A dividend received by a Fund will not be treated as a dividend eligible for the dividends-received deduction (1) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held for less than 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred stock) during the 91-day period beginning on the date which is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date in the case of certain preferred stock) or (2) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the dividends-received deduction may otherwise be disallowed or reduced (1) if the corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its shares of the Fund or (2) by application of various provisions of the Code (for instance, the dividends-received deduction is reduced in the case of a dividend received on debt-financed portfolio stock (generally, stock acquired with borrowed funds)). It is unclear whether or to what extent distributions from the Funds will qualify for the dividends-received deduction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If a Fund were to be deemed a "nonpublicly offered" RIC as described in "Expenses Subject to 2% "Floor" and Special Pass-Through Rules" below, depending on a shareholder's percentage ownership in that Fund, a shareholder's partial redemption of Fund shares could cause the shareholder to be treated as having received a distribution under Section 301 of the Code ("Section 301 distribution") unless the redemption is treated as being either (i) "substantially disproportionate" with respect to such shareholder or (ii) otherwise "not essentially equivalent to a dividend" under the relevant rules of the Code. A Section 301 distribution is not treated as a sale or exchange giving rise to capital gain or loss, but rather is treated as a dividend to the extent supported by the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, with the excess treated as a return of capital reducing the shareholder's tax basis in its Fund shares, and thereafter as capital gain. Where a redeeming shareholder is treated as receiving a dividend, there is a risk that other shareholders of the Fund whose percentage interests in the Fund increase as a result of such redemption will be treated as having received a taxable distribution from the Fund.

Upon the sale, exchange or redemption of Fund shares, the Fund or, in the case of shares purchased through a financial intermediary, the financial intermediary, may be required to provide you and the IRS with cost basis and certain other related tax information about the Fund shares you sold, exchanged or redeemed. See "Tax Basis Information" below for more information.

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

Due to the Funds' options strategies, a substantial portion of a Fund's income could consist of short-term capital gains, taxable to shareholders as ordinary income when distributed to them; such income will not constitute qualified dividend income or qualify for the dividends-received deduction.

In general, option premiums received by a Fund are not immediately included in the income of the Fund. Instead, the premiums are recognized (i) when the option contract expires, (ii) the option is exercised by the holder or (iii) the Fund transfers or otherwise terminates the option (e.g., through a closing transaction). If a call option written by a Fund is exercised and the Fund sells or delivers the underlying security, the Fund generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to (a) the sum of the strike price and the option premium received by the Fund minus (b) the Fund's basis in the security. Such gain or loss generally will be short-term or long-term depending upon the holding period of the underlying security. If securities are purchased by a Fund pursuant to the exercise of a put option written by it, the Fund generally will subtract the premium received for purposes of

computing its cost basis in the securities purchased. In either case, provided the tax treatment of an option transaction is not governed by Section 1256 of the Code (discussed further below), gain or loss arising in respect of a termination of the Fund's obligation under the option other than through the exercise of the option will be short-term gain or loss depending on whether the premium income received by the Fund is greater or less than the amount paid by the Fund (if any) in terminating the transaction. Thus, for example, if an option written by a Fund on a single stock expires unexercised, the Fund generally will recognize short-term gain equal to the premium received.

Certain covered call writing activities of a Fund may trigger the U.S. federal income tax straddle rules contained primarily in Section 1092 of the Code. Very generally, where applicable, Section 1092 requires (i) that losses be deferred on positions deemed to be offsetting positions with respect to "substantially similar or related property," to the extent of unrealized gain in the latter, and (ii) that the holding period of such a straddle position that has not already been held for the long-term holding period be terminated and begin anew once the position is no longer part of a straddle. Options on single stocks that are not "deep in the money" may constitute qualified covered calls, which generally are not subject to the straddle rules; the holding period on stock underlying qualified covered calls that are "in the money" although not "deep in the money" will be suspended during the period that such calls are outstanding. Thus, the straddle rules and the rules governing qualified covered calls could cause gains that would otherwise constitute long-term capital gains to be treated as short-term capital gains, and distributions that would otherwise constitute "qualified dividend income" or qualify for the dividends-received deduction to fail to satisfy the holding period requirements and therefore to be taxed as ordinary income or to fail to qualify for the 70% dividends-received deduction, as the case may be.

It is possible that certain of a Fund's options transactions, such as certain listed "non-equity options" as defined in Section 1256 of the Code — which include certain options written on equity indices — will be governed by Section 1256 of the Code. Such options, together with regulated futures contracts, are referred to as "section 1256 contracts." Gains or losses on section 1256 contracts generally are considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses ("60/40"), although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as ordinary in character. Also, section 1256 contracts held by a Fund at the end of each taxable year (and, for purposes of the 4% excise tax, on certain other dates as prescribed under the Code) are "marked to market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as ordinary or 60/40 gain or loss, as applicable.

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

Certain of a Fund's investments in derivative instruments and in foreign-currency denominated instruments, and any of the Fund's transactions in foreign currencies and hedging activities, are likely to produce a difference between the Fund's book income and the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any). If a Fund's book income is less than the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the Fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment and to avoid a Fund-level tax. If, in the alternative, a Fund's book income exceeds the sum of its taxable income (including realized capital gains) and net tax-exempt income (if any), the

distribution (if any) of such excess will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the Fund's remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in its shares and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset.

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

The investments by U.S. VRP Master Fund and Global Equity VRP Master Fund of substantially all of their assets in Underlying RICs can affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders of such Funds relative to what those distributions otherwise might have been had the Funds invested directly in the securities owned by those Underlying RICs. For example, a Fund will not be able to offset losses realized by one Underlying RIC against gains realized by another Underlying RIC in that taxable year. The Fund will not benefit from such losses until and only to the extent that (i) the Underlying RIC that previously recognized the losses realizes gains that it can reduce by those losses, or (ii) the Fund recognizes its share of those losses (so as to offset distributions of capital gains from another Underlying RIC) when it disposes of shares of the Underlying RIC in a transaction qualifying for sale or exchange treatment. Moreover, even when such a Fund disposes of shares of an Underlying RIC, it will not be able to offset any capital loss from such disposition against its ordinary income (including distributions of any net short-term capital gain realized by another Underlying RIC), and part or all of such loss may be treated as a long-term capital loss, which will not be treated as favorably for federal income tax purposes as short-term capital loss. If an Underlying RIC were to cease to qualify as a RIC, the value of a Fund's investment in such Underlying RIC would be negatively affected.

In addition, in certain circumstances, the "wash sale" rules under Section 1091 of the Code may apply to a Fund's sales of Underlying RIC shares that have generated losses. A wash sale occurs if shares of an Underlying RIC are sold by a Fund at a loss and the Fund acquires additional shares of that same Underlying RIC within 30 days before or after the date of the sale. The wash-sale rules could defer losses in the Fund's hands on sales of Underlying RIC shares (to the extent such sales are wash sales) for extended (and, in certain cases, potentially indefinite) periods of time.

As a result of the foregoing rules, and certain other special rules, it is possible that the amounts of net investment income and net capital gains that a Fund will be required to distribute to shareholders will be greater than such amounts would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by Underlying RICs, rather than investing in shares of the Underlying RICs. For similar reasons, the amount and timing of distributions from a Fund qualifying for treatment as a particular character (e.g., long-term capital gain, eligibility for dividends-received deduction, etc.) will not necessarily be the same as it would have been had the Fund invested directly in the securities held by the Underlying RICs.

If a Fund were to own 20% or more of the voting interests of an Underlying RIC, subject to a safe harbor in respect of certain fund of funds arrangements, which may be available to many Funds, the Fund would be required to "look through" the Underlying RIC to its holdings and combine the appropriate percentage of the Underlying RIC's assets with the Fund's assets for purposes of satisfying the 25% diversification test described above.

Depending on a Fund's percentage ownership in an Underlying RIC before and after a redemption of Underlying RIC shares, the Fund's redemption of such shares may cause the Fund to be treated as receiving a Section 301 distribution (as described above under "Sale, Exchange or Redemption of Shares") instead of being treated as realizing capital gain or loss on such shares. This could be the case where the Fund holds a significant interest in an Underlying RIC that is not a "nonpublicly offered" RIC and redeems only a small portion of such interest. Section 301 distribution treatment of a redemption by a Fund would affect the amount and character of income required to be distributed by the Fund.

### **Investment in the Subsidiary**

The Subsidiary is a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes. As a result, for such purposes, (i) the Developed Markets VRP Fund is treated as owning the Subsidiary's assets directly; (ii) any income, gain, loss, deduction and other tax items arising in respect of the Subsidiary's assets will be treated as if they are realized or incurred, as applicable, directly by the Developed Markets VRP Fund; and (iii) any distributions the Developed Markets VRP Fund receives from the Subsidiary will have no effect on the Developed Markets VRP Fund's U.S. federal income tax liability.

### **Foreign Currency Transactions**

A Fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned. Any such net gains could require a larger dividend toward the end of the calendar year. Any such net losses will generally reduce and potentially require the recharacterization of prior ordinary income distributions. Such ordinary income treatment may accelerate Fund distributions to shareholders and increase the distributions taxed to shareholders as ordinary income. Any net ordinary losses so created cannot be carried forward by a Fund to offset income or gains earned in subsequent taxable years.

### **Passive Foreign Investment Companies**

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

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

## Foreign Taxation

Income and proceeds received by the Funds from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of a Fund's assets at the close of a taxable year consist of the securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may elect to permit shareholders to claim a credit or deduction on their income tax returns for their pro rata portions of qualified taxes paid by the Fund to foreign countries in respect of foreign securities that the Fund has held for at least the minimum period specified in the Code. For this purpose, "securities of foreign corporations" generally includes securities of foreign governments. In addition, a "qualifying fund of funds" (a RIC that invests at least 50% of its total assets in other RICs at the close of each quarter of its taxable year), will be permitted to make the same election in respect of qualifying foreign taxes paid in respect of eligible securities by such Fund and by Underlying RICs that themselves make such an election. In such cases, shareholders will include in gross income from foreign sources their pro rata shares of such taxes paid by the Fund and, in the case of a qualifying fund of funds, paid by Underlying RICs. A shareholder's ability to claim an offsetting foreign tax credit or deduction in respect of such foreign taxes is subject to certain limitations imposed by the Code, which may result in the shareholder's not receiving a full credit or deduction (if any) for the amount of such taxes. Shareholders who do not itemize on their U.S. federal income tax returns may claim a credit but not a deduction for such foreign taxes.

Even if a Fund were eligible to make such an election for a given year, it may determine not to do so. Shareholders that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax, and those who invest in a Fund through tax-advantaged accounts (including those who invest through individual retirement accounts or other tax-advantaged retirement plans), generally will receive no benefit from any tax credit or deduction passed through by a Fund.

## Original Issue Discount, Market Discount

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

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance that are acquired by a Fund in the secondary market are treated as having "market discount." Very generally, market discount is the excess of the stated redemption price of a debt obligation (or in the case of an obligation issued with OID, its "revised issue price") over the purchase price of such obligation. Generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt obligation having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt obligation. Alternatively, a Fund may elect to accrue market discount currently, in which case the Fund will be required to include the accrued market discount in the Fund's income (as ordinary income) and thus distribute it over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security. The rate at which the market discount accrues, and thus is included in a Fund's income, will depend upon which of the permitted accrual methods the Fund elects. In the case of higher-risk securities, the amount of market discount may be unclear. See "Higher-Risk Securities."

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance may be treated as having "acquisition discount" (very generally, the excess of the stated redemption price over the purchase price), or OID in the case of certain types of debt obligations. Generally, a Fund will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income (as ordinary income) over the term of the debt obligation, even though

payment of that amount is not received until a later time, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security. A Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt obligations having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

Each Fund that holds the foregoing kinds of securities may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of a Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary (including when it is not advantageous to do so). A Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event a Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution than they would in the absence of such transactions.

### **Securities Purchased at a Premium**

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

### **Higher-Risk Securities**

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

### **Issuer Deductibility of Interest**

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

### **Tax-Exempt Shareholders**

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

## Non-U.S. Shareholders

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

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

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

Under U.S. federal tax law, a foreign shareholder generally is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on gains (and is not allowed a deduction for losses) realized on the sale of shares of a Fund or on Capital Gain Dividends, interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends unless (i) such gain or dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business carried on by such holder within the United States, or (ii) in the case of an individual holder, the holder is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or the receipt of the Capital Gain Dividend and certain other conditions are met. Foreign shareholders should consult their tax advisers and, if holding shares through intermediaries, their intermediaries, concerning the application of these rules to their investment in a Fund.

Foreign shareholders with respect to whom income from a Fund is effectively connected with a trade or business conducted by the foreign shareholder within the United States will in general be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the income derived from the Fund at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens, residents or domestic corporations, whether such income is received in cash or reinvested in shares of the Fund and, in the case of a foreign corporation, may also be subject to a branch profits tax.

If a foreign shareholder is eligible for the benefits of a tax treaty, any effectively connected income or gain will generally be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis only if it is also attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the shareholder in the United States. More generally, foreign shareholders who are residents in a country with an income tax treaty with the United States may obtain different tax results than those described herein, and are urged to consult their tax advisers.

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

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

### **Backup Withholding**

Each Fund generally is required to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury a percentage of the taxable distributions and redemption proceeds paid to any individual shareholder who fails to properly furnish the Fund with a correct taxpayer identification number, who has under-reported dividend or interest income, or who fails to certify to the Fund that he or she is not subject to such withholding. The backup withholding tax rate is 28%.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS.

### **Tax Basis Information**

The Funds (or their administrative agent) must report to the IRS and furnish to Fund shareholders the cost basis information and holding period for Fund shares purchased on or after January 1, 2012. The Funds will permit Fund shareholders to elect from among several IRS-accepted cost basis methods, including average cost. In the absence of an election, shareholder cost basis will be determined under the default method selected by the Funds. The cost basis method a shareholder elects (or the cost basis method applied by default) may not be changed with respect to a redemption of shares after the settlement date of the redemption. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the best IRS-accepted cost basis method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the new cost basis reporting rules apply to them.

### **Tax Shelter Reporting Regulations**

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

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

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

## **Other Reporting and Withholding Requirements**

Sections 1471-1474 of the Code and the U.S. Treasury Regulations and IRS guidance issued thereunder (collectively, “FATCA”) generally require a Fund to obtain information sufficient to identify the status of each of its shareholders under FATCA or under an applicable intergovernmental agreement (an “IGA”). If a shareholder fails to provide this information or otherwise fails to comply with FATCA or an IGA, a Fund or its agent may be required to withhold under FATCA 30% of the distributions, other than distributions properly reported as Capital Gain Dividends, the Fund pays to shareholders and, on or after January 1, 2019, 30% of the gross proceeds of share redemptions or exchanges and certain Capital Gain Dividends it pays. If a payment by a Fund is subject to FATCA withholding, the Fund or its agent is required to withhold even if such payment would otherwise be exempt from withholding under the rules applicable to foreign shareholders described above (e.g., Capital Gain Dividends).

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

## **Expenses Subject to 2% “Floor” and Special Pass-Through Rules**

A Fund will not be considered to be a “publicly offered” RIC if it does not have at least 500 investors at all times during a taxable year, is not regularly traded on an established securities market, and its shares are not treated as continuously offered pursuant to a public offering. It is possible that a Fund will not be treated as a “publicly offered” RIC for one or more of its taxable years. Very generally, pursuant to Treasury Department regulations, expenses of a RIC that is not “publicly offered,” except those specific to its status as a RIC or separate entity (e.g., registration fees or transfer agency fees), are subject to special “pass-through” rules. These expenses (which include direct and certain indirect advisory fees) are treated as additional dividends to certain Fund shareholders (generally including other RICs that are not “publicly offered,” individuals and entities that compute their taxable income in the same manner as an individual), and are deductible by those shareholders, subject to the 2% “floor” on miscellaneous itemized deductions and other significant limitations on itemized deductions set forth in the Code.

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

Special tax rules apply to investments through defined contribution plans and other tax-qualified plans. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the suitability of shares of a Fund as an investment through such plans, and the precise effect of an investment on their particular tax situation.

Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers as to the state or local tax consequences of investing in a Fund.

## **PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE**

### **Investment Decisions and Portfolio Transactions**

For the U.S. VRP Master Fund and the Global Equity VRP Master Fund, most of the portfolio transactions of the Fund will be the purchase or sale of securities of the Underlying Funds, which do not involve any commissions or other transaction fees. Investment decisions for the Funds are made with a view to achieving their respective investment objectives. Investment decisions are the product of many factors in addition to basic suitability for the particular client involved (including the Funds). Some securities considered for investment by the Funds also may be appropriate for other accounts managed by the Adviser. Thus, a particular security may be bought or sold for certain accounts even though it could have been bought or sold for other accounts at the same time. If a purchase or sale of securities consistent with the investment policies of a Fund and one or more of these other accounts is considered at or about the same time, transactions in such securities will generally be allocated among the Funds and other accounts in the manner described above under “Potential Conflicts of Interest — Allocation of Investment Opportunities” and “— Conflicts of Interest Among Strategies” above. When the Adviser determines that an investment opportunity is appropriate for a Fund and one or more other Funds and/or one or more other accounts, the Adviser will generally execute transactions for the Fund on an aggregated basis with the other Funds and/or the other accounts when the Adviser believes that to do so will allow it to obtain best execution and to negotiate more favorable commission rates or other transaction costs that might have otherwise been paid had such orders been placed independently. Aggregation, or “bunching,” describes a procedure whereby an investment adviser combines the orders of two or more clients into a single order for the purpose of obtaining better prices and lower execution costs.

### **Brokerage and Research Services**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Funds paid the following brokerage commissions during the most recent three fiscal years ended October 31.

	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Ended October 31, 2017</u>
<b>U.S. Large Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$ 72,873	\$ 85,293	\$ 19,487
<b>U.S. Small Cap VRP Fund</b> .....	\$ 16,993	\$ 16,448	\$ 7,260
<b>U.S. VRP Master Fund</b> .....	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Developed Markets VRP Fund</b> .....	\$249,698	\$298,119	\$210,741
<b>Global Equity VRP Master Fund<sup>(1)</sup></b> .....	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

(1) Inception date of the Fund was November 14, 2014

**Regular Broker Dealers.** Each Fund is required to identify the securities of its regular brokers or dealers (as defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act) or their parent companies held by the Fund as of the close of their most recent fiscal year and state the value of such holdings. None of the Funds acquired securities of their regular brokers or dealers or of their parents during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST

The Trustees are responsible for the management and supervision of the Trust. The Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest of a Fund or other series of the Trust with or without par value. Under the Declaration of Trust, the Trustees have the authority to create and classify shares of beneficial interest in separate series and classes without further action by shareholders. Additional series may be added in the future. The Trustees also have authorized the issuance of two classes of shares for each Fund, designated as Class I and Class M. Additional classes of shares may be authorized in the future.

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

Dividends paid by a Fund, if any, with respect to each class of shares will be calculated in the same manner, at the same time and on the same day and will be in the same amount, except for differences resulting from the facts that: (i) the distribution and service fees, if any, relating to each class will be borne exclusively by that class; and (ii) each class of shares will bear any class expenses properly allocable to that class of shares, subject to the conditions the IRS imposes with respect to the multiple-class structures. Similarly, the NAV per share may vary depending on which class of shares is purchased. No interest will be paid on uncashed dividend or redemption checks.

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

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

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

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

## **PURCHASES AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES**

Each Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order application that conflicts with the Fund's internal policies or the policies of any regulatory authority. The Funds do not accept starter, credit card or third party checks. All checks returned by the post office as undeliverable will be reinvested at NAV in the Fund from which a redemption was made or dividend paid. Information provided on the account application may be used by the Funds to verify the accuracy of the information or for background or financial history purposes. A joint account will be administered as a joint tenancy with right of survivorship, unless the joint owners notify the transfer agent of a different intent. A shareholder's account is governed by the laws of the State of Delaware. For telephone transactions, the transfer agent will take measures to verify the identity of the caller, such as asking for name, account number, Social Security or other taxpayer ID number and other relevant information. If appropriate measures are taken, the transfer agent is not responsible for any loss that may occur to any account due to an unauthorized telephone call. Also for your protection telephone redemptions are not permitted on accounts whose names or addresses have changed within the past 30 days. Proceeds from telephone transactions can only be mailed to the address of record.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The audited financial statements and notes thereto in the Funds' Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal year ended on October 31, 2017, as filed with the Commission on January 8, 2018 (File No. 811-22761) (the "Annual Report"), are incorporated into this SAI by reference. The financial statements included in the Annual Report have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, whose report thereon is also incorporated herein by reference. No other parts of the Annual Report are incorporated by reference herein. Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained at no charge by calling the Funds at (855) 609-3680.

## APPENDIX A

### SECURITIES RATINGS

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

The following is a description of the characteristics of ratings used by Moody's and Standard & Poor's.

#### Moody's Ratings\*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Standard & Poor's Ratings\*

**AAA**—An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by Standard & Poor's. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NR**—This indicates that no rating has been requested, or that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that Standard & Poor’s does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.

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

## APPENDIX B

### STONE RIDGE ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC

#### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### I. Governing Standards

Stone Ridge Asset Management LLC (the “Adviser”) has adopted written proxy voting policies and guidelines (“the Proxy Policy”) as required under Rule 206(4)-6 (the “Rule”) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”). In addition to covering the voting of equity securities, the Proxy Policy also applies generally to voting and/or consent rights of fixed income securities, including but not limited to, plans of reorganization, waivers and consents under applicable indentures. The Proxy Policy, which has been designed to ensure that Adviser votes proxies in the best interest of its clients and provides clients with information about how their proxies are voted, contains procedures to mitigate conflicts of interests between clients and Adviser and its advisory affiliates<sup>1</sup> when voting proxies.

##### II. Policy

The Proxy Policy applies to those client accounts that contain voting securities and for which Adviser has been delegated the authority to vote client proxies. When voting proxies for client accounts, Adviser’s primary objective is to make voting decisions solely in the best interest on behalf of all clients for which it manages assets. The Adviser has selected an unaffiliated third party proxy research and voting service, Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (“ISS” or “Proxy Voting Service”) to assist it in researching, recordkeeping and voting of proxies. With respect to each proxy received, the Proxy Voting Service researches the financial implications of the proposals and provides a recommendation to Adviser as to how to vote on each proposal based on the Proxy Voting Service’s research of the individual facts and circumstances and the Proxy Voting Service’s application of its research findings to a set of guidelines, ISS’ U.S. Proxy Voting Summary Guidelines. These guidelines have been approved by Adviser, and though Adviser intends to vote consistent with the voting recommendation of the Proxy Voting Service, upon the recommendation of the applicable portfolio managers, Adviser may determine to override any recommendation made by the Proxy Voting Service or abstain from voting. In the event that the Proxy Voting Service does not provide a recommendation with respect to a proposal, Adviser may determine to vote on the proposals directly.

With respect to the voting of proxies relating to fixed income securities or other debt instruments, the Proxy Policy does not apply, however, to consent rights that primarily entail decisions to buy or sell investments, such as tender or exchange offers, conversions, put options, redemption and Dutch auctions. The Proxy Policy is designed and implemented in a manner reasonably expected to ensure that voting and consent rights are exercised in the best interests of the Funds and their shareholders.

Adviser may determine not to vote a proxy for a debt or equity security if: (1) the effect on the applicable economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is insignificant in relation to an individual’s account portfolio or in the aggregate with all clients; (2) the cost of voting the proxy outweighs the possible benefit to the applicable account, including, without limitation, situations where a jurisdiction imposes share blocking restrictions which may affect the ability of the portfolio managers to effect trades in the related security; or (3) Adviser otherwise has determined that it is consistent with its fiduciary obligations not to vote the proxy.

In addition, neither Adviser nor the Proxy Voting Service will be able to vote for any securities on loan by an account. In the event that Adviser is aware of a material vote on behalf of the mutual fund and Adviser has the

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<sup>1</sup> A firm’s advisory affiliates are defined in this Policy to include: 1) all officers, partners, directors (or any person performing similar functions); 2) all persons directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by the adviser; and 3) all current employees.

ability to call back loans and is aware of the securities on loan by the custodian, Adviser may call back the loan and vote the proxy if time permits.

Adviser will not accept direction on how to vote individual proxies for which it has voting responsibility from any other person or organization other than the research and information provided by its independent Proxy Voting Service, subject to specific provisions in a client's account documentation related to exception voting. In fulfilling its obligations to clients, Adviser will act in a manner deemed to be prudent and diligent and which is intended to enhance the economic value of the underlying securities held in client accounts.

### **III. Conflicts of Interest Procedures**

For voting of securities, Adviser believes that application of the guidelines to vote proxies should, in most cases, adequately address any possible conflicts of interest since the guidelines are predetermined. However, the potential for conflicts of interest exists to the extent the portfolio managers have discretion to vote differently than the guidelines. As a general practice, Adviser will vote in accordance with the voting recommendation provided by the Proxy Voting Service. In the event that Adviser wishes to vote against the independent voting recommendation, Adviser requires Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") approval prior to a vote being cast.

For voting of fixed income securities, Adviser believes the potential for material conflicts of interest to arise between the interests of the client and the interests of Adviser is limited. However, there may be a potential for a conflict of interest which Adviser or its related persons or entities may be a named party to, or participating in a bankruptcy work-out or other similar committee with respect to the issuer. In such instances the portfolio manager must notify the CCO prior to casting any decision on behalf of clients.

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

### **IV. Voting Guidelines**

For accounts that invest in voting securities, Adviser has approved the ISS' U.S. Proxy Voting Summary Guidelines. *These guidelines are intended to provide a general overview of ISS' United States Policy Guidelines by highlighting the key policies that ISS applies to companies listed in the United States. However, ISS' analysis is on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration sector, industry and business performance factors.*

### **V. Amendment**

Adviser may, from time to time, amend this Policy, and/or adopt such interpretations of this Policy as it deems appropriate provided, however, that such changes are approved by Adviser management. Adviser will supervise and periodically review its proxy voting activities and the implementation of the Proxy Policy. All reports and any other information filed with Adviser pursuant to this Policy shall be treated as confidential, except that the same may be disclosed to Adviser's management, any regulatory or self-regulatory authority or agency upon its request, or as required by law or court or administrative order. All records of Adviser's proxy voting policies and voting activity are retained in accordance with Rule 204 2(C)(2) of the Advisers Act.

### **VI. Information Available to Clients**

If you require additional information on this policy or on how proxies were voted, please contact the CCO.