STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST

May 1, 2026



FRANKLIN TEMPLETON

Franklin Allocation VIP Fund
Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund
Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund
Franklin Income VIP Fund
Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund
Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund
Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund
Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund
Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund
Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund
Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund (formerly, Templeton Developing Markets VIP Fund)
Templeton Foreign VIP Fund
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund
Templeton Growth VIP Fund
Class 1, 2 and 4

Franklin Templeton Variable Insurance Products Trust (Trust) consists of multiple series (altogether, as appropriate, the Fund or Funds). Most Funds offer Class 1 shares and Class 2 shares and some offer Class 4 shares as well. The Funds are not offered to the public; they are offered and sold only to: 1) insurance company separate accounts to serve as the underlying investment vehicle for variable contracts; 2) certain qualified plans; and 3) other mutual funds (funds of funds).

This Statement of Additional Information (SAI) is not a prospectus. It contains information in addition to the information in the Fund's prospectus. The Fund's prospectus, dated May 1, 2026, which we may amend from time to time, contains the basic information you should know before investing in the Fund and is incorporated herein by reference. You should read this SAI together with the Fund's prospectus.

The audited financial statements and Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm in the Fund's Form N-CSR, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, are incorporated by reference (are legally a part of this SAI).

To obtain a free copy of a prospectus, or an annual report, contact Franklin Templeton at 1(800) 362-6243 or your insurance company.

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Mutual funds, annuities, and other investment products: • are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board, or any other agency of the U.S. government;	• are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank; and • are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal.

GOF-P19 10/26

SUPPLEMENT DATED OCTOBER 29, 2026
TO THE SUMMARY PROSPECTUS, PROSPECTUS AND STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI")
OF EACH FUND LISTED IN SCHEDULE A

Effective December 31, 2026, Christopher James Peel will step down as a member of the portfolio management team for each fund listed in Schedule A.

SCHEDULE A

Fund	Date of Summary Prospectus, Prospectus and SAI
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Templeton Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
TEMPLETON FUNDS	
Templeton Foreign Fund	January 1, 2026
Templeton World Fund	January 1, 2026
TEMPLETON GROWTH FUND, INC.	
Templeton Growth Fund, Inc.	January 1, 2026

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

GOF-P9 10/26

SUPPLEMENT DATED OCTOBER 21, 2026
TO THE SUMMARY PROSPECTUSES, PROSPECTUSES AND STATEMENTS OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI) OF EACH FRANKLIN TEMPLETON FUND LISTED IN SCHEDULE A

Each Fund is adopting changes to its name and certain investment policies as described below. The adoption of these changes does not reflect a change in the investment objective or investment focus of the Funds, or the principal risks of investing in the Funds. More detail about these and related changes to each Fund's summary prospectus, prospectus and SAI are described below.

1) **Effective May 1, 2027, Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund's name will be changed to "Franklin Equity Income VIP Fund." Therefore, all references in the summary prospectus, prospectus and SAI to "Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund" will be replaced with "Franklin Equity Income VIP Fund" on that date.**

2) **Effective May 1, 2027, Templeton Growth VIP Fund's name will be changed to "Templeton Global Equity VIP Fund." Therefore, all references in the summary prospectus, prospectus and SAI to "Templeton Growth VIP Fund" will be replaced with "Templeton Global Equity VIP Fund" on that date.**

3) **Effective May 1, 2027, the following is added to the Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund's principal investment strategies in the Fund's Summary Prospectus and Prospectus:**

   Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in the equity securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including developing markets.

4) **Effective May 1, 2027, the following is added to the Templeton Growth VIP Fund's principal investment strategies in the Fund's Summary Prospectus and Prospectus:**

   Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in the equity securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including developing markets.

5) **Effective May 1, 2027, the following is added to Templeton Growth VIP Fund's principal investment strategies in the Fund's Summary Prospectus and Prospectus:**

   Under normal market conditions the Fund expects to invest in foreign securities (including emerging markets securities) in an amount equal to at

least the lesser of: (a) 40% of its net assets; or (b) the percentage of foreign issuers represented in the MSCI All Country World Index-NR minus 5%.

SCHEDULE A

Fund	Date of Summary Prospectus, Prospectus and SAI
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

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FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST
TEMPLETON GLOBAL INVESTMENT TRUST
TEMPLETON INCOME TRUST
SUPPLEMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2026
TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI")
OF EACH FUND LISTED IN SCHEDULE A

The following changes are made to the SAI of each fund listed in Schedule A:

1) The following is added to the sections titled "Goal, Strategies and Risks" and "The Funds — Goals, Additional Strategies and Risks" as it pertains to the fund in each fund's SAI:

The Fund may invest, buy or engage in**:**

- currency volatility swaps

2) The following is added to the section titled "Glossary of Investments, Techniques, Strategies and Their Risks" in each fund's SAI:

Volatility swaps. When entering into a volatility swap the counterparties agree to make payments based on changes in the volatility of an underlying reference instrument, such as a currency or interest rate, over a specified period of time. Volatility swaps provide exposure to the pure volatility of the underlying reference instrument without the directional risk of the underlying reference instrument itself. The Fund may use volatility swaps to attempt to hedge volatility risk and/or take positions on the projected future volatility of a specific asset. For example, a Fund may enter into a volatility swap in order to take the position that a specific instrument's volatility will increase over a particular period of time. If the instrument's volatility does increase over the specified time, the Fund will receive a payment from the counterparty based upon the amount by which the reference instrument's realized volatility level exceeds a volatility level agreed upon by the parties. If the instrument's volatility does not increase over the specified time, the Fund will make a payment to the counterparty based upon the amount by which the reference

instrument's realized volatility level falls below the volatility level agreed upon by the parties.

SCHEDULE A

Fund	Date of SAI
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
TEMPLETON GLOBAL INVESTMENT TRUST	
Templeton Global Dynamic Income Fund	May 1, 2026
TEMPLETON INCOME TRUST	
Templeton Global Bond Enhanced Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Global Bond Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund	May 1, 2026

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

GOF-SA1 07/26

SUPPLEMENT DATED JULY 1, 2026
TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI")
OF EACH FRANKLIN TEMPLETON FUND LISTED IN SCHEDULE A AND SCHEDULE B

All changes described below are effective July 1, 2026.

1. **Goldman Sachs Agency Lending will replace the Bank of New York Mellon as securities lending agent of each fund listed in Schedule A. Accordingly, the following replaces the corresponding disclosure in each fund's SAI.**

   Securities lending agent The board of trustees has approved the Fund's participation in a securities lending program. Under the securities lending program, Goldman Sachs Agency Lending serves as the Fund's securities lending agent ("Securities Lending Agent").

2. **JPMorgan Chase Bank will replace the Bank of New York Mellon as securities lending agent of each fund listed in Schedule B. Accordingly, the following replaces the corresponding disclosure in each fund's SAI.**

   Securities lending agent The board of trustees has approved the Fund's participation in a securities lending program. Under the securities lending program, JPMorgan Chase Bank serves as the Fund's securities lending agent ("Securities Lending Agent").

SCHEDULE A

Fund	Date of SAI
FRANKLIN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FUNDS	
Franklin Alternative Strategies Fund	October 1, 2025
FRANKLIN CUSTODIAN FUNDS	
Franklin DynaTech Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin Growth Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin Income Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN GLOBAL TRUST	

Fund	Date of SAI
Franklin International Growth Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND	
Franklin Gold and Precious Metals Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN INVESTORS SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin Convertible Securities Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Equity Income Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Managed Income Fund	March 1, 2026
FRANKLIN MANAGED TRUST	
Franklin Rising Dividends Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN MUTUAL SERIES FUNDS	
Franklin Mutual Beacon Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual International Value Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Quest Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Shares Fund	May 1, 2026
FRANKLIN REAL ESTATE SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin Real Estate Securities Fund	September 1, 2025
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
FRANKLIN VALUE INVESTORS TRUST	
Franklin Mutual Small-Mid Cap Value Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual U.S. Mid Cap Value Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Small Cap Value Fund	March 1, 2026

SCHEDULE B

Fund	Date of SAI
FRANKLIN CUSTODIAN FUNDS	
Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN GLOBAL TRUST	
Franklin Emerging Market Debt Opportunities Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN HIGH INCOME TRUST	
Franklin High Income Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN INVESTORS SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin Floating Rate Daily Access Fund	March 1, 2026

Fund	Date of SAI
Franklin Low Duration Total Return Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Low Duration U.S. Government Securities Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Total Return Fund	March 1, 2026
FRANKLIN STRATEGIC SERIES	
Franklin Core Plus Bond Fund	September 1, 2025
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
TEMPLETON GLOBAL INVESTMENT TRUST	
Templeton Global Dynamic Income Fund	May 1, 2026
TEMPLETON INCOME TRUST	
Templeton Global Bond Enhanced Fund	May 1, 2026

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

GOF-SA2 6/26

SUPPLEMENT DATED JUNE 18, 2026
TO THE STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OF EACH FRANKLIN TEMPLETON FUND LISTED IN SCHEDULE A

Effective August 1, 2026, the Board of Trustees of each Trust listed on Schedule A appointed Ann Torre Bates as an independent trustee of each Trust. Below is information regarding the newly appointed Board member.

I. The following information is added to the Independent Board Members table in the "Officers and Trustees" section of each Statement of Additional Information (SAI):

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex to be Overseen by Board Member*	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past 5 Years
Ann Torre Bates (1958) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since August 2026	123	Ares Core Infrastructure Fund (closed-end management investment company regulated as a business development company) (2024-present); Ares Strategic Income Fund (closed-end management investment company regulated as a business development company) (20Inter22-present); Ares Capital Corporation (closed-end management investment company regulated as a business development company); and **formerly**, United Natural Foods, Inc. (food distribution) (2013-2023) and Navient Corporation (loan management, servicing and asset recovery) (2014-2016).
Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years: Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, NHP Incorporated (manager of multifamily housing) (1995-1997); and Vice President and Treasurer, US Airways, Inc. (until 1995).				

* Information is estimated as of August 1, 2026. We base the number of portfolios on each separate series of the U.S. registered investment companies within the Franklin Templeton fund complex. These portfolios have a common investment manager or affiliated investment managers.

II. The following is added to table providing the total fees paid to the independent board members in the "Officers and Trustees" section of each SAI:

Name	Total Fees Received from the Fund ($)	Total Fees Received from Franklin Templeton ($)
Ann Torre Bates[3]	None	$662,000

[3] As of December 31, 2025. Ann Torre Bates is also an independent board member of Franklin Mutual Series Funds and may, in the future, receive payments pursuant to a discontinued retirement plan that generally provides payments to independent board members who have served seven years or longer for the Trust.

III. The following is added to the table providing the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the independent board members of the Trust in the "Officers and Trustees" section of each SAI other than Franklin U.S. Government Money Fund's SAI:

Board Member	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund ($)	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds Overseen by the Board Member in the Franklin Templeton Fund Complex ($)
Ann Torre Bates	None	Over 100,000

IV. The following is added to the table providing the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the independent board members of the Trust in the "Officers and Trustees" section of Franklin U.S. Government Money Fund's SAI:

Board Member	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund ($)	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds Overseen by the Board Member in the Franklin Templeton Fund Complex ($)
Ann Torre Bates	Over 100,000	Over 100,000

V. The following replaces the "Trustee qualifications" section in the "Officers and Trustees" section of each SAI:

Trustee qualifications Information on the Fund's officers and board members appears above including information on the business activities of board members during the past five years and beyond. In addition to personal qualities, such as integrity, the role of an effective Fund board member inherently requires the ability to comprehend, discuss and critically analyze materials and issues presented in exercising judgments and reaching informed conclusions relevant to his or her duties and fiduciary obligations. The board believes that the specific background of each board member evidences such ability and is appropriate to his or her serving on the Fund's board. As indicated, Harris J. Ashton has served as a chief executive officer of a NYSE-listed public corporation; Ann Torre Bates has served as chief financial officer of a major corporation and as a board member of a number of public companies; Terrence J. Checki has served as a senior executive of a Federal Reserve Bank and has vast experience evaluating economic forces and their impact on markets, including emerging markets; Mary C. Choksi has an extensive background in asset management, including founding an investment management firm; Larry D. Thompson and Edith E. Holiday each have legal backgrounds, including high level legal positions with departments of the U.S. government; J. Michael Luttig has fifteen years of judicial experience as a Federal Appeals Court Judge and eleven years of experience as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of a major public company; Valerie M. Williams has over 35 years of audit and public accounting experience serving numerous global and multi-location companies in various industries; and Gregory E. Johnson and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. are both high ranking executive officers of Franklin Templeton.

SCHEDULE A

Fund	Date of Prospectus
FRANKLIN CALIFORNIA TAX-FREE INCOME FUND	
Franklin California Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
FRANKLIN CALIFORNIA TAX-FREE TRUST	
Franklin California Intermediate-Term Tax-Free Income Fund	November 1, 2025
FRANKLIN CUSTODIAN FUNDS	
Franklin DynaTech Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin Growth Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin Income Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund	February 1, 2026
Franklin Utilities Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN FEDERAL TAX-FREE INCOME FUND	
Franklin Federal Tax-Free Income Fund	September 1, 2025
FRANKLIN FLOATING RATE MASTER TRUST	
Franklin Floating Rate Master Trust	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN FUND ALLOCATOR SERIES	
Franklin Conservative Allocation Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Corefolio Allocation Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Emerging Market Core Equity (IU) Fund	December 1, 2025
Franklin Global Allocation Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Growth Allocation Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin International Core Equity (IU) Fund	December 1, 2025
Franklin LifeSmart™ Retirement Income Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2020 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2025 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2030 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2035 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2040 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2045 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2050 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2055 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026

Fund	Date of Prospectus
Franklin LifeSmart™ 2060 Retirement Target Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Moderate Allocation Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin U.S. Core Equity (IU) Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN GLOBAL TRUST	
Franklin Emerging Market Debt Opportunities Fund	December 1, 2025
Franklin International Growth Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS FUND	
Franklin Gold and Precious Metals Fund	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN HIGH INCOME TRUST	
Franklin High Income Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN INVESTORS SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin Convertible Securities Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Equity Income Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Floating Rate Daily Access Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Long Duration Credit Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Low Duration Total Return Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Low Duration U.S. Government Securities Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Managed Income Fund	March 1, 2026
Franklin Total Return Fund	March 1, 2026
FRANKLIN MANAGED TRUST	
Franklin Rising Dividends Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin California High Yield Municipal Fund	July 1, 2025
FRANKLIN NEW YORK TAX-FREE INCOME FUND	
Franklin New York Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
FRANKLIN NEW YORK TAX-FREE TRUST	
Franklin New York Intermediate-Term Tax-Free Income Fund	February 1, 2026
FRANKLIN REAL ESTATE SECURITIES TRUST	
Franklin Real Estate Securities Fund	September 1, 2025

Fund	Date of Prospectus
FRANKLIN STRATEGIC SERIES	
Franklin Biotechnology Discovery Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Growth Opportunities Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Natural Resources Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Small Cap Growth Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Core Plus Bond Fund	September 1, 2025
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series C	May 1, 2026
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series CH	December 1, 2025
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series CP	May 1, 2026
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series E	December 1, 2025
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series H	December 1, 2025
Franklin Templeton SMACS: Series I	December 1, 2025
FRANKLIN TAX-FREE TRUST	
Franklin Alabama Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Arizona Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Colorado Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Connecticut Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Federal Intermediate-Term Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Federal Limited-Term Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Georgia Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin High Yield Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Louisiana Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Maryland Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Massachusetts Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Michigan Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Minnesota Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Missouri Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin New Jersey Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin North Carolina Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Ohio Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Oregon Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Pennsylvania Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025
Franklin Virginia Tax-Free Income Fund	July 1, 2025

Fund	Date of Prospectus
FRANKLIN TEMPLETON VARIABLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS TRUST	
Franklin Allocation VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Foreign VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
Templeton Growth VIP Fund	May 1, 2026
FRANKLIN U.S. GOVERNMENT MONEY FUND	
Franklin U.S. Government Money Fund	November 1, 2025
INSTITUTIONAL FIDUCIARY TRUST	
Franklin Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund	November 1, 2025
THE MONEY MARKET PORTFOLIOS	
The U.S. Government Money Market Portfolio	November 1, 2025

Please retain this supplement for future reference.

Introduction

The following information provided with respect to the Fund is in addition to that included in the Fund's prospectus.

In addition to the main types of investments and strategies undertaken by the Fund as described in the prospectus, the Fund also may invest in other types of instruments and engage in and pursue other investment strategies, which are described in this SAI. Investments and investment strategies with respect to the Fund are discussed in greater detail in the section below entitled "*Glossary of Investments, Techniques, Strategies and Their Risks*."

Generally, the policies and restrictions discussed in this SAI and in the prospectus apply when the Fund makes an investment. In most cases, the Fund is not required to sell an investment because circumstances change and the investment no longer meets one or more of the Fund's policies or restrictions. If a percentage restriction or limitation is met at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in the percentage due to a change in the value of portfolio investments will not be considered a violation of the restriction or limitation, with the exception of the Fund's limitations on borrowing and illiquid securities as described herein or unless otherwise noted herein.

Incidental to the Fund's other investment activities, including in connection with a bankruptcy, restructuring, workout, or other extraordinary events concerning a particular investment the Fund owns, the Fund may receive securities (including convertible securities, warrants and rights), real estate or other investments that the Fund normally would not, or could not, buy. If this happens, the Fund may, although it is not required to, sell such investments as soon as practicable while seeking to maximize the return to shareholders.

The Funds are subject to various fundamental investment policies as described in the section entitled "Fundamental Investment Policies." A fundamental investment policy may be changed only with the approval of the Trust's board of trustees (board of trustees) and the approval of the lesser of: (1) more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares; or (2) 67% or more of the Fund's shares present at a shareholder meeting if more than 50% of the Fund's outstanding shares are represented at the meeting in person or by proxy. Other investment policies and restrictions of the Fund that are not fundamental investment policies may be changed without the approval of shareholders.

For more information about the restrictions of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (1940 Act) on the Fund with respect to (1) borrowing and senior securities, see "*Glossary of Investments, Techniques, Strategies and Their Risks - Borrowing*"; and (2) lending, see "*Glossary of Investments, Techniques, Strategies and Their Risks - Corporate Loans, Assignments and Participations*" below.

Certain words or phrases may be used in descriptions of Fund investment policies and strategies to give investors a general sense of the Fund's levels of investment. They are broadly identified with, but not limited to, the following percentages of Fund total assets:

"small portion"	less than 10%
"portion"	10% to 25%
"significant"	25% to 50%
"substantial"	50% to 66%
"primary"	66% to 80%
"predominant"	80% or more

Fundamental Investment Policies

Each Fund's investment goal or goals are fundamental, except for the Franklin Allocation VIP Fund, as referenced in the discussion of each Fund under "The Funds – Goals, Additional Strategies and Risks," which means they may not be changed without the approval of that Fund's shareholders. In addition, the Funds have adopted the following restrictions as fundamental investment policies:

1. BORROWING

Each Fund may not:

Borrow money, except to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (1940 Act), or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

2. UNDERWRITING

Each Fund may not:

Act as an underwriter except to the extent the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter when disposing of securities it owns or when selling its own shares.

3. LENDING*

Each Fund may not:

Make loans if, as a result, more than 33 1/3% of its total assets would be lent to other persons, including other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC. This limitation does not apply to (i) the lending of portfolio securities, (ii) the purchase of debt securities, other debt instruments, loan participations and/or engaging in direct corporate loans in accordance with its investment goals and policies, and (iii) repurchase agreements to the extent the entry into a repurchase agreement is deemed to be a loan.

4. REAL ESTATE

Each Fund may not:

Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments and provided that this restriction does not prevent the Fund from (i) purchasing or selling securities or instruments secured by real estate or interests therein, securities or instruments representing interests in real estate or securities or instruments of issuers that invest, deal or otherwise engage in transactions in real estate or interests therein, and (ii) making, purchasing or selling real estate mortgage loans.

5. SENIOR SECURITIES

Each Fund may not:

Issue senior securities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC.

6. COMMODITIES

Each Fund may not:

Purchase or sell commodities, except to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act or any rules, exemptions or interpretations thereunder that may be adopted, granted or issued by the SEC.

7. CONCENTRATION**

Each Fund, except Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund may not:

Invest more than 25% of the Fund's net assets in securities of issuers in any one industry (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies).

The Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund may not:

Invest more than 25% of the Fund's net assets in securities of issuers in any one industry (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies), except that, under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest more than 25% of its net assets in the securities issued by companies operating within the real estate industry and related industries.

8. DIVERSIFICATION

Each Fund, except for Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund, Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund and Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund, may not:

Purchase the securities of any one issuer (other than the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies, whether registered or excluded from registration under Section 3(c) of the 1940 Act) if immediately after such investment (a) more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets would be invested in such issuer or (b) more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer would be owned by the Fund, except that up to 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested without regard to such 5% and 10% limitations.

*In general, "direct corporate loans" or direct investments in corporate loans are investments in new corporate loans where the Fund may invest as an initial investor and have a direct contractual relationship with the borrower (as opposed to a participation interest where the fund's sole contractual relationship is with the seller of the interest). Purchasing a loan or an interest in a loan in this fashion would allow the Fund to avoid the credit risk of the agent bank or other intermediary.

**To the extent that the Fund invests in underlying funds, the Funds confirm that they will take into account the holdings of the affiliated underlying funds in which they invest and will not ignore information about unaffiliated underlying funds.

Non-Fundamental Investment Policies

Each of Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund, Templeton Foreign VIP Fund, Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund, Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund, Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund, Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund, Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund, Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund and Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund is subject to a non-fundamental policy requiring that, under normal conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in the type of securities that its name connotes. For the purpose of these non-fundamental policies, the "net assets" of the Fund means the Fund's net assets, plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes. Although these 80% policies are non-fundamental, shareholders of the Fund will be given at least 60 days' advance notice of any change in the Fund's policy.

The Funds — Goals, Additional Strategies and Risks

The following information relates to and supplements the prospectus. Some investments and strategies for the Fund are described only in the prospectus and are not repeated here. Each Fund's investment goal or goals, except for the Franklin Allocation VIP Fund, are fundamental, which means they may not be changed without the approval of that Fund's shareholders. Each Fund is a diversified fund except Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund and Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund.

Franklin Allocation VIP Fund

(Allocation Fund)

The Fund's principal investment goal is capital appreciation. Its secondary goal is income. The Fund's investment goals are non-fundamental. This means that they may be changed by the board of trustees without the approval of shareholders.

Other Considerations

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment goal by allocating its assets across different asset classes and investment strategies in an attempt to produce a diversified portfolio that will generate returns while providing risk protection in various market conditions.

Under normal market conditions, the investment manager allocates the Fund's assets among the broad asset classes of equity and fixed-income investments by investing portions of the Fund's assets pursuant to different investment strategies, or sleeves. Allocations to each individual sleeve may be up to 20% of the Fund's net assets and may vary with market conditions, but no sleeve will constitute a majority of the Fund's assets. The investment manager may allocate the Fund's assets to sleeves (including funds and ETFs) other than those listed in the prospectus without notice to, or approval by, shareholders.

The Fund's asset allocation may change from time to time and deviate from its target exposure based on market conditions and the investment manager's strategic and tactical asset allocation views; however, the Fund's equity and fixed-income investments will typically be in the 55-65% and 35-45% range, respectively.

The investment manager's quantitative and qualitative oversight of the Fund's allocation strategy aims to allocate assets among various asset classes and strategy sleeves to diversify the Fund's portfolio and to reduce the Fund's risk of being significantly impacted by changes in a specific asset class or changing market conditions. The investment manager may use a variety of techniques to increase the Fund's conservative allocation in this regard including by: increasing the Fund's allocation to fixed-income investments, using derivative instruments to increase the exposure of the Fund to the fixed-income asset class, or by holding additional cash and cash equivalents in the Fund's portfolio.

Other Investments and Strategies

The Fund also may invest, buy or engage in:

- marketplace loans
- asset-backed securities
- callable securities
- mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by domestic and foreign governments and private institutions, including on a "when-issued," "delayed delivery" or "TBA basis," as well as adjustable rate mortgage securities, stripped mortgage-backed securities and net interest margin securities
- collateralized mortgage obligations, real estate mortgage investment conduits and multi-class pass-throughs
- mortgage loans, reperforming loans and credit risk transfer securities
- reverse mortgages, either directly or through investments in mortgage-backed securities
- mortgage dollar and U.S. Treasury rolls
- pre-refunded bonds
- zero coupon, deferred interest and pay-in-kind bonds
- covered bonds
- variable rate securities
- collateralized debt obligations
- collateralized bond obligations
- collateralized loan obligations
- securities rated below investment grade, or unrated debt that the investment manager deems to be of comparable quality
- municipal securities
- government-related and quasi-sovereign debt securities
- foreign governmental and supranational bonds
- U.S. government securities
- equity-linked notes
- credit-linked notes
- preferred securities and trust preferred securities
- hybrid securities and convertible securities, including preferred equity redemption cumulative stock and other classes of enhanced convertible securities
- inflation-indexed securities, including Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS)
- securities of other investment companies, including Franklin Templeton mutual funds and ETFs
- securities of issuers in any foreign country, including developed, developing or frontier markets

- depositary receipts
- non-U.S. dollar-denominated securities
- currency-related derivative instruments, such as currency swaps, currency forward contracts, currency futures, currency index futures and currency options
- interest rate-related derivatives, such as interest rate swaps, interest rate/bond futures and futures on related indices and options thereon
- credit-related derivatives, such as fixed income total return swaps, single name and index credit default swaps, options on such swaps (swaptions) and futures on index credit default swaps
- inflation-related derivatives, such as inflation index swaps
- equity-related derivatives, such as equity total return swaps and options thereon (swaptions), futures contracts on equity securities, equity indices, and related indices and exchange traded and over-the counter equity options, including options on ETFs
- short sales
- repurchase agreements
- lending portfolio securities up to 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets, measured at the time of the most recent loan
- borrowing up to one-third of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed, but less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities) from banks to increase its holdings of portfolio securities
- initial public offerings (IPOs)
- private investments including private placements
- Chinese securities including Chinese variable interest entities

Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund

(DynaTech Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is capital appreciation.

Other Investments and Strategies

It is thought that most of the Fund's assets will be invested in common stocks and securities convertible into common stocks. The Fund, however, may also invest in debt securities or preferred stocks that the investment manager believes will further the Fund's investment goal. From time to time, concentration of the Fund's investments in a few issuers may develop due to market appreciation.

The Fund may:

- invest in convertible securities, including preferred equity redemption cumulative stock and other classes of enhanced convertible securities
- The Fund will ordinarily buy foreign securities that are traded in the U.S. or buy American Depositary Receipts.
- lend certain of its portfolio securities to qualified banks and broker-dealers; these loans may not exceed 10% of the value of the Fund's total assets (including all collateral posted as part of the Fund's total assets), measured at the time of the most recent loan
- invest in exchange-traded funds
- invest in real estate securities, including REITs

Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund

(Global Real Estate Fund)

The Fund's principal investment goal is high total return.

Other Considerations

Because the Fund invests in the real estate industry, it could own real estate directly as a result of a default on debt securities it may own. Receipt of rental income or income from the disposition of real property by the Fund may adversely affect its ability to retain its tax status. The Fund may invest in equity REITs, mortgage REITs and hybrid REITs.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt and convertible securities including enhanced and convertible securities. The Fund may invest in debt securities, including convertible and enhanced convertible debt securities, rated Ba or lower by Moody's or unrated securities that the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable quality. As an operating policy, however, the Fund will not invest more than a small portion of its net assets in such securities. Generally, however, the Fund will not acquire any securities rated lower than B by Moody's or unrated securities that the investment manager believes are of comparable quality

The Fund also may:

- invest in securities convertible into common stock; the Fund may invest in convertible securities without regard to the ratings assigned by rating services
- purchase securities of other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," or "delayed delivery" or "to-be-announced" basis

- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- invest in emerging markets
- enter into repurchase agreements
- engage in currency forwards
- invest in closed-end funds or closed-end unit trusts

Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund

(Growth and Income Fund)

The Fund's principal investment goal is capital appreciation. Its secondary goal is to provide current income.

Other Considerations

The Fund will not invest more than a very small portion of its total assets in securities rated below B by Moody's or in unrated securities that the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable quality.

Other Investments and Strategies

The Fund also may:

- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- invest a small portion of its net assets in synthetic convertible securities
- enter into repurchase agreements
- invest in equity-linked notes
- buy and sell exchange-traded and over-the-counter (OTC) put and call options on single name securities and indices
- invest in developing or emerging markets

Franklin Income VIP Fund

(Income Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is to maximize income while maintaining prospects for capital appreciation.

Other Considerations

There are no restrictions as to the proportion of investments that may be made in a particular type of security and the determination is entirely within the Fund's investment manager's discretion. As market conditions change, it is conceivable that all of the assets of the Fund could be invested in common stocks or, conversely, in debt securities.

The Fund may purchase securities traded on any national securities exchange or issued by a corporation, association or similar legal entity with total assets of at least $1,000,000, according to its latest published annual report, or held in cash or cash equivalents. The Fund may also invest in preferred stocks.

The Fund may buy debt securities of issuers that are not currently paying interest, as well as issuers who are in default, and may keep an issue that has defaulted. The Fund generally buys defaulted debt securities if, in the opinion of the Fund's investment manager, they may present an opportunity for later price recovery, the issuer may resume interest payments, or other advantageous developments may occur.

The Fund's investments in loans made to borrowers that are U.S. corporations, partnerships or other entities (corporate loans) may include term loans and, to the extent permissible for the Fund, revolving credit facilities, prefunded letters of credit (L/C) facility term loans, delayed draw term loans and receivables purchase facilities. The Fund may acquire loan participations, other related direct or indirect corporate debt obligations (or assignments of corporate loans). The Fund may buy from a lender a portion of a corporate loan.

The Fund also may:

- invest a small portion of its assets in zero coupon and pay-in-kind bonds
- invest a small portion of its assets in secured and unsecured corporate bank loans and loan participations
- invest a small portion of its assets in mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) and securities issued by other U.S. government-sponsored entities, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac
- invest a small portion of its assets in stripped securities that are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury or by an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. government
- invest a small portion of its assets in trade claims
- invest a small portion of its assets in mortgage-backed securities and other asset-backed securities
- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- enter into repurchase agreements
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," "delayed-delivery" or to-be-announced (TBA) basis
- enter into mortgage dollar rolls

- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forwards, currency futures, currency swaps and put and call options on currencies
- engage in equity-related derivatives and complex securities, such as buying and writing call and put options on securities and indices that trade on national securities exchanges and over-the-counter (OTC), buying and selling futures on equity securities and indexes and options on equity index futures, engaging in equity total return swaps and using equity-linked notes, including up to 2% of the Fund's assets in equity-linked notes on commodity-linked ETFs
- engage in interest rate-related derivatives, such as interest rate swaps and options thereon, interest rate/bond futures and options thereon, and inflation index swaps
- engage in credit-related derivatives and complex securities, including buying and selling single name, loan and index credit default swaps and options thereon, fixed income total return swaps, credit-linked notes, collateralized debt obligations
- buy and sell ETFs and options on ETFs
- invest in municipal securities
- invest in tracking stocks
- buy and sell exchange-traded options on indexes that measure stock volatility, such as the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) Volatility Index® (VIX®)
- invest in investment company securities, including any open-end funds, closed-end funds and business development companies (BDCs)
- purchase securities, including private securities, through private placements or other private transaction

Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund

(Large Cap Growth Fund)

The Fund’s investment goal is capital appreciation.

Other Considerations

Some of the Fund’s investments in large-cap companies may yield little or no current income. The Fund’s assets may be invested in shares of common stock traded on any national securities exchange or over-the-counter, and in convertible securities including convertible preferred stocks.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt Securities Including Lower Rated Securities. The Fund may invest a small portion or less of its assets in debt securities and convertible debt securities rated Ba or lower by Moody’s or BB or lower by S&P or unrated securities that the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable quality.

The Fund also may:

- invest in securities convertible into common stock; the Fund may invest in convertible securities without regard to the ratings assigned by rating services
- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- purchase shares of exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
- enter into repurchase agreements

Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund

(Global Discovery Fund)

The Fund’s investment goal is capital appreciation.

Other Considerations

The Fund may invest in securities that are traded on U.S. or foreign exchanges, NASDAQ or in the over-the-counter market (OTC), and may invest in any industry or sector. In addition, the Fund may invest in private securities offerings, subject to the Fund’s restriction on investments in illiquid securities. From time to time, the Fund may hold significant cash positions, consistent with its policy on temporary investments, until suitable investment opportunities are available.

Debt securities in which the Fund may invest include securities or indebtedness issued by U.S. or foreign corporations or governments and their agencies and instrumentalities in any form, as well as distressed mortgage obligations and other debt secured by real property. The Fund does not have established percentage limits for its investment in equity securities, debt securities or money market instruments.

Control. The Fund may invest in other entities that purchase securities for the purpose of influencing or controlling management. These entities may invest in a potential takeover or leveraged buyout or invest in other entities engaged in such practices.

Merger arbitrage securities and distressed companies. The Fund may invest a significant amount of its assets in such investments.

Lower-rated and unrated securities. The Fund may invest in debt securities in any rating category. In general, the Fund will invest in these instruments for the same reasons as equity securities, i.e., the Fund's investment manager believes that the securities may be acquired at prices less than their

intrinsic values. Consequently, the investment manager's own analysis of a debt instrument exercises a greater influence over the investment decision than the stated coupon rate or credit rating. The Fund expects to invest in debt securities issued by reorganizing or restructuring companies, or companies that recently emerged from, or are facing the prospect of a financial restructuring. It is under these circumstances, which usually involve unrated or low rated securities that are often in, or are about to, default, that the investment manager seeks to identify securities which are sometimes available at prices which it believes are less than their intrinsic values. The Fund may invest without limit in defaulted debt securities, subject to the Fund's restriction on investments in illiquid securities. The purchase of debt of a troubled company always involves a risk that the investment may be lost. However, the debt securities of reorganizing or restructuring companies typically rank senior to the equity securities of such companies. In some cases, the investment manager may purchase debt securities of a troubled company with the expectation that such securities will become convertible into common equity through bankruptcy restructuring.

Other Investments and Strategies

Indebtedness. The Fund also may invest in other forms of securities or unsecured indebtedness or participations including asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities (indebtedness), some of which may have very long maturities or may be illiquid.

Foreign securities. Foreign investments may include both voting and non-voting securities, sovereign debt and participation in foreign government deals. The Fund may invest in securities commonly known as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), European Depositary Receipts (EDRs) or Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs) of non-U.S. issuers.

The Fund also may:

- enter into repurchase agreements
- invest in trade claims and other similar direct obligations or claims against companies in bankruptcy or other financial difficulties
- engage in structured notes
- sell short securities it does not own, subject to the limit under the 1940 Act on borrowing and leverage, which currently is 33 1/3% of assets
- purchase securities, including private securities, through private placements or other private transactions
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," or "delayed delivery" or "to-be-announced" basis
- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forwards and currency and currency index futures
- engage in credit-related derivatives, such as single name and index credit default swaps
- engage in equity-related derivatives, such as equity total return swaps and exchange-traded and OTC put and call options on single name securities and indices

Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund

(Shares Fund)

The Fund's principal investment goal is capital appreciation. Its secondary goal is income.

Other Considerations

The Fund may invest in securities that are traded on U.S. or foreign exchanges, NASDAQ or in the over-the-counter market (OTC), and may invest in any industry or sector. In addition, the Fund may invest in private securities offerings, subject to the Fund's restriction on investments in illiquid securities. From time to time, the Fund may hold significant cash positions, consistent with its policy on temporary investments, until suitable investment opportunities are available.

Debt securities in which the Fund may invest include securities or indebtedness issued by U.S. or foreign corporations or governments and their agencies and instrumentalities in any form, as well as distressed mortgage obligations and other debt secured by real property. The Fund does not have established percentage limits for its investment in equity securities, debt securities or money market instruments.

Control. The Fund may invest in other entities that purchase securities for the purpose of influencing or controlling management. These entities may invest in a potential takeover or leveraged buyout or invest in other entities engaged in such practices.

Merger arbitrage securities and distressed companies. The Fund may invest a significant amount of its assets in such investments.

Lower-rated and unrated securities. The Fund may invest in debt securities in any rating category. In general, the Fund will invest in these instruments for the same reasons as equity securities, i.e., the Fund's investment manager believes that the securities may be acquired at prices less than their intrinsic values. Consequently, the investment manager's own analysis of a debt instrument exercises a greater influence over the investment decision than the stated coupon rate or credit rating. The Fund expects to invest in debt securities issued by reorganizing or restructuring companies, or companies that recently emerged from, or are facing the

prospect of a financial restructuring. It is under these circumstances, which usually involve unrated or low rated securities that are often in, or are about to, default, that the investment manager seeks to identify securities which are sometimes available at prices which it believes are less than their intrinsic values. The Fund may invest without limit in defaulted debt securities, subject to the Fund's restriction on investments in illiquid securities. The purchase of debt of a troubled company always involves a risk that the investment may be lost. However, the debt securities of reorganizing or restructuring companies typically rank senior to the equity securities of such companies. In some cases, the investment manager may purchase debt securities of a troubled company with the expectation that such securities will become convertible into common equity through bankruptcy restructuring.

Other Investments and Strategies

Indebtedness. The Fund also may invest in other forms of securities or unsecured indebtedness or participations including asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities (indebtedness), some of which may have very long maturities or may be illiquid.

Foreign securities. Foreign investments may include both voting and non-voting securities, sovereign debt and participation in foreign government deals. The Fund may invest in securities commonly known as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), European Depositary Receipts (EDRs) or Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs) of non-U.S. issuers.

The Fund also may:

- enter into repurchase agreements
- invest in trade claims and other similar direct obligations or claims against companies in bankruptcy or other financial difficulties
- engage in structured notes
- sell short securities it does not own, subject to the limit under the 1940 Act on borrowing and leverage, which currently is 33 1/3% of assets
- purchase securities, including private securities, through private placements or other private transactions
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," or "delayed delivery" or "to-be-announced" basis
- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forwards and currency and currency index futures
- engage in credit-related derivatives, such as single name and index credit default swaps
- engage in equity-related derivatives, such as equity total return swaps and exchange-traded and OTC put and call options on single name securities and indices

Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund

(Rising Dividends Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term capital appreciation. Preservation of capital, while not a goal, is also an important consideration.

Other Investments and Strategies

The Fund also may:

- invest in securities convertible into common stock; the Fund may invest in convertible securities without regard to the ratings assigned by rating services
- enter into repurchase agreements
- lend its portfolio securities
- invest in exchange-traded funds (ETFs)

Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund

(Small Cap Value Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term total return.

Other Considerations

The Fund may invest in preferred stocks, securities convertible into common stocks, warrants, secured and unsecured debt securities, and notes.

Control. The Fund purchases securities for investment purposes and not for the purpose of influencing or controlling management of the issuer. However, if the investment manager believes that the Fund may benefit, the investment manager may, but is not obligated to, seek to influence or control management.

Other Investments and Strategies

Convertible securities. The Fund may invest in convertible securities, enhanced convertible securities and synthetic convertibles. The Fund may invest in convertible securities without regard to the ratings assigned by the rating services.

Lower-rated securities. The Fund may invest a small portion of its total assets in debt securities rated below BBB by S&P or Baa by Moody's, or in unrated debt securities that the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable qualities. Debt securities rated D by S&P are in default and may be considered speculative.

The Fund also may:

- sell short securities it does not own, up to 5% of its assets
- invest in zero coupon securities, pay-in-kind bonds, structured notes, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities
- purchase bank loans, corporate loans, loan participations and trade claims
- invest in exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
- purchase equity or debt securities of closed-end investment companies
- lend its portfolio securities
- purchase securities, including private securities, through private placements or other private transactions.

Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund

(Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term capital growth.

Other Considerations

Equity securities of small-cap and mid-cap companies may consist of common stock, preferred stock, warrants for the purchase of common stock, and convertible securities. The Fund may invest a small portion of its assets in convertible securities.

The Fund may purchase securities in private placements, particularly late stage private placements and in venture capital financings.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt securities. The Fund also may invest in debt securities that the Fund's investment manager believes have the potential for capital appreciation as a result of improvement in the creditworthiness of the issuer. The receipt of income is incidental to the Fund's goal of capital growth. The Fund may invest in debt securities rated B or above by Moody's or S&P, or in unrated securities the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable quality. The Fund may invest a small portion of its assets or less in debt securities (including convertible debt securities) rated lower than BBB by S&P or Baa by Moody's or, if unrated, that the investment manager believes to be of comparable quality.

Initial public offerings (IPOs). The Fund may invest in IPOs. IPOs of securities issued by unseasoned companies with little or no operating history are risky and their prices are highly volatile. Attractive IPOs are often oversubscribed and may not be available to the Fund, or only in very limited quantities.

The Fund also may:

- lend its portfolio securities, up to 20% of its total assets, to generate additional income
- invest in foreign securities including developing or emerging markets
- invest a small portion of its assets in REITs, including small company REITs
- enter into repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements

Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund

(Strategic Income Fund)

The Fund's principal investment goal is to earn a high level of current income. Its secondary goal is long-term capital appreciation.

Other Considerations

The Fund may invest a small portion of its assets in common stocks.

Debt ratings. The Fund may invest in debt securities in any rating category. Ratings assigned by the rating agencies are based largely on the issuer's historical financial condition and the rating agencies' investment analysis at the time of the rating. The Fund also may invest a small portion of its total assets in debt securities that are in default.

Other Investments and Strategies

Equity securities. In addition to its main investments, the Fund also may invest a small portion of its assets in equity securities, largely common stock, or may receive other equities as a result of a corporate restructuring or conversion of convertible securities or warrants into common stock.

Investment companies. The Fund may invest in securities of investment companies which are registered under the 1940 Act or are exempt from registration under Section 3 (c) of the 1940 Act. The Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds.

Mortgage-backed securities. The Fund may invest in mortgage-backed securities issued by private entities, which are supported by the credit of the issuer, in addition to government agency mortgage-backed securities.

Stripped securities. The Fund may purchase stripped securities such as U.S. Treasury STRIPS, the values of which are extremely sensitive to changes in interest rates (and prepayments). Their prices will fluctuate more than the prices of interest-paying bonds or notes.

The Fund also may:

- invest in credit-linked securities
- purchase trade claims

- invest in stripped mortgage-backed securities (including interest-only or principal only securities)
- invest in mortgage loans, credit risk transfer securities and other mortgage securities
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," "delayed-delivery" or to-be-announced (TBA) basis
- enter into repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements
- invest up to 5% of its total assets in inverse floaters
- invest in credit-linked notes
- invest in collateralized debt obligations
- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forwards, currency and currency index futures, currency swaps and put and call options on currencies
- engage in interest rate-related derivatives, such as interest rate swaps, interest rate/bond futures, put and call options on interest rate/bond futures and put and call options on interest rate swaps
- engage in credit-related derivatives, such as single name and index credit default swaps and put and call options on single name and index credit default swaps
- engage in inflation-related derivatives, such as inflation index swaps
- engage in credit-related derivatives, such as fixed income total return swaps and options thereon
- invest in fixed income ETFs and buy and sell put and call options thereon
- invest in U.S. and foreign structured investments
- invest in business development companies (BDCs)
- invest in marketplace loans

Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund

(U.S. Government Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is income.

Other Investments and Strategies

Other pass-through securities. The Fund may invest in certain other types of pass-through debt securities, issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies, instrumentalities or the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The Fund also may:

- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- invest in obligations of the Tennessee Valley Authority

Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund

(Emerging Markets Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term capital appreciation.

Other Considerations

Emerging market countries include those currently considered to be developing or emerging by the United Nations or the countries' authorities or by S&P Dow Jones, Morgan Stanley Capital International or Russell index providers. The Fund considers frontier markets to be a subset of emerging markets and any investments in frontier markets will be counted toward the Fund's 80% investment policy. These countries typically are located in the Asia-Pacific region (including Hong Kong), Eastern Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East and Africa.

The Fund invests predominantly in the equity securities (principally common and preferred stocks and American, Global and European Depositary Receipts) of emerging market companies. For purposes of the Fund's investments, emerging market companies are those:

- whose principal securities trading markets are in emerging market countries; or
- that derive 50% or more of their total revenue or profit from either goods or services produced or sales made in emerging market countries; or
- that have 50% or more of their assets in emerging market countries; or
- that are linked to currencies of emerging market countries; or
- that are organized under the laws of, or with principal offices in, emerging market countries.

From time to time, the Fund may hold significant cash positions, including investment in shares of an affiliated money market fund, until suitable investment opportunities are available, consistent with its policy on temporary investments.

The Fund seeks to benefit from economic and other developments in emerging markets. The investment goal of the Fund reflects the belief that investment opportunities may result from an evolving, long-term international trend favoring more market-oriented economies. This trend may be facilitated by local or international political, economic or financial developments that could benefit the capital markets

of such countries. Countries in the process of emerging more market-oriented economies may experience relatively high rates of economic growth, but there are many factors that may slow development and growth. Other countries, although having relatively mature emerging markets, also may be in a position to benefit from local or international developments encouraging greater market orientation and diminishing governmental intervention in economic affairs.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt securities. The Fund may invest up to a small portion of its assets in fixed-income debt securities.

To the extent the Fund invests in debt securities, it will generally invest in those rated at least C by Moody's or S&P or, if unrated, that the Fund's investment manager believes to be of comparable quality. As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not invest more than 10% of its assets in defaulted debt securities.

Foreign securities. The Fund will at all times, except during defensive periods, maintain investments in at least three emerging markets countries.

Closed-end investment companies. The Fund may invest up to a small portion of its total assets in securities of closed-end investment companies to facilitate foreign investment.

Exchange traded funds. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in shares of exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The Fund will use ETFs for a number of purposes. For example, the Fund's investment manager may determine that the Fund will benefit from market exposure through an investment in ETFs when the Fund has excess cash and (i) the investment manager is unable to invest in a single stock fast enough because either the stock is not liquid enough to accommodate a large purchase or the Fund would cause excessive market impact in trying to invest cash in a single stock immediately, or (ii) the Fund has insufficient cash to make a meaningful direct investment in a particular security, market or sector but exposure to such security, market or sector may be gained through an investment in an ETF (referred to as "equitizing cash"). This strategy can allow the investment manager to be more selective in the securities it buys for the Fund and the prices paid because the investment manager is not forced to buy stocks at any price just to get market exposure. The Fund may also use ETFs to provide the Fund with liquidity during volatile markets without having to hold underperforming cash.

The Fund also may:

- purchase convertible securities and warrants
- invest in participatory notes
- purchase and sell securities on a "when-issued," or "delayed delivery" or "to-be-announced" basis
- enter into repurchase agreements
- Chinese securities including Chinese variable interest entities

Templeton Foreign VIP Fund

(Foreign Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term capital growth.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt securities. The Fund may invest a small portion of its assets in debt securities, including in medium and lower quality debt securities that are rated between BBB and as low as D by S&P, and between Baa and as low as C by Moody's or unrated securities the Fund's investment manager believes are of comparable quality. As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund will not invest more than a small portion or less of its assets in lower-rated securities rated BB or lower by S&P, Ba or lower by Moody's, or lower unrated securities that the Fund's investment manager believes are an equivalent investment quality.

The Fund also may:

- purchase shares of exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
- invest up to 5% of its net assets in convertible securities
- purchase securities on a "when-issued" basis
- enter into firm commitment agreements
- invest in participatory notes
- engage in equity-related derivatives, such as exchange-traded and OTC put and call options on single name securities
- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forward contracts and currency futures
- invest in equity-linked notes (ELNs)
- engage in equity-related derivatives including futures on equity securities and indices
- invest in master limited partnerships
- Chinese securities including Chinese variable interest entities

Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund

(Global Bond Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is high current income, consistent with preservation of capital. Capital appreciation is a secondary consideration.

Other Considerations

The Fund selects investments to provide a high current yield or a combination of yield, capital appreciation, and currency appreciation. As a global fund, the Fund may invest in securities issued in any currency and may hold foreign currency.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest in issuers located in at least three different countries (including the U.S.).

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt securities. The Fund may invest in debt securities of any type of issuer, including domestic and foreign corporations, domestic and foreign banks (with assets in excess of one billion dollars), other business organizations, and domestic and foreign governments and their political subdivisions, including the U.S. government, its agencies, and authorities or instrumentalities, and supranational organizations. The Fund is further authorized to invest in "semi-governmental securities," which are debt securities issued by entities owned by either a national, state, or equivalent government or of a government jurisdiction that are not backed by its full faith and credit and general taxing powers. The Fund considers securities issued by central banks that are guaranteed by their national governments to be government securities.

The debt securities in which the Fund invests may have equity features, such as conversion or exchange rights or warrants for the acquisition of stock of the same or a different issuer; participation based on revenues, sales or profits; or the purchase of common stock in a unit transaction (where an issuer's debt securities and common stock are offered as a unit).

The Fund may invest in debt securities with varying maturities.

The Fund also may:

- invest in preferred stock
- invest in structured notes
- acquire bank loans, corporate loans and loan participations
- enter into repurchase, reverse repurchase, and "when-issued" transactions
- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- invest in credit-linked notes
- invest in collateralized debt obligations
- engage in currency-related derivatives, such as currency forwards, currency and currency index futures and exchange-traded and OTC put and call options on currencies
- engage in interest rate-related derivatives, such as interest rate swaps, interest rate/bond futures and interest rate swaps (swaptions)
- engage in credit-related derivatives, such as single name and index credit default swaps
- engage in inflation-related derivatives, such as inflation index swaps

Templeton Growth VIP Fund

(Growth Fund)

The Fund's investment goal is long-term capital growth.

The Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in emerging or developing markets. Developing market countries are currently those considered to be emerging or developing by the United Nations or the countries' authorities or by S&P Dow Jones, Morgan Stanley Capital International or Russell index providers. Developing market companies are (i) companies whose principal securities trading markets are in developing market countries; or (ii) companies that derive 50% or more of their total revenue from either goods or services produced or sales made in developing market countries; or (iii) companies that have 50% or more of their assets in developing market countries; or (iv) companies that are linked to currencies of developing market countries; or (v) companies that are organized under the laws of, or with principal offices in, emerging market countries.

Other Investments and Strategies

Debt securities. The Fund may invest in bonds, convertible bonds, and bonds selling at a discount, as a defensive measure while looking for attractive equity investments. The Fund also may invest in debt securities for capital appreciation. The Fund may invest in debt securities that are rated as low as C by Moody's or S&P (the lowest rating category) or, if unrated, that the Fund's investment manager believes to be of comparable quality. However, as a policy established by the board of trustees, the Fund will not invest more than a small portion or less of its assets in debt securities rated BBB or lower by S&P or Baa or lower by Moody's. Consistent with the goal of the Fund, the board may consider a change if economic conditions change such that a higher level of investment in high risk, lower quality debt securities would be appropriate. As a non-fundamental policy, the Fund may not invest more than 10% of its assets in defaulted debt securities.

The Fund also may:

- borrow up to 5% of the value of its total assets (excluding borrowing from banks) for temporary or emergency purposes and not for direct investments in securities
- invest in preferred stock
- invest in securities convertible into common stock; the Fund may invest in convertible securities without regard to the ratings assigned by rating services
- lend its portfolio securities
- enter into repurchase agreements
- invest in debt securities of companies and governments located anywhere in the world
- engage in equity-related derivatives including futures on equity securities and indices
- enter into currency-related derivatives, such as currency and cross currency forwards, and buy and sell currency futures contracts
- buy and sell put and call options on exchange-traded and over-the-counter equity securities (including ETFs) and equity indices
- invest in equity-linked notes (ELNs)

Glossary of Investments, Techniques, Strategies and Their Risks

This section describes certain types of securities and investment techniques that the Fund may use to help it achieve its investment goals and to the extent not expressly prohibited by its investment policies. If there appears to be an inconsistency between this section and the individual Fund section with respect to investments, strategies or techniques, the individual Fund section controls and should be relied upon. For purposes of this section, the term "Fund" refers to the Fund and the underlying funds in which the Fund may invest.

Each Fund is also subject to investment policies that are described under the heading "Fundamental Investment Policies" in this SAI. The investment goal of each Fund (except for Allocation Fund) and each Fund's (including Allocation Fund) listed investment policies are "fundamental policies" of each Fund, which means that they may not be changed without a majority vote of shareholders of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). With the exception of a Fund's investment goal, if fundamental, and those restrictions specifically identified as fundamental, all investment policies and practices described in the Fund's prospectuses and in this SAI are not fundamental, which means that they may be changed without shareholder approval.

The value of your shares in the Fund will increase as the value of the investments owned by the Fund increases and will decrease as the value of the Fund's investments decreases. In this way, you participate in any change in the value of the investments owned by the Fund. In addition to the factors that affect the value of any particular investment that the Fund owns, the value of the Fund's shares may also change with movement in the investment markets as a whole.

During various periods in the past, increases in market values and/or the values of many individual securities have significantly exceeded prior historical norms. When increases in market values and/or individual securities values exceed historical norms, investors should not expect that such increases will be maintained or that the rate of such increases will continue. Investors should also not expect that such periods of increases in values exceeding historical norms will resume.

In addition to the risks described in each Fund's prospectus and the individual Fund summaries in this SAI, investors should consider the risks that pertain to the Fund that may invest in the instruments or engage in the following strategies.

The following is a description of various types of securities, instruments and techniques that may be purchased and/or used by the Fund and/or the underlying funds:

Asset-backed securities Asset-backed securities represent interests in a pool of loans, leases or other receivables. The assets underlying asset-backed securities may include receivables on home equity loans, credit card loans, and automobile, mobile home and recreational vehicle loans and leases and other assets. Asset-backed securities are often backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations of a number of different parties and may have adjustable interest rates that reset at periodic intervals.

The credit quality of most asset-backed securities depends primarily on the credit quality of the underlying assets, how well the issuers of the securities are insulated from the credit risk of the originator or affiliated entities, and the amount of credit support (if any) provided to the securities. Credit support for asset-backed securities is intended to lessen the effect of failures by obligors (such as individual borrowers or leasers) on the underlying assets to make payments. Credit support generally falls into two categories: (i) liquidity protection; and (ii) protection against losses from the default by an obligor on the underlying assets.

Liquidity protection refers to advances, generally provided by the entity administering the pool of assets, intended to ensure that the receipt of payments due on the underlying pool is timely. Protection against losses from the default by an obligor can enhance the likelihood of payments of the obligations on at least some of the assets in the pool. Protection against losses from default may be provided through guarantees, insurance policies or letters of credit

obtained by the issuer or sponsor from third parties. Alternatively, this protection may be provided through various means of structuring the transaction, or through a combination of these approaches.

Examples of credit support arising out of the structure of the transaction include "senior subordinated securities" (securities with one or more classes that are subordinate to the other classes with respect to the payment of principal and interest, with the result that defaults on the underlying assets should be borne first by the holders of the subordinated class), creation of "reserve funds" (where cash or investments, sometimes funded from a portion of the payments on the underlying assets, are held in reserve against future losses), and "over-collateralization" (where the scheduled payments on, or the principal amount of, the underlying assets exceeds that required to make payments on the securities and pay any servicing or other fees).

The degree of credit support provided is generally based on historical information about the level of credit risk associated with the underlying assets. Historical information may not adequately reflect present or future credit risk. Delinquencies or losses in excess of those anticipated could occur and could adversely affect the return on an investment in the securities. There is no guarantee that the type of credit support selected will be effective at reducing the illiquidity or losses to investors in the event of certain defaults. Where credit support is provided by a third party, the Fund will be exposed to the credit risk of that third party in addition to the credit risk of the issuer or sponsor of the asset-backed security and the underlying obligors.

Asset-backed securities also have risk due to a characteristic known as early amortization, or early payout, risk. Built into the structure of certain asset-backed securities are triggers for early payout, designed to protect investors from losses. These triggers are unique to each transaction and can include, among other things: a significant rise in defaults on the underlying loans, a sharp drop in the credit enhancement level, or the bankruptcy of the issuer or sponsor. Once early amortization begins, all incoming loan payments are used to pay investors as quickly as possible. Prepayment risk also arises when the underlying obligations may be satisfied or "prepaid" before due. Certain asset-backed securities backed by automobile receivables may be affected by such early prepayment of principal on the underlying vehicle sales contract. When amortization or prepayment occurs, the Fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at a rate of interest that is lower than the rate on the existing asset-backed security. In addition, the Fund may suffer a loss if it paid a premium for the asset-backed security as cash flows from the early amortization reduce the value of the premium paid.

Alternatively, if prepayments occur at a slower rate than the investment manager expected, or if payment on the underlying assets is delayed or defaulted upon, the Fund will experience extension risk.

The income received by the Fund on an asset-backed security generally fluctuates more than the income on fixed income debt securities. This is because asset-backed securities are usually structured as pass-through or pay-through securities (similar to mortgage-backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations). Cash flow generated by payments on the underlying obligations in these structures is shared with the investor as it is received. The rate of payment on asset-backed securities generally depends on the rate of principal and interest payments received on the underlying assets. Payments on underlying assets will be affected by various economic and other factors that shape the market for those underlying assets. Therefore, the income on asset-backed securities will be difficult to predict, and actual yield to maturity will be more or less than the anticipated yield to maturity.

Asset-backed securities have certain risks that stem from the characteristics of the underlying assets. For example, asset-backed securities do not have the benefit of the same type of security interests in the underlying collateral that mortgage-backed securities have, and there may be a limited ability to enforce any security interests that exist. Credit enhancements provided to support asset-backed securities, if any, may be inadequate to protect investors in the event of default. For example, credit card receivables are generally unsecured and a number of state and federal consumer credit laws give debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the outstanding balance, which can negatively affect the yield and/or value of related asset-backed securities. Issuers of asset-backed securities for which automobile receivables are the underlying assets may be prevented from realizing the full amount due on an automobile sales contract because of state law requirements and restrictions relating to sales of vehicles following their repossession and the obtaining of deficiency judgments following such sales or because of depreciation, damage or loss of a vehicle, the application of bankruptcy and insolvency laws, or other factors. The absence of, or difficulty enforcing, such security interests in the underlying assets may result in additional expenses, delays and losses to the Fund. The Fund's exposure to the credit risk of the credit support provider will also be greater if recourse is limited to the credit support provider in the event of widespread defaults on the underlying obligations.

Bank obligations Bank obligations include fixed, floating or variable rate certificates of deposit (CDs), letters of credit, time and savings deposits, bank notes and bankers' acceptances. CDs are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits that are held in a banking institution for a specified period of time at a stated interest rate. Savings

deposits are deposits that do not have a specified maturity and may be withdrawn by the depositor at any time. Bankers' acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise. When a bank “accepts” a bankers' acceptance, the bank, in effect, unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument upon maturity. The full amount of the Fund's investment in time and savings deposits or CDs may not be guaranteed against losses resulting from the default of the commercial or savings bank or other institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

Bank obligations are exempt from registration with the SEC if issued by U.S. banks or foreign branches of U.S. banks. As a result, the Fund will not receive the same investor protections when investing in bank obligations as opposed to registered securities. Bank notes and other unsecured bank obligations are not guaranteed by the FDIC, so the Fund will be exposed to the credit risk of the bank or institution. In the event of liquidation, bank notes and unsecured bank obligations generally rank behind time deposits, savings deposits and CDs, resulting in a greater potential for losses to the Fund.

The Fund’s investments in bank obligations may be negatively impacted if adverse economic conditions prevail in the banking industry (such as substantial losses on loans, increases in non-performing assets and charge-offs and declines in total deposits). The activities of U.S. banks and most foreign banks are subject to comprehensive regulations which, in the case of U.S. regulations, have undergone substantial changes in the past decade. The enactment of new legislation or regulations, as well as changes in interpretation and enforcement of current laws, may affect the manner of operations and profitability of domestic and foreign banks. Significant developments in the U.S. banking industry have included increased competition from other types of financial institutions, increased acquisition activity and geographic expansion. Banks may be particularly susceptible to certain economic factors, such as interest rate changes and adverse developments in the market for real estate. Fiscal and monetary policy and general economic cycles can affect the availability and cost of funds, loan demand and asset quality and thereby impact the earnings and financial conditions of banks.

Borrowing The 1940 Act and the SEC's current rules, exemptions and interpretations thereunder, permit the Fund to borrow up to one-third of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed, but less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities) from banks. The Fund is required to maintain continuous asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to such borrowings and to reduce the amount of its borrowings (within three days excluding Sundays and holidays) to restore such coverage if it should decline to less than 300% due to market fluctuations or otherwise. In the event that the Fund is required to reduce its borrowings, it may have to sell portfolio holdings, even if such sale of the Fund's holdings would be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint.

If the Fund makes additional investments while borrowings are outstanding, this may be considered a form of leverage. Leveraging by means of borrowing may exaggerate the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of portfolio securities on the Fund's net asset value, and money borrowed will be subject to interest and other costs (which may include commitment fees and/or the cost of maintaining minimum average balances), which may or may not exceed the income or gains received from the securities purchased with borrowed funds.

In addition to borrowings that are subject to 300% asset coverage and are considered by the SEC to be permitted “senior securities,” the Fund is also permitted under the 1940 Act to borrow for temporary purposes in an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of its total assets at the time when the loan is made. A loan will be presumed to be for temporary purposes if it is repaid within 60 days and is not extended or renewed.

Callable securities Callable securities give the issuer the right to redeem the security on a given date or dates (known as the call dates) prior to maturity. In return, the call feature is factored into the price of the debt security, and callable debt securities typically offer a higher yield than comparable non-callable securities. Certain securities may be called only in whole (the entire security is redeemed), while others may be called in part (a portion of the total face value is redeemed) and possibly from time to time as determined by the issuer. There is no guarantee that the Fund will receive higher yields or a call premium on an investment in callable securities.

The period of time between the time of issue and the first call date, known as call protection, varies from security to security. Call protection provides the investor holding the security with assurance that the security will not be called before a specified date. As a result, securities with call protection generally cost more than similar securities without call protection. Call protection will make a callable security more similar to a long-term debt security, resulting in an associated increase in the callable security's interest rate sensitivity.

Documentation for callable securities usually requires that investors be notified of a call within a prescribed period of time. If a security is called, the Fund will receive the principal amount and accrued interest, and may receive a small additional payment as a call premium. Issuers are more likely to exercise call options in periods when interest rates are below the rate at which the original security was issued, because the issuer can issue new securities with lower interest payments. Callable securities are subject to the risks of other debt securities in general, including prepayment risk, especially in falling interest rate environments.

Collateralized debt obligations Collateralized debt obligations and similarly structured securities, sometimes known generally as CDOs, are interests in a trust or other special purpose entity (SPE) and are typically backed by a diversified pool of bonds, loans or other debt obligations. CDOs are not limited to investments in one type of debt and, accordingly, a CDO may be collateralized by corporate bonds, commercial loans, asset-backed securities, residential mortgage-backed securities, real estate investment trusts (REITs), commercial mortgage-backed securities, emerging market debt, and municipal bonds. Certain CDOs may use derivatives contracts, such as credit default swaps, to create "synthetic" exposure to assets rather than holding such assets directly, which entails the risks of derivative instruments described elsewhere in this SAI.

Common varieties of CDOs include the following:

Collateralized loan obligations. Collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) are interests in a trust typically collateralized substantially by a pool of loans, which may include, among others, domestic and foreign senior secured loans, senior unsecured loans, and subordinate corporate loans made to domestic and foreign borrowers, including loans that may be rated below investment grade or equivalent unrated loans.

Collateralized bond obligations. Collateralized bond obligations (CBOs) are interests in a trust typically backed substantially by a diversified pool of high risk, below investment grade fixed income securities.

Structured finance CDOs. Structured finance CDOs are interests in a trust typically backed substantially by structured investment products such as asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities.

Synthetic CDOs. In contrast to CDOs that directly own the underlying debt obligations, referred to as cash CDOs, synthetic CDOs are typically collateralized substantially by derivatives contracts, such as credit default swaps, to create "synthetic" exposure to assets rather than holding such assets directly, which entails the risks of derivative instruments described elsewhere in this SAI, principally counterparty risk.

CDOs are similar in structure to collateralized mortgage obligations, described elsewhere in this SAI. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the discussion of CDOs below also applies to CLOs, CBOs and other similarly structured securities.

In CDOs, the cash flows from the SPE are split into two or more portions, called tranches (or classes), that vary in risk and yield. The riskiest portion is the "equity" tranche which bears the first loss from defaults on the bonds or loans in the SPE and is intended to protect the other, more senior tranches from severe, and potentially unforeseen, defaults or delinquent collateral payments (though such protection is not complete). Because they may be partially protected from defaults, senior tranches from a CDO typically have higher ratings and lower yields than the underlying collateral securities held by the trust, and may be rated investment grade. Despite protection from the equity tranche, more senior tranches can experience, and may have experienced in the past, substantial losses due to actual defaults, increased sensitivity to defaults due to collateral default, downgrades of the underlying collateral by rating agencies, forced liquidation of a collateral pool due to a failure of coverage tests, disappearance of protecting tranches, market anticipation of defaults, as well as a market aversion to CDO securities as a class.

The risks of an investment in a CDO depend largely on the type of collateral held by the SPE and the tranche of the CDO in which the Fund invests. Investment risk may also be affected by the performance of a CDO's collateral manager (the entity responsible for selecting and managing the pool of collateral securities held by the SPE trust), especially during periods of market volatility. Normally, CDOs are privately offered and sold, and thus, are not registered under the securities laws and traded in a public market. As a result, investments in CDOs may be characterized by the Fund as illiquid securities. However, an active dealer market may exist for CDOs allowing the Fund to trade CDOs with other qualified institutional investors under Rule 144A. To the extent such investments are characterized as illiquid, they will be subject to the Fund's restrictions on investments in illiquid securities. The Fund's investment in unregistered securities such as CDOs will not receive the same investor protection as an investment in registered securities.

All tranches of CDOs, including senior tranches with high credit ratings, can experience, and at times many have experienced, substantial losses due to actual defaults, increased sensitivity to future defaults due to the disappearance of protecting tranches, market anticipation of defaults, as well as market aversion to CDO securities as a class. In the past, prices of CDO tranches have declined considerably. The drop in prices was initially triggered by the subprime mortgage crisis. Subprime mortgages make up a significant portion of the mortgage securities that collateralize many CDOs. As floating interest rates and mortgage default rates increased, the rating agencies that had rated the mortgage securities and CDO transactions backed by such mortgages realized their default assumptions were too low and began to downgrade the credit rating of these transactions. There can be no assurance that additional losses of equal or greater magnitude will not occur in the future.

In addition to the normal risks associated with debt securities and asset backed securities (e.g., interest rate risk, credit risk and default risk) described elsewhere in this SAI, CDOs carry additional risks including, but not limited to: (i) the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest or other payments; (ii) the quality

of the collateral may decline in value or quality or go into default or be downgraded; (iii) the Fund may invest in tranches of a CDO that are subordinate to other classes; and (iv) the complex structure of the security may not be fully understood at the time of investment and may produce disputes with the issuer, difficulty in valuing the security or unexpected investment results.

Certain issuers of CDOs may be deemed to be "investment companies" as defined in the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund's investment in these structured investments from these issuers may be limited by the restrictions contained in the 1940 Act. CDOs generally charge management fees and administrative expenses that the shareholders of the Fund would pay indirectly.

Commodity-linked instruments Commodity-linked instruments are designed to provide exposure to the price movements of real assets that trade in the commodity markets without direct investment in physical commodities. Real assets are assets such as oil, gas, industrial and precious metals, livestock, and agricultural or meat products, or other items that have tangible properties, as compared to stocks or bonds, which are financial instruments.

Obtaining exposure to the price movements of physical commodities through commodity-linked instruments presents unique risks, is speculative and can be extremely volatile. Market prices of commodities may fluctuate rapidly based on numerous factors, including: changes in supply and demand relationships (whether actual, perceived, anticipated, unanticipated or unrealized); weather; agriculture; trade; domestic and foreign political and economic events and policies; diseases; pestilence; technological developments; and monetary and other governmental policies, action and inaction. The current or "spot" prices of physical commodities may also affect, in a volatile and inconsistent manner, the prices of futures contracts in respect of the relevant commodity. Certain commodities are used primarily in one industry, and fluctuations in levels of activity in (or the availability of alternative resources to) one industry may have a disproportionate effect on global demand for a particular commodity. Moreover, growth in industrial production and gross domestic product has made China and other developing nations oversized users of commodities and has increased the extent to which certain commodities prices are influenced by those markets.

Commodity-linked notes. The value of a commodity-linked note is primarily linked to the price movements of physical commodity (such as heating oil, livestock, or agricultural products), a commodity futures or option contract, a commodity index (such as the S&P GSCI), or some other readily measurable variable that reflects changes in the value of particular commodities or the commodities markets. The notes in which the Fund invests are typically issued by a bank or other financial institution or a commodity producer, and the Fund negotiates with the issuer to obtain specific terms and features that are tailored to the Fund's investment needs. A typical note may have the following characteristics:

- Issuer: A bank, other financial institution or commodity producer with respect to commodity-linked notes.
- Maturity: Commodity-Linked Notes (12-18 months)
- Purchase Price: The Fund purchases a note at a specified face value, for example $100 or $1,000.
- Payment Characteristics: The Fund receives an interest payment at a fixed coupon rate determined at the time of purchase. With respect to commodity-linked notes, the Fund also receives a payment at maturity that is based on the price movement of the underlying commodity, for example heating oil, or a commodity index (e.g., the S&P GSCI). This payment will typically be an amount that is a multiple of the price increase or decrease of the underlying commodity or commodity index. The investment manager currently anticipates that most notes purchased by the Fund will be leveraged at a 3 to 1 factor (i.e., the return of the index is multiplied 3x for purposes of the Fund's returns).
- "Put" and Automatic Redemption Features: The Fund typically has the right to "put" (or sell) a commodity-linked note to the issuer at any time, at a price based on the commodity-linked note's face value as adjusted to reflect the price movement of the underlying commodity, commodity futures or option contract, commodity index, or other economic variable. A typical note also provides that the issuer will automatically repurchase the note from the Fund if the value of the note decreases to a specified level, which would occur if the price of the underlying commodity, commodity futures or option contract, or commodity index, which ever the case may be, reached a level specified under the terms of the note. The Fund can negotiate with the issuer to modify any of the typical characteristics described above. For example, the Fund can negotiate to extend or shorten the maturity of a note, or to receive interest payments at a variable interest rate instead of at a fixed interest rate.

Convertible securities A convertible security is generally a debt obligation, preferred stock or other security that may be converted within a specified period of time into a certain amount of common stock of the same or of a different issuer. The conversion may occur at the option of the investor in or issuer of the security, or upon a predetermined event. A convertible security typically provides a fixed-income stream and the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation resulting from a market price advance in its underlying common stock. As with a straight fixed-income security, a convertible security tends to increase in market value when interest rates decline and

decrease in value when interest rates rise. Like a common stock, the value of a convertible security also tends to increase as the market value of the underlying stock rises, and it tends to decrease as the market value of the underlying stock declines. Because both interest rate and market movements can influence its value, a convertible security is usually not as sensitive to interest rate changes as a similar fixed-income security, nor is it as sensitive to changes in share price as its underlying stock. Convertible securities are also subject to risks that affect debt securities in general.

Although less than an investment in the underlying stock, the potential for gain on an investment in a convertible security is greater than for similar non-convertible securities. As a result, a lower yield is generally offered on convertible securities than on otherwise equivalent non-convertible securities. There is no guarantee that the Fund will realize gains on a convertible security in excess of the foregone yield it accepts to invest in such convertible security.

A convertible security is usually issued either by an operating company or by an investment bank. When issued by an operating company, a convertible security tends to be senior to the company's common stock, but may be subordinate to other types of fixed-income securities issued by that company. When a convertible security issued by an operating company is "converted," the operating company often issues new stock to the holder of the convertible security. However, if the convertible security is redeemable and the parity price of the convertible security is less than the call price, the operating company may pay out cash instead of common stock.

If the convertible security is issued by an investment bank or other sponsor, the security is an obligation of and is convertible through, the issuing investment bank. However, the common stock received upon conversion is of a company other than the investment bank or sponsor. The issuer of a convertible security may be important in determining the security's true value. This is because the holder of a convertible security will have recourse only to the issuer.

Contingent convertible securities (CoCos). A contingent convertible security, or CoCo, is a hybrid debt security typically issued by a non-U.S. bank that, upon the occurrence of a specified trigger event, may be (i) convertible into equity securities of the issuer at a predetermined share price; or (ii) written down in liquidation value. Trigger events are identified in the documents that govern the CoCo and may include a decline in the issuer's capital below a specified threshold level, an increase in the issuer's risk weighted assets, the share price of the issuer falling to a particular level for a certain period of time and certain regulatory events, such as a change in regulatory capital requirements. CoCos are designed to behave like bonds in times of economic health yet absorb losses when the trigger event occurs.

With respect to CoCos that provide for conversion of the CoCo into common shares of the issuer in the event of a trigger event, the conversion would deepen the subordination of the investor, subjecting the Fund to a greater risk of loss in the event of bankruptcy. In addition, because the common stock of the issuer may not pay a dividend, investors in such instruments could experience reduced yields (or no yields at all). With respect to CoCos that provide for the write down in liquidation value of the CoCo in the event of a trigger event, it is possible that the liquidation value of the CoCo may be adjusted downward to below the original par value or written off entirely under certain circumstances. For instance, if losses have eroded the issuer's capital levels below a specified threshold, the liquidation value of the CoCo may be reduced in whole or in part. The write-down of the CoCo's par value may occur automatically, and if written down to zero, would effectively cancel the securities, causing investors (including the Fund) to lose the entire value of their investment, even as the issuer remains in business. If such an event occurs, an investor may not have any rights to repayment of the principal amount of the securities and may not be entitled to institute bankruptcy proceedings against the issuer. In addition, an automatic write-down could result in a reduced income rate if the dividend or interest payment associated with the CoCo is based on par value. Coupon payments on CoCos may be discretionary and may be cancelled by the issuer for any reason or may be subject to approval by the issuer's regulator and may be suspended in the event there are insufficient distributable reserves

CoCos are subject to the credit, interest rate, high yield securities, foreign securities and market risks associated with bonds and equity securities, and to the risks specific to convertible securities in general. They are also subject to other specific risks. CoCos typically are structurally subordinated to traditional convertible bonds in the issuer's capital structure, which increases the risk that the Fund may experience a loss. In certain scenarios, investors in CoCos may suffer a loss of capital ahead of equity holders or when equity holders do not. CoCos are generally speculative and the prices of CoCos may be volatile. There is no guarantee that the Fund will receive return of principal on CoCos.

Convertible preferred stock. A convertible preferred stock is usually treated like a preferred stock for the Fund's financial reporting, credit rating and investment policies and limitations purposes. A preferred stock is subordinated to all debt obligations in the event of insolvency, and an issuer's failure to make a dividend payment is generally not an event of default entitling the preferred shareholder to take action. A preferred stock generally has no maturity date, so that its market value is dependent on the issuer's business prospects for an indefinite period of time. Distributions from preferred stock are dividends, rather than interest payments, and are usually treated as such for tax purposes. Investments in convertible preferred stock, as compared to the debt

obligations of an issuer, generally increase the Fund's exposure to the credit risk of the issuer and market risk generally, because convertible preferred stock will fare more poorly if the issuer defaults or markets suffer.

Enhanced convertible securities. In addition to "plain vanilla" convertible securities, a number of different structures have been created to fit the characteristics of specific investors and issuers. Examples of these features include yield enhancement, increased equity exposure or enhanced downside protection. From an issuer's perspective, enhanced structures are designed to meet balance sheet criteria, maximize interest/dividend payment deductibility and reduce equity dilution. Examples of enhanced convertible securities include mandatory convertible securities, convertible trust preferred securities, exchangeable securities, and zero coupon and deep discount convertible bonds.

Risks. An investment in a convertible security may involve risks. The Fund may have difficulty disposing of such securities because there may be a thin trading market for a particular security at any given time. Reduced liquidity may have an adverse impact on market price and the Fund's ability to dispose of a security when necessary to meet the Fund's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event, such as the deterioration in the creditworthiness of an issuer. Reduced liquidity in the secondary market for certain securities may also make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain market quotations based on actual trades for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio. Although the Fund intends to acquire convertible securities that the investment manager considers to be liquid (i.e., those securities that the investment manager determines may be sold on an exchange, or an institutional or other substantial market), there can be no assurances that this will be achieved. Certain securities and markets can become illiquid quickly, resulting in liquidity risk for the Fund. The Fund will also encounter difficulty valuing convertible securities due to illiquidity or other circumstances that make it difficult for the Fund to obtain timely market quotations based on actual trades for convertible securities. Convertible securities may have low credit ratings, which generally correspond with higher credit risk to an investor like the Fund.

Synthetic convertible securities. A synthetic convertible is created by combining distinct securities that together possess the two principal characteristics of a true convertible security, i.e., fixed income payments in the form of interest or dividends and the right to acquire the underlying equity security. This combination is achieved by investing in nonconvertible debt securities and in warrants or stock or stock index call options which grant the holder the right to purchase a specified quantity of securities within a specified period of time at a specified price (or to receive cash, in the case of stock index options). Synthetic convertibles are typically offered by financial institutions and investment banks in private placement transactions. Upon conversion, the Fund generally receives an amount in cash equal to the difference between the conversion price and the then-current value of the underlying security. Synthetic convertible instruments may also include structured notes, equity-linked notes, mandatory convertibles and combinations of securities and instruments.

In addition to the general risks of convertible securities and the special risks of enhanced convertible securities, there are risks unique to synthetic convertible securities. Synthetic convertible securities differ from true convertible securities in several respects. The value of a synthetic convertible security is the sum of the values of its debt security component and its convertibility component. Thus, the values of a synthetic convertible and a true convertible security will respond differently to market fluctuations. Although the investment manager expects normally to create synthetic convertible securities whose two components provide exposure to the same issuer, the character of a synthetic convertible allows the Fund to combine components representing distinct issuers, or to combine a debt security with a call option on a stock index. In addition, the component parts of a synthetic convertible security may be purchased simultaneously or separately; and the holder of a synthetic convertible faces the risk that the price of the stock, or the level of the market index underlying the convertibility component will decline. Exposure to more than one issuer or participant will increase the number of parties upon which the investment depends and the complexity of that investment and, as a result, increase the Fund's credit risk and valuation risk.

Corporate Loans, Assignments and Participations

Corporate loans. Corporate loans typically are structured and negotiated by a group of financial institutions and other investors, including in some cases, the Fund, that provide capital to the borrowers. In return, the borrowers pay interest and repay the loan's principal. Such corporate loans often pay interest rates that are reset periodically on the basis of a floating base lending rate, such as the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), plus a premium. The Fund may invest in corporate loans directly at the time of the loan's closing or by buying an assignment of all or a portion of the corporate loan from a lender. The Fund may also invest indirectly in a corporate loan by buying a loan participation from a lender or other purchaser of a participation. Corporate loans may include term loans, Bridge Loans (as described below) and, to the extent permissible for the Fund, revolving credit facilities, prefunded letters of credit term loans, delayed draw term loans and receivables purchase facilities.

The Fund limits the amount of total assets that it will invest in any one issuer. For purposes of these limitations, the Fund generally will treat the borrower as the "issuer" of indebtedness held by the Fund. In loan participations, a bank or other lending institution serves as financial intermediary between the Fund and the borrower, the participation may not shift to the Fund the direct debtor-creditor relationship with the

borrower. In this case, SEC interpretations require the Fund, in appropriate circumstances, to treat both the lending bank or other lending institution and the borrower as "issuers" for these purposes. Treating a financial intermediary as an issuer of indebtedness may restrict the Fund's ability to invest in indebtedness related to a single financial intermediary, or intermediaries engaged in the same industry, even if the underlying borrowers represent different companies and industries.

Negotiation and administration of loans. Each type of corporate loan in which the Fund may invest typically is structured by a group of lenders and other investors. This means that the lenders and other investors, which may include other Franklin Templeton funds and accounts, participate in the negotiations with the corporate borrower and in the drafting of the terms of the corporate loan. The group of lenders and other investors often consists of commercial banks, thrift institutions, insurance companies, finance companies, other financial institutions, or in some cases other investors, including investment companies such as the Fund. Typically, the Fund will not act as the sole negotiator or sole investor for a corporate loan. One or more of the lenders usually administers the corporate loan on behalf of all the lenders and other investors; this lender is referred to as the Agent Bank.

Three ways to invest in corporate loans. The Fund may invest in corporate loans in any of three ways. The Fund may: (i) make a direct investment by purchasing an assignment of part or all of a corporate loan; (ii) make an indirect investment by purchasing a participation interest in a corporate loan; or (iii) make a direct investment in a corporate loan by participating as one of the initial investors. Participation interests are interests sold by a lender or other holders of participation interests, which usually represent a fractional interest in a corporate loan. An assignment represents a direct interest in a corporate loan or portion of a corporate loan previously owned by a different investor. Unlike where the Fund purchases a participation interest, the Fund will generally become an investor for the purposes of the relevant corporate loan agreement by purchasing an assignment.

1. Assignments of corporate loans. If the Fund purchases an assignment of a corporate loan, the Fund will assume the position of the original investor. The Fund will have the right to receive payments directly from the corporate borrower and to enforce its contractual rights directly against the corporate borrower. The purchase may be made at a discount to par. This means that the Fund receives a return at the full interest rate for the corporate loan rather than a discounted rate.

2. Participation interests in corporate loans. In contrast to the purchase of an assignment, if the Fund purchases a participation interest either from a lender or a participant, the Fund typically will have established a direct contractual relationship with the seller of the participation interest, but not with the corporate borrower. Consequently, the Fund is subject to the credit risk of the lender or participant who sold the participation interest to the Fund, in addition to the usual credit risk of the corporate borrower. Therefore, when the Fund considers an investment in corporate loans through the purchase of participation interests, its investment manager will take into account the creditworthiness of the Agent Bank and any lenders and participants interposed between the Fund and the corporate borrower. These parties are referred to as Intermediate Participants. Additionally, the Fund will consider that there may be limitations on the Fund's ability to vote on amendments to the borrower's underlying loan agreement.

3. Direct investments in corporate loans. When the Fund invests as an initial investor in a new corporate loan, the investment may be made at a discount to par. This means that the Fund receives a return at the full interest rate for the corporate loan, which incorporates the discount.

Because secondary purchases of loans may be made at par, at a premium from par or at a discount from par, the Fund's return on such an investment may be lower or higher than it would have been if the Fund had made a direct initial investment. While loan participations generally trade at a discount, the Fund may buy participations trading at par or at a premium. At certain times when reduced opportunities for direct initial investment in corporate loans may exist, however, the Fund may be able to invest in corporate loans only through participation interests or assignments.

Loan participations. Loan participations may enable the Fund to acquire an interest in a corporate loan from a borrower, which it could not do directly. Because the Fund establishes a direct contractual relationship with the lender or Participant, the Fund is subject to the credit risk of the lender or Participant in addition to the usual credit risk of the corporate borrower and any Agent Bank. Under normal market conditions, loan participations that sell at a discount to the secondary loan price may indicate the borrower has credit problems or other issues associated with the credit risk of the loan. To the extent the credit problems are resolved, loan participations may appreciate in value.

In the event the corporate borrower fails to pay principal and interest when due, the Fund may have to assert rights against the borrower through an Intermediate Participant. This may subject the Fund to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that would be involved if the Fund could enforce its rights directly against the corporate borrower. Also, in the event of the insolvency of the lender or Intermediate Participant who sold the participation interest to the Fund, the Fund may not have any exclusive or senior claim with respect to the lender's interest in the corporate loan, or in the collateral securing the corporate loan. Consequently, the

Fund might not benefit directly from the collateral supporting the underlying corporate loan. If the Intermediate Participant becomes insolvent, payments of principal and/or interest may be held up or not paid by such Participant or such Participant may not have the resources to assert its and the Fund's rights against the corporate borrower. Similar risks may arise with respect to the Agent Bank.

Obligations to make future advances. Certain revolving credit facility corporate loans (revolvers) and some types of delayed draw loans require that the lenders and other investors, including the Fund, and Intermediate Participants make future advances to the corporate borrower at the demand of the borrower. Other continuing obligations may also exist pursuant to the terms of these types of corporate loans. If the Fund's future obligations are not met for any reason, including the failure of an Intermediate Participant to fulfill its obligations, the Fund's interests may be harmed. Because these loans may involve a commitment on the part of a Fund to make a loan to a borrower in the future, they may be treated as unfunded commitment agreements in accordance with applicable requirements of Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act.

Delayed draw term loans. Delayed draw term loans have characteristics of both revolvers and term loans, in that, before they are drawn upon by the borrower, they are similar to a revolver; however when they are drawn upon, they become fully and permanently drawn and are in essence term loans. Upon funding, when a loan is drawn upon, the loan becomes permanently funded, repaid principal amounts may not be reborrowed and interest accrues on the amount outstanding. The borrower pays a fee during the commitment period.

Prefunded L/C term loan. A prefunded L/C term loan (Pre L/C Loan) is sometimes referred to as a funded letter of credit facility. For these loans, the Agent Bank (or another bank) issues letters of credit (each letter, an L/C) to guarantee the repayment of the borrowings by the borrower, as the ultimate debtor under these loans. Each lender or other investor, such as the Fund, transfers to the Agent Bank the amount of money the lender or other investor, has committed under the Pre L/C Loan agreement. The Agent Bank holds the monies solely to satisfy the lenders' or other investors' obligations under the loan agreement.

Whenever the borrower needs funds, it draws against the Pre L/C Loan. Consequently, the lenders or other investors do not have to advance any additional monies at the time the borrower draws against the Pre L/C Loan. To the extent that the borrower does not draw down these monies as borrowings during the term of the Pre L/C Loan, the Agent Bank invests these monies as deposits that pay interest, usually approximating a benchmark rate. This interest is paid to the borrower. Generally, the borrower, via the Agent Bank, pays the lenders or other investors interest at a rate equivalent to the fully drawn spread plus a benchmark rate. The borrower pays this interest during the term of the loan whether or not the borrower borrows monies from the amounts held and invested by the Agent Bank. The principal and any unpaid accrued interest will be returned to the lenders and other investors upon termination of the Pre L/C loan (and upon satisfaction of all obligations).

The risks of investing in corporate loans include all the general risks of investing in debt securities. For example, investments in corporate loans are exposed to the credit risk of the borrowing corporation and any Intermediate Participants, the valuation risk of pricing corporate loans and collateral, and the illiquidity risk associated with holding unregistered, non-exchange traded securities. There are also additional risks associated with an investment in corporate loans, including those described below.

Additional credit risks. Corporate loans may be issued in leveraged or highly leveraged transactions (such as mergers, acquisitions, consolidations, liquidations, spinoffs, reorganizations or financial restructurings), or involving distressed companies or those in bankruptcy (including debtor-in-possession transactions). This means that the borrower is assuming large amounts of debt in order to have large amounts of financial resources to attempt to achieve its business objectives; there is no guarantee, however, that the borrower will achieve its business objectives. Loans issued in leveraged or highly leveraged transactions are subject to greater credit risks than other loans, including an increased possibility that the borrower might default or go into bankruptcy.

Insufficient collateral. The terms of most senior secured corporate loans and corporate debt securities in which the Fund invests generally provide that the collateral provided by the corporate borrower have a fair market value at least equal to 100% of the amount of such corporate loan at the time of the loan. The investment manager generally will determine the value of the collateral by customary valuation techniques that it considers appropriate. The collateral may consist of various types of assets or interests including working capital assets, such as accounts receivable or inventory, tangible fixed assets, such as real property, buildings and equipment, tangible or intangible assets, such as trademarks, copyrights and patent rights, or security interests in securities of subsidiaries or affiliates. The borrower's owners or other parties may provide additional security.

The Fund may encounter difficulty valuing the collateral, especially less tangible assets. The value of the collateral may decline following investment by the Fund in the corporate loan. Also, collateral may be difficult to sell or liquidate and insufficient in the event of a default. Consequently, there can be no assurance that the liquidation of any collateral securing a corporate loan would satisfy the borrower's obligation in the event of nonpayment of scheduled interest or principal

payments, or that such collateral could be readily liquidated. In the event of bankruptcy of a borrower, the Fund could experience delays or limitations with respect to its ability to realize the benefits of any collateral securing a corporate loan. Collateral securing a corporate loan may lose all or substantially all of its value in the event of bankruptcy of a borrower. Some corporate loans are subject to the risk that a court, pursuant to fraudulent conveyance or other similar laws, could order currently existing or future indebtedness of the corporate borrower to be paid ahead of the corporate loans. This order could make repayment of the corporate loans in part or in full less likely. The court could take other action detrimental to the holders of the corporate loans including, in certain circumstances, invalidating such corporate loans or causing interest previously paid to be refunded to the borrower.

Potential lack of investor protections under federal and state securities laws. If a corporate loan purchased by the Fund is not considered to be a "security," the Fund will not receive the same investor protections with respect to such investment that are available to purchasers of investments that are considered "securities" under federal and state securities laws, including any possible recourse against a member of the lending syndicate as an underwriter or the borrower as an issuer.

Lack of publicly available information and ratings. Corporate loans in which the Fund may invest may not be rated by a rating agency, will not be registered with the SEC or any state securities commission and will not be listed on any national securities exchange. The amount of public information available with respect to corporate loans will generally be less than that available for registered or exchange listed securities; however, the investment manager will not invest in a loan if, in its judgment, it does not have enough information on the loan to satisfy its due diligence standards.

Non-public information and limitations on its use. From time to time, the investment manager on behalf of the Fund, may elect to receive material non-public information (MNPI) about an individual loan that is not available to other lenders of such loan who may be unwilling to enter into a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with the borrower or company and restrict themselves from trading in the loan for a specified period of time. If the investment manager on behalf of the Fund, elects to become restricted on any individual loan as a result of agreeing to receive MNPI about the loan and signing an NDA, the Fund might be unable to enter into a transaction in a security of that borrower, when it would otherwise be advantageous to do so.

Liquidity of corporate loans. The investment manager generally considers corporate loans, loan participations and assignments of corporate loans to be liquid. To the extent such investments are deemed to be liquid by the investment manager, they will not be subject to the Fund's restrictions on investments in illiquid securities. Generally, a liquid market with institutional buyers exists for such interests. The investment manager monitors each type of loan and/or loan interest in which the Fund is invested to determine whether it is liquid consistent with the liquidity procedures adopted by the Fund.

No active trading market may exist for some corporate loans and some corporate loans may be subject to restrictions on resale. A secondary market in corporate loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods (sometimes longer than seven days), which may impair the ability to accurately value existing and prospective investments and to realize in a timely fashion the full value on sale of a corporate loan. In addition, the Fund may not be able to readily sell its corporate loans at prices that approximate those at which the Fund could sell such loans if they were more widely held and traded. As a result of such potential illiquidity, the Fund may have to sell other investments or engage in borrowing transactions if necessary to raise cash to meet its obligations. Purchases of corporate loans in the secondary market will be generally treated as when issued, forward-settling and non-standard settlement cycle securities transactions not involving a senior security under applicable provisions of Rule 18f-4.

Risks based on Agent Banks and/or Intermediate Participants. The Agent Bank typically administers the corporate loan. The Agent Bank typically is responsible for collecting principal, interest and fee payments from the corporate borrower. The Agent Bank then distributes these payments to all lenders and other investors that are parties to the corporate loan or own participation interests therein. The Fund will not act as an Agent Bank under normal circumstances. The Fund generally will rely on the Agent Bank or an Intermediate Participant to collect its portion of the payments. The Fund will also rely on the Agent Bank to take appropriate actions against a corporate borrower that is not making payments as scheduled. Typically, the Agent Bank is given broad discretion in enforcing the terms of the corporate loan, and is required to use only the same care it would use in the management of its own property. The corporate borrower compensates the Agent Bank for these services and this could create an incentive for the Agent Bank to exercise its discretion to the advantage of the corporate borrower to a greater extent than might otherwise be the case. Such compensation may include special fees paid at the start of corporate loans and fees paid on a continuing basis for ongoing services.

In the event that a corporate borrower becomes bankrupt or insolvent, the borrower may attempt to assert certain legal defenses as a result of improper conduct by the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant. Asserting the Fund's legal rights against the Agent Bank or Intermediate Participant could be expensive and result in the delay or loss to the Fund of principal and/or interest payments.

There is a risk that an Agent Bank may have financial difficulty. An Agent Bank could even declare bankruptcy, or have a receiver, conservator, or similar official appointed for it by a regulatory authority. If this happens, assets held by the Agent Bank under the corporate loan should remain available to holders of corporate loans, including the Fund. However, a regulatory authority or court may determine that assets held by the Agent Bank for the benefit of the Fund are subject to the claims of the Agent Bank's general or secured creditors. The Fund might incur costs and delays in realizing payment on a corporate loan or might suffer a loss of principal or interest. Similar risks arise in situations involving Intermediate Participants, as described above.

Covenants. The borrower or issuer under a corporate loan or debt security generally must comply with various restrictive covenants contained in any corporate loan agreement between the borrower and the lending syndicate or in any trust indenture or comparable document in connection with a corporate debt security. A restrictive covenant is a promise by the borrower to take certain actions that protect, or not to take certain actions that may impair, the rights of lenders. These covenants, in addition to requiring the scheduled payment of interest and principal, may include restrictions on dividend payments and other distributions to shareholders, provisions requiring the borrower to maintain specific financial ratios or relationships regarding, and/or limits on, total debt. In addition, a covenant may require the borrower to prepay the corporate loan or corporate debt security with any excess cash flow. Excess cash flow generally includes net cash flow (after scheduled debt service payments and permitted capital expenditures) as well as the proceeds from asset dispositions or sales of securities. A breach of a covenant (after giving effect to any cure period) in a corporate loan agreement which is not waived by the Agent Bank and the lending syndicate normally is an event of acceleration. This means that the Agent Bank has the right to demand immediate repayment in full of the outstanding corporate loan. Acceleration may also occur in the case of the breach of a covenant in a corporate debt security document. If acceleration occurs and the Fund receives repayment before expected, the Fund will experience prepayment risk.

Covenants and covenant lite loans and debt securities. Some covenant lite loans may be in the market from time to time which tend to have fewer or no financial maintenance covenants and restrictions. A covenant lite loan typically contains fewer clauses which allow an investor to proactively enforce financial covenants or prevent undesired actions by the borrower/issuer. Covenant lite loans also generally provide fewer investor protections if certain criteria are breached. The Fund may experience losses or delays in enforcing its rights on its holdings of covenant lite loans.

Bridge financings. The Fund may also acquire interests in loans which are designed to provide temporary or “bridge” financing (Bridge Loans) to a borrower pending the sale of identified assets; the arrangement of longer-term loans; or the issuance and sale of debt obligations. The Fund may also make a commitment to participate in a Bridge Loan facility. Most Bridge Loans are structured as floating-rate debt with step-up provisions under which the interest rate on the Bridge Loan rises the longer the Loan remains outstanding. In addition, Bridge Loans commonly contain a conversion feature that allows the Bridge Loan investor to convert its loan interest to senior exchange notes if the loan has not been prepaid in full on or prior to its maturity date. Bridge Loans may be subordinate to other debt and may be unsecured or under-secured. Bridge Loans are subject to the same general risks discussed above inherent to any loan investment. Due to their subordinated nature and possible unsecured or under-secured status, Bridge Loans may involve a higher degree of overall risk than more senior loans of the same borrower. Bridge Loans also generally carry the expectation that the borrower will be able to sell the assets, obtain permanent financing or sell other debt obligations in the near future. Any delay in these occurrences subjects the Bridge Loan investor to increased credit risk and may impair the borrower’s perceived creditworthiness. In addition, Bridge Loans may result in or lead to longer-term or permanent indebtedness.

Debtor-in-possession financings. The Fund may also invest in “debtor-in-possession” or “DIP” financings newly issued in connection with “special situation” restructuring and refinancing transactions. DIP financings are loans to a debtor-in-possession in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code that has been approved by the bankruptcy court. These financings allow the entity to continue its business operations while reorganizing under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. A DIP financing can be secured by a senior lien on the debtor’s unencumbered assets, or encumbered assets which would allow the existing senior lien holders to maintain at least the same lien position as the pre-petition secured debt. DIP financings are often required to close in a rapid manner in order for the debtor to continue ongoing operations and satisfy existing creditors. Additionally, a DIP financing may be “rolled” into exit financing, which enables the issuer to emerge from bankruptcy.

Credit-linked notes (CLNs) CLNs are typically set-up as a "pass-through" note structure created by a broker or bank as an alternative investment for funds or other purchasers to directly buying a bond or group of bonds. CLNs are typically issued at par, with a one to one relationship with the notional value to the underlying bond(s). The performance of the CLN, however, including maturity value, is linked to the performance of the specified underlying bond(s) as well as that of the issuing entity.

In addition to the risk of loss of its principal investment, the Fund bears the risk that the issuer of the CLN will default or become bankrupt. In such an event, the Fund may have difficulty being repaid, or fail to be repaid, the principal amount of its investment. A downgrade or impairment to the

credit rating of the issuer will also likely impact negatively the price of the CLN, regardless of the price of the bond(s) underlying the CLNs. A CLN is typically structured as a limited recourse, unsecured obligation of the issuer of such security such that the security will usually be the obligation solely of the issuer and will not be an obligation or responsibility of any other person, including the issuer of the underlying bond(s).

Most CLNs are structured as Rule 144A securities so that they may be freely traded among institutional buyers. However, the market for CLNs may be, or suddenly can become, illiquid. The other parties to the transaction may be the only investors with sufficient understanding of the CLN to be interested in bidding for it. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices of CLNs. In certain cases, a market price for a CLN may not be available or may not be reliable, and the Fund could experience difficulty in selling such security at a price the investment manager believes is fair.

Credit-linked securities Credit-linked securities, which may be considered to be a type of structured investment, are debt securities that represent an interest in a pool of, or are otherwise collateralized by, one or more corporate debt obligations or credit default swaps on corporate debt or bank loan obligations. Such debt obligations may represent the obligations of one or more corporate issuers. The Fund has the right to receive periodic interest payments from the issuer of the credit-linked security (usually the seller of the underlying credit default swap(s)) at an agreed-upon interest rate, and a return of principal at the maturity date. The Fund bears the risk of loss of its principal investment, and the periodic interest payments expected to be received for the duration of its investment in the credit-linked security, in the event that one or more of the debt obligations underlying bonds or debt obligations underlying the credit default swaps go in to default or otherwise become non-performing. Upon the occurrence of such a credit event (including bankruptcy, failure to timely pay interest or principal, or a restructuring) with respect to an underlying debt obligation (which may represent a credit event of one or more underlying obligors), the Fund will generally reduce the principal balance of the related credit-linked security by the Fund's pro rata interest in the par amount of the defaulted underlying debt obligation in exchange for the actual value of the defaulted underlying obligation or the defaulted underlying obligation itself, thereby causing the Fund to lose a portion of its investment. As a result, on an ongoing basis, interest on the credit-linked security will accrue on a smaller principal balance and a smaller principal balance will be returned at maturity. To the extent a credit-linked security represents an interest in underlying obligations of a single corporate issuer, a credit event with respect to such issuer presents greater risk of loss to the Fund than if the credit-linked security represented an interest in underlying obligations of multiple corporate issuers.

In addition, the Fund bears the risk that the issuer of the credit-linked security will default or become bankrupt. In such an event, the Fund may have difficulty being repaid, or fail to be repaid, the principal amount of its investment and the remaining periodic interest payments thereon.

An investment in credit-linked securities also involves reliance on the counterparty to the swap entered into with the issuer to make periodic payments to the issuer under the terms of the credit default swap. Any delay or cessation in the making of such payments may be expected in certain instances to result in delays or reductions in payments to the Fund as an investor in such credit-linked securities. Additionally, credit-linked securities are typically structured as limited recourse obligations of the issuer of such securities such that the securities issued will usually be obligations solely of the issuer and will not be obligations or responsibilities of any other person.

Most credit-linked securities are structured as Rule 144A securities so that they may be freely traded among institutional buyers. The Fund will generally only purchase credit-linked securities which are determined to be liquid in accordance with the Fund's liquidity guidelines. However, the market for credit-linked securities may be, or suddenly can become, illiquid. The other parties to the transaction may be the only investors with sufficient understanding of the securities to be interested in bidding for them. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid and unpredictable changes in the prices for credit-linked securities. In certain cases, a market price for a credit-linked security may not be available or may not be reliable, and the Fund could experience difficulty in selling such security at a price the investment manager believes is fair. In the event a credit-linked security is deemed to be illiquid, the Fund will include such security in calculating its limitation on investments in illiquid securities.

The value of a credit-linked security will typically increase or decrease with any change in value of the underlying debt obligations, if any, held by the issuer and the credit default swap. Further, in cases where the credit-linked security is structured such that the payments to the Fund are based on amounts received in respect of, or the value of performance of, any underlying debt obligations specified in the terms of the relevant credit default swap, fluctuations in the value of such obligation may affect the value of the credit-linked security.

The collateral of a credit-linked security may be one or more credit default swaps, which are subject to additional risks.

Debt securities - general description In general, a debt security represents a loan of money to the issuer by the purchaser of the security. A debt security typically has a fixed payment schedule that obligates the issuer to pay interest to the lender and to return the lender's money over a certain

time period. A company typically meets its payment obligations associated with its outstanding debt securities before it declares and pays any dividend to holders of its equity securities. Bonds, notes and commercial paper are examples of debt securities and differ in the length of the issuer's principal repayment schedule, with bonds carrying the longest repayment schedule and commercial paper the shortest:

Bonds. A bond is a debt security in which investors lend money to an entity that borrows for a defined period of time, usually a period of more than five years, at a specified interest rate.

Commercial paper. Commercial paper is an unsecured, short-term loan to a corporation, typically for financing accounts receivable and inventory with maturities of up to 270 days.

Debentures. A debenture is an unsecured debt security backed only by the creditworthiness of the borrower, not by collateral.

Bills. A bill is a short-term debt instrument, usually with a maturity of two years or less.

Notes. A note is a debt security usually with a maturity of up to ten years.

For purposes of the discussion in this SAI of the risks of investing in debt securities generally, loans or other short-term instruments, which otherwise may not technically be considered securities, are included.

Debt securities are all generally subject to interest rate, credit, income and prepayment risks and, like all investments, are subject to liquidity and market risks to varying degrees depending upon the specific terms and type of security. The Fund's investment manager attempts to reduce credit and market risk through diversification of the Fund's portfolio and ongoing credit analysis of each issuer, as well as by monitoring economic developments, but there can be no assurance that it will be successful at doing so.

Defaulted debt securities If the issuer of a debt security in the Fund's portfolio defaults, the Fund may have unrealized losses on the security, which may lower the Fund's net asset value. Defaulted securities tend to lose much of their value before they default. Thus, the Fund's net asset value may be adversely affected before an issuer defaults. The Fund may incur additional expenses if it tries to recover principal or interest payments on a defaulted security. Defaulted debt securities often are illiquid. An investment in defaulted debt securities is generally considered speculative and may expose the Fund to similar risks as an investment in high-yield debt.

Certain funds may buy defaulted debt securities. To the extent that a fund is not permitted to buy defaulted debt securities, the Fund is not required to sell a debt security that has defaulted if the investment manager believes it is advantageous to continue holding the security.

Depositary receipts Many securities of foreign issuers are represented by American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs), and European Depositary Receipts (EDRs) (collectively, depositary receipts). Generally, depositary receipts in registered form are designed for use in the U.S. securities market and depositary receipts in bearer form are designed for use in securities markets outside the U.S.

ADRs evidence ownership of, and represent the right to receive, securities of foreign issuers deposited in a domestic bank or trust company or a foreign correspondent bank. Prices of ADRs are quoted in U.S. dollars, and ADRs are traded in the U.S. on exchanges or over-the-counter. While ADRs do not eliminate all the risks associated with foreign investments, by investing in ADRs rather than directly in the stock of foreign issuers, the Fund will avoid currency and certain foreign market trading risks during the settlement period for either purchases or sales. In general, there is a large, liquid market in the U.S. for ADRs quoted on a national securities exchange. The information available for ADRs is subject to the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards of the U.S. market or exchange on which they are traded, which standards are generally more uniform and more exacting than those to which many foreign issuers may be subject.

EDRs and GDRs are typically issued by foreign banks or trust companies and evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by either a foreign or a U.S. corporation. EDRs and GDRs may not necessarily be denominated in the same currency as the underlying securities into which they may be converted. The underlying shares are held in trust by a custodian bank or similar financial institution in the issuer's home country. If the issuer's home country does not have developed financial markets, the Fund could be exposed to the credit risk of the custodian or financial institution and greater market risk. The depository bank may not have physical custody of the underlying securities at all times and may charge fees for various services, including forwarding dividends and interest, and processing corporate actions. The Fund would be expected to pay a share of the additional fees, which it would not pay if investing directly in the foreign securities. The Fund may experience delays in receiving its dividend and interest payments or exercising rights as a shareholder.

Depositary receipts may reduce some but not eliminate all the risks inherent in investing in the securities of foreign issuers. Depositary receipts are still subject to the political and economic risks of the underlying issuer's country and are still

subject to foreign currency exchange risk. Depositary receipts will be issued under sponsored or unsponsored programs. In sponsored programs, an issuer has made arrangements to have its securities traded in the form of depositary receipts. In unsponsored programs, the issuer may not be directly involved in the creation of the program. Although regulatory requirements with respect to sponsored and unsponsored programs are generally similar, in some cases it may be easier to obtain financial information about an issuer that has participated in the creation of a sponsored program. There may be an increased possibility of untimely responses to certain corporate actions of the issuer, such as stock splits and rights offerings, in an unsponsored program. Accordingly, there may be less information available regarding issuers of securities underlying unsponsored programs and there may not be a correlation between this information and the market value of the depositary receipts. If the Fund's investment depends on obligations being met by the arranger as well as the issuer of an unsponsored program, the Fund will be exposed to additional credit risk.

Derivative instruments Generally, derivatives are financial instruments whose value depends on or is derived from, the value of one or more underlying assets, reference rates, or indices or other market factors (a "reference instrument") and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, credit, currencies, commodities or related indices. Derivative instruments can provide an efficient means to gain or reduce exposure to the value of a reference instrument without actually owning or selling the instrument. Some common types of derivatives include options, futures, forwards and swaps.

Derivative instruments may be used for “hedging,” which means that they may be used when the investment manager seeks to protect the Fund's investments from a decline in value resulting from changes to interest rates, market prices, currency fluctuations or other market factors. Derivative instruments may also be used for other purposes, including to seek to increase liquidity, provide efficient portfolio management, broaden investment opportunities(including taking short or negative positions), implement a tax or cash management strategy, gain exposure to a particular security or segment of the market, modify the effective duration of the Fund's portfolio investments and/or enhance total return. However derivative instruments are used, their successful use is not assured and will depend upon, among other factors, the investment manager's ability to gauge relevant market movements.

Derivative instruments may be used for purposes of direct hedging. Direct hedging means that the transaction must be intended to reduce a specific risk exposure of a portfolio security or its denominated currency and must also be directly related to such security or currency. The Fund’s use of derivative instruments may be limited from time to time by policies adopted by the board of trustees or the Fund’s investment manager.

Exclusion of investment manager from commodity pool operator definition. With respect to the Fund, the investment manager has claimed an exclusion from the definition of “commodity pool operator” (CPO) under the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and, therefore, is not subject to CFTC registration or regulation as a CPO. In addition, with respect to the Fund, the investment manager is relying upon a related exclusion from the definition of “commodity trading advisor” (CTA) under the CEA and the rules of the CFTC.

The terms of the CPO exclusion require the Fund, among other things, to adhere to certain limits on its investments in “commodity interests.” Commodity interests include commodity futures, commodity options and swaps, which in turn include non-deliverable currency forward contracts, as further described below. Because the investment manager and the Fund intend to comply with the terms of the CPO exclusion, the Fund may, in the future, need to adjust its investment strategies, consistent with its investment goal, to limit its investments in these types of instruments. The Fund is not intended as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps markets. The CFTC has neither reviewed nor approved the investment manager’s reliance on these exclusions, or the Fund, its investment strategies or this SAI.

Generally, the exclusion from CPO regulation on which the investment manager relies requires the Fund to meet one of the following tests for its commodity interest positions, other than positions entered into for bona fide hedging purposes (as defined in the rules of the CFTC): either (1) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the Fund’s positions in commodity interests may not exceed 5% of the liquidation value of the Fund’s portfolio (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions); or (2) the aggregate net notional value of the Fund’s commodity interest positions, determined at the time the most recent such position was established, may not exceed 100% of the liquidation value of the Fund’s portfolio (after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of these trading limitations, the Fund may not be marketed as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps markets. If, in the future, the Fund can no longer satisfy these requirements, the investment manager would withdraw its notice claiming an exclusion from the definition of a CPO, and the investment manager would be subject to registration and regulation as a CPO with respect to the Fund, in accordance with CFTC rules that apply to CPOs of registered investment companies. Generally, these rules allow for substituted compliance with CFTC disclosure and shareholder reporting requirements, based on the investment manager’s compliance with comparable SEC requirements. However, as

a result of CFTC regulation with respect to the Fund, the Fund may incur additional compliance and other expenses.

Currency forward contracts. A currency forward contract is an obligation to purchase or sell a specific non-U.S. currency in exchange for another currency, which may be U.S. dollars, at an agreed exchange rate (price) at a future date. Currency forwards are typically individually negotiated and privately traded by currency traders and their customers in the interbank market. A cross currency forward is a forward contract to sell a specific non-U.S. currency in exchange for another non-U.S. currency and may be used when the price of one of those non-U.S. currencies is expected to experience a substantial movement against the other non-U.S. currency. A currency forward contract will tend to reduce or eliminate exposure to the currency that is sold, and increase exposure to the currency that is purchased, similar to when the Fund sells a security denominated in one currency and purchases a security denominated in another currency. For example, the Fund may enter into a forward contract when it owns a security that is denominated in a non-U.S. currency and desires to "lock in" the U.S. dollar value of the security. In addition, when the Fund's investment manager believes that a specific foreign currency may experience a substantial movement against another foreign currency, the Fund may enter into a cross currency forward contract to buy or sell, as appropriate, an amount of the foreign currency: (a) approximating the value of some or all of its portfolio securities denominated in such currency (this investment practice generally is referred to as "cross-hedging"); (b) designed to derive a level of additional income or return that the Fund's investment manager seeks to achieve for the Fund; (c) to increase liquidity; or (d) to gain exposure to a currency in a more efficient or less expensive way. The Fund may also engage in "proxy hedging." Proxy hedging entails entering into a forward contract to buy or sell a currency whose changes in value are generally considered to perform similarly to a currency or currencies in which some or all of the Fund's portfolio securities are or are expected to be denominated. Proxy hedging is often used when the currency to which the Fund's portfolio is exposed is difficult to hedge or to hedge against the U.S. dollar and therefore another currency is used as a "proxy" for such currency.

At the maturity of a currency or cross currency forward, the Fund may either exchange the currencies specified at the maturity of a forward contract or, prior to maturity, the Fund may enter into a closing transaction involving the purchase or sale of an offsetting contract. Closing transactions with respect to forward contracts are usually effected with the counterparty to the original forward contract. The Fund may also enter into forward contracts that do not provide for physical settlement of the two currencies but instead provide for settlement by a single cash payment calculated as the difference between the agreed upon exchange rate and the spot rate at settlement based upon an agreed upon notional amount (non-deliverable forwards).

Under definitions adopted by the CFTC and SEC, non-deliverable forwards are considered swaps, and therefore are included in the definition of "commodity interests." Although non-deliverable forwards have historically been traded in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, as swaps they may in the future be required to be centrally cleared and traded on public facilities. For more information on central clearing and trading of cleared swaps, see "Cleared swaps," "Risks of cleared swaps," "Comprehensive swaps regulation" and "Developing government regulation of derivatives." Currency and cross currency forwards that qualify as deliverable forwards are not regulated as swaps for most purposes, and are not included in the definition of "commodity interests." However, these forwards are subject to some requirements applicable to swaps, including reporting to swap data repositories, documentation requirements, and business conduct rules applicable to swap dealers.

CFTC regulation of currency and cross currency forwards, especially non-deliverable forwards, may restrict the Fund's ability to use these instruments in the manner described above or subject the investment manager to CFTC registration and regulation as a CPO.

Risks of currency forward contracts. The successful use of these transactions will usually depend on the investment manager's ability to accurately forecast currency exchange rate movements. Should exchange rates move in an unexpected manner, the Fund may not achieve the anticipated benefits of the transaction, or it may realize losses. In addition, these techniques could result in a loss if the counterparty to the transaction does not perform as promised, including because of the counterparty's bankruptcy or insolvency. While the Fund uses only counterparties that meet its credit quality standards, in unusual or extreme market conditions, a counterparty's creditworthiness and ability to perform may deteriorate rapidly, and the availability of suitable replacement counterparties may become limited. Moreover, investors should bear in mind that the Fund is not obligated to actively engage in hedging or other currency transactions. For example, the Fund may not have attempted to hedge its exposure to a particular foreign currency at a time when doing so might have avoided a loss.

Currency forward contracts may limit potential gain from a positive change in the relationship between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies. Unanticipated changes in currency prices may result in poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not engaged in such contracts. Moreover, there may be an imperfect correlation between the Fund's portfolio holdings of securities denominated in a particular currency and the currencies bought or sold in the forward contracts entered into by the Fund. This imperfect correlation may cause the Fund to sustain losses that will prevent the Fund

from achieving a complete hedge or expose the Fund to risk of foreign exchange loss.

Futures contracts. Generally, a futures contract is a standard binding agreement to buy or sell a specified quantity of an underlying reference instrument, such as a specific security, currency or commodity, at a specified price at a specified later date. A "sale" of a futures contract means the acquisition of a contractual obligation to deliver the underlying reference instrument called for by the contract at a specified price on a specified date. A "purchase" of a futures contract means the acquisition of a contractual obligation to acquire the underlying reference instrument called for by the contract at a specified price on a specified date. The purchase or sale of a futures contract will allow the Fund to increase or decrease its exposure to the underlying reference instrument without having to buy the actual instrument.

The underlying reference instruments to which futures contracts may relate include non-U.S. currencies, interest rates, stock and bond indices and debt securities, including U.S. government debt obligations. In certain types of futures contracts, the underlying reference instrument may be a swap agreement. For more information about swap agreements generally, see "Swaps" below. In most cases the contractual obligation under a futures contract may be offset, or "closed out," before the settlement date so that the parties do not have to make or take delivery. The closing out of a contractual obligation is usually accomplished by buying or selling, as the case may be, an identical, offsetting futures contract. This transaction, which is effected through a member of an exchange, cancels the obligation to make or take delivery of the underlying instrument or asset. Although some futures contracts by their terms require the actual delivery or acquisition of the underlying instrument or asset, some require cash settlement.

Futures contracts may be bought and sold on U.S. and non-U.S. exchanges. Futures contracts in the U.S. have been designed by exchanges that have been designated "contract markets" by the CFTC and must be executed through a futures commission merchant (FCM), which is a brokerage firm that is a member of the relevant contract market. Each exchange guarantees performance of the contracts as between the clearing members of the exchange, thereby reducing the risk of counterparty default. Futures contracts may also be entered into on certain exempt markets, including exempt boards of trade and electronic trading facilities, available to certain market participants. Because all transactions in the futures market are made, offset or fulfilled by an FCM through a clearinghouse associated with the exchange on which the contracts are traded, the Fund will incur brokerage fees when it buys or sells futures contracts.

The Fund generally buys and sells futures contracts only on contract markets (including exchanges or boards of trade) where there appears to be an active market for the futures contracts, but there is no assurance that an active market will exist for any particular contract or at any particular time. An active market makes it more likely that futures contracts will be liquid and bought and sold at competitive market prices. In addition, many of the futures contracts available may be relatively new instruments without a significant trading history. As a result, there can be no assurance that an active market will develop or continue to exist.

When the Fund enters into a futures contract, it must deliver to an account controlled by the FCM (that has been selected by the Fund), an amount referred to as "initial margin" that is typically calculated as an amount equal to the volatility in market value of a contract over a fixed period. Initial margin requirements are determined by the respective exchanges on which the futures contracts are traded and the FCM. Thereafter, a "variation margin" amount may be required to be paid by the Fund or received by the Fund in accordance with margin controls set for such accounts, depending upon changes in the marked-to-market value of the futures contract. The account is marked-to-market daily and the variation margin is monitored by the Fund's investment manager and custodian on a daily basis. When the futures contract is closed out, if the Fund has a loss equal to or greater than the margin amount, the margin amount is paid to the FCM along with any loss in excess of the margin amount. If the Fund has a loss of less than the margin amount, the excess margin is returned to the Fund. If the Fund has a gain, the full margin amount and the amount of the gain is paid to the Fund.

Some futures contracts provide for the delivery of securities that are different than those that are specified in the contract. For a futures contract for delivery of debt securities, on the settlement date of the contract, adjustments to the contract can be made to recognize differences in value arising from the delivery of debt securities with a different interest rate from that of the particular debt securities that were specified in the contract. In some cases, securities called for by a futures contract may not have been issued when the contract was written.

Risks of futures contracts. The Fund's use of futures contracts is subject to the risks associated with derivative instruments generally. In addition, a purchase or sale of a futures contract may result in losses to the Fund in excess of the amount that the Fund delivered as initial margin. Because of the relatively low margin deposits required, futures trading involves a high degree of leverage; as a result, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss, or gain, to the Fund. In addition, if the Fund has insufficient cash to meet daily variation margin requirements or close out a futures position, it may have to sell securities from its portfolio at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. Adverse market movements could cause the Fund to experience substantial losses on an investment in a futures contract.

There is a risk of loss by the Fund of the initial and variation margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of the FCM with which the Fund has an open position in a futures contract. The assets of the Fund may not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of the FCM or central counterparty because the Fund might be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds and margin segregated on behalf of an FCM's customers. If the FCM does not provide accurate reporting, the Fund is also subject to the risk that the FCM could use the Fund's assets, which are held in an omnibus account with assets belonging to the FCM's other customers, to satisfy its own financial obligations or the payment obligations of another customer to the central counterparty.

The Fund may not be able to properly hedge or effect its strategy when a liquid market is unavailable for the futures contract the Fund wishes to close, which may at times occur. In addition, when futures contracts are used for hedging, there may be an imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of the underlying reference instrument on which the futures contract is based and movements in the prices of the assets sought to be hedged.

If the investment manager's investment judgment about the general direction of market prices or interest or currency exchange rates is incorrect, the Fund's overall performance will be poorer than if it had not entered into a futures contract. For example, if the Fund has purchased futures to hedge against the possibility of an increase in interest rates that would adversely affect the price of bonds held in its portfolio and interest rates instead decrease, the Fund will lose part or all of the benefit of the increased value of the bonds which it has hedged. This is because its losses in its futures positions will offset some or all of its gains from the increased value of the bonds.

The difference (called the "spread") between prices in the cash market for the purchase and sale of the underlying reference instrument and the prices in the futures market is subject to fluctuations and distortions due to differences in the nature of those two markets. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to initial deposit and variation margin requirements. Rather than meeting additional variation margin requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions that could distort the normal pricing spread between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures markets depends on participants entering into offsetting transactions rather than making or taking delivery of the underlying instrument. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, resulting in pricing distortion. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the margin deposit requirements that apply in the futures market are less onerous than similar margin requirements in the securities market. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions. When such distortions occur, a correct forecast of general trends in the price of an underlying reference instrument by the investment manager may still not necessarily result in a profitable transaction.

Futures contracts that are traded on non-U.S. exchanges may not be as liquid as those purchased on CFTC-designated contract markets. In addition, non-U.S. futures contracts may be subject to varied regulatory oversight. The price of any non-U.S. futures contract and, therefore, the potential profit and loss thereon, may be affected by any change in the non-U.S. exchange rate between the time a particular order is placed and the time it is liquidated, offset or exercised.

The CFTC and the various exchanges have established limits referred to as "speculative position limits" on the maximum net long or net short position that any person, such as the Fund, may hold or control in a particular futures contract. Trading limits are also imposed on the maximum number of contracts that any person may trade on a particular trading day. An exchange may order the liquidation of positions found to be in violation of these limits and it may impose other sanctions or restrictions. The regulation of futures, as well as other derivatives, is a rapidly changing area of law.

Futures exchanges may also limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in certain futures contract prices during a single trading day. This daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price. Once the daily limit has been reached in a futures contract subject to the limit, no more trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movements during a particular trading day and does not limit potential losses because the limit may prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. For example, futures prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of positions and subjecting some holders of futures contracts to substantial losses.

Options on futures contracts. Options on futures contracts trade on the same contract markets as the underlying futures contract. When the Fund buys an option, it pays a premium for the right, but does not have the obligation, to purchase (call) or sell (put) a futures contract at a set price (called the exercise price). The purchase of a call or put option on a futures contract, whereby the Fund has the right to purchase or sell, respectively, a particular futures contract, is similar in some respects to the purchase of a call or put option on an individual security or currency. Depending on the premium paid for the option compared to either the price of the futures contract upon which it is based or the price of the underlying reference instrument, the option may be less risky than direct ownership of the futures contract or the underlying reference instrument. For example, the Fund could purchase a call option on a long futures contract when seeking to hedge against an increase in the market value of the underlying

reference instrument, such as appreciation in the value of a non-U.S. currency against the U.S. dollar.

The seller (writer) of an option becomes contractually obligated to take the opposite futures position if the buyer of the option exercises its rights to the futures position specified in the option. In return for the premium paid by the buyer, the seller assumes the risk of taking a possibly adverse futures position. In addition, the seller will be required to post and maintain initial and variation margin with the FCM. One goal of selling (writing) options on futures may be to receive the premium paid by the option buyer.

For more general information about the mechanics of purchasing and writing options, see "Options" below.

Risks of options on futures contracts. The Fund's use of options on futures contracts is subject to the risks related to derivative instruments generally. In addition, the amount of risk the Fund assumes when it purchases an option on a futures contract is the premium paid for the option plus related transaction costs. The purchase of an option also entails the risk that changes in the value of the underlying futures contract will not be fully reflected in the value of the option purchased. The seller (writer) of an option on a futures contract is subject to the risk of having to take a possibly adverse futures position if the purchaser of the option exercises its rights. If the seller were required to take such a position, it could bear substantial losses. An option writer has potentially unlimited economic risk because its potential loss, except to the extent offset by the premium received, is equal to the amount the option is "in-the-money" at the expiration date. A call option is in-the-money if the value of the underlying futures contract exceeds the exercise price of the option. A put option is in-the-money if the exercise price of the option exceeds the value of the underlying futures contract.

Options. An option is a contract that gives the purchaser of the option, in return for the premium paid, the right to buy an underlying reference instrument, such as a specified security, currency, index, or other instrument, from the writer of the option (in the case of a call option), or to sell a specified reference instrument to the writer of the option (in the case of a put option) at a designated price during the term of the option. The premium paid by the buyer of an option will reflect, among other things, the relationship of the exercise price to the market price and the volatility of the underlying reference instrument, the remaining term of the option, supply, demand, interest rates and/or currency exchange rates. An American style put or call option may be exercised at any time during the option period while a European style put or call option may be exercised only upon expiration or during a fixed period prior thereto. Put and call options are traded on national securities exchanges and in the OTC market.

Options traded on national securities exchanges are within the jurisdiction of the SEC or other appropriate national securities regulator, as are securities traded on such exchanges. As a result, many of the protections provided to traders on organized exchanges will be available with respect to such transactions. In particular, all option positions entered into on a national securities exchange in the United States are cleared and guaranteed by the Options Clearing Corporation, thereby reducing the risk of counterparty default. Furthermore, a liquid secondary market in options traded on a national securities exchange may be more readily available than in the OTC market, potentially permitting the Fund to liquidate open positions at a profit prior to exercise or expiration, or to limit losses in the event of adverse market movements. There is no assurance, however, that higher than anticipated trading activity or other unforeseen events might not temporarily render the capabilities of the Options Clearing Corporation inadequate, and thereby result in the exchange instituting special procedures which may interfere with the timely execution of the Fund's orders to close out open options positions.

Purchasing call and put options. As the buyer of a call option, the Fund has a right to buy the underlying reference instrument (e.g., a currency or security) at the exercise price at any time during the option period (for American style options). The Fund may enter into closing sale transactions with respect to call options, exercise them, or permit them to expire. For example, the Fund may buy call options on underlying reference instruments that it intends to buy with the goal of limiting the risk of a substantial increase in their market price before the purchase is effected. Unless the price of the underlying reference instrument changes sufficiently, a call option purchased by the Fund may expire without any value to the Fund, in which case the Fund would experience a loss to the extent of the premium paid for the option plus related transaction costs.

As the buyer of a put option, the Fund has the right to sell the underlying reference instrument at the exercise price at any time during the option period (for American style options). Like a call option, the Fund may enter into closing sale transactions with respect to put options, exercise them or permit them to expire. The Fund may buy a put option on an underlying reference instrument owned by the Fund (a protective put) as a hedging technique in an attempt to protect against an anticipated decline in the market value of the underlying reference instrument. Such hedge protection is provided only during the life of the put option when the Fund, as the buyer of the put option, is able to sell the underlying reference instrument at the put exercise price, regardless of any decline in the underlying instrument's market price. The Fund may also seek to offset a decline in the value of the underlying reference instrument through appreciation in the value of the put option. A put option may also be purchased with the intent of protecting unrealized appreciation of an

instrument when the investment manager deems it desirable to continue to hold the instrument because of tax or other considerations. The premium paid for the put option and any transaction costs would reduce any short-term capital gain that may be available for distribution when the instrument is eventually sold. Buying put options at a time when the buyer does not own the underlying reference instrument allows the buyer to benefit from a decline in the market price of the underlying reference instrument, which generally increases the value of the put option.

If a put option was not terminated in a closing sale transaction when it has remaining value, and if the market price of the underlying reference instrument remains equal to or greater than the exercise price during the life of the put option, the buyer would not make any gain upon exercise of the option and would experience a loss to the extent of the premium paid for the option plus related transaction costs. In order for the purchase of a put option to be profitable, the market price of the underlying reference instrument must decline sufficiently below the exercise price to cover the premium and transaction costs.

Writing call and put options. Writing options may permit the writer to generate additional income in the form of the premium received for writing the option. The writer of an option may have no control over when the underlying reference instruments must be sold (in the case of a call option) or purchased (in the case of a put option) because the writer may be notified of exercise at any time prior to the expiration of the option (for American style options). In general, though, options are infrequently exercised prior to expiration. Whether or not an option expires unexercised, the writer retains the amount of the premium. Writing "covered" call options means that the writer owns the underlying reference instrument that is subject to the call option. Call options may also be written on reference instruments that the writer does not own.

As the writer of a covered call option, the Fund gives up the potential for capital appreciation above the exercise price of the option should the underlying reference instrument rise in value. If the value of the underlying reference instrument rises above the exercise price of the call option, the reference instrument will likely be "called away," requiring the Fund to sell the underlying instrument at the exercise price. In that case, the Fund will sell the underlying reference instrument to the option buyer for less than its market value, and the Fund will experience a loss (which will be offset by the premium received by the Fund as the writer of such option). If a call option expires unexercised, the Fund will realize a gain in the amount of the premium received. If the market price of the underlying reference instrument decreases, the call option will not be exercised and the Fund will be able to use the amount of the premium received to hedge against the loss in value of the underlying reference instrument. The exercise price of a call option will be chosen based upon the expected price movement of the underlying reference instrument. The exercise price of a call option may be below, equal to (at-the-money), or above the current value of the underlying reference instrument at the time the option is written.

As the writer of a put option, the Fund has a risk of loss should the underlying reference instrument decline in value. If the value of the underlying reference instrument declines below the exercise price of the put option and the put option is exercised, the Fund, as the writer of the put option, will be required to buy the instrument at the exercise price, which will exceed the market value of the underlying reference instrument at that time. The Fund will incur a loss to the extent that the current market value of the underlying reference instrument is less than the exercise price of the put option. However, the loss will be offset in part by the premium received from the buyer of the put. If a put option written by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund will realize a gain in the amount of the premium received.

Closing out options (exchange-traded options). If the writer of an option wants to terminate its obligation, the writer may effect a "closing purchase transaction" by buying an option of the same series as the option previously written. The effect of the purchase is that the clearing corporation will cancel the option writer's position. However, a writer may not effect a closing purchase transaction after being notified of the exercise of an option. Likewise, the buyer of an option may recover all or a portion of the premium that it paid by effecting a "closing sale transaction" by selling an option of the same series as the option previously purchased and receiving a premium on the sale. There is no guarantee that either a closing purchase or a closing sale transaction may be made at a time desired by the Fund. Closing transactions allow the Fund to terminate its positions in written and purchased options. The Fund will realize a profit from a closing transaction if the price of the transaction is less than the premium received from writing the original option (in the case of written options) or is more than the premium paid by the Fund to buy the option (in the case of purchased options). For example, increases in the market price of a call option sold by the Fund will generally reflect increases in the market price of the underlying reference instrument. As a result, any loss resulting from a closing transaction on a written call option is likely to be offset in whole or in part by appreciation of the underlying instrument owned by the Fund.

Over-the-counter (OTC) options. Like exchange-traded options, OTC options give the holder the right to buy from the writer, in the case of OTC call options, or sell to the writer, in the case of OTC put options, an underlying reference instrument at a stated exercise price. OTC options, however, differ from exchange-traded options in certain material respects.

OTC options are arranged directly with dealers and not with a clearing corporation or exchange. Consequently, there is a

risk of non-performance by the dealer, including because of the dealer's bankruptcy or insolvency. While the Fund uses only counterparties, such as dealers, that meet its credit quality standards, in unusual or extreme market conditions, a counterparty's creditworthiness and ability to perform may deteriorate rapidly, and the availability of suitable replacement counterparties may become limited. Because there is no exchange, pricing is typically done based on information from market makers or other dealers. OTC options are available for a greater variety of underlying reference instruments and in a wider range of expiration dates and exercise prices than exchange-traded options.

There can be no assurance that a continuous liquid secondary market will exist for any particular OTC option at any specific time. The Fund may be able to realize the value of an OTC option it has purchased only by exercising it or entering into a closing sale transaction with the dealer that issued it. When the Fund writes an OTC option, it generally can close out that option prior to its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer with which the Fund originally wrote the option. The Fund may suffer a loss if it is not able to exercise (in the case of a purchased option) or enter into a closing sale transaction on a timely basis.

Risks of options. The Fund's options investments involve certain risks, including general risks related to derivative instruments. There can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and the Fund may have difficulty effecting closing transactions in particular options. Therefore, the Fund would have to exercise the options it purchased in order to realize any profit, thus taking or making delivery of the underlying reference instrument when not desired. The Fund could then incur transaction costs upon the sale of the underlying reference instruments. Similarly, when the Fund cannot effect a closing transaction with respect to a put option it wrote, and the buyer exercises, the Fund would be required to take delivery and would incur transaction costs upon the sale of the underlying reference instruments purchased. If the Fund, as a covered call option writer, is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying reference instrument until the option expires, or it delivers the underlying instrument upon exercise. When trading options on non-U.S. exchanges or in the OTC market, many of the protections afforded to exchange participants will not be available. For example, there may be no daily price fluctuation limits, and adverse market movements could therefore continue to an unlimited extent over an indefinite period of time.

The effectiveness of an options strategy for hedging depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying reference instruments correlate with price movements in the relevant portion of the Fund's portfolio that is being hedged. In addition, the Fund bears the risk that the prices of its portfolio investments will not move in the same amount as the option it has purchased or sold for hedging purposes, or that there may be a negative correlation that would result in a loss on both the investments and the option. If the investment manager is not successful in using options in managing the Fund's investments, the Fund's performance will be worse than if the investment manager did not employ such strategies.

Swaps. Generally, swap agreements are contracts between the Fund and another party (the swap counterparty) involving the exchange of payments on specified terms over periods ranging from a few days to multiple years. A swap agreement may be negotiated bilaterally and traded OTC between the two parties (for an uncleared swap) or, in some instances, must be transacted through an FCM and cleared through a clearinghouse that serves as a central counterparty (for a cleared swap). In a basic swap transaction, the Fund agrees with the swap counterparty to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) and/or cash flows earned or realized on a particular "notional amount" or value of predetermined underlying reference instruments. The notional amount is the set dollar or other value selected by the parties to use as the basis on which to calculate the obligations that the parties to a swap agreement have agreed to exchange. The parties typically do not actually exchange the notional amount. Instead they agree to exchange the returns that would be earned or realized if the notional amount were invested in given investments or at given interest rates. Examples of returns that may be exchanged in a swap agreement are those of a particular security, a particular fixed or variable interest rate, a particular non-U.S. currency, or a "basket" of securities representing a particular index. Swaps can also be based on credit and other events.

The Fund will generally enter into swap agreements on a net basis, which means that the two payment streams that are to be made by the Fund and its counterparty with respect to a particular swap agreement are netted out, with the Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net difference in the two payments. The Fund's obligations (or rights) under a swap agreement that is entered into on a net basis will generally be the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement based on the relative values of the obligations of each party upon termination of the agreement or at set valuation dates. The Fund will accrue its obligations under a swap agreement daily (offset by any amounts the counterparty owes the Fund). If the swap agreement does not provide for that type of netting, the full amount of the Fund's obligations will be accrued on a daily basis.

Comprehensive swaps regulation. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (the Dodd-Frank Act) and related regulatory developments have imposed comprehensive regulatory requirements on swaps and swap market participants. The regulatory framework includes: (1) registration and regulation of swap dealers and

major swap participants; (2) requiring central clearing and execution of standardized swaps; (3) imposing margin requirements on swap transactions; (4) regulating and monitoring swap transactions through position limits and large trader reporting requirements; and (5) imposing record keeping and centralized and public reporting requirements, on an anonymous basis, for most swaps. The CFTC is responsible for the regulation of most swaps. The SEC has jurisdiction over a small segment of the market referred to as "security-based swaps," which includes swaps on single securities or credits, or narrow-based indices of securities or credits.

Uncleared swaps. In an uncleared swap, the swap counterparty is typically a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution. The Fund customarily enters into uncleared swaps based on the standard terms and conditions of an International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement. ISDA is a voluntary industry association of participants in the over-the-counter derivatives markets that has developed standardized contracts used by such participants that have agreed to be bound by such standardized contracts.

In the event that one party to a swap transaction defaults and the transaction is terminated prior to its scheduled termination date, one of the parties may be required to make an early termination payment to the other. An early termination payment may be payable by either the defaulting or non-defaulting party, depending upon which of them is "in-the-money" with respect to the swap at the time of its termination. Early termination payments may be calculated in various ways, but are intended to approximate the amount the "in-the-money" party would have to pay to replace the swap as of the date of its termination.

During the term of an uncleared swap, the Fund will be required to pledge to the swap counterparty, from time to time, an amount of cash and/or other assets equal to the total net amount (if any) that would be payable by the Fund to the counterparty if all outstanding swaps between the parties were terminated on the date in question, including any early termination payments (variation margin). Periodically, changes in the amount pledged are made to recognize changes in value of the contract resulting from, among other things, interest on the notional value of the contract, market value changes in the underlying investment, and/or dividends paid by the issuer of the underlying instrument. Likewise, the counterparty will be required to pledge cash or other assets to cover its obligations to the Fund. However, the amount pledged may not always be equal to or more than the amount due to the other party. Therefore, if a counterparty defaults in its obligations to the Fund, the amount pledged by the counterparty and available to the Fund may not be sufficient to cover all the amounts due to the Fund and the Fund may sustain a loss.

Currently, the Fund does not typically provide initial margin in connection with uncleared swaps. However, regulations have been adopted which require the posting of initial margin where material swaps exposure exists. If the Fund is deemed to have material swaps exposure under such regulations, it will be required to post initial margin in addition to variation margin.

Cleared swaps. Certain standardized swaps are subject to mandatory central clearing and exchange-trading. The Dodd-Frank Act and implementing rules will ultimately require the clearing and exchange-trading of many swaps. Mandatory exchange-trading and clearing will occur on a phased-in basis based on the type of market participant, CFTC approval of contracts for central clearing and public trading facilities making such cleared swaps available to trade. To date, the CFTC has designated only certain of the most common types of credit default index swaps and interest rate swaps as subject to mandatory clearing and certain public trading facilities have made certain of those cleared swaps available to trade, but it is expected that additional categories of swaps will in the future be designated as subject to mandatory clearing and trade execution requirements. Central clearing is intended to reduce counterparty credit risk and increase liquidity, but central clearing does not eliminate these risks and may involve additional costs and risks not involved with uncleared swaps. For more information, see "Risks of cleared swaps" below.

In a cleared swap, the Fund's ultimate counterparty is a central clearinghouse rather than a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution. Cleared swaps are submitted for clearing through each party's FCM, which must be a member of the clearinghouse that serves as the central counterparty. Transactions executed on a swap execution facility (SEF) may increase market transparency and liquidity but may require the Fund to incur increased expenses to access the same types of swaps that it has used in the past. When the Fund enters into a cleared swap, it must deliver to the central counterparty (via the FCM) an amount referred to as "initial margin." Initial margin requirements are determined by the central counterparty, and are typically calculated as an amount equal to the volatility in market value of the cleared swap over a fixed period, but an FCM may require additional initial margin above the amount required by the central counterparty. During the term of the swap agreement, a "variation margin" amount may also be required to be paid by the Fund or may be received by the Fund in accordance with margin controls set for such accounts. If the value of the Fund's cleared swap declines, the Fund will be required to make additional "variation margin" payments to the FCM to settle the change in value. Conversely, if the market value of the Fund's position increases, the FCM will post additional "variation margin" to the Fund's account. At the conclusion of the term of the swap agreement, if the Fund has a loss equal to or greater than the margin amount, the margin amount is

paid to the FCM along with any loss in excess of the margin amount. If the Fund has a loss of less than the margin amount, the excess margin is returned to the Fund. If the Fund has a gain, the full margin amount and the amount of the gain is paid to the Fund.

Credit default swaps. The "buyer" of protection in a credit default swap agreement is obligated to pay the "seller" a periodic stream of payments over the term of the agreement in return for a payment by the "seller" that is contingent upon the occurrence of a credit event with respect to a specific underlying reference debt obligation (whether as a single debt instrument or as part of an index of debt instruments). The contingent payment by the seller generally is either the par amount of the reference debt obligation in exchange for the physical delivery of the reference debt obligation or a cash payment equal to the decrease in market value of the reference debt obligation following the occurrence of the credit event. If no credit event occurs, the seller would receive a fixed rate of income throughout the term of the contract, while the buyer would lose the amount of its payments and recover nothing. The buyer is also subject to the risk that the seller will not satisfy its contingent payment obligation, if and when due.

Purchasing protection through a credit default swap may be used to attempt to hedge against a decline in the value of debt security or securities due to a credit event. The seller of protection under a credit default swap receives periodic payments from the buyer but is exposed to the risk that the value of the reference debt obligation declines due to a credit event and that it will have to pay the face amount of the reference obligation to the buyer. Selling protection under a credit default swap may also permit the seller to gain exposure that is similar to owning the reference debt obligation directly. As the seller of protection, the Fund would effectively add leverage to its portfolio because, in addition to its total assets, the Fund would be subject to the risk that there would be a credit event and the Fund would have to make a substantial payment in the future.

Generally, a credit event means bankruptcy, failure to timely pay interest or principal, obligation acceleration or default, or repudiation or restructuring of the reference debt obligation. There may be disputes between the buyer or seller of a credit default swap agreement or within the swaps market as a whole as to whether or not a credit event has occurred or what the payout should be which could result in litigation. In some instances where there is a dispute in the credit default swap market, a regional Determinations Committee set up by ISDA may make an official binding determination regarding the existence of credit events with respect to the reference debt obligation of a credit default swap agreement or, in the case of a credit default swap on an index, with respect to a component of the index underlying the credit default swap agreement. In the case of a credit default swap on an index, the existence of a credit event is determined according to the index methodology, which may in turn refer to determinations made by ISDA's Determinations Committees with respect to particular components of the index.

ISDA's Determination Committees are comprised principally of dealers in the OTC derivatives markets which may have a conflicting interest in the determination regarding the existence of a particular credit event. In addition, in the sovereign debt market, a credit default swap agreement may not provide the protection generally anticipated because the government issuer of the sovereign debt instruments may be able to restructure or renegotiate the debt in such a manner as to avoid triggering a credit event. Moreover, (1) sovereign debt obligations may not incorporate common, commercially acceptable provisions, such as collective action clauses, or (2) the negotiated restructuring of the sovereign debt may be deemed non-mandatory on all holders. As a result, the determination committee might then not be able to determine, or may be able to avoid having to determine, that a credit event under the credit default agreement has occurred.

For these and other reasons, the buyer of protection in a credit default swap agreement is subject to the risk that certain occurrences, such as particular restructuring events affecting the value of the underlying reference debt obligation, or the restructuring of sovereign debt, may not be deemed credit events under the credit default swap agreement. Therefore, if the credit default swap was purchased as a hedge or to take advantage of an anticipated increase in the value of credit protection for the underlying reference obligation, it may not provide any hedging benefit or otherwise increase in value as anticipated. Similarly, the seller of protection in a credit default swap agreement is subject to the risk that certain occurrences may be deemed to be credit events under the credit default swap agreement, even if these occurrences do not adversely impact the value or creditworthiness of the underlying reference debt obligation.

Currency swaps. A currency swap is generally a contract between two parties to exchange one currency for another currency at the start of the contract and then exchange periodic floating or fixed rates during the term of the contract based upon the relative value differential between the two currencies. Unlike other types of swaps, currency swaps typically involve the delivery of the entire principal (notional) amounts of the two currencies at the time the swap is entered into. At the end of the swap contract, the parties receive back the principal amounts of the two currencies. In such a situation, the full notional value of a currency swap is subject to the risk that the other party to the swap will default on its contractual delivery obligations. The Fund may also enter into currency swaps on a net basis, which means the two different currency payment streams under the swap agreement are converted and netted out to a single cash payment in just one of the currencies.

For example, a currency swap may be used to hedge the interest payments and principal amount of a debt obligation that is denominated in a non-U.S. currency by entering into a cross currency swap whereby one party would make payments in the non-U.S. currency and receive payments in U.S. dollars. Or, a currency swap may be used to gain exposure to non-U.S. currencies and non-U.S. interest rates by making payments in U.S. dollars and receiving payments in non-U.S. currencies.

Because currency control is of great importance to the issuing governments and influences economic planning and policy, purchases and sales of currency and related instruments can be negatively affected by government exchange controls, blockages, and manipulations or exchange restrictions imposed by governments. These actions could result in losses to the Fund if it is unable to deliver or receive a specified currency or funds in settlement of obligations, including any derivative transaction obligations. These actions could also have an adverse effect on the Fund's currency transactions or cause the Fund's hedging positions to be rendered useless.

Interest rate swaps. An interest rate swap is an agreement between two parties to exchange interest rate payment obligations. Typically, one party's obligation is based on an interest rate fixed to maturity while the other party's obligation is based on an interest rate that changes in accordance with changes in a designated benchmark (for example, SOFR, prime rate, commercial paper rate, or other benchmarks). Alternatively, both payment obligations may be based on an interest rate that changes in accordance with changes in a designated benchmark (also known as a "basis swap"). In a basis swap, the rates may be based on different benchmarks (for example, SOFR versus commercial paper) or on different terms of the same benchmark (for example, one-month SOFR versus three-month SOFR). Each party's payment obligation under an interest rate swap is determined by reference to a specified "notional" amount of money. Therefore, interest rate swaps generally do not involve the delivery of securities, other underlying instruments, or principal amounts; rather they entail the exchange of cash payments based on the application of the designated interest rates to the notional amount. Accordingly, barring swap counterparty or FCM default, the risk of loss in an interest rate swap is limited to the net amount of interest payments that the Fund is obligated to make or receive (as applicable), as well as any early termination payment payable by or to the Fund upon early termination of the swap.

By swapping fixed interest rate payments for floating payments, an interest rate swap can be used to increase or decrease the Fund's exposure to various interest rates, including to hedge interest rate risk. Interest rate swaps are generally used to permit the party seeking a floating rate obligation the opportunity to acquire such obligation at a rate lower than is directly available in the credit markets, while permitting the party desiring a fixed-rate obligation the opportunity to acquire such a fixed-rate obligation, also frequently at a rate lower than is directly available in the credit markets. The success of such a transaction depends in large part on the availability of fixed-rate obligations at interest (or coupon) rates low enough to cover the costs involved. Similarly, a basis swap can be used to increase or decrease the Fund's exposure to various interest rates, including to hedge against or speculate on the spread between the two indexes, or to manage duration. An interest rate swap transaction is affected by changes in interest rates, which, in turn, may affect the prepayment rate of any underlying debt obligations upon which the interest rate swap is based.

Inflation index swaps. An inflation index swap is a contract between two parties, whereby one party makes payments based on the cumulative percentage increase in an index that serves as a measure of inflation (typically, the Consumer Price Index) and the other party makes a regular payment based on a compounded fixed rate. Each party's payment obligation under the swap is determined by reference to a specified "notional" amount of money. Typically, an inflation index swap has payment obligations netted and exchanged upon maturity. The value of an inflation index swap is expected to change in response to changes in the rate of inflation. If inflation increases at a faster rate than anticipated at the time the swap is entered into, the swap will increase in value. Similarly, if inflation increases at a rate slower than anticipated at the time the swap is entered into, the swap will decrease in value.

Equity total return swaps. An equity total return swap (also sometimes referred to as a synthetic equity swap or "contract for difference" when written with respect to an equity security or basket of equity securities) is an agreement between two parties under which the parties agree to make payments to each other so as to replicate the economic consequences that would apply had a purchase or short sale of the underlying reference instrument or index thereof taken place. For example, one party agrees to pay the other party the total return earned or realized on the notional amount of an underlying equity security and any dividends declared with respect to that equity security. In return the other party makes payments, typically at a floating rate, calculated based on the notional amount.

Fixed income total return swaps. A fixed income total return swap is an agreement between two parties, pursuant to which one pays (and the other receives) an amount equal to the total return (including, typically, income and capital gains distributions, principal prepayment or credit losses) of an underlying reference asset or assets (e.g., a note, bond or index) in exchange for a regular payment, at a floating rate based on a designated reference rate, or alternatively at a fixed rate or the total rate of return on another financial instrument. The Fund may take either position in a total return swap (i.e., the Fund may receive or pay the total return on the

underlying reference asset(s)). A fixed income total return swap may be written on many different kinds of underlying reference assets, and may include different indices for various kinds of debt securities (e.g., U.S. investment grade bonds, high yield bonds or emerging market bonds).

Options on swap agreements. An option on a swap agreement generally is an OTC option (see the discussion above on OTC options) that gives the buyer of the option the right, but not the obligation, in return for payment of a premium to the seller, to enter into a previously negotiated swap agreement, or to extend, terminate or otherwise modify the terms of an existing swap agreement. The writer (seller) of an option on a swap agreement receives premium payments from the buyer and, in exchange, becomes obligated to enter into or modify an underlying swap agreement upon the exercise of the option by the buyer. When the Fund purchases an option on a swap agreement, it risks losing only the amount of the premium it has paid should it decide to let the option expire unexercised, plus any related transaction costs.

There can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option on a swap agreement, or at any particular time, and the Fund may have difficulty affecting closing transactions in particular options on swap agreements. Therefore, the Fund may have to exercise the options that it purchases in order to realize any profit and take delivery of the underlying swap agreement. The Fund could then incur transaction costs upon the sale or closing out of the underlying swap agreement. In the event that the option on a swap is exercised, the counterparty for such option would be the same counterparty with whom the Fund entered into the underlying swap.

However, if the Fund writes (sells) an option on a swap agreement, the Fund is bound by the terms of the underlying swap agreement upon exercise of the option by the buyer, which may result in losses to the Fund in excess of the premium it received. Options on swap agreements involve the risks associated with derivative instruments generally, as described above, as well as the additional risks associated with both options and swaps generally.

Options on swap agreements are considered to be swaps for purposes of CFTC regulation. Although they are traded OTC, the CFTC may in the future designate certain options on swaps as subject to mandatory clearing. For more information, see “Cleared swaps” and “Risks of cleared swaps.”

An option on an interest rate swap (also sometimes referred to as a “swaption”) is a contract that gives the purchaser the right, but not the obligation, in return for payment of a premium, to enter into a new interest rate swap. A pay fixed option on an interest rate swap gives the buyer the right to establish a position in an interest rate swap where the buyer will pay (and the writer will receive) the fixed-rate cash flows and receive (and the writer will pay) the floating-rate cash flows. In general, most options on interest rate swaps are “European” exercise, which means that they can only be exercised at the end of the option term. Depending on the movement of interest rates between the time of purchase and expiration, the value of the underlying interest rate swap and therefore also the value of the option on the interest rate swap will change.

An option on a credit default swap is a contract that gives the buyer the right (but not the obligation), in return for payment of a premium to the option seller, to enter into a new credit default swap on a reference entity at a predetermined spread on a future date. This spread is the price at which the contract is executed (the option strike price). Similar to a put option, in a payer option on a credit default swap, the option buyer pays a premium to the option seller for the right, but not the obligation, to buy credit protection on a reference entity (e.g., a particular portfolio security) at a predetermined spread on a future date. Similar to a call option, in a receiver option on a credit default swap the option buyer pays a premium for the right, but not the obligation to sell credit default swap protection on a reference entity or index. Depending on the movement of market spreads with respect to the particular referenced debt securities between the time of purchase and expiration of the option, the value of the underlying credit default swap and therefore the value of the option will change. Options on credit default swaps currently are traded OTC and the specific terms of each option on a credit default swap are negotiated directly with the counterparty.

An option on a total return swap is a contract that gives the buyer the right (but not the obligation), in return for payment of a premium to the option seller, to enter into a new total return swap on a reference asset at a predetermined spread on a future date. This spread is the price at which the contract is executed (the option strike price). Similar to a payer option on a credit default swap, in a payer option on a total return swap, the option buyer pays a premium to the option seller for the right, but not the obligation, to sell the return on a reference asset or index at a predetermined spread on a future date in return for a regular payment. Similar to a receiver option on a credit default swap, in a receiver option on a total return swap the option buyer pays a premium for the right, but not the obligation to receive the total return of the reference asset or index in return for a regular payment. Depending on the movement of market spreads with respect to the particular referenced asset or index between the time of purchase and expiration of the option, the value of the underlying total return swap and therefore the value of the option will change. Options on total return swaps currently are traded OTC and the specific terms of each option on a total return swap are negotiated directly with the counterparty.

Risks of swaps generally. The use of swap transactions is a highly specialized activity, which involves investment

techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. Whether the Fund will be successful in using swap agreements to achieve its investment goal depends on the ability of the investment manager correctly to predict which types of investments are likely to produce greater returns. If the investment manager, in using swap agreements, is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates, inflation, currency exchange rates or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund will be less than its performance would have been if it had not used the swap agreements.

The risk of loss to the Fund for swap transactions that are entered into on a net basis depends on which party is obligated to pay the net amount to the other party. If the counterparty is obligated to pay the net amount to the Fund, the risk of loss to the Fund is loss of the entire amount that the Fund is entitled to receive. If the Fund is obligated to pay the net amount, the Fund's risk of loss is generally limited to that net amount. If the swap agreement involves the exchange of the entire principal value of a security, the entire principal value of that security is subject to the risk that the other party to the swap will default on its contractual delivery obligations. In addition, the Fund's risk of loss also includes any margin at risk in the event of default by the counterparty (in an uncleared swap) or the central counterparty or FCM (in a cleared swap), plus any transaction costs.

Because bilateral swap agreements are structured as two-party contracts and may have terms of greater than seven days, these swaps may be considered to be illiquid and, therefore, subject to the Fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities. If a swap transaction is particularly large or if the relevant market is illiquid, the Fund may not be able to establish or liquidate a position at an advantageous time or price, which may result in significant losses. Participants in the swap markets are not required to make continuous markets in the swap contracts they trade. Participants could refuse to quote prices for swap contracts or quote prices with an unusually wide spread between the price at which they are prepared to buy and the price at which they are prepared to sell. Some swap agreements entail complex terms and may require a greater degree of subjectivity in their valuation. However, the swap markets have grown substantially in recent years, with a large number of financial institutions acting both as principals and agents, utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap markets have become increasingly liquid. In addition, central clearing and the trading of cleared swaps on public facilities are intended to increase liquidity. The Fund's investment manager, under the supervision of the board of trustees, is responsible for determining and monitoring the liquidity of the Fund's swap transactions.

Rules adopted under the Dodd-Frank Act require centralized reporting of detailed information about many swaps, whether cleared or uncleared. This information is available to regulators and also, to a more limited extent and on an anonymous basis, to the public. Reporting of swap data is intended to result in greater market transparency. This may be beneficial to funds that use swaps in their trading strategies. However, public reporting imposes additional recordkeeping burdens on these funds, and the safeguards established to protect anonymity are not yet tested and may not provide protection of funds' identities as intended.

Certain IRS positions may limit the Fund's ability to use swap agreements in a desired tax strategy. It is possible that developments in the swap markets and/or the laws relating to swap agreements, including potential government regulation, could adversely affect the Fund's ability to benefit from using swap agreements, or could have adverse tax consequences. For more information about potentially changing regulation, see "Developing government regulation of derivatives" below.

Risks of uncleared swaps. Uncleared swaps are typically executed bilaterally with a swap dealer rather than traded on exchanges. As a result, swap participants may not be as protected as participants on organized exchanges. Performance of a swap agreement is the responsibility only of the swap counterparty and not of any exchange or clearinghouse. As a result, the Fund is subject to the risk that a counterparty will be unable or will refuse to perform under such agreement, including because of the counterparty's bankruptcy or insolvency. The Fund risks the loss of the accrued but unpaid amounts under a swap agreement, which could be substantial, in the event of a default, insolvency or bankruptcy by a swap counterparty. In such an event, the Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the swap agreements, but bankruptcy and insolvency laws could affect the Fund's rights as a creditor. If the counterparty's creditworthiness declines, the value of a swap agreement would likely decline, potentially resulting in losses. The Fund's investment manager will only approve a swap agreement counterparty for the Fund if the investment manager deems the counterparty to be creditworthy under the Fund's Counterparty Credit Review Standards, adopted and reviewed annually by the Fund's board. However, in unusual or extreme market conditions, a counterparty's creditworthiness and ability to perform may deteriorate rapidly, and the availability of suitable replacement counterparties may become limited.

Risks of cleared swaps. As noted above, under recent financial reforms, certain types of swaps are, and others eventually are expected to be, required to be cleared through a central counterparty, which may affect counterparty risk and other risks faced by the Fund.

Central clearing is designed to reduce counterparty credit risk and increase liquidity compared to uncleared swaps because central clearing interposes the central clearinghouse as the counterparty to each participant's swap, but it does not eliminate those risks completely and may involve additional

costs and risks not involved with uncleared swaps. There is also a risk of loss by the Fund of the initial and variation margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of the FCM with which the Fund has an open position, or the central counterparty in a swap contract. The assets of the Fund may not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of the FCM or central counterparty because the Fund might be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds and margin segregated on behalf of an FCM's customers. If the FCM does not provide accurate reporting, the Fund is also subject to the risk that the FCM could use the Fund's assets, which are held in an omnibus account with assets belonging to the FCM's other customers, to satisfy its own financial obligations or the payment obligations of another customer to the central counterparty. Credit risk of cleared swap participants is concentrated in a few clearinghouses, and the consequences of insolvency of a clearinghouse are not clear.

With cleared swaps, the Fund may not be able to obtain terms as favorable as it would be able to negotiate for a bilateral, uncleared swap. In addition, an FCM may unilaterally amend the terms of its agreement with the Fund, which may include the imposition of position limits or additional margin requirements with respect to the Fund's investment in certain types of swaps. Central counterparties and FCMs can require termination of existing cleared swap transactions upon the occurrence of certain events, and can also require increases in margin above the margin that is required at the initiation of the swap agreement.

Finally, the Fund is subject to the risk that, after entering into a cleared swap with an executing broker, no FCM or central counterparty is willing or able to clear the transaction. In such an event, the Fund may be required to break the trade and make an early termination payment to the executing broker.

Combined transactions. The Fund may enter into multiple derivative instruments, and any combination of derivative instruments as part of a single or combined strategy (a Combined Transaction) when, in the opinion of the investment manager, it is in the best interests of the Fund to do so. A Combined Transaction will usually contain elements of risk that are present in each of its component transactions.

Although Combined Transactions are normally entered into based on the investment manager's judgment that the combined strategies will reduce risk or otherwise more effectively achieve the desired portfolio management goal(s), it is possible that the combination will instead increase such risks or hinder achievement of the portfolio management objective.

Developing government regulation of derivatives. The regulation of cleared and uncleared swaps, as well as other derivatives, is a rapidly changing area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action. In addition, the SEC, CFTC and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the implementation or reduction of speculative position limits, the implementation of higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading.

It is not possible to predict fully the effects of current or future regulation. However, it is possible that developments in government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, such as speculative position limits on certain types of derivatives, or limits or restrictions on the counterparties with which the Fund engages in derivative transactions, may limit or prevent the Fund from using or limit the Fund's use of these instruments effectively as a part of its investment strategy, and could adversely affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment goal(s). The investment manager will continue to monitor developments in the area, particularly to the extent regulatory changes affect the Fund's ability to enter into desired swap agreements. New requirements, even if not directly applicable to the Fund, may increase the cost of the Fund's investments and cost of doing business.

Equity-linked notes (ELNs) ELNs are hybrid instruments that are specially designed to combine the characteristics of one or more reference securities (usually a single stock or index) and a related equity derivative, such as a put or call option, in a single note form. Generally, when purchasing an ELN, the Fund pays the counterparty (usually a bank or brokerage firm) the current value of the underlying securities or index plus a commission. Upon the maturity of the note, the Fund generally receives the par value of the note plus a return based on the appreciation of the underlying securities/index. If the underlying securities/index have depreciated in value or if their price fluctuates outside of a preset range, depending on the type of ELN in which the Fund invested, the Fund may receive only the principal amount of the note, or may lose the principal invested in the ELN entirely. The Fund only invests in ELNs for which the underlying securities/index are permissible investments pursuant to the Fund's investment policies and restrictions. For purposes of the Fund's fundamental investment policy of not investing more than 25% of the Fund's net assets in securities of issuers in any one industry (other than securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities or securities of other investment companies), the Fund applies the restriction by reference to the industry of the issuer of the underlying reference securities/index and not the industry of the issuer of an ELN.

ELNs are available with an assortment of features, such as periodic coupon payments (e.g., monthly, quarterly or semi-annually); varied participation rates (the rate at which the Fund participates in the appreciation of the underlying securities/index); limitations on the appreciation potential of the underlying securities/index by a maximum payment or call

right; and different protection levels on the Fund's principal investment. In addition, when the underlying securities/index are foreign securities or indices, an ELN may be priced with or without currency exposure. The Fund may engage in all types of ELNs, including those that: (1) provide for protection of the Fund's principal in exchange for limited participation in the appreciation of the underlying securities/index, and (2) do not provide for such protection and subject the Fund to the risk of loss of the Fund's principal investment.

ELNs can provide the Fund with an efficient investment tool that may be less expensive than investing directly in the underlying securities/index and the related equity derivative. ELNs also may enable the Fund to obtain a return (the coupon payment) without risk to principal (in principal-protected ELNs) if the general price movement of the underlying securities/index is correctly anticipated.

The Fund's successful use of ELNs will usually depend on the investment manager's ability to accurately forecast movements in the underlying securities/index. Should the prices of the underlying securities move in an unexpected manner, the Fund may not achieve the anticipated benefits of the investment in the ELN, and it may realize losses, which could be significant and could include the Fund's entire principal investment. If the investment manager is not successful in anticipating such price movements, the Fund's performance may be worse than if the investment manager did not use an ELN at all.

In addition, an investment in an ELN possesses the risks associated with the underlying securities/index, such as management risk, market risk and, as applicable, foreign securities and currency risks. In addition, since ELNs are in note form, they are also subject to certain debt securities risks, such as interest rate and credit risk. An investment in an ELN also bears the risk that the issuer of the note will default or become bankrupt. In such an event, the Fund may have difficulty being repaid, or fail to be repaid, the principal amount of, or income from, its investment. A downgrade or impairment to the credit rating of the issuer may also negatively impact the price of the ELN, regardless of the price of the underlying securities/index.

The Fund may also experience liquidity issues when investing in ELNs, as they are generally designed for the over-the-counter institutional investment market. The secondary market for ELNs may be limited, and the lack of liquidity in the secondary market may make them difficult to sell and value. However, as the market for ELNs has grown, there are a growing number of exchange-traded ELNs available, although these products may be thinly traded.

ELNs may exhibit price behavior that does not correlate with the underlying securities/index or a fixed-income investment. In addition, performance of an ELN is the responsibility only of the issuer of the ELN and not the issuer of the underlying securities/index. As the holder of an ELN, the Fund generally has no rights to the underlying securities/index, including no voting rights or rights to receive dividends, although the amount of expected dividends to be paid during the term of the instrument are factored into the pricing and valuation of the underlying securities/index at inception.

Equity securities Equity securities represent a proportionate share of the ownership of a company; their value is based on the success of the company's business and the value of its assets, as well as general market conditions. The purchaser of an equity security typically receives an ownership interest in the company as well as certain voting rights. The owner of an equity security may participate in a company's success through the receipt of dividends, which are distributions of earnings by the company to its owners. Equity security owners may also participate in a company's success or lack of success through increases or decreases in the value of the company's shares. Equity securities generally take the form of common stock or preferred stock, as well as securities convertible into common stock. Preferred stockholders typically receive greater dividends but may receive less appreciation than common stockholders and may have different voting rights as well. Equity securities may also include convertible securities, warrants, rights or equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures or similar enterprises. Warrants or rights give the holder the right to buy a common stock at a given time for a specified price.

Tracking stocks are also a type of equity security. A tracking stock is a separate class of common stock whose value is linked to a specific business unit or operating division within a larger company and is designed to "track" the financial performance of that unit or division, rather than the larger company as a whole. As a result, if the unit or division does not perform well, the value of the tracking stock may decrease, even if the larger parent company performs well. A tracking stock may pay dividends to shareholders independent of the parent company, which will depend on the performance of the unit or division that the stock tracks. Shareholders of a tracking stock have a financial interest only in that unit or division of the company and typically do not have a legal claim on the larger company's assets.

Common stock. Common stock represents a proportionate share of the ownership of a company. The value of a stock is based on the market's appraisal of current and likely future success of the company's business, any income paid to stockholders, the value of its assets, and general market conditions. Because it represents ownership, common stock ranks lowest in the capital structure of a company, in terms of its claim on the revenues or earnings of the company, and the value of a company's assets in the event of bankruptcy or liquidation. A company's creditors, including the holders of a company's debt securities, if any, have claims that take priority over the interests of the owners of the company's common stock. After other claims are satisfied, common

stockholders participate in company profits on a pro rata basis; profits may be paid out in dividends or reinvested in the company to help it grow. Increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's stock price, so common stocks generally have the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential of all corporate securities. The returns from ownership of common stocks can fluctuate dramatically over shorter periods in response to many factors affecting individual companies, industries, or the stock market or economy in general.

Common stocks sometimes are divided into several classes, with each class having different voting rights, dividend rights, or other differences in their rights and priorities.

The price of a stock also may be adversely affected by discovery and disclosure of accounting irregularities, actual or perceived weaknesses in corporate governance practices of a company's board or management, and changes in company management. The discovery and disclosure of accounting irregularities may result in changes to a company's past or current reported earnings, impairment of its credit rating and financial stability. These changes may result in a sudden and significant drop in the price of the company's equity and debt securities and, in some cases, can result in bankruptcy or the threat of bankruptcy, because the company's true financial condition after correction of accounting irregularities may violate covenants to which the company is subject under the terms of its credit arrangements.

Preferred stock. Preferred stock also represents an ownership interest in a company, but that ownership interest usually is limited to a specific dollar amount per share of liquidation priority over common equity in the event of liquidation of the company. Preferred stocks usually have fixed or variable dividend payment rates, and the payment of those dividends to the holders of preferred stock takes priority over the interests of holders of common stock, but usually is subordinate to the rights of holders of the company's debt securities. Preferred stocks often have no or limited voting rights, or have voting rights only in the event of omission of the payment of agreed dividends.

While preferred stocks represent a form of ownership in a company's capital structure, the limited nature of that ownership interest, and their fixed or variable dividend rates, result in many preferred stocks being treated in the market as more akin to debt securities. Like debt securities, the values of preferred stocks often fluctuate more in response to changes in interest rates and the creditworthiness of the issuer, rather than in response to changes in the issuer's profitability and business prospects. Preferred stocks sometimes are callable for redemption by the issuer on or after a specific date and at a price specified at the time of issuance.

Preferred stocks often are issued with conversion or exchange rights, pursuant to which the preferred stock may be converted into common stock of the issuing company, or exchanged for common stock or other equity securities of a different company. The characteristics of convertible preferred stocks are discussed in greater detail above under "Convertible securities."

Warrants. Warrants have no voting rights, pay no dividends and have no rights with respect to the assets of the corporation issuing them. Warrants constitute options to purchase equity securities at a specific price, and are valid for a specific period of time. They do not represent ownership of the equity securities, but only the right to buy them. Warrants differ from call options in that warrants are issued by the issuer of the security that may be purchased on their exercise, whereas call options may be issued by anyone. The prices of warrants do not necessarily move parallel to the prices of the underlying equity securities.

Equity access products. An equity access product is an instrument used by investors to obtain exposure to equity investments, including common stocks, in a local market where direct ownership of equity securities is not permitted or is otherwise restricted. In countries where direct ownership by a foreign investor, such as the Fund, is not allowed by local law, such as Saudi Arabia, an investor may gain exposure to a particular issuer in that market or to that market as a whole through an equity access product. An equity access product derives its value from a group of underlying equity securities and is intended (disregarding the effect of any fees and expenses) to reflect the performance of the underlying equity securities on a one-to-one basis so that investors will not normally gain more in absolute terms than they would have made had they invested in the underlying securities directly. Conversely, investors will not normally lose more than they would have lost had they invested in the underlying securities directly. In addition to providing access to otherwise closed equity markets, equity access products can also provide a less expensive option to direct equity investments (where ownership by foreign investors is permitted) by reducing registration and transaction costs in acquiring and selling local registered shares. Examples of equity access products include instruments such as participatory notes, low exercise price options, low exercise price warrants and similarly-structured instruments that may be developed from time to time.

The purchase of equity access products involves risks that are in addition to the risks normally associated with a direct investment in the underlying equity securities. The Fund is subject to the risk that the issuer of the equity access product (i.e., the issuing bank or broker-dealer), which is typically the only responsible party under the instrument, is unable or refuses to perform under the terms of the equity access product, also known as counterparty risk. While the holder of an equity access product is generally entitled to receive from

the bank or broker-dealer any dividends or other distributions paid on the underlying securities, the holder is normally not entitled to the same rights as an owner of the underlying securities, such as voting rights. Equity access products are typically also not traded on exchanges, are privately issued, and may be illiquid. To the extent an equity access product is determined to be illiquid, it would be subject to the Fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities. There can be no assurance that the trading price or value of equity access products will equal the value of the underlying equity securities they seek to replicate. Unlike a direct investment in equity securities, equity access products typically involve a term or expiration date, potentially increasing the Fund's turnover rate, transaction costs, and tax liability.

Equity access products are generally structured and sold by a local branch of a bank or broker-dealer that is permitted to purchase equity securities in the local market. The local branch or broker-dealer will usually place the local market equity securities in a special purpose vehicle, which will issue instruments that reflect the performance of the underlying equity securities. The performance of the special purpose vehicle generally carries the unsecured guarantee of the sponsoring bank or broker-dealer. This guarantee does not extend to the performance or value of the underlying local market equity securities. For purposes of the Fund's fundamental industry concentration investment policy, the Fund applies the policy by reference to the industry of the issuer of the underlying equity securities and not the industry of the issuer of an equity access product.

Pursuant to the terms of the equity access product, the Fund may tender such product for cash payment in an amount that reflects the current market value of the underlying investments, less program expenses, such as trading costs, taxes and duties. They do not confer any right, title or interest in respect to the underlying equity securities or provide rights against the issuer of the underlying securities.

Small capitalization companies. The Fund may invest in securities issued by small capitalization companies. Historically, small capitalization company securities have been more volatile in price than larger capitalization company securities, especially over the short term. Among the reasons for the greater price volatility are the less certain growth prospects of small capitalization companies, the lower degree of liquidity in the markets for such securities, and the greater sensitivity of small capitalization companies to changing economic conditions.

In addition, small capitalization companies may lack depth of management, they may be unable to generate funds necessary for growth or development, or they may be developing or marketing new products or services for which markets are not yet established and may never become established.

Small and mid capitalization companies. Market capitalization is defined as the total market value of a company's outstanding stock. Small capitalization companies are often overlooked by investors or undervalued in relation to their earnings power. Because small capitalization companies generally are not as well known to the investing public, and may have less of an investor following and may grow more rapidly than larger capitalization companies, they may provide greater opportunities for long-term capital growth. These companies may be undervalued because they are part of an industry that is out of favor with investors, although the individual companies may have high rates of earnings growth and be financially sound. Mid capitalization companies may offer greater potential for capital appreciation than larger capitalization companies, because mid capitalization companies are often growing more rapidly than larger capitalization companies, but tend to be more stable and established than small capitalization or emerging companies.

Initial public offerings (IPOs) of securities issued by unseasoned companies with little or no operating history are risky and their prices are highly volatile, but they can result in very large gains in their initial trading. Attractive IPOs are often oversubscribed and may not be available to the Fund, or only in very limited quantities. Thus, when the Fund's size is smaller, any gains from IPOs will have an exaggerated impact on the Fund's reported performance than when the Fund is larger. Although IPO investments have had a positive impact on some funds' performance in the past, there can be no assurance that the Fund will have favorable IPO investment opportunities in the future.

To the extent that the Fund may invest in small capitalization companies, it may have significant investments in relatively new or unseasoned companies that are in their early stages of development, or in new and emerging industries where the opportunity for rapid growth is expected to be above average. Securities of unseasoned companies present greater risks than securities of larger, more established companies.

Direct equity investments. The Fund may invest in direct equity investments that the investment manager expects will become listed or otherwise publicly traded securities. Direct equity investments consist of (i) the private purchase from an enterprise of an equity interest in the enterprise in the form of shares of common stock or equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures or similar enterprises, and (ii) the purchase of such an equity interest in an enterprise from a principal investor in the enterprise. Direct equity investments are generally considered to be illiquid. To the degree that the Fund invests in direct equity investments that it considers to be illiquid, it will limit such investments so that they, together with the Fund's other illiquid investments, comply with the Fund's investment restriction on illiquid securities.

In most cases, the Fund will, at the time of making a direct equity investment, enter into a shareholder or similar

agreement with the enterprise and one or more other holders of equity interests in the enterprise. The investment manager anticipates that these agreements may, in appropriate circumstances, provide the Fund with the ability to appoint a representative to the board of directors or similar body of the enterprise, and eventually to dispose of the Fund's investment in the enterprise through, for example, the listing of the securities or the sale of the securities to the issuer or another investor. In cases where the Fund appoints a representative, the representative would be expected to provide the Fund with the ability to monitor its investment and protect its rights in the investment and will not be appointed for the purpose of exercising management or control of the enterprise. In addition, the Fund intends to make its direct equity investments in such a manner as to avoid subjecting the Fund to unlimited liability with respect to the investments. There can be no assurance that the Fund's direct equity investments will become listed, or that it will be able to sell any direct equity investment to the issuer or another investor. The extent to which the Fund may make direct equity investments may be limited by considerations relating to its status as a regulated investment company under U.S. tax law.

Direct equity investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of a public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities and the prices on these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund or less than what may be considered the fair value of such securities. Further, issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to disclosure and other investor protection requirements applicable to publicly traded securities. If such securities are required to be registered under the securities laws of one or more jurisdictions before being resold, the Fund may be required to bear the expenses of registration. Certain of the Fund's direct equity investments may include investments in smaller, less-seasoned companies, which may involve greater risks. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited management group.

Financial services companies risk. To the extent that the Fund invests its assets in investments of financial services companies, the Fund's investments and performance will be affected by general market and economic conditions as well as other risk factors particular to the financial services industry. Financial services companies are subject to extensive government regulation. This regulation may limit both the amount and types of loans and other financial commitments a financial services company can make, and the interest rates and fees it can charge. Such limitations may have a significant impact on the profitability of a financial services company since that profitability is attributable, at least in part, to the company's ability to make financial commitments such as loans. Profitability of a financial services company is largely dependent upon the availability and cost of the company's funds, and can fluctuate significantly when interest rates change. The financial difficulties of borrowers can negatively impact the industry to the extent that borrowers may not be able to repay loans made by financial services companies.

In response to the recent economic instability, the United States and other governments have taken actions designed to support the financial markets. The withdrawal of this support could negatively affect the value and liquidity of certain securities. Moreover, the implications of government ownership interests in financial institutions, by virtue of aging distressed assets, is unforeseeable.

In addition, the financial services industry is an evolving and competitive industry that is undergoing significant change, as existing distinctions between financial segments become less clear. Such changes have resulted from various consolidations as well as the continual development of new products, structures and a changing regulatory framework. These changes are likely to have a significant impact on the financial services industry and the Fund.

Insurance companies may be subject to severe price competition, claims activity, marketing competition and general economic conditions. Particular insurance lines will also be influenced by specific matters. Property and casualty insurer profits may be affected by events such as man-made and natural disasters (including weather catastrophe and terrorism). Life and health insurer profits may be affected by mortality risks and morbidity rates. Individual insurance companies may be subject to material risks including inadequate reserve funds to pay claims and the inability to collect from the insurance companies which insure insurance companies, so-called reinsurance carriers.

Foreign securities For purposes of the Fund's prospectus and SAI, "foreign securities" refers to non-U.S. securities. There are substantial risks associated with investing in the securities of governments and companies located in, or having substantial operations in, foreign countries, which are in addition to the usual risks inherent in domestic investments. The value of foreign securities (like U.S. securities) is affected by general economic conditions and individual issuer and industry earnings prospects. Investments in depositary receipts also involve some or all of the risks described below.

There is the possibility of cessation of trading on foreign exchanges, expropriation, nationalization of assets, confiscatory or punitive taxation, withholding and other foreign taxes on income (including capital gains or other amounts), taxation on a retroactive basis, sudden or unanticipated changes in foreign tax laws, financial transaction taxes, denial or delay of the realization of tax treaty benefits, payment of foreign taxes not available for credit or deduction when

passed through to shareholders, foreign exchange controls (which may include suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a given country), restrictions on removal of assets, political or social instability, military action or unrest, or diplomatic developments, including sanctions imposed by other countries or governmental entities, that could affect investments in securities of issuers in foreign nations. There is no assurance that the investment manager will be able to anticipate these potential events. In addition, the value of securities denominated in foreign currencies and of dividends and interest paid with respect to such securities will fluctuate based on the relative strength of the U.S. dollar.

There may be less publicly available information about foreign issuers comparable to the reports and ratings published about issuers in the U.S. Foreign issuers generally are not subject to uniform accounting or financial reporting standards. Auditing practices and requirements may not be comparable to those applicable to U.S. issuers. Certain countries' legal institutions, financial markets and services are less developed than those in the U.S. or other major economies. The Fund may have greater difficulty voting proxies, exercising shareholder rights, securing dividends and obtaining information regarding corporate actions on a timely basis, pursuing legal remedies, and obtaining judgments with respect to foreign investments in foreign courts than with respect to domestic issuers in U.S. courts. The costs associated with foreign investments, including withholding taxes, brokerage commissions, and custodial costs, are generally higher than with U.S. investments.

Certain countries require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons, or limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular company. Some countries limit the investment of foreign persons to only a specific class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous terms than securities of the issuer available for purchase by nationals. Although securities subject to such restrictions may be marketable abroad, they may be less liquid than foreign securities of the same class that are not subject to such restrictions. In some countries the repatriation of investment income, capital and proceeds of sales by foreign investors may require governmental registration and/or approval. The Fund could be adversely affected by delays in or a refusal to grant any required governmental registration or approval for repatriation.

From time to time, trading in a foreign market may be interrupted. Foreign markets also have substantially less volume than the U.S. markets and securities of some foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. The Fund, therefore, may encounter difficulty in obtaining market quotations for purposes of valuing its portfolio and calculating its net asset value.

In many foreign countries there is less government supervision and regulation of stock exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in the U.S., which may result in greater potential for fraud or market manipulation. Foreign over-the-counter markets tend to be less regulated than foreign stock exchange markets and, in certain countries, may be totally unregulated. Brokerage commission rates in foreign countries, which generally are fixed rather than subject to negotiation as in the U.S., are likely to be higher. Foreign security trading, settlement and custodial practices (including those involving securities settlement where assets may be released prior to receipt of payment) are often less developed than those in U.S. markets, may be cumbersome and may result in increased risk or substantial delays. This could occur in the event of a failed trade or the insolvency of, or breach of duty by, a foreign broker-dealer, securities depository, or foreign subcustodian.

To the extent that the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in a specific geographic region or country, the Fund will have more exposure to economic risks related to such region or country than a fund whose investments are more geographically diversified. Adverse conditions or changes in policies in a certain region or country can affect securities of other countries whose economies appear to be unrelated but are otherwise connected. In the event of economic or political turmoil, a deterioration of diplomatic relations or a natural or man-made disaster in a region or country where a substantial portion of the Fund's assets are invested, the Fund may have difficulty meeting a large number of shareholder redemption requests.

On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) ("Brexit"). The UK and the EU have reached an agreement that governs the relationship between the UK and the EU following the UK's departure from the EU in areas such as trade in goods and in certain services. Brexit may have adverse effects on asset valuations and renegotiation of current trade agreements, as well as an increase in financial regulation of EU banks. Any market disruption in the EU and globally as a result of Brexit may have a negative effect on the value of the Fund's investments. Additionally, the risks related to Brexit could be more pronounced if one or more additional EU member states seek to leave the EU.

The holding of foreign securities may be limited by the Fund to avoid investment in certain Passive Foreign Investment Companies (PFICs) and the imposition of a PFIC tax on the Fund resulting from such investments.

Risks Related to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine. Russia's military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 resulted in the United States, other countries and certain international organizations levying broad economic sanctions against Russia. These sanctions froze certain Russian assets and prohibited, among other things, trading in certain Russian securities and doing business with specific Russian corporate entities, large financial institutions, officials and oligarchs. The

sanctions also included the removal of some Russian banks from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), the electronic network that connects banks globally, and imposed restrictive measures to prevent the Russian Central Bank from undermining the impact of the sanctions. The United States and other countries also imposed economic sanctions on Belarus and individuals and corporations in other countries that support Russia's military invasion. A number of large corporations and U.S. states also announced plans to divest interests or otherwise curtail business dealings with certain Russian businesses. These sanctions and any additional sanctions or other intergovernmental actions that may be undertaken against Russia or other countries that support Russia's military invasion may result in the devaluation of Russian or other affected currencies, a downgrade in the sanctioned country's credit rating, and a severe sustained decline in the value and liquidity of Russian securities and securities of issuers in other countries that support the invasion. The potential for wider conflict may further decrease the value and liquidity of certain Russian securities and securities of issuers in other countries affected by the invasion. In addition, the ability to price, buy, sell, receive, or deliver such securities is also affected due to these measures. For example, the Fund may be prohibited from investing in securities issued by companies subject to such sanctions. In addition, the sanctions may require the Fund to freeze its existing investments in companies operating in or having dealings with Russia or other sanctioned countries, which would prevent the Fund from selling these investments. Any exposure that the Fund may have to Russian counterparties or counterparties in other sanctioned countries also could negatively impact the value of the Fund's portfolio.

The extent and duration of Russia's military actions and the repercussions of such actions, including any retaliatory actions or countermeasures that may be taken by Russia or others subject to sanctions (such as cyberattacks on other governments, corporations or individuals) are unpredictable, but could result in significant market disruptions, including in the oil and natural gas markets, and may negatively affect global supply chains, inflation and global growth. These and any related events could significantly impact the Fund's performance and the value of an investment in the Fund, even beyond any direct exposure the Fund may have to Russian issuers or issuers in other countries affected by the invasion.

China companies. Investing in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan involves a high degree of risk and special considerations not typically associated with investing in other more established economies or securities markets. Such risks may include: (a) the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets or confiscatory taxation; (b) greater social, economic and political uncertainty (including the risk of war and security concerns, such as terrorism and cyberattacks, due to strained international relations); (c) dependency on exports and the corresponding importance of international trade and the risk of increased trade tariffs, sanctions, capital controls, embargoes, trade wars and other trade limitations; (d) the increasing competition from Asia's other low-cost emerging economies; (e) greater price volatility and significantly smaller market capitalization of securities markets, particularly in China; (f) substantially less liquidity, particularly of certain share classes of Chinese securities; (g) currency exchange rate fluctuations and the lack of available currency hedging instruments; (h) higher rates of inflation; (i) controls on foreign investment and limitations on repatriation of invested capital and on the Fund's ability to exchange local currencies for U.S. dollars; (j) greater governmental involvement in and control over the economy; (k) the risk that the Chinese government may decide not to continue to support the economic reform programs implemented since 1978 and could return to the prior, completely centrally planned, economy; (l) the fact that China companies, particularly those located in China, may be smaller, less seasoned and newly-organized companies; (m) the difference in, or lack of, auditing and financial reporting standards which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers, particularly in China; (n) the fact that statistical information regarding the economy of China may be inaccurate or not comparable to statistical information regarding the U.S. or other economies; (o) the less extensive, and still developing, regulation of the securities markets, business entities and commercial transactions; (p) the fact that the settlement period of securities transactions in foreign markets may be longer; (q) the willingness and ability of the Chinese government to support the Chinese and Hong Kong economies and markets is uncertain; (r) the risk that it may be more difficult, or impossible, to obtain and/or enforce a judgment than in other countries and that there may be significant obstacles to obtaining information necessary for investigations into or litigation against Chinese companies; (s) the rapidity and erratic nature of growth, particularly in China, resulting in inefficiencies and dislocations; (t) the risk that because of the degree of interconnectivity between the economies and financial markets of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, any sizable reduction in the demand for goods from China, or an economic downturn in China, could negatively affect the economies and financial markets of Hong Kong and Taiwan, as well; and (u) any public health emergency could result in market closures, travel restrictions, quarantines or other interventions which may affect the Chinese and/or global economy for periods beyond that which might be caused by the public health policies of other countries.

Investment in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan is subject to certain political risks. Following the establishment of the People's Republic of China by the Communist Party in 1949, the Chinese government renounced various debt obligations incurred by China's predecessor governments, which obligations remain in default, and expropriated assets without compensation. There can be no assurance that the Chinese

government will not take similar action in the future. An investment in the Fund involves risk of a total loss. The political reunification of China and Taiwan is a highly problematic issue and is unlikely to be settled in the near future. This situation poses a threat to Taiwan's economy and could negatively affect its stock market.

The equity securities of China companies the Fund may invest in include securities issued by Hong Kong and Taiwan domiciled companies, as well as China H shares (shares of China-incorporated, Hong Kong-listed companies), Shanghai and Shenzhen-listed B shares (shares of China-incorporated companies that are traded in foreign currencies - U.S. Dollar for the Shanghai Stock Exchange and Hong Kong dollar for the Shenzhen Stock Exchange), and China "red chip" shares (shares of companies based in Mainland China that are incorporated outside China and listed in Hong Kong). The Fund may also invest in eligible China A shares (shares of publicly traded companies based in Mainland China) listed and traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE") through the Shanghai – Hong Kong Stock Connect program, as well as eligible China A shares listed and traded on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange ("SZSE") through the Shenzhen – Hong Kong Stock Connect program (both programs collectively referred to as "Stock Connect"). The Fund may also invest in China A shares through any other means permitted by applicable law or regulation.

Chinese variable interest entities. In China, equity ownership of companies by foreign individuals and entities is restricted or prohibited in certain sectors, such as internet, media, education and telecommunications. To circumvent these limits, starting in the early 2000s many Chinese companies, including most of the well-known Chinese Internet companies, have used a special structure known as a variable interest entity (VIE) to raise capital from foreign investors. In a typical VIE structure, a shell company is set up in an offshore jurisdiction, such as the Cayman Islands. The shell company, through a wholly foreign-owned enterprise (WFOE) based in China, enters into service and other contracts with another Chinese company known as the VIE. The VIE must be owned by Chinese nationals (and/or other Chinese companies), which often are the VIE's founders, in order to obtain the licenses and/or assets required to operate in the restricted or prohibited industry in China. The contractual arrangements entered into between the WFOE and VIE (which often include powers of attorney, loan and equity pledge agreements, call option agreements and exclusive services or business cooperation agreements) are designed to allow the shell company to exert a degree of control over, and obtain economic benefits arising from, the VIE without formal legal ownership.

The contractual arrangements are structured to require the shell company to consolidate the VIE into its financial statements, pursuant to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, despite the absence of equity ownership. Such consolidation provides the shell company with the ability to issue shares on a foreign exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ, often with the same name as the VIE. Accordingly, foreign investors, such as the Fund, will only own stock in the shell company rather than directly in the VIE. Further, the ability of the WFOE to easily extract profits from the VIE structure through service agreements will partially depend on the proportion of the business that can legally be conducted by the WFOE versus the VIE, which varies based on the industry.

While VIEs are a longstanding industry practice that is well known to Chinese officials and regulators, historically they have not been formally recognized under Chinese law. Effective March 31, 2023, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) released new rules that permit the use of VIE structures, provided they abide by Chinese laws and register with the CSRC. The rules, however, may cause Chinese companies to undergo greater scrutiny and may make the process to create VIEs more difficult and costly. Guidance or further rulemaking prohibiting or restricting these structures by the Chinese government, generally or with respect to specific industries, would likely cause impacted VIE-structured holding(s) to suffer significant, detrimental, and possibly permanent losses, and in turn, adversely affect the Fund's returns and net asset value. The future of the VIE structure generally and with respect to certain industries remains uncertain.

Further, if a Chinese court or arbitration body chose not to enforce the contracts, the value of the shell company would significantly decline, since it derives its value from the ability to consolidate the VIE into its financials pursuant to such contracts, and in turn, adversely affect the Fund's returns and net asset value. The contractual arrangements with the VIE may not be as effective in providing operational control as direct equity ownership. The Chinese equity owner(s) of the VIE could decide to breach the contractual arrangement and may have conflicting interests and fiduciary duties as compared to investors in the shell company. Accordingly, VIEs depend heavily on executives who are Chinese nationals and own the underlying business licenses and/or assets required to operate in China. In addition to creating "key person" succession risk, the structure can restrict the ability of outside shareholders to challenge executives for poor decision-making, weak management, or equity-eroding actions. Any breach or dispute under these contracts will likely fall under Chinese jurisdiction and law. In such event, the Fund may experience difficulty in bringing and enforcing such claims, as legal recourse in China may be limited.

Investing through Stock Connect. Foreign investors may invest in eligible China A shares (shares of publicly traded companies based in Mainland China) ("Stock Connect Securities") listed and traded on the Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE") through the Shanghai – Hong Kong Stock Connect program, as well as eligible China A shares listed

and traded on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange ("SZSE") through the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect program (both programs collectively referred to herein as "Stock Connect"). Each of the SSE and SZSE are referred to as an "Exchange" and collectively as the "Exchanges" for purposes of this section.

Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing program developed by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("SEHK"), the Exchanges, Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited and China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited for the establishment of mutual market access between SEHK and the Exchanges. In contrast to certain other regimes for foreign investment in Chinese securities, no individual investment quotas or licensing requirements apply to investors in Stock Connect Securities through Stock Connect. In addition, there are no lock-up periods or restrictions on the repatriation of principal and profits.

However, trading through Stock Connect is subject to a number of restrictions that may affect the Fund's investments and returns. For example, a primary feature of the Stock Connect program is the application of the home market's laws and rules to investors in a security. Thus, investors in Stock Connect Securities are generally subject to Chinese securities regulations and the listing rules of the respective Exchange, among other restrictions. In addition, Stock Connect Securities generally may not be sold, purchased or otherwise transferred other than through Stock Connect in accordance with applicable rules. While Stock Connect is not subject to individual investment quotas, daily and aggregate investment quotas apply to all Stock Connect participants, which may restrict or preclude the Fund's ability to invest in Stock Connect Securities. For example, an investor cannot purchase and sell the same security on the same trading day. Trading in the Stock Connect program is subject to trading, clearance and settlement procedures that are untested in China which could pose risks to the Fund. Finally, the withholding tax treatment of dividends and capital gains payable to overseas investors currently is unsettled.

Stock Connect is relatively new. Further developments are likely and there can be no assurance as to whether or how such developments may restrict or affect the Fund's investments or returns. In addition, the application and interpretation of the laws and regulations of Hong Kong and China, and the rules, policies or guidelines published or applied by relevant regulators and exchanges in respect of the Stock Connect program, are uncertain, and they may have a detrimental effect on the Fund's investments and returns.

Investing through the Bond Connect Program. Foreign investors may invest in China Interbank bonds traded on the China Interbank Bond Market ("CIBM") through the China – Hong Kong Bond Connect program ("Bond Connect"). In China, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority Central Money Markets Unit holds Bond Connect securities on behalf of ultimate investors (such as the Fund) in accounts maintained with a China-based custodian (either the China Central Depository & Clearing Co. or the Shanghai Clearing House). This recordkeeping system subjects the Fund to various risks, including the risk that the Fund may have a limited ability to enforce rights as a bondholder and the risks of settlement delays and counterparty default of the Hong Kong sub-custodian. In addition, enforcing the ownership rights of a beneficial holder of Bond Connect securities is untested and courts in China have limited experience in applying the concept of beneficial ownership.

Bond Connect uses the trading infrastructure of both Hong Kong and China and is not available on trading holidays in Hong Kong. As a result, prices of securities purchased through Bond Connect may fluctuate at times when the Fund is unable to add to or exit its position. Securities offered through Bond Connect may lose their eligibility for trading through the program at any time. If Bond Connect securities lose their eligibility for trading through the program, they may be sold but can no longer be purchased through Bond Connect. Cross-border trading required by Bond Connect is dependent on new technological systems that may not function properly, thereby disrupting trading and access to relevant markets.

Bond Connect is subject to regulation by both Hong Kong and China and there can be no assurance that further regulations will not affect the availability of securities in the program, the frequency of redemptions or other limitations. Bond Connect trades are settled in Chinese currency, the renminbi ("RMB"), which is currently restricted and not freely convertible. It cannot be guaranteed that investors will have timely access to a reliable supply of RMB in Hong Kong.

The Bond Connect is relatively new and its effects on the Chinese interbank bond market are uncertain. In addition, the trading, settlement and IT systems required for non-Chinese investors in Bond Connect are relatively new. In the event of systems malfunctions or extreme market conditions, trading via Bond Connect could be disrupted. In addition, the Bond Connect program may be subject to further interpretation and guidance. There can be no assurance as to the program's continued existence or whether future developments regarding the program may restrict or adversely affect the Fund's investments or returns. Finally, uncertainties in China tax rules governing taxation of income and gains from investments via Bond Connect could result in unexpected tax liabilities for the Fund.

Developing markets or emerging markets. Investments in issuers domiciled or with significant operations in developing market or emerging market countries may be subject to potentially higher risks than investments in developed countries. These risks include, among others (i) less social,

political and economic stability; (ii) smaller securities markets with low or nonexistent trading volume, which result in greater illiquidity and greater price volatility; (iii) certain national policies which may restrict the Fund's investment opportunities, including restrictions on investment in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to national interests; (iv) foreign taxation, including less transparent and established taxation policies; (v) less developed regulatory or legal structures governing private or foreign investment or allowing for judicial redress for injury to private property; (vi) the absence, until recently in many developing market countries, of a capital market structure or market-oriented economy; (vii) more widespread corruption and fraud; (viii) the financial institutions with which the Fund may trade may not possess the same degree of financial sophistication, creditworthiness or resources as those in developed markets; and (ix) the possibility that when favorable economic developments occur in some developing market countries, such developments may be slowed or reversed by unanticipated economic, political or social events in such countries.

Due to political, military or regional conflicts or due to terrorism or war, it is possible that the United States, other nations or other governmental entities (including supranational entities) could impose sanctions on a country involved in such conflicts that limit or restrict foreign investment, the movement of assets or other economic activity in that country. Such sanctions or other intergovernmental actions could result in the devaluation of a country's currency, a downgrade in the credit ratings of issuers in such country, or a decline in the value and liquidity of securities of issuers in that country. In addition, an imposition of sanctions upon certain issuers in a country could result in an immediate freeze of that issuer's securities, impairing the ability of the Fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver those securities. Countermeasures could be taken by the country's government, which could involve the seizure of the Fund's assets. In addition, such actions could adversely affect a country's economy, possibly forcing the economy into a recession.

In addition, many developing market countries have experienced substantial, and during some periods, extremely high rates of inflation, for many years. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain countries. Moreover, the economies of some developing market countries may differ unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross domestic product, rate of inflation, currency depreciation, debt burden, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency and balance of payments position. The economies of some developing market countries may be based on only a few industries, and may be highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions.

Settlement systems in developing market countries may be less organized than in developed countries. Supervisory authorities may also be unable to apply standards which are comparable with those in more developed countries. There may be risks that settlement may be delayed and that cash or securities belonging to the Fund may be in jeopardy because of failures of or defects in the settlement systems. 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 (counterparty) through whom the relevant transaction is effected might result in a loss being suffered by the Fund. The Fund seeks, where possible, to use counterparties whose financial status reduces this risk. However, there can be no certainty that the Fund will be successful in eliminating or reducing this risk, particularly as counterparties operating in developing market countries frequently lack the substance, capitalization and/or financial resources of those in developed countries. Uncertainties in the operation of settlement systems in individual markets may increase the risk of competing claims to securities held by or to be transferred to the Fund. Legal compensation schemes may be non-existent, limited or inadequate to meet the Fund's claims in any of these events.

Securities trading in developing markets presents additional credit and financial risks. The Fund may have limited access to, or there may be a limited number of, potential counterparties that trade in the securities of developing market issuers. Governmental regulations may restrict potential counterparties to certain financial institutions located or operating in the particular developing 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 and other hedging techniques may not be available or may be limited.

The local taxation of income and capital gains accruing to non-residents varies among developing market countries and may be comparatively high. Developing market countries typically have less well-defined tax laws and procedures and such laws may permit retroactive taxation so that the 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.

Many developing market countries suffer from uncertainty and corruption in their legal frameworks. Legislation may be difficult to interpret and laws may be too new to provide any precedential value. Laws regarding foreign investment and private property may be weak or non-existent. Investments in developing market countries may involve risks of nationalization, expropriation and confiscatory taxation. For example, the Communist governments of a number of Eastern European countries expropriated large amounts of private property in the past, in many cases without adequate

compensation, and there can be no assurance that similar expropriation will not occur in the future. In the event of expropriation, the Fund could lose all or a substantial portion of any investments it has made in the affected countries. Accounting, auditing and reporting standards in certain countries in which the Fund may invest may not provide the same degree of investor protection or information to investors as would generally apply in major securities markets. For example, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) has warned that positions taken by Chinese authorities impair the PCAOB's ability to conduct inspections and investigations of the audits of public companies with China-based operations. The PCAOB's impaired ability to oversee PCAOB-registered audit firms in China may result in inaccurate or incomplete financial records of an issuer's operations within China, which may negatively impact the Fund's investments in such companies. The PCAOB's impaired ability to oversee PCAOB-registered audit firms in China may result in inaccurate or incomplete financial records of an issuer's operations within China, which may negatively impact the Fund's investments in such companies. In addition, it is possible that purported securities in which the Fund invested may subsequently be found to be fraudulent and as a consequence the Fund could suffer losses.

There may be significant obstacles to obtaining information necessary for investigations into potential legal claims or litigation against emerging market issuers and investors such as the Fund may experience difficulty in enforcing legal claims related to investments in the securities of such issuers. The SEC and other U.S. regulatory authorities often have substantial difficulties in bringing and enforcing actions against non-U.S. companies and non-U.S. persons, including company directors and officers, in certain emerging markets, including China. Accordingly, investor protection and legal recourse may be limited with respect to the Fund's investments in emerging markets.

Finally, currencies of developing market countries are subject to significantly greater risks than currencies of developed countries. Some developing market currencies may not be internationally traded or may be subject to strict controls by local governments, resulting in undervalued or overvalued currencies and associated difficulties with the valuation of assets, including the Fund's securities, denominated in that currency. Some developing market countries have experienced balance of payment deficits and shortages in foreign exchange reserves. Governments have responded by restricting currency conversions. Future restrictive exchange controls could prevent or restrict a company's ability to make dividend or interest payments in the original currency of the obligation (usually U.S. dollars). In addition, even though the currencies of some developing market countries, such as certain Eastern European countries, may be convertible into U.S. dollars, the conversion rates may be artificial to the actual market values and may be adverse to the Fund's shareholders.

Frontier markets. Frontier market countries include a sub-set of those currently considered to be developing or emerging by the United Nations or the countries' authorities or by S&P Dow Jones, Morgan Stanley Capital International or Russell index providers. These countries typically are located in the Asia-Pacific region (including Hong Kong), Eastern Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East and Africa. The risks of investing in emerging/developing markets are heightened in frontier markets, which have even less developed economies and financial systems.

Frontier market countries generally have smaller economies and even less developed capital markets than traditional developing markets, and, as a result, the risks of investing in developing market countries are magnified in frontier market countries. The magnification of risks are the result of: potential for extreme price volatility and illiquidity in frontier markets; government ownership or control of parts of private sector and of certain companies; trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by frontier market countries or their trading partners; and the relatively new and unsettled securities laws in many frontier market countries.

In addition, investing in frontier markets includes the risk of share blocking. Share blocking refers to a practice, in certain foreign markets, where voting rights related to an issuer's securities are predicated on these securities being blocked from trading at the custodian or sub-custodian level, for a period of time around a shareholder meeting. These restrictions have the effect of prohibiting securities to potentially be voted (or having been voted), from trading within a specified number of days before, and in certain instances, after the shareholder meeting.

Share blocking may prevent the Fund from buying or selling securities for a period of time. During the time that shares are blocked, trades in such securities will not settle. The specific practices may vary by market and the blocking period can last from a day to several weeks, typically terminating on a date established at the discretion of the issuer. Once blocked, the only manner in which to remove the block would be to withdraw a previously cast vote, or to abstain from voting all together. The process for having a blocking restriction lifted can be very difficult with the particular requirements varying widely by country. Additionally, in certain countries, the block cannot be removed.

Foreign corporate debt securities. Foreign corporate debt securities, including Samurai bonds, Yankee bonds, Eurobonds and Global Bonds, may be purchased to gain exposure to investment opportunities in other countries in a certain currency. A Samurai bond is a yen-denominated bond

issued in Japan by a non-Japanese company. Eurobonds are foreign bonds issued and traded in countries other than the country and currency in which the bond was denominated. Eurobonds generally trade on a number of exchanges and are issued in bearer form, carry a fixed or floating rate of interest, and typically amortize principal through a single payment for the entire principal at maturity with semiannual interest payments. Yankee bonds are bonds denominated in U.S. dollars issued by foreign banks and corporations, and registered with the SEC for sale in the U.S. A Global Bond is a certificate representing the total debt of an issue. Such bonds are created to control the primary market distribution of an issue in compliance with selling restrictions in certain jurisdictions or because definitive bond certificates are not available. A Global Bond is also known as a Global Certificate.

Foreign currency exchange rates. Changes in foreign currency exchange rates will affect the U.S. dollar market value of securities denominated in such foreign currencies and any income received or expenses paid by the Fund in that foreign currency. This may affect the Fund's share price, income and distributions to shareholders. Some countries may have fixed or managed currencies that are not free-floating against the U.S. dollar. It will be more difficult for the investment manager to value securities denominated in currencies that are fixed or managed. Certain currencies may not be internationally traded, which could cause illiquidity with respect to the Fund's investments in that currency and any securities denominated in that currency. Currency markets generally are not as regulated as securities markets. The Fund endeavors to buy and sell foreign currencies on as favorable a basis as practicable. Some price spread in currency exchanges (to cover service charges) may be incurred, particularly when the Fund changes investments from one country to another or when proceeds of the sale of securities in U.S. dollars are used for the purchase of securities denominated in foreign currencies. Some countries may adopt policies that would prevent the Fund from transferring cash out of the country or withhold portions of interest and dividends at the source.

Certain currencies have experienced a steady devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar. Any devaluations in the currencies in which the Fund's portfolio securities are denominated may have a detrimental impact on the Fund. Where the exchange rate for a currency declines materially after the Fund's income has been accrued and translated into U.S. dollars, the Fund may need to redeem portfolio securities to make required distributions. Similarly, if an exchange rate declines between the time the Fund incurs expenses in U.S. dollars and the time such expenses are paid, the Fund will have to convert a greater amount of the currency into U.S. dollars in order to pay the expenses.

Investing in foreign currencies for purposes of gaining from projected changes in exchange rates further increases the Fund's exposure to foreign securities losses.

The Fund does not consider currencies or other financial commodities or contracts and financial instruments to be physical commodities (which include, for example, oil, precious metals and grains). Accordingly, the Fund interprets its fundamental restriction regarding purchasing and selling physical commodities to permit the Fund (subject to the Fund's investment goals and general investment policies as stated in the Fund's prospectus and SAI) to invest directly in foreign currencies and other financial commodities and to purchase, sell or enter into foreign currency futures contracts and options thereon, foreign currency forward contracts, foreign currency options, currency, commodity- and financial instrument-related swap agreements, hybrid instruments, interest rate, securities-related or foreign currency-related futures contracts or other currency-, commodity- or financial instrument-related derivatives, subject to compliance with any applicable provisions of the federal securities or commodities laws. The Fund also interprets its fundamental restriction regarding purchasing and selling physical commodities to permit the Fund to invest in exchange-traded products or other entities that invest in physical and/or financial commodities, subject to the limits described in the Fund's prospectus and SAI.

Foreign governmental and supranational debt securities. Investments in debt securities of governmental or supranational issuers are subject to all the risks associated with investments in U.S. and foreign securities and certain additional risks.

Foreign government debt securities, sometimes known as sovereign debt securities, include debt securities issued, sponsored or guaranteed by: governments or governmental agencies, instrumentalities, or political subdivisions located in emerging or developed market countries; government owned, controlled or sponsored entities located in emerging or developed market countries; and entities organized and operated for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of instruments issued by any of the above issuers.

A supranational entity is a bank, commission or company established or financially supported by the national governments of one or more countries to promote reconstruction, trade, harmonization of standards or laws, economic development, and humanitarian, political or environmental initiatives. Supranational debt obligations include: Brady Bonds (which are debt securities issued under the framework of the Brady Plan as a means for debtor nations to restructure their outstanding external indebtedness); participations in loans between emerging market governments and financial institutions; and debt securities issued by supranational entities such as the World

Bank, Asia Development Bank, European Investment Bank and the European Economic Community.

Foreign government debt securities are subject to risks in addition to those relating to debt securities generally. Governmental issuers of foreign debt securities may be unwilling or unable to pay interest and repay principal, or otherwise meet obligations, when due and may require that the conditions for payment be renegotiated. As a sovereign entity, the issuing government may be immune from lawsuits in the event of its failure or refusal to pay the obligations when due. The debtor's willingness or ability to repay in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its non-U.S. reserves, the availability of sufficient non-U.S. exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the issuing country's economy as a whole, the sovereign debtor's policy toward principal international lenders, such as the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, and the political considerations or constraints to which the sovereign debtor may be subject. Governmental debtors also will be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments or multinational agencies and the country's access to, or balance of, trade. Some governmental debtors have in the past been able to reschedule or restructure their debt payments without the approval of debt holders or declare moratoria on payments, and similar occurrences may happen in the future. There is no bankruptcy proceeding by which the Fund may collect in whole or in part on debt subject to default by a government.

High-yield debt instruments High-yield or lower-rated debt instruments (also referred to as "junk bonds") are securities that have been rated below the top four rating categories (e.g., BB or Ba and lower) by one or more independent rating organizations such as Moody's, S&P, or Fitch and are considered below investment grade. These instruments generally have greater risk with respect to the payment of interest and repayment of principal, or may be in default and are often considered to be speculative and involve greater risk of loss because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other debt of the issuer.

Adverse publicity, investor perceptions, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, or real or perceived adverse economic and competitive industry conditions may decrease the values and liquidity of lower-rated debt instruments, especially in a thinly traded market. Analysis of the creditworthiness of issuers of lower-rated debt instruments may be more complex than for issuers of higher-rated securities. The Fund relies on the investment manager's judgment, analysis and experience in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer of lower-rated securities. In such evaluations, the investment manager takes into consideration, among other things, the issuer's financial resources, its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, its operating history, the quality of the issuer's management and regulatory matters. There can be no assurance the investment manager will be successful in evaluating the creditworthiness of an issuer or the value of high yield debt instruments generally.

The prices of lower-rated debt instruments may be less sensitive to interest rate changes than higher-rated debt instruments, but more sensitive to economic downturns or individual adverse corporate developments. Market anticipation of an economic downturn or of rising interest rates, for example, could cause a decline in lower-rated debt instruments prices. This is because an economic downturn could lessen the ability of a highly leveraged company to make principal and interest payments on its debt securities. Similarly, the impact of individual adverse corporate developments, or public perceptions thereof, will be greater for lower-rated securities because the issuers of such securities are more likely to enter bankruptcy. If the issuer of lower-rated debt instruments defaults, the Fund may incur substantial expenses to seek recovery of all or a portion of its investments or to exercise other rights as a security holder. The Fund may choose, at its expense or in conjunction with others, to pursue litigation or otherwise to exercise its rights as a security holder to seek to protect the interests of security holders if it determines this to be in the best interest of the Fund's shareholders.

Lower-rated debt instruments frequently have call or buy-back features that allow an issuer to redeem the instruments from their holders. Although these instruments are typically not callable for a period of time, usually for three to five years from the date of issue, the Fund will be exposed to prepayment risk.

The markets in which lower-rated debt instruments are traded are more limited than those in which higher-rated securities are traded. The existence of limited markets for particular securities may diminish the Fund's ability to sell the securities at desirable prices to meet redemption requests or to respond to a specific economic event, such as deterioration in the creditworthiness of the issuer. Reduced secondary market liquidity for certain lower-rated debt instruments also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations for the purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio. Market quotations are generally available on many lower-rated securities only from a limited number of dealers and may not necessarily represent firm bids of such dealers or prices of actual sales, which may limit the Fund's ability to rely on such quotations.

Some lower-rated debt instruments are sold without registration under federal securities laws and, therefore, carry restrictions on resale. While many of such lower-rated debt instruments have been sold with registration rights, covenants and penalty provisions for delayed registration, if the Fund is required to sell restricted securities before the securities have been registered, it may be deemed an underwriter of the securities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended

(1933 Act), which entails special responsibilities and liabilities. The Fund also may incur extra costs when selling restricted securities, although the Fund will generally not incur any costs when the issuer is responsible for registering the securities.

High-yield, fixed-income securities acquired during an initial underwriting involve special credit risks because they are new issues. The investment manager will carefully review the issuer's credit and other characteristics.

The credit risk factors described above also apply to high-yield zero coupon, deferred interest and pay-in-kind securities. These securities have an additional risk, however, because unlike securities that pay interest periodically until maturity, zero coupon bonds and similar securities will not make any interest or principal payments until the cash payment date or maturity of the security. If the issuer defaults, the Fund may not obtain any return on its investment.

Illiquid securities Generally, an “illiquid security” or “illiquid investment” is any investment that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment. Illiquid investments generally include investments for which no market exists or which are legally restricted as to their transfer (such as those issued pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the federal securities laws). Restricted securities are generally sold in privately negotiated transactions, pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (1933 Act). If registration of a security previously acquired in a private transaction is required, the Fund, as the holder of the security, may be obligated to pay all or part of the registration expense and a considerable period may elapse between the time it decides to seek registration and the time it will be permitted to sell a security under an effective registration statement. If, during such a period, adverse market conditions were to develop, the Fund might obtain a less favorable price than prevailed when it decided to seek registration of the security. To the extent it is determined that there is a liquid institutional or other market for certain restricted securities, the Fund would consider them to be liquid securities. An example is a restricted security that may be freely transferred among qualified institutional buyers pursuant to Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, and for which a liquid institutional market has developed. Rule 144A securities may be subject, however, to a greater possibility of becoming illiquid than securities that have been registered with the SEC.

The following factors may be taken into account in determining whether a restricted security is properly considered a liquid security: (i) the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; (ii) the number of dealers willing to buy or sell the security and the number of other potential buyers; (iii) any dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; and (iv) the nature of the security and of the marketplace trades (e.g., any demand, put or tender features, the method of soliciting offers, the mechanics and other requirements for transfer, and the ability to assign or offset the rights and obligations of the security). The nature of the security and its trading includes the time needed to sell the security, the method of soliciting offers to purchase or sell the security, and the mechanics of transferring the security including the role of parties such as foreign or U.S. custodians, subcustodians, currency exchange brokers, and depositories.

The sale of illiquid investments often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses than the sale of investments eligible for trading on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter (OTC) markets. Illiquid investments often sell at a price lower than similar investments that are not subject to restrictions on resale.

The risk to the Fund in holding illiquid investments is that they may be more difficult to sell if the Fund wants to dispose of the investment in response to adverse developments or in order to raise money for redemptions or other investment opportunities. Illiquid trading conditions may also make it more difficult for the Fund to realize an investment's fair value.

The Fund may also be unable to achieve its desired level of exposure to a certain investment, issuer, or sector due to overall limitations on its ability to invest in illiquid investments and the difficulty in purchasing such investments.

If illiquid investments exceed 15% of the Fund’s net assets after the time of purchase, the Fund will take steps to reduce its holdings of illiquid investments to or below 15% of its net assets within a reasonable period of time, and will notify the Trust’s board of trustees and make the required filings with the SEC in accordance with Rule 22e-4 under the 1940 Act. Because illiquid investments may not be readily marketable, the portfolio managers and/or investment personnel may not be able to dispose of them in a timely manner. As a result, the Fund may be forced to hold illiquid investments while their price depreciates. Depreciation in the price of illiquid investments may cause the net asset value of the Fund to decline.

Inflation-indexed securities Inflation-indexed securities are debt securities, the value of which is periodically adjusted to reflect a measure of inflation. Two structures are common for inflation-indexed securities. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers use a structure that reflects inflation as it accrues by increasing the U.S. dollar amount of the principal originally invested. Other issuers pay out the inflation as it accrues as part of a semiannual coupon. Any amount accrued on an inflation-indexed security, regardless whether paid out as a coupon or added to the principal, is generally considered taxable income. Where the accrued amount is added to the

principal and no cash income is received until maturity, the Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities that it would otherwise continue to hold in order to obtain sufficient cash to make distributions to shareholders required for U.S. tax purposes.

An investor could experience a loss of principal and income on investments in inflation-indexed securities. In a deflationary environment, the value of the principal invested in an inflation-indexed security will be adjusted downward, just as it would be adjusted upward in an inflationary environment. Because the interest on an inflation-indexed security is calculated with respect to the amount of principal which is smaller following a deflationary period, interest payments will also be reduced, just as they would be increased following an inflationary period.

In the case of U.S. Treasury inflation-indexed securities, the return of at least the original U.S. dollar amount of principal invested is guaranteed, so an investor receives the greater of its original principal or the inflation-adjusted principal. If the return of principal is not guaranteed, the investor may receive less than the amount it originally invested in an inflation-indexed security following a period of deflation. Any guarantee of principal provided by a party other than the U.S. government will increase the Fund's exposure to the credit risk of that party.

The value of inflation-indexed securities is generally expected to change in response to changes in "real" interest rates. The real interest rate is the rate of interest that would be paid in the absence of inflation. The actual rate of interest, referred to as the nominal interest rate, is equal to the real interest rate plus the rate of inflation. If inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed securities. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed securities.

While inflation-indexed securities are designed to provide some protection from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in their value. For example, if interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation, investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the security's inflation measure. The reasons that interest rates may rise without a corresponding increase in inflation include changes in currency exchange rates and temporary shortages of credit or liquidity. When interest rates rise without a corresponding increase in inflation, the Fund's investment in inflation-indexed securities will forego the additional return that could have been earned on a floating rate debt security.

The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-protected debt securities is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is an index of changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-protected debt securities issued by a foreign government are generally adjusted to reflect a comparable consumer inflation index, calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any foreign inflation index will accurately measure the actual rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States. To the extent that the Fund invests in inflation-indexed securities as a hedge against inflation, an imperfect hedge will result if the cost of living (as represented in the CPI-U) has a different inflation rate than the Fund's interests in industries and sectors minimally affected by changes in the cost of living.

Interfund lending program Pursuant to an exemptive order granted by the SEC (Lending Order), the Fund has the ability to lend money to, and borrow money from, other Franklin Templeton funds for temporary purposes (Interfund Lending Program) pursuant to a master interfund lending agreement (Interfund Loan). Lending and borrowing through the Interfund Lending Program provides the borrowing fund with a lower interest rate than it would have paid if it borrowed money from a bank, and provides the lending fund with an alternative short-term investment with a higher rate of return than other available short-term investments. All Interfund Loans would consist only of uninvested cash reserves that the lending fund otherwise would invest in short-term repurchase agreements or other short-term instruments. The Fund may only participate in the Interfund Lending Program to the extent permitted by its investment goal(s), policies and restrictions and only subject to meeting the conditions of the Lending Order.

The limitations of the Interfund Lending Program are described below and these and the other conditions of the Lending Order permitting interfund lending are designed to minimize the risks associated with interfund lending for both the lending and borrowing fund. However, no borrowing or lending activity is without risk. When a fund borrows money from another fund under the Interfund Lending Program, there is a risk that the Interfund Loan could be called on one business day’s notice, in which case the borrowing fund may have to utilize a line of credit, which would likely involve higher rates, seek an Interfund Loan from another fund, or liquidate portfolio securities if no lending sources are available to meet its liquidity needs. Interfund Loans are subject to the risk that the borrowing fund could be unable to repay the loan when due, and a delay in repayment could result in a lost opportunity by the lending fund or force the lending fund to borrow or liquidate securities to meet its liquidity needs.

Under the Interfund Lending Program, the Fund may borrow on an unsecured basis through the Interfund Lending Program if its outstanding borrowings from all sources

immediately after the borrowing total 10% or less of its total assets, provided that if the Fund has a secured loan outstanding from any other lender, including but not limited to another fund, the Fund's Interfund Loan will be secured on at least an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding loan that requires collateral. If the Fund's total outstanding borrowings immediately after an Interfund Loan exceed 10% of its total assets, the Fund may borrow through the Interfund Lending Program on a secured basis only. The Fund may not borrow under the Interfund Lending Program or from any other source if its total outstanding borrowings immediately after such borrowing would be more than 33 1/3% of its total assets or any lower threshold provided for by the Fund's investment restrictions.

If the Fund has outstanding bank borrowings, any Interfund Loans to the Fund would: (a) be at an interest rate equal to or lower than that of any outstanding bank loan, (b) be secured at least on an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding bank loan that requires collateral, (c) have a maturity no longer than any outstanding bank loan (and in any event not over seven days), and (d) provide that, if an event of default by the Fund occurs under any agreement evidencing an outstanding bank loan to the Fund, that event of default will automatically (without need for action or notice by the lending fund) constitute an immediate event of default under the interfund lending agreement, entitling the lending fund to call the Interfund Loan (and exercise all rights with respect to any collateral), and that such call would be made if the lending bank exercises its right to call its loan under its agreement with the borrowing fund.

In addition, no fund may lend to another fund through the Interfund Lending Program if the loan would cause the lending fund's aggregate outstanding loans through the Interfund Lending Program to exceed 15% of its current net assets at the time of the loan. A fund's Interfund Loans to any one fund shall not exceed 5% of the lending fund's net assets. The duration of Interfund Loans will be limited to the time required to obtain cash sufficient to repay such Interfund Loan, either through the sale of portfolio securities or the net sales of the fund's shares, but in no event more than seven days, and for purposes of this condition, loans effected within seven days of each other will be treated as separate loan transactions. Each Interfund Loan may be called on one business day's notice by a lending fund and may be repaid on any day by a borrowing fund.

Investment company securities The Fund may invest in other investment companies to the extent permitted by the 1940 Act, SEC rules thereunder and exemptions thereto. With respect to funds in which the Fund may invest, Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the 1940 Act requires that, as determined immediately after a purchase is made, (i) not more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets will be invested in the securities of any one investment company, (ii) not more than 10% of the value of the Fund's total assets will be invested in securities of investment companies as a group, and (iii) not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund. The Fund will limit its investments in funds in accordance with the Section 12(d)(1)(A) limitations set forth above, except to the extent that any rules, regulations or no-action or exemptive relief under the 1940 Act permits the Fund's investments to exceed such limits. For example, Rule 12d1-4 permits the Fund to invest in other investment companies beyond the statutory limits, subject to certain conditions. Among other conditions, the Rule prohibits a fund from acquiring control of another investment company (other than an investment company in the same group of investment companies), including by acquiring more than 25% of its voting securities. In addition, the Rule imposes certain voting requirements when a fund's ownership of another investment company exceeds particular thresholds. If shares of a fund are acquired by another investment company, the "acquired" fund may not purchase or otherwise acquire the securities of an investment company or private fund if immediately after such purchase or acquisition, the securities of investment companies and private funds owned by that acquired fund have an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the fund, subject to certain exceptions. These restrictions may limit the Fund's ability to invest in other investment companies to the extent desired. In addition, other unaffiliated investment companies may impose other investment limitations or redemption restrictions which may also limit the Fund's flexibility with respect to making investments in those unaffiliated investment companies. To the extent that the Fund invests in another investment company, because other investment companies pay advisory, administrative and service fees that are borne indirectly by investors, such as the Fund, there may be duplication of investment management and other fees. The Fund may also invest its cash balances in affiliated money market funds to the extent permitted by its investment policies and rules and exemptions granted under the 1940 Act.

Closed-end funds. The shares of a closed-end fund typically are bought and sold on an exchange. The risks of investing in a closed-end investment company typically reflect the risk of the types of securities in which the closed-end fund invests. Closed-end funds often leverage returns by issuing debt securities, variable rate preferred securities or reverse-repurchase agreements. The Fund may invest in debt securities issued by closed-end funds, subject to any quality or other standards applicable to the Fund's investment in debt securities. If the Fund invests in shares issued by leveraged closed-end funds, it will face certain risks associated with leveraged investments.

Investments in closed-end funds are subject to additional risks. For example, the price of the closed-end fund's shares

quoted on an exchange may not reflect the net asset value of the securities held by the closed-end fund. The premium or discount that the share prices represent versus net asset value may change over time based on a variety of factors, including supply of and demand for the closed-end fund's shares, that are outside the closed-end fund's control or unrelated to the value of the underlying portfolio securities. If the Fund invests in the closed-end fund to gain exposure to the closed-end fund's investments, the lack of correlation between the performance of the closed-end fund's investments and the closed-end fund's share price may compromise or eliminate any such exposure.

Exchange-traded funds. The Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds (ETFs). Most ETFs are regulated as registered investment companies under the 1940 Act. Many ETFs acquire and hold securities of all of the companies or other issuers, or a representative sampling of companies or other issuers that are components of a particular index. Such ETFs are intended to provide investment results that, before expenses, generally correspond to the price and yield performance of the corresponding market index, and the value of their shares should, under normal circumstances, closely track the value of the index's underlying component securities. Because an ETF has operating expenses and transaction costs, while a market index does not, ETFs that track particular indices typically will be unable to match the performance of the index exactly. There are also actively managed ETFs that are managed similarly to other investment companies.

ETF shares may be purchased and sold in the secondary trading market on a securities exchange, in lots of any size, at any time during the trading day. The shares of an ETF may also be assembled in a block (typically 50,000 shares) known as a creation unit and redeemed in kind for a portfolio of the underlying securities (based on the ETF's net asset value) together with a cash payment generally equal to accumulated dividends as of the date of redemption. Conversely, a creation unit may be purchased from the ETF by depositing a specified portfolio of the ETF's underlying securities, as well as a cash payment generally equal to accumulated dividends of the securities (net of expenses) up to the time of deposit.

ETF shares, as opposed to creation units, are generally purchased and sold in a secondary market on a securities exchange. ETF shares can be traded in lots of any size, at any time during the trading day. Although the Fund, like most other investors in ETFs, intends to purchase and sell ETF shares primarily in the secondary trading market, the Fund may redeem creation units for the underlying securities (and any applicable cash), and may assemble a portfolio of the underlying securities and use it (and any required cash) to purchase creation units, if the investment manager believes it is in the Fund's best interest to do so.

An investment in an ETF is subject to all of the risks of investing in the securities held by the ETF and has similar risks as investing in a closed-end fund. In addition, because of the ability of large market participants to arbitrage price differences by purchasing or redeeming creation units, the difference between the market value and the net asset value of ETF shares should in most cases be small. An ETF may be terminated and need to liquidate its portfolio securities at a time when the prices for those securities are falling.

Business development companies (BDCs). BDCs are a less common type of closed-end fund regulated under the 1940 Act. BDCs more closely resemble operating companies than closed-end investment companies and may use leverage. BDCs typically invest in small, developing, financially troubled, private companies or other companies that may have value that can be realized over time, often with managerial assistance. BDCs realize operating income when their investments are sold off, and therefore maintain complex organizational, operational, tax and compliance requirements. Additionally, a BDC's expenses are not direct expenses paid by Fund shareholders and are not used to calculate a fund's net asset value. SEC rules nevertheless require that any expenses incurred by a BDC be included in a fund's expense ratio as "Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses." The expense ratio of a fund that holds a BDC will thus overstate what the fund actually spends on portfolio management, administrative services, and other shareholder services by an amount equal to these Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses. Shareholders would also be exposed to the risks associated not only with the investments of the fund but also with the portfolio investments of the underlying investment companies.

Investment grade debt securities Investment grade debt securities are securities that are rated at the time of purchase in the top four ratings categories by one or more independent rating organizations such as Fitch (rated BBB- or better), S&P (rated BBB- or better), or Moody's (rated Baa3 or higher) or, if unrated, are determined to be of comparable quality by the Fund's investment manager. Generally, a higher rating indicates the rating agency's opinion that there is less risk of default of obligations thereunder including timely repayment of principal and payment of interest. Debt securities in the lowest investment grade category may have speculative characteristics and more closely resemble high-yield debt securities than investment-grade debt securities. Lower-rated securities may be subject to all the risks applicable to high-yield debt securities and changes in economic conditions or other circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to make principal and interest payments than is the case with higher grade debt securities.

A number of risks associated with rating agencies apply to the purchase or sale of investment grade debt securities.

Marketplace loans Marketplace loans are originated through online platforms that provide a marketplace for lending and

match consumers, small and mid-sized enterprises or companies (SMEs) and other borrowers seeking loans with investors that are willing to provide the funding for such loans (Marketplace Loans). The Fund may invest in marketplace lending instruments through a combination of: (i) investing in whole Marketplace Loans through the purchase of whole loans either individually or in aggregations; (ii) investing in notes or other pass-through obligations issued by a platform representing the right to receive the principal and interest payments on a Marketplace Loan (or fractional portions thereof) originated through the platform ("Pass-Through Notes"); (iii) purchasing asset-backed securities representing ownership in a pool of Marketplace Loans; and (iv) investing in public or private investment funds that purchase Marketplace Loans.

Marketplace loan borrowers may seek loans for a variety of different purposes (e.g., loans for education, loans to fund elective medical procedures or loans for franchise financing). The procedures through which borrowers obtain loans can vary between platforms, and between the types of loans (e.g., consumer versus SME). Marketplace lending is often referred to as "peer to peer" lending because of the industry's initial focus on individual investors and consumer loan borrowers. However, since its inception, the industry has grown to include substantial involvement by institutional investors.

In the case of consumer platforms, prospective borrowers must disclose or otherwise make available to the platform operator certain financial and other information including, for example, the borrower's credit score (as determined by a credit reporting agency), income, debt-to-income ratio, credit utilization, employment status, homeownership status, number of existing credit lines, intended use of funds, and the number and/or amount of recent payment defaults and delinquencies, certain of which information is then made available to prospective lenders. The borrower must satisfy the minimum eligibility requirements set by the platform operator. The platform operator uses the information provided by the borrower (along with other relevant data such as the characteristics of the loan) to assign its own credit rating (in the case of most consumer platforms) and the interest rate for the requested loan.

Lenders may select which loans to fund based on such borrower-provided information and platform-assigned credit rating (to the extent one is assigned) and the yield to the lender. The yield to the lender is the fixed interest rate assigned by the platform to the loan net of any fees charged by the platform, including servicing fees. Such servicing fees cover services such as screening borrowers for their eligibility, managing the supply and demand of the marketplace, and facilitating payments and debt collection, among other things. A typical servicing fee charged to the lender is 1% of the outstanding loan balance. Platforms may also charge borrowers an origination fee, which is typically 1% to 5% of the loan balance. The platforms may set limits as to the maximum dollar amount that may be requested by a borrower (whether through one or multiple loans) and the minimum dollar amount that a lender must provide under each loan. The loans originated through the online consumer lending platforms typically have a fixed term ranging between six months and five years in principal amounts with a minimum (e.g., $1,000) and maximum (e.g., $100,000), and typically amortize through equal monthly payments to their maturity dates.

The Fund only enters into arrangements with platforms that have provided the Fund with a written commitment to deliver or cause to be delivered individual loan-level data. The Fund will not enter into arrangements with platforms where the investment manager, in its judgment, believes that it will not reasonably be able to evaluate the completeness and accuracy of the individual loan data provided by the platform relevant to the existence and valuation of the loans purchased and utilized in the accounting of the loans.

In the United States, platforms are subject to extensive regulation, oversight and examination at the federal, state and local level, and across multiple jurisdictions if they operate their business nationwide. Accordingly, platforms are generally subject to various securities, lending, licensing and consumer protection laws. Most states limit by statute the maximum rate of interest that lenders may charge on consumer loans. A limited number of states also may have interest rate caps for certain commercial loans. The maximum permitted interest rate can vary substantially between states. Some states impose a fixed maximum rate while others link the maximum rate to a floating rate index. Some platforms obtain state lending licenses and lend directly to borrowers. Other platform operators through a contractual relationship with a bank purchase bank originated loans. In this model, an operator of a platform may be able to (through existing law and legal interpretations) be the beneficiary of the federal preemption available to federally insured banks that preempt the state laws and usury rates applicable under the various state laws where borrowers reside.

Marketplace pass-through notes. The operator of a platform may purchase a loan from a funding bank at par using the funds of multiple lenders and then issue to each such lender at par a Pass-Through Note of the operator (or an affiliate of the operator) representing the right to receive the lender's proportionate share of all principal and interest payments received by the operator from the borrower on the loan funded by such lender (net of the platform servicing fees). Alternatively, certain operators (including most SME lenders) do not engage funding banks but instead extend their loans directly to the borrowers. These lenders similarly may sell Pass-Through Notes backed by individual loans. The platform operator typically will service the loans it originates and will maintain a separate segregated deposit account into which it will deposit all payments received from the obligors on the loans. Upon identification of the proceeds received with

respect to a loan and deduction of applicable fees, the platform operator forwards the amounts owed to the lenders or the holders of any related Pass-Through Notes, as applicable. A platform operator is not obligated to make any payments due on a Pass-Through Note (except to the extent that the operator actually receives payments from the borrower on the related loan). Accordingly, lenders and investors assume all of the credit risk on the loans they fund through a Pass-Through Note purchased from a platform operator and are not entitled to recover any deficiency of principal or interest from the platform operator if the underlying borrower defaults on its payments due with respect to a loan.

Marketplace loan asset-backed securities. The Fund may also invest in Marketplace Loans through special purpose vehicles ("SPVs") established solely for the purpose of holding assets (e.g., commercial loans) and issuing securities ("asset-backed securities") secured only by such underlying assets (a practice known as securitization). The Fund may invest, for example, in an SPV that holds a pool of loans originated by a particular platform. The SPV may issue multiple classes of asset-backed securities with different levels of seniority. The more senior classes will be entitled to receive payment before the subordinate classes if the cash flow generated by the underlying assets is not sufficient to allow the SPV to make payments on all of the classes of the asset-backed securities. Accordingly, the senior classes of asset-backed securities receive higher credit ratings (if rated) whereas the subordinated classes have higher interest rates. The subordinated classes of asset-backed securities in which the Fund may invest are typically considered to be an illiquid and highly speculative investment, as losses on the underlying assets are first absorbed by the subordinated classes. The value of asset-backed securities, like that of traditional fixed-income securities, typically increases when interest rates fall and decreases when interest rates rise. However, asset-backed securities differ from traditional fixed-income securities because they generally will be subject to prepayment based upon prepayments received by the SPV on the loan pool. The price paid by the Fund for such securities, the yield the Fund expects to receive from such securities and the weighted average life of such securities are based on a number of factors, including the anticipated rate of prepayment of the underlying assets.

Public or private investment funds. The Fund may invest in public or private investment funds that invest in Marketplace Loans. As an investor in an investment fund, the Fund would hold an indirect interest in a pool of Marketplace Loans and would receive distributions on its interest in accordance with the fund's governing documents. This structure is intended to create diversification and to reduce operator credit risk for the investors in the investment fund by enabling them to invest indirectly in Marketplace Loans through the public or private investment fund rather than directly from the operator of the platform. The Fund, as a holder of securities issued by public or private investment funds, will bear its pro rata portion of such funds' expenses. These expenses are in addition to the direct expenses of the Fund's own operations, thereby increasing costs and/or potentially reducing returns to investors.

Risks of marketplace loans generally. Marketplace Loans are subject to the risks associated with debt investments generally, including but not limited to, interest rate, credit, liquidity, high yield debt, market and income risks. Marketplace Loans generally are not rated by rating agencies and constitute a highly risky and speculative investment. There can be no assurance that payments due on underlying Marketplace Loans will be made. A platform operator is not obligated to make any payments due on a Marketplace Loan except to the extent that the operator actually receives payments from the borrower on the related loan. Accordingly, lenders and investors assume all of the credit risk on the loans they fund or purchase from a platform operator and are not entitled to recover any deficiency of principal or interest from the platform operator if the underlying borrower defaults on its payments due with respect to a loan. A substantial portion of the Marketplace Loans in which the Fund may invest will not be secured by any collateral, will not be guaranteed or insured by a third party and will not be backed by any governmental authority. Accordingly, the platforms and any third-party collection agencies will be limited in their ability to collect on defaulted Marketplace Loans. In addition, a platform operator is generally not required to repurchase Marketplace Loans from a lender or purchaser except under very narrow circumstances, such as in cases of verifiable identity fraud by the borrower or as may otherwise be negotiated by a purchaser of whole loans.

To the extent a Marketplace Loan is secured, there can be no assurance as to the amount of any funds that may be realized from recovering and liquidating any collateral or the timing of such recovery and liquidation and hence there is no assurance that sufficient funds (or, possibly, any funds) will be available to offset any payment defaults that occur under the Marketplace Loan. Marketplace Loans are obligations of the borrowers and the terms of certain loans may not restrict the borrowers from incurring additional debt. If a borrower incurs additional debt after obtaining a loan through a platform, the additional debt may adversely affect the borrower's creditworthiness generally, and could result in the financial distress, insolvency or bankruptcy of the borrower. To the extent borrowers incur other indebtedness that is secured, such as a mortgage, the ability of the secured creditors to exercise collection remedies against the assets of that borrower may impair the borrower's ability to repay its Marketplace Loan or it may impair the platform's ability to collect on the Marketplace Loan upon default. To the extent that a Marketplace Loan is unsecured, borrowers may choose to repay obligations under other indebtedness (such as loans

obtained from traditional lending sources) before repaying a loan facilitated through a platform because the borrowers have no collateral at risk. The Fund will not be made aware of any additional debt incurred by a borrower, or whether such debt is secured. The effect of this can be to allow other creditors to move more quickly to claim any assets of the borrower.

Borrower credit risk. Certain of the Marketplace Loans in which the Fund may invest may represent obligations of consumers who would not otherwise qualify for, or would have difficulty qualifying for, credit from traditional sources of lending, or SMEs that are unable to effectively access public equity or debt markets, as a result of, among other things, limited assets, adverse income characteristics, limited credit or operating history or an impaired credit record, which may include, for example in the case of consumers, a history of irregular employment, previous bankruptcy filings, repossessions of property, charged off loans and/or garnishment of wages. The average interest rate charged to, or required of, such obligors generally is higher than that charged by commercial banks and other institutions providing traditional sources of credit or that set by the debt market. As a result of the credit profile of the borrowers and the interest rates on Marketplace Loans, the delinquency and default experience on the Marketplace Loans may be significantly higher than those experienced by financial products arising from traditional sources of lending. The Fund may need to rely on the collection efforts of the platforms and third party collection agencies, which also may be limited in their ability to collect on defaulted loans. The Fund may not have direct recourse against borrowers, may not be able to obtain the identity of the borrowers in order to contact a borrower about a loan and may not be able to pursue borrowers to collect payment under loans. Borrowers may seek protection under federal bankruptcy law or similar laws. In most cases involving the bankruptcy of a borrower with an unsecured Marketplace Loan, unsecured creditors will receive only a fraction of any amount outstanding on their loan, if anything at all.

Pass-through notes risk. As pass-through notes generally are pass-through obligations of the operators of the lending platforms, and are not direct obligations of the borrowers under the underlying Marketplace Loans originated by such platforms, holders of certain Pass-Through Notes are exposed to the credit risk of the operator. An operator that becomes subject to bankruptcy proceedings may be unable to make full and timely payments on its Pass-Through Notes even if the borrowers of the underlying Marketplace Loans timely make all payments due from them. Although some operators have chosen to address operator insolvency risk by organizing special purpose subsidiaries to issue the Pass-Through Notes, there can be no assurance that any such subsidiary would not be consolidated into the operator's bankruptcy estate should the operator become subject to bankruptcy proceedings. In such event, the holders of the Pass-Through Notes would remain subject to all of the risks associated with an operator insolvency. In addition, pass-through notes are non-recourse obligations (except to the extent that the operator actually receives payments from the borrower on the loan). Accordingly, lenders assume all of the borrower credit risk on the loans they fund and are not entitled to recover any deficiency of principal or interest from the operator if the borrower defaults on its payments. There may be a delay between the time the Fund commits to purchase a Pass-Through Note and the issuance of such note and, during such delay, the funds committed to such an investment will not be available for investment in other Marketplace Lending instruments. Because a Fund committed to an investment in Pass-Through Notes does not earn interest until the issuance of the note, the delay in issuance will have the effect of reducing the effective rate of return on the investment.

Fraud risk. The Fund is subject to the risk of fraudulent activity associated with the various parties involved in marketplace lending, including the platforms, banks, borrowers and third parties handling borrower and investor information. For example, a borrower may have supplied false or inaccurate information. A platform's resources, technologies and fraud prevention tools may be insufficient to accurately detect and prevent fraud. A platform may have the exclusive right and ability to investigate claims of borrower identity theft, which creates a conflict of interest. If a platform determines that verifiable identity theft has occurred, it may be required to repurchase the loan or indemnify the Fund. Alternatively, if the platform denies a claim of identity theft, it would not be required to repurchase the loan or indemnify the Fund.

Information provided to the platform regarding the loans and the borrowers' credit information may be incomplete, inaccurate, out of date or fraudulent and a platform's resources and technologies to verify information and prevent fraud may be insufficient. Investments in Marketplace Loans may be adversely affected if the platform or a third-party service provider becomes unable or unwilling to fulfill its obligations in servicing the loans. The Fund intends to have a backup servicer in case any platform or third-party servicer ceases or fails to perform the servicing functions, which the Fund expects will mitigate some of the risks associated with a reliance on platforms or third-party servicers for servicing of the Marketplace Loans.

Servicer risk. The Fund's investments in Marketplace Loans could be adversely impacted if a platform that services the Fund's investments becomes unable or unwilling to fulfill its obligations to do so. In the event that the servicer is unable to service the loans, there can be no guarantee that a backup servicer will be able to assume responsibility for servicing the loans in a timely or cost-effective manner; any resulting disruption or delay could jeopardize payments due to the

Fund in respect of its investments or increase the costs associated with the Fund's investments. If the servicer becomes subject to a bankruptcy or similar proceeding, there is some risk that the Fund's investments could be re-characterized as secured loans from the Fund to the platform, which could result in uncertainty, costs and delays from having the Fund's investment deemed part of the bankruptcy estate of the platform, rather than an asset owned outright by the Fund. To the extent the servicer becomes subject to a bankruptcy or similar proceeding, there is a risk that substantial losses will be incurred by the Fund.

Platform provided credit information risk. The investment manager is reliant in part on the borrower credit information provided to it or assigned by the platforms when selecting Marketplace Loans for investment. To the extent a credit rating is assigned to each borrower by a platform, such rating may not accurately reflect the borrower's actual creditworthiness. A platform may be unable, or may not seek, to verify all of the borrower information obtained by it. Borrower information on which platforms and lenders may rely may be outdated. In addition, certain information that the investment manager would otherwise seek may not be available, such as financial statements and other financial information. Furthermore, the investment manager may be unable to perform any independent follow-up verification with respect to a borrower to the extent the borrower's name, address and other contact information is required to remain confidential. In addition, the platforms' credit decisions and scoring models are based on algorithms that could potentially contain programming or other errors or prove to be ineffective or otherwise flawed.

Liquidity risk. Investors that acquire Marketplace Loans directly from platforms must generally hold their loans through maturity in order to recoup their entire principal. No Marketplace Loans currently being offered have been registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, Marketplace Loans are not listed on any securities exchange (although secondary market trading in pass-through notes issued by one platform does occur on one electronic "alternative trading system"). An active secondary market for Marketplace Loans does not currently exist and an active market for the Marketplace Loans may not develop in the future. Accordingly, it may be difficult for the Fund to sell an investment in Marketplace Loans at the price which the Fund believes the loan should be valued. The Fund typically considers its investments in Marketplace Loans to be illiquid for purposes of its limitation on illiquid investments.

Platform risk. To the extent that the Fund invests in Marketplace Loans, it will be dependent on the continued success of the platforms that originate such loans. The Fund materially depends on such platforms for loan data and the origination, sourcing and servicing of Marketplace Loans and on the platform's ability to collect, verify and provide information to the Fund about each Marketplace Loan and borrower.

Regulatory and judicial risks. The platforms through which Marketplace Loans are originated are subject to various statutes, rules and regulations issued by federal, state and local government authorities. Federal and state consumer protection laws in particular impose requirements and place restrictions on creditors and service providers in connection with extensions of credit and collections on personal loans and protection of sensitive customer data obtained in the origination and servicing thereof. Platforms are also subject to laws relating to electronic commerce and transfer of funds in conducting business electronically. A failure to comply with the applicable rules and regulations may, among other things, subject the platform or its related entities to certain registration requirements with government authorities and the payment of any penalties and fines; result in the revocation of their licenses; cause the loan contracts originated by the platform to be voided or otherwise impair the enforcement of such loans; and subject them to potential civil and criminal liability, class action lawsuits and/or administrative or regulatory enforcement actions. The federal and state consumer protection laws generally (i) require lenders to provide consumers with specified disclosures regarding the terms of the loans and/or impose substantive restrictions on the terms on which loans are made; (ii) prohibit lenders from discriminating against consumers on the basis of certain protected classes; and (iii) restrict the actions that a lender or debt collector can take to realize on delinquent or defaulted loans. Marketplace lending industry participants, including platforms, may be subject in certain cases to increased risk of litigation alleging violations of federal and state laws and regulations. In addition, courts have recently considered the regulatory environment applicable to marketplace lending platforms and purchasers of Marketplace Loans. In light of recent decisions, if upheld and widely applied, certain marketplace lending platforms could be required to restructure their operations and certain loans previously made by them through funding banks may not be enforceable, whether in whole or in part, by investors holding such loans or such loans could be subject to reduced returns and/or the platform subject to fines and penalties. As a result, Marketplace Loans purchased by the Fund could become unenforceable, thereby causing losses for shareholders.

State Usury Law risks. Different platforms employ different business models, resulting in regulatory uncertainty with respect to marketplace lending investments. For example, a platform that underwrites loans from a particular state to make loans to consumers or companies across the United States is required to comply with that state's licensing requirements and applicable usury or maximum interest rate limitations. However, other states could also seek to regulate the platform (or the Fund as a lender under the platform) on the basis that loans were made to consumers or companies located in such

other states. In that case, loans made to borrowers in those other states could be subject to various state usury laws, which in turn could limit revenues for the Fund. Moreover, the platform (or the Fund) could also be subject to such states' licensing requirements.

Other platforms may follow a different model whereby all loans sourced by the platform are made through a bank. The bank may work jointly with the platform to act as the issuer, i.e., the "true lender," of the platform's loans. However, if challenged, courts may instead decide that the platform (or the Fund as a lender under the platform) is the true lender of the loans. Courts have applied differing interpretations when determining which party is the true lender. The resulting uncertainty may increase the possibility of claims brought against the platforms by borrowers seeking to void their loans or subject the platforms to increased regulatory scrutiny and enforcement actions. To the extent that either the platform or the Fund is deemed to be the true lender in any jurisdiction instead of the funding bank (whether determined by a regulatory agency at the state or federal level or by court decision), loans made to borrowers in that jurisdiction would be subject to the usury laws of such jurisdiction and existing loans may be unenforceable, and the platform and/or the Fund could be subject to additional regulatory requirements as well as any penalties and fines.

Master limited partnerships The Fund may invest in equity securities of master limited partnerships (MLPs), and their affiliates. MLPs generally have two classes of partners, the general partner and the limited partners. The general partner normally controls the MLP through an equity interest plus units that are subordinated to the common (publicly traded) units for an initial period and then only converting to common if certain financial tests are met. The general partner also generally receives a larger portion of the net income as incentive. As cash flow grows, the general partner receives a greater interest in the incremental income compared to the interest of limited partners.

MLP common units represent an equity ownership interest in a partnership, providing limited voting rights and entitling the holder to a share of the company's success through distributions and/or capital appreciation. Unlike shareholders of a corporation, common unit holders do not elect directors annually and generally have the right to vote only on certain significant events, such as mergers, a sale of substantially all of the assets, removal of the general partner or material amendments to the partnership agreement. MLPs are often required by their partnership agreements to distribute a large percentage of their current operating earnings. Common unit holders generally have first right to a minimum quarterly distribution (MQD) prior to distributions to the convertible subordinated unit holders or the general partner (including incentive distributions). Common unit holders typically have arrearage rights if the MQD is not met. In the event of liquidation, MLP common unit holders have first right to the partnership's remaining assets after bondholders, other debt holders, and preferred unit holders have been paid in full. MLP common units trade on a national securities exchange or over-the-counter.

MLP subordinated units. Subordinated units, which, like common units, represent limited partner or member interests, are not typically listed or traded on an exchange. The Fund may purchase outstanding subordinated units through negotiated transactions directly with holders of such units or newly issued subordinated units directly from the issuer. Holders of such subordinated units are generally entitled to receive a distribution only after the MQD and any arrearages from prior quarters have been paid to holders of common units. Holders of subordinated units typically have the right to receive distributions before any incentive distributions are payable to the general partner or managing member. Subordinated units generally do not provide arrearage rights. Most MLP subordinated units are convertible into common units after the passage of a specified period of time or upon the achievement by the issuer of specified financial goals. MLPs issue different classes of subordinated units that may have different voting, trading, and distribution rights. The Fund may invest in different classes of subordinated units.

MLP convertible subordinated units. MLP convertible subordinated units are typically issued by MLPs to founders, corporate general partners of MLPs, entities that sell assets to MLPs, and institutional investors. Convertible subordinated units increase the likelihood that, during the subordination period, there will be available cash to be distributed to common unitholders. MLP convertible subordinated units generally are not entitled to distributions until holders of common units have received their specified MQD, plus any arrearages, and may receive less than common unitholders in distributions upon liquidation. Convertible subordinated unitholders generally are entitled to MQD prior to the payment of incentive distributions to the general partner, but are not entitled to arrearage rights. Therefore, MLP convertible subordinated units generally entail greater risk than MLP common units. Convertible subordinated units are generally convertible automatically into senior common units of the same issuer at a one-to-one ratio upon the passage of time or the satisfaction of certain financial tests. Convertible subordinated units do not trade on a national exchange or over-the counter (OTC), and there is no active market for them. The value of a convertible subordinated unit is a function of its worth if converted into the underlying common units. Convertible subordinated units generally have similar voting rights as do MLP common units. Distributions may be paid in cash or in-kind.

MLP preferred units. MLP preferred units are not typically listed or traded on an exchange. The Fund may purchase MLP preferred units through negotiated transactions directly with MLPs, affiliates of MLPs and institutional holders of such units. Holders of MLP preferred units can be entitled to a wide

range of voting and other rights, depending on the structure of each separate security.

MLP general partner or managing member interests. The general partner or managing member interest in an MLP is typically retained by the original sponsors of an MLP, such as its founders, corporate partners and entities that sell assets to the MLP. The holder of the general partner or managing member interest can be liable in certain circumstances for amounts greater than the amount of the holder's investment in the general partner or managing member. General partner or managing member interests often confer direct board participation rights in, and in many cases control over the operations of, the MLP. General partner or managing member interests can be privately held or owned by publicly traded entities. General partner or managing member interests receive cash distributions, typically in an amount of up to 2% of available cash, which is contractually defined in the partnership or limited liability company agreement. In addition, holders of general partner or managing member interests typically receive incentive distribution rights (IDRs), which provide them with an increasing share of the entity's aggregate cash distributions upon the payment of per common unit distributions that exceed specified threshold levels above the MQD. Incentive distributions to a general partner are designed to encourage the general partner, who controls and operates the partnership, to maximize the partnership's cash flow and increase distributions to the limited partners. Due to the IDRs, general partners of MLPs have higher distribution growth prospects than their underlying MLPs, but quarterly incentive distribution payments would also decline at a greater rate than the decline rate in quarterly distributions to common and subordinated unit holders in the event of a reduction in the MLP's quarterly distribution. The ability of the limited partners or members to remove the general partner or managing member without cause is typically very limited. In addition, some MLPs permit the holder of IDRs to reset, under specified circumstances, the incentive distribution levels and receive compensation in exchange for the distribution rights given up in the reset.

Limited liability company common units. Some companies in which the Fund may invest have been organized as limited liability companies (MLP LLCs). Such MLP LLCs are treated in the same manner as MLPs for federal income tax purposes. Consistent with its investment objective and policies, the Fund may invest in common units or other securities of such MLP LLCs. MLP LLC common units represent an equity ownership interest in an MLP LLC, entitling the holders to a share of the MLP LLC's success through distributions and/or capital appreciation. Similar to MLPs, MLP LLCs typically do not pay federal income tax at the entity level and are required by their operating agreements to distribute a large percentage of their current operating earnings. MLP LLC common unitholders generally have first right to an MQD prior to distributions to subordinated unitholders and typically have arrearage rights if the MQD is not met. In the event of liquidation, MLP LLC common unitholders have first right to the MLP LLC's remaining assets after bondholders, other debt holders and preferred unitholders, if any, have been paid in full. MLP LLC common units trade on a national securities exchange or OTC. In contrast to MLPs, MLP LLCs have no general partner and there are generally no incentives that entitle management or other unitholders to increased percentages of cash distributions as distributions reach higher target levels. In addition, MLP LLC common unitholders typically have voting rights with respect to the MLP LLC, whereas MLP common units have limited voting rights.

MLP affiliates and I-Units. The Fund may invest in equity securities issued by affiliates of MLPs, including the general partners or managing members of MLPs and companies that own MLP general partner interests. Such issuers may be organized and/or taxed as corporations and therefore may not offer the advantageous tax characteristics of MLP units. The Fund may purchase such other MLP equity securities through market transactions, but may also do so through direct placements. I-Units represent an indirect ownership interest in an MLP and are issued by an MLP affiliate. The MLP affiliate uses the proceeds from the sale of I-Units to purchase limited partnership interests in its affiliated MLP. Thus, I-Units represent an indirect interest in an MLP. I-Units have limited voting rights and are similar in that respect to MLP common units. I-Units differ from MLP common units primarily in that instead of receiving cash distributions, holders of I-Units will receive distributions of additional I Units in an amount equal to the cash distributions received by common unit holders. I-Units are traded on the NYSE. Issuers of MLP I-Units are treated as corporations and not partnerships for tax purposes.

Investments in securities of an MLP involve risks that differ from investments in common stock, including risks related to limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the MLP, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between the MLP and the MLP's general partner, cash flow risks, dilution risks and risks related to the general partner's right to require unit-holders to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price. Certain MLP securities may trade in lower volumes due to their smaller capitalizations, and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements and lower market liquidity. MLPs are generally considered interest-rate sensitive investments. During periods of interest rate volatility, these investments may not provide attractive returns.

There are also certain tax risks undertaken by the Fund when it invests in MLPs. MLPs are generally treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Partnerships do not pay U.S. federal income tax at the partnership level. Rather, each partner is allocated a share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. A change in current

tax law or a change in the underlying business mix of a given MLP could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in the MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax (as well as state and local income taxes) on its taxable income. This would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and could result in a reduction in the value of the Fund's investment in the MLP and lower income to the Fund. Also, to the extent a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP is treated as a return of capital, the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the interests of the MLP will be reduced, which may increase the Fund's tax liability upon the sale of the interests in the MLP or upon subsequent distributions in respect of such interests.

Merger arbitrage securities and securities of distressed companies A Fund may invest in Merger Arbitrage Securities and the securities of Distressed Companies. The Fund may from time to time participate in any tender or exchange offers in which such companies are involved. A tender offer is an offer by the company itself or by another company or person to purchase a company's securities at a higher (or lower) price than the market value for such securities. An exchange offer is an offer by the company or by another company or person to the holders of the company's securities to exchange those securities for different securities.

Mortgage loans and other mortgage securities

Mortgage loans. The Fund may acquire commercial whole mortgage loans secured by a mortgage lien on commercial property, which may be structured to either permit that Fund to retain the entire loan, or sell the lower yielding senior portions of the loan and retain the higher yielding subordinate investment. Typically, borrowers of these loans are institutions and real estate operating companies and investors. These loans are generally secured by commercial real estate assets in a variety of industries with a variety of characteristics. The Fund may own entire whole loans or in some cases may choose to syndicate a portion of the risk or participate in syndications led by other institutions. In some cases, the Fund may fund a first mortgage loan with the intention of selling the senior tranche, or an A-Note, and retaining the subordinated tranche, or a B-Note, or mezzanine loan tranche. The Fund may seek, in the future, to enhance the returns of all or a senior portion of its commercial mortgage loans through securitizations. In addition to interest, the Fund may receive extension fees, modification or similar fees in connection with whole mortgage loans.

The Fund may also acquire residential whole mortgage loans secured by a mortgage lien on residential property. Typically, borrowers of these loans are individuals rather than institutions, and the quality of residential real estate loans can depend largely on the credit characteristics of the underlying borrowers. At times, the residential mortgage market in the United States has experienced difficulties that resulted in losses on residential mortgage loans (especially subprime and second-lien mortgage loans). There can be no assurance that such difficulties would not be experienced again, which could result in losses as a result of investments in residential real estate loans.

The liens securing such whole mortgage loans may be a first lien or subordinate lien on the underlying property.

Whole mortgage loans are subject to many of the same risks as mortgage-backed securities, as described below, including credit, interest rate, extension, prepayment and sufficiency of collateral. Unlike most mortgage backed securities where the Fund has an interest in a pool of mortgages, the Fund's risk in a whole mortgage loan, which typically is secured by a single property, reflects the increased risks associated with a single property compared to a pool of properties. In addition, the ability of a lender, such as the Fund, to enforce its rights under mortgage documents is subject to numerous state and federal laws and regulations, including those regarding foreclosure, rights of redemption with respect to the underlying property, due on sale provisions, and usury laws. Some whole mortgage loans may not be considered "securities," and investors, such as the Fund, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the antifraud protections of the federal securities laws.

B-Notes. The Fund may originate or invest in B-Notes. A B-Note is a mortgage loan typically (i) secured by a first mortgage on a single large commercial property or group of related properties and (ii) subordinated to an A-Note secured by the same first mortgage on the same collateral. As a result, if a borrower defaults, there may not be sufficient funds remaining for B-Note holders after payment to the A-Note holders. Because each transaction is privately negotiated, B-Notes can vary in their structural characteristics and risks. For example, the rights of holders of B-Notes to control the process following a borrower default may be limited in certain investments. The Fund cannot predict the terms of each B-Note investment.

Covered bonds. The Fund may invest in covered bonds, which are debt securities issued by banks or other financial institutions that are backed by both the issuing financial institution and are secured by a segregated pool of financial assets (a "cover pool"). The cover pool for a covered bond is typically comprised of residential or commercial mortgage loans or loans to public sector institutions. The cover pool is designed to pay covered bond holders principal and interest when due. In the event of a default, if the assets of the cover pool are insufficient to repay amounts owing in respect of the bonds, bondholders also have a senior, unsecured claim against the issuing financial institution. Market practice surrounding the maintenance of a cover pool, including custody arrangements, varies based on the jurisdiction in which the covered bonds are issued. Certain jurisdictions may afford lesser protections regarding the amount cover pools

are required to maintain or the manner in which such assets are held. The value of a covered bond is affected by factors similar to other types of mortgage-backed securities, and a covered bond may lose value if the credit rating of the issuing financial institution is downgraded or the quality of the assets in the cover pool deteriorates.

Overview of mortgage-backed securities. Mortgage-backed securities, represent an ownership interest in a pool of mortgage loans, usually originated by mortgage bankers, commercial banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks and credit unions to finance purchases of homes, commercial buildings or other real estate. The individual mortgage loans are packaged or "pooled" together for sale to investors. These mortgage loans may have either fixed or adjustable interest rates. A guarantee or other form of credit support may be attached to a mortgage-backed security to protect against default on obligations.

As the underlying mortgage loans are paid off, investors receive principal and interest payments, which "pass-through" when received from individual borrowers, net of any fees owed to the administrator, guarantor or other service providers. Some mortgage-backed securities make payments of both principal and interest at a range of specified intervals; others make semiannual interest payments at a predetermined rate and repay principal at maturity (like a typical bond).

Mortgage-backed securities are based on different types of mortgages, including those on commercial real estate or residential properties. The primary issuers or guarantors of mortgage-backed securities have historically been the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA or Ginnie Mae), the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA or Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC or Freddie Mac). Other issuers of mortgage-backed securities include commercial banks and other private lenders. Trading in mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by a governmental agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise may frequently take place in the to-be-announced (TBA) forward market. On June 3, 2019, under the FHFA's “Single Security Initiative” intended to maximize liquidity for both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage-backed securities in the TBA market, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac started issuing uniform mortgage-backed securities (“UMBS”) in place of their separate offerings of TBA-eligible mortgage-backed securities. The issuance of UMBS may not achieve the intended results and may have unanticipated or adverse effects on the market for mortgage-backed securities. See “When-issued, delayed delivery and to-be-announced transactions” below.

Ginnie Mae is a wholly-owned United States government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ginnie Mae guarantees the principal and interest on securities issued by institutions approved by Ginnie Mae (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks and mortgage bankers). Ginnie Mae also guarantees the principal and interest on securities backed by pools of mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (the "FHA"), or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (the "VA"). Ginnie Mae's guarantees are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Guarantees as to the timely payment of principal and interest do not extend to the value or yield of mortgage-backed securities nor do they extend to the value of the Fund's shares which will fluctuate daily with market conditions.

Fannie Mae is a government-sponsored corporation, but its common stock is owned by private stockholders. Fannie Mae purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by Fannie Mae are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by Fannie Mae, but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Freddie Mac was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks but now its common stock is owned entirely by private stockholders. Freddie Mac issues Participation Certificates (PCs), which are pass-through securities, each representing an undivided interest in a pool of residential mortgages. Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

Although the mortgage-backed securities of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, the Secretary of the Treasury has the authority to support Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by purchasing limited amounts of their respective obligations. The yields on these mortgage-backed securities have historically exceeded the yields on other types of U.S. government securities with comparable maturities due largely to their prepayment risk. The U.S. government, in the past, provided financial support to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the U.S. government has no legal obligation to do so, and no assurance can be given that the U.S. government will continue to do so.

On September 6, 2008, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship. As the conservator, FHFA succeeded to all rights, titles, powers and privileges of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and of any stockholder, officer or director of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. FHFA selected a new chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors for

each of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Also, the U.S. Treasury entered into a Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement imposing various covenants that severely limit each enterprise's operations.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac continue to operate as going concerns while in conservatorship and each remains liable for all of its obligations, including its guaranty obligations associated with its mortgage-backed securities. The FHFA has the power to repudiate any contract entered into by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac prior to FHFA's appointment as conservator or receiver, including the guaranty obligations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Accordingly, securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will involve a risk of non-payment of principal and interest.

Private mortgage-backed securities. Issuers of private mortgage-backed securities, such as commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers, are not U.S. government agencies and may be both the originators of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-backed securities, or they may partner with a government entity by issuing mortgage loans guaranteed or sponsored by the U.S. government or a U.S. government agency or sponsored enterprise. Pools of mortgage loans created by private issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools because there are no direct or indirect government or government agency guarantees of payment. The risk of loss due to default on private mortgage-backed securities is historically higher because neither the U.S. government nor an agency or instrumentality have guaranteed them. Timely payment of interest and principal is, however, generally supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance. Government entities, private insurance companies or the private mortgage poolers issue the insurance and guarantees. The insurance and guarantees and the creditworthiness of their issuers will be considered when determining whether a mortgage-backed security meets the Fund's quality standards. The Fund may buy mortgage-backed securities without insurance or guarantees if, through an examination of the loan experience and practices of the poolers, the investment manager determines that the securities meet the Fund's quality standards. Private mortgage-backed securities whose underlying assets are neither U.S. government securities nor U.S. government-insured mortgages, to the extent that real properties securing such assets may be located in the same geographical region, may also be subject to a greater risk of default than other comparable securities in the event of adverse economic, political or business developments that may affect such region and, ultimately, the ability of property owners to make payments of principal and interest on the underlying mortgages. Non-government mortgage-backed securities are generally subject to greater price volatility than those issued, guaranteed or sponsored by government entities because of the greater risk of default in adverse market conditions. Where a guarantee is provided by a private guarantor, the Fund is subject to the credit risk of such guarantor, especially when the guarantor doubles as the originator.

Mortgage-backed securities that are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, are not subject to the Fund's industry concentration restrictions, set forth under "Fundamental Investment Policies," by virtue of the exclusion from that test available to securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities. In the case of privately issued mortgage-backed securities, the Fund categorizes the securities by the issuer's industry for purposes of the Fund's industry concentration restrictions.

Other mortgage securities. Mortgage securities may include interests in pools of (i) reperforming loans, meaning that the mortgage loans are current, including because of loan modifications, but had been delinquent in the past and (ii) non-performing loans, meaning that the mortgage loans are not current. Such mortgage securities present increased risks of default, including non-payment of principal and interest.

Additional risks. In addition to the special risks described below, mortgage securities are subject to many of the same risks as other types of debt securities. The market value of mortgage securities, like other debt securities, will generally vary inversely with changes in market interest rates, declining when interest rates rise and rising when interest rates decline. Mortgage securities differ from conventional debt securities in that most mortgage securities are pass-through securities. This means that they typically provide investors with periodic payments (typically monthly) consisting of a pro rata share of both regular interest and principal payments, as well as unscheduled early prepayments, on the underlying mortgage pool (net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities and any applicable loan servicing fees). As a result, the holder of the mortgage securities (i.e., the Fund) receives scheduled payments of principal and interest and may receive unscheduled principal payments representing prepayments on the underlying mortgages. The rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages generally increases as interest rates decline, and when the Fund reinvests the payments and any unscheduled payments of principal it receives, it may receive a rate of interest that is lower than the rate on the existing mortgage securities. For this reason, pass-through mortgage securities may have less potential for capital appreciation as interest rates decline and may be less effective than other types of U.S. government or other debt securities as a means of "locking in" long-term interest rates. In general, fixed rate mortgage securities have greater exposure to this "prepayment risk" than variable rate securities.

An unexpected rise in interest rates could extend the average life of a mortgage security because of a lower than expected level of prepayments or higher than expected amounts of late payments or defaults. In addition, to the extent mortgage securities are purchased at a premium, mortgage foreclosures and unscheduled principal prepayments may result in some loss of the holder's principal investment to the extent of the premium paid. On the other hand, if mortgage securities are purchased at a discount, both a scheduled payment of principal and an unscheduled payment of principal will increase current and total returns and will accelerate the recognition of income that, when distributed to shareholders, will generally be taxable as ordinary income. Regulatory, policy or tax changes may also adversely affect the mortgage securities market as a whole or particular segments of such market, including if one or more government sponsored entities, such as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, are privatized or their conservatorship is terminated.

Guarantees. The existence of a guarantee or other form of credit support on a mortgage security usually increases the price that the Fund pays or receives for the security. There is always the risk that the guarantor will default on its obligations. When the guarantor is the U.S. government, there is minimal risk of guarantor default. However, the risk remains if the credit support or guarantee is provided by a private party or a U.S. government agency or sponsored enterprise. Even if the guarantor meets its obligations, there can be no assurance that the type of guarantee or credit support provided will be effective at reducing losses or delays to investors, given the nature of the default. A guarantee only assures timely payment of interest and principal, not a particular rate of return on the Fund's investment or protection against prepayment or other risks. The market price and yield of the mortgage security at any given time are not guaranteed and likely to fluctuate.

Sector focus. The Fund's investments in mortgage securities may cause the Fund to have significant, indirect exposure to a given market sector. If the underlying mortgages are predominantly from borrowers in a given market sector, the mortgage securities may respond to market conditions just as a direct investment in that sector would. As a result, the Fund may experience greater exposure to that specific market sector than it would if the underlying mortgages came from a wider variety of borrowers. Greater exposure to a particular market sector may result in greater volatility of the security's price and returns to the Fund, as well as greater potential for losses in the absence or failure of a guarantee to protect against widespread defaults or late payments by the borrowers on the underlying mortgages.

Similar risks may result from an investment in mortgage securities if the underlying real properties are located in the same geographical region or dependent upon the same industries or sectors. Such mortgage securities will experience greater risk of default or late payment than other comparable but diversified securities in the event of adverse economic, political or business developments because of the widespread affect an adverse event will have on borrowers' ability to make payments on the underlying mortgages.

Adjustable rate mortgage securities (ARMS) ARMS, like traditional fixed rate mortgage-backed securities, represent an ownership interest in a pool of mortgage loans and are issued, guaranteed or otherwise sponsored by governmental or by private entities. Unlike traditional mortgage-backed securities, the mortgage loans underlying ARMS generally carry adjustable interest rates, and in some cases principal repayment rates, that are reset periodically. An adjustable interest rate may be passed-through or otherwise offered on certain ARMS. The interest obtained by owning ARMS (and, as a result, the value of the ARMS) may vary monthly as a result of resets in interest rates and/or principal repayment rates of any of the mortgage loans that are part of the pool of mortgage loans comprising the ARMS. Investing in ARMS may permit the Fund to participate in increases in prevailing current interest rates through periodic adjustments in the interest rate payments on mortgages underlying the pool on which the ARMS are based. ARMS generally have lower price fluctuations than is the case with more traditional fixed income debt securities of comparable rating and maturity.

The interest rates paid on ARMS generally are readjusted at intervals of one year or less to a rate that is an increment over some predetermined interest rate index, although some securities may have reset intervals as long as five years. Some adjustable rate mortgage loans have fixed rates for an initial period, typically three, five, seven or ten years, and adjust annually thereafter. Generally, categories of indices include: those based on a variable or floating rate indexed to a benchmark, those based on U.S. Treasury securities and those derived from a calculated measure such as a cost of funds index (indicating the cost of borrowing) or a moving average of mortgage rates. Commonly used indices include the one-, three-, and five-year constant-maturity Treasury rates; the three-month Treasury bill rate; the 180-day Treasury bill rate; rates on longer-term Treasury securities; the 11th District Federal Home Loan Bank Cost of Funds; the National Median Cost of Funds; the 30-day, 90-day, or 180-day Average SOFR; the prime rate of a specific bank; or commercial paper rates.

In a changing interest rate environment, the reset feature may act as a buffer to reduce sharp changes in the ARMS' value in response to normal interest rate fluctuations. However, the time interval between each interest reset causes the yield on the ARMS to lag behind changes in the prevailing market interest rate. As interest rates are reset on the underlying mortgages, the yields of the ARMS gradually re-align themselves to reflect changes in market rates so that their market values remain relatively stable compared to fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities.

As a result, ARMS generally also have less risk of a decline in value during periods of rising interest rates than traditional long-term, fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities. However, during such periods, this reset lag may result in a lower net asset value until the interest rate resets to market rates. If prepayments of principal are made on the underlying mortgages during periods of rising interest rates, the Fund generally will be able to reinvest these amounts in securities with a higher current rate of return. However, the Fund will not benefit from increases in interest rates to the extent that interest rates exceed the maximum allowable annual or lifetime reset limits (or cap rates) for a particular mortgage-backed security. See “Caps and floors.” Additionally, borrowers with adjustable rate mortgage loans that are pooled into ARMS generally see an increase in their monthly mortgage payments when interest rates rise which in turn may increase their rate of late payments and defaults.

Because an investor is "locked in" at a given interest rate for the duration of the interval until the reset date, whereas interest rates continue to fluctuate, the sensitivity of an ARMS' price to changes in interest rates tends to increase along with the length of the interval. To the extent the Fund invests in ARMS that reset infrequently, the Fund will be subject to similar interest rate risks as when investing in fixed-rate debt securities. For example, the Fund can expect to receive a lower interest rate than the prevailing market rates (or index rates) in a rising interest rate environment because of the lag between daily increases in interest rates and periodic readjustments.

During periods of declining interest rates, the interest rates on the underlying mortgages may reset downward with a similar lag, resulting in lower yields to the Fund. As a result, the value of ARMS is unlikely to rise during periods of declining interest rates to the same extent as the value of fixed-rate securities do.

Caps and floors. The underlying mortgages that collateralize ARMS will frequently have caps and floors that limit the maximum amount by which the interest rate to the residential borrower may change up or down (a) per reset or adjustment interval and (b) over the life of the loan. Fluctuations in interest rates above the applicable caps or floors on the ARMS could cause the ARMS to "cap out" and to behave more like long-term, fixed-rate debt securities.

Negative amortization. Some mortgage loans restrict periodic adjustments by limiting changes in the borrower's monthly principal and interest payments rather than limiting interest rate changes. These payment caps may result in negative amortization, where payments are less than the amount of principal and interest owed, with excess amounts added to the outstanding principal balance, which can extend the average life of the mortgage-backed securities.

Credit risk transfer securities Another type of mortgage security are those issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but without any government guaranty, including “credit risk transfer securities.” Credit risk transfer securities are fixed- or floating-rate unsecured general obligation mortgage securities issued from time to time by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae or other government sponsored entities (each, a “GSE”). Typically, such securities are issued at par and have stated final maturities. The credit risk transfer securities are structured so that: (i) interest is paid directly by the issuing GSE; and (ii) principal is paid by the issuing GSE in accordance with the principal payments and default performance of a certain pool of residential mortgage loans acquired by the GSE. The issuing GSE selects the pool of mortgage loans based on that GSE's eligibility criteria. The performance of the credit risk transfer securities will be directly affected by the selection of the underlying mortgage loans by the GSE. Credit risk transfer securities are issued in tranches to which are allocated certain principal repayments and credit losses corresponding to the seniority of the particular tranche. Each tranche will have credit exposure to the underlying mortgage loans and the yield to maturity will be directly related to the amount and timing of certain defined credit events on the underlying mortgage loans, any prepayments by borrowers and any removals of a mortgage loan from the pool.

Credit risk transfer securities are unguaranteed and unsecured debt securities issued by the GSE and therefore are not directly linked to or backed by the underlying mortgage loans. Thus, although the payment of principal and interest on such securities is tied to the performance of the pool of underlying mortgage loans, the holders of the credit risk transfer securities will have no interest in the underlying mortgage loans. As a result, in the event that a GSE fails to pay principal or interest on its credit risk transfer securities or goes through a bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceeding, holders of such credit risk transfer securities have no direct recourse to the underlying mortgage loans. Such holders will receive recovery on par with other unsecured note holders (agency debentures) in such a scenario.

The Fund may also invest in credit risk transfer securities that are issued by private entities, such as banks or other financial institutions. Credit risk transfer securities issued by private entities are structured similarly to those issued by a GSE and are generally subject to the same types of risks, including credit (risk of non-payment of principal and interest when due), prepayment, extension, interest rate and market risks.

The risks associated with an investment in credit risk transfer securities will be different than the risks associated with an investment in mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, or other GSEs or issued by a private issuer because some or all of the mortgage default or credit risk associated with the underlying mortgage loans is transferred to investors, such as the Fund. As a result,

investors in these securities could lose some or all of their investment in these securities if the underlying mortgage loans default.

Collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs), real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) and multi-class pass-throughs Some mortgage-backed securities known as collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) are divided into multiple classes. Each of the classes is allocated a different share of the principal and/or interest payments received from the pool according to a different payment schedule depending on, among other factors, the seniority of a class relative to their classes. Other mortgage-backed securities such as real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) are also divided into multiple classes with different rights to the interest and/or principal payments received on the pool of mortgages. A CMO or REMIC may designate the most junior of the securities it issues as a "residual" which will be entitled to any amounts remaining after all classes of shareholders (and any fees or expenses) have been paid in full. Some of the different rights may include different maturities, interest rates, payment schedules, and allocations of interest and/or principal payments on the underlying mortgage loans. Multi-class pass-through securities are equity interests in a trust composed of mortgage loans or other mortgage-backed securities. Payments of principal and interest on the underlying collateral provide the funds to pay the debt service on CMOs or REMICs or to make scheduled distributions on the multi-class pass-through securities. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the discussion of CMOs below also applies to REMICs and multi-class pass-through securities.

All the risks applicable to a traditional mortgage-backed security also apply to the CMO or REMIC taken as a whole, even though certain classes of the CMO or REMIC will be protected against a particular risk by subordinated classes. The risks associated with an investment in a particular CMO or REMIC class vary substantially depending on the combination of rights associated with that class. An investment in the most subordinated classes of a CMO or REMIC bears a disproportionate share of the risks associated with mortgage-backed securities generally, be it credit risk, prepayment or extension risk, interest rate risk, income risk, market risk, illiquidity risk or any other risk associated with a debt or equity instrument with similar features to the relevant class. As a result, an investment in the most subordinated classes of a CMO or REMIC is often riskier than an investment in other types of mortgage-backed securities.

CMOs are generally required to maintain more collateral than REMICs to collateralize the CMOs being issued. Most REMICs are not subject to the same minimum collateralization requirements and may be permitted to issue the full value of their assets as securities, without reserving any amount as collateral. As a result, an investment in the subordinated classes of a REMIC may be riskier than an investment in equivalent classes of a CMO.

CMOs may be issued, guaranteed or sponsored by governmental entities or by private entities. Consequently, they involve risks similar to those of traditional mortgage-backed securities that have been issued, guaranteed or sponsored by such government and/or private entities. For example, the Fund is generally exposed to a greater risk of loss due to default when investing in CMOs that have not been issued, guaranteed or sponsored by a government entity.

CMOs are typically issued in multiple classes. Each class, often referred to as a "tranche," is issued at a specified coupon rate or adjustable rate and has a stated maturity or final distribution date. Principal prepayments on collateral underlying CMOs may cause the CMOs to be retired substantially earlier than their stated maturities or final distribution dates. Interest is paid or accrues on most classes of a CMO on a monthly, quarterly or semiannual basis. The principal and interest on the mortgages underlying CMOs may be allocated among the several classes in many ways. In a common structure, payments of principal on the underlying mortgages, including any principal prepayments, are applied to the classes of a series of a CMO in the order of their respective stated maturities or final distribution dates, so that no payment of principal will be made on any class until all other classes having an earlier stated maturity or final distribution date have been paid in full.

One or more classes of a CMO may have interest rates that reset periodically as ARMS do. These adjustable rate classes are known as "floating-rate CMOs" and are subject to most risks associated with ARMS. Floating-rate CMOs may be backed by fixed- or adjustable-rate mortgages. To date, fixed-rate mortgages have been more commonly used for this purpose. Floating-rate CMOs are typically issued with lifetime "caps" on the interest rate. These caps, similar to the caps on ARMS, limit the Fund's potential to gain from rising interest rates and increasing the sensitivity of the CMO's price to interest rate changes while rates remain above the cap.

Timely payment of interest and principal (but not the market value and yield) of some of these pools is supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees issued by private issuers, those who pool the mortgage assets and, in some cases, by U.S. government agencies.

CMOs involve risks including the uncertainty of the timing of cash flows that results from the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages serving as collateral, and risks resulting from the structure of the particular CMO transaction and the priority of the individual tranches. The prices of some CMOs, depending on their structure and the rate of prepayments, can be volatile. Some CMOs may be less liquid than other types of mortgage-backed securities. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible to sell the securities at an advantageous price or time under certain circumstances. Yields on privately issued CMOs have been historically higher than the yields on

CMOs issued or guaranteed by U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities. The risk of loss due to default on privately issued CMOs, however, is historically higher since the U.S. government has not guaranteed them.

To the extent any privately issued CMOs in which the Fund invests are considered by the SEC to be an investment company, the Fund will limit its investments in such securities in a manner consistent with the provisions of the 1940 Act.

CMO and REMIC Residuals. The residual in a CMO or REMIC structure is the interest in any excess cash flow generated by the mortgage pool that remains after first making the required payments of principal and interest to the other classes of the CMO or REMIC and, second, paying the related administrative expenses and any management fee of the issuer. Each payment of such excess cash flow to a holder of the related CMO or REMIC residual represents income and/or a return of capital. The amount of residual cash flow resulting from a CMO or REMIC will depend on, among other things, the characteristics of the mortgage assets, the interest rate of each class, prevailing interest rates, the amount of administrative expenses and the pre-payment experience on the mortgage assets. In particular, the return on CMO and REMIC residuals is extremely sensitive to pre-payments on the related underlying mortgage assets. If a class of a CMO or REMIC bears interest at an adjustable rate, the CMO or REMIC residual will also be extremely sensitive to changes in the level of the index upon which interest rate adjustments are based. CMO and REMIC residuals are generally purchased and sold by institutional investors through several investment banking firms acting as brokers or dealers and may not have been registered under the 1933 Act. CMO and REMIC residuals, whether or not registered under the 1933 Act, may be subject to certain restrictions on transferability, and may be deemed "illiquid" and subject to the Fund's limitation on investment in illiquid securities.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities and net interest margin securities Some mortgage-backed securities referred to as stripped mortgage-backed securities are divided into classes which receive different proportions of the principal and interest payments or, in some cases, only payments of principal or interest (but not both). Other mortgage-backed securities referred to as net interest margin (NIM) securities give the investor the right to receive any excess interest earned on a pool of mortgage loans remaining after all classes and service providers have been paid in full. Stripped mortgage-backed securities may be issued by government or private entities. Stripped mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. government are typically more liquid than privately issued stripped mortgage-backed securities.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities are usually structured with two classes, each receiving different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. In most cases, one class receives all of the interest (interest-only or "IO" class), while the other class receives all of the principal (principal-only or "PO" class). The return on an IO class is extremely sensitive not only to changes in prevailing interest rates but also to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the underlying mortgage assets. A rapid rate of principal payments may have a material adverse effect on any IO class held by the Fund. If the underlying mortgage assets experience greater than anticipated prepayments of principal, the Fund may fail to recoup its initial investment fully, even if the securities are rated in the highest rating categories, AAA or Aaa, by S&P or Moody's, respectively.

NIM securities represent a right to receive any "excess" interest computed after paying coupon costs, servicing costs and fees and any credit losses associated with the underlying pool of home equity loans. Like traditional stripped mortgage-backed securities, the return on a NIM security is sensitive not only to changes in prevailing interest rates but also to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the underlying home equity loans. NIM securities are highly sensitive to credit losses on the underlying collateral and the timing in which those losses are taken.

Stripped mortgage-backed securities and NIM securities tend to exhibit greater market volatility in response to changes in interest rates than other types of mortgage-backed securities and are purchased and sold by institutional investors, such as the Fund, through investment banking firms acting as brokers or dealers. Some of these securities may be deemed "illiquid" and therefore subject to the Fund's limitation on investment in illiquid securities and the risks associated with illiquidity.

Future developments. Mortgage loan and home equity loan pools offering pass-through investments in addition to those described above may be created in the future. The mortgages underlying these securities may be alternative mortgage instruments, that is, mortgage instruments whose principal or interest payments may vary or whose terms to maturity may differ from customary long-term, fixed-rate mortgages. As new types of mortgage and home equity loan securities are developed and offered to investors, the Fund may invest in them if they are consistent with the Fund's goals, policies and quality standards.

Distressed mortgage obligations and reverse mortgages A direct investment in a distressed mortgage obligation involves the purchase by the Fund of a lender's interest in a mortgage granted to a borrower, where the borrower has experienced difficulty in making its mortgage payments, or for which it appears likely that the borrower will experience difficulty in making its mortgage payments. A reverse mortgage generally refers to a mortgage loan in which the lender advances in a lump sum or in installments a sum of money based on the age of the borrower, the interest rate at

closing, and the equity in the real estate. Generally no payment is due on a reverse mortgage until the borrower no longer owns or occupies the home as his or her principal residence.

As is typical with mortgage obligations, payment of the loan is secured by the real estate underlying the loan. By purchasing the distressed mortgage obligation, the Fund steps into the shoes of the lender from a risk point of view. As distinguished from mortgage-backed securities, which generally represent an interest in a pool of loans backed by real estate, investing in direct mortgage obligations involves the risks similar to making a loan or purchasing an assignment of a loan. To the extent that the Fund's investment depends on a single borrower, the Fund will experience greater credit risk and more extreme gains or losses than when investing in a pool of loans with multiple borrowers. Other risks include the inability of a borrower to make its loan payments or other obligations, and if the real estate underlying the distressed or reverse mortgage loan is acquired by foreclosure, the Fund could become part owner of such real estate, directly or indirectly through the mortgage-backed security in which it holds an interest. As a direct or indirect owner, the Fund would bear its share of any costs associated with owning and disposing of the real estate. There is no assurance that the real estate would be disposed of in a timely or profitable manner.

Investments in direct mortgage obligations of distressed borrowers involve substantially greater risks and are highly speculative due to the fact that the borrower's ability to make timely payments has been identified as questionable. Borrowers that are in bankruptcy or restructuring may never pay off their loans, or may pay only a small fraction of the amount owed.

The market for reverse mortgages may be limited; therefore the Fund may consider certain reverse mortgages it may hold to be illiquid and thus subject to the Fund's limitation on investment in illiquid securities and the risks associated with illiquidity. The recorded value of reverse mortgage assets includes significant volatility associated with estimations, and income recognition can vary significantly from reporting period to reporting period.

Mortgage Dollar and U.S. Treasury Rolls

Mortgage dollar rolls. In a mortgage dollar roll, the Fund sells or buys mortgage-backed securities for delivery in the current month and simultaneously contracts to repurchase or sell substantially similar (same type, coupon, and maturity) securities on a specified future date. During the period between the sale and repurchase (known as the "roll period"), the Fund forgoes principal and interest payments that it would otherwise have received on the securities sold. The Fund is compensated by the difference between the current sales price, which it receives, and the lower forward price that it will pay for the future purchase (often referred to as the "drop"), as well as by the interest earned on the cash proceeds of the initial sale.

The Fund is exposed to the credit risk of its counterparty in a mortgage dollar roll or U.S. Treasury roll transaction. The Fund could suffer a loss if the counterparty fails to perform the future transaction or otherwise meet its obligations and the Fund is therefore unable to repurchase at the agreed upon price the same or substantially similar mortgage-backed securities it initially sold. The Fund also takes the risk that the mortgage-backed securities that it repurchases at a later date will have less favorable market characteristics than the securities originally sold (e.g., greater prepayment risk).

The Fund intends to enter into mortgage dollar rolls only with high quality securities dealers and banks as determined by the investment manager under board approved counterparty review procedures. Although rolls could add leverage to the Fund's portfolio, the Fund does not consider the purchase and/or sale of a mortgage dollar roll to be a borrowing for purposes of the Fund's fundamental restrictions or other limitations on borrowing.

U.S. Treasury rolls. In U.S. Treasury rolls, the Fund sells U.S. Treasury securities and buys back "when-issued" U.S. Treasury securities of slightly longer maturity for simultaneous settlement on the settlement date of the "when-issued" U.S. Treasury security. Two potential advantages of this strategy are (1) the Fund can regularly and incrementally adjust its weighted average maturity of its portfolio securities (which otherwise would constantly diminish with the passage of time); and (2) in a normal yield curve environment (in which shorter maturities yield less than longer maturities), a gain in yield to maturity can be obtained along with the desired extension.

During the period before the settlement date, the Fund continues to earn interest on the securities it is selling. It does not earn interest on the securities that it is purchasing until after the settlement date. The Fund could suffer an opportunity loss if the counterparty to the roll failed to perform its obligations on the settlement date, and if market conditions changed adversely. The Fund generally enters into U.S. Treasury rolls only with government securities dealers recognized by the Federal Reserve Board or with member banks of the Federal Reserve System.

Municipal securities Municipal securities are issued by U.S. state and local governments and their agencies, instrumentalities, authorities and political subdivisions, as well as by the District of Columbia and U.S. territories and possessions. The issuer pays a fixed, floating or variable rate of interest, and must repay the amount borrowed (the "principal") at maturity. Municipal securities are issued to raise money for a variety of public or private purposes, including financing state or local government, specific projects or public facilities.

Municipal securities generally are classified as general or revenue obligations. General obligations are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power for the payment of principal and interest. Revenue obligations are debt securities payable only from the revenues derived from a particular facility or class of facilities, or a specific excise tax or other revenue source. As a result, an investment in revenue obligations is subject to greater risk of delay or non-payment if revenue does not accrue as expected or if other conditions are not met for reasons outside the control of the Fund. Conversely, if revenue accrues more quickly than anticipated, the Fund may receive payment before expected and have difficulty re-investing the proceeds on equally favorable terms.

The value of the municipal securities may be highly sensitive to events affecting the fiscal stability of the municipalities, agencies, authorities and other instrumentalities that issue securities. In particular, economic, legislative, regulatory or political developments affecting the ability of the issuers to pay interest or repay principal may significantly affect the value of the Fund's investments. These developments can include or arise from, for example, insolvency of an issuer, uncertainties related to the tax status of municipal securities, tax base erosion, state or federal constitutional limits on tax increases or other actions, budget deficits and other financial difficulties, or changes in the credit ratings assigned to municipal issuers. There will be a limited market for certain municipal securities, and the Fund could face illiquidity risks.

Build America Bonds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created Build America Bonds, which allowed state and local governments to issue taxable bonds in 2009 and 2010 for any purpose for which tax-exempt financing is generally available. The issuers receive a federal subsidy payment for a portion of their borrowing costs on these bonds equal to 35% of the total coupon interest paid to investors. Alternatively, the issuer may elect to pass a federal tax credit equal to 35% of the interest paid on the bond directly to the bondholder. The tax credits can generally be used to offset federal income taxes and the alternative minimum tax, but are not refundable. The Build America Bond program expired on December 31, 2010, at which point no further issuances were permitted, unless the program is renewed by Congress at a future date. As of the date of this SAI, the program has not been renewed and there is no indication that Congress will renew the program.

Pre-refunded bonds These are outstanding debt securities that are not immediately callable (redeemable) by the issuer but have been "pre-refunded" by the issuer. The issuer "pre-refunds" the bonds by setting aside in advance all or a portion of the amount to be paid to the bondholders when the bond is called. Generally, an issuer uses the proceeds from a new bond issue to buy high grade, interest bearing debt securities, including direct obligations of the U.S. government, which are then deposited in an irrevocable escrow account held by a trustee bank to secure all future payments of principal and interest on the pre-refunded bonds. Due to the substantial "collateral" held in escrow, pre-refunded bonds often receive the same rating as obligations of the United States Treasury. Because pre-refunded bonds still bear the same interest rate as when they were originally issued and are of very high credit quality, their market value may increase. However, as the pre-refunded bond approaches its call or ultimate maturity date, the bond's market value will tend to fall to its call or par price. Under 2017 legislation commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, interest paid on a bond issued after December 31, 2017 to advance refund another bond is subject to federal income tax.

Private investments Consistent with its investment goals and policies, the Fund may from time to time make private investments in companies whose securities are not publicly traded, including late stage private placements. These investments typically will take the form of letter stock or convertible preferred stock. Because these securities are not publicly traded, there is no secondary market for the securities. The Fund will generally treat these securities as illiquid.

Late stage private placements are sales of securities made in non-public, unregistered transactions shortly before a company expects to go public. The Fund may make such investments in order to participate in companies whose initial public offerings are expected to be “hot” issues. There is no public market for shares sold in these private placements and it is possible that initial public offerings will never be completed. Moreover, even after an initial public offering, there may be a limited trading market for the securities or the Fund may be subject to contractual limitations on its ability to sell the shares.

Real estate investment trusts (REITs) REITs typically invest directly in real estate or in mortgages and loans collateralized by real estate. “Equity” REITs are real estate companies that own and manage income-producing properties such as apartments, hotels, shopping centers or office buildings. The income, primarily rent from these properties, is generally passed on to investors in the form of dividends. These companies provide experienced property management and generally concentrate on a specific geographic region or property type. “Mortgage” REITs make loans to commercial real estate developers and earn income from interest payments. A hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of Equity REITs and Mortgage REITs, generally by holding both ownership interest and mortgage interests in real estate. Although not required, the Fund anticipates that under normal circumstances the Fund will invest primarily in Equity REITs. Although the REIT structure originated in the U.S., a number of countries around the world have adopted, or are considering adopting, similar REIT and REIT-like structures.

For U.S. federal tax law purposes, to qualify as a REIT, a company must derive at least 75% of its gross income from real estate sources (rents, mortgage interest or gains from the sale of real estate assets), and at least 95% from real estate sources, plus dividends, interest and gains from the sale of securities. Real property, mortgage loans, cash and certain securities must comprise 75% of a company's assets. In order to qualify as a REIT, a company must also make distributions to shareholders aggregating annually at least 90% of its REIT taxable income.

REITs risks. Equity REITs may be affected by any changes in the value of the properties owned and other factors, and their prices tend to go up and down. A REIT's performance depends on the types and locations of the properties it owns and on how well it manages those properties. A decline in rental income may occur because of extended vacancies, increased competition from other properties, tenants' failure to pay rent or poor management. A REIT's performance also depends on the company's ability to finance property purchases and renovations and manage its cash flows.

Because REITs typically are invested in a limited number of projects or in a particular market segment, they are more susceptible to adverse developments affecting a single project or market segment than more broadly diversified investments. Loss of status as a qualified REIT under the U.S. federal tax laws could adversely affect the value of a particular REIT or the market for REITS as a whole.

By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, you will bear not only your proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also, indirectly, similar expenses of the REITs.

Terrorist acts affecting real estate can have a general negative impact on the value of the Fund's investments. In addition, terrorist acts directed at real estate owned by the companies whose securities are held by the Fund could negatively impact the value of those securities. These developments can be impossible to predict and take into account with respect to management of the Fund's investments.

Repurchase agreements Under a repurchase agreement, the Fund agrees to buy securities guaranteed as to payment of principal and interest by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities from a qualified bank, broker-dealer or other counterparty and then to sell the securities back to such counterparty on an agreed upon date (generally less than seven days) at a higher price, which reflects currently prevailing short-term interest rates. Entering into repurchase agreements allows the Fund to earn a return on cash in the Fund's portfolio that would otherwise remain un-invested. The counterparty must transfer to the Fund's custodian, as collateral, securities with an initial market value of at least 102% of the dollar amount paid by the Fund to the counterparty. The investment manager will monitor the value of such collateral daily to determine that the value of the collateral equals or exceeds the repurchase price.

Repurchase agreements may involve risks in the event of default or insolvency of the counterparty, including possible delays or restrictions upon the Fund's ability to sell the underlying securities and additional expenses in seeking to enforce the Fund's rights and recover any losses. The Fund will enter into repurchase agreements only with parties who meet certain creditworthiness standards, i.e., banks or broker-dealers that the investment manager has determined, based on the information available at the time, present no serious risk of becoming involved in bankruptcy proceedings within the time frame contemplated by the repurchase agreement. Although the Fund seeks to limit the credit risk under a repurchase agreement by carefully selecting counterparties and accepting only high quality collateral, some credit risk remains. The counterparty could default, which may make it necessary for the Fund to incur expenses to liquidate the collateral. In addition, the collateral may decline in value before it can be liquidated by the Fund.

A repurchase agreement with more than seven days to maturity is considered an illiquid security and is subject to the Fund's investment restriction on illiquid securities.

Reverse repurchase agreements Reverse repurchase agreements are the opposite of repurchase agreements but involve similar mechanics and risks. The Fund sells securities to a bank or dealer and agrees to repurchase them at a mutually agreed price, date and interest payment. Reverse repurchase agreements may be considered a borrowing under the federal securities laws, and therefore the Fund must have at least 300% asset coverage (total assets less liabilities, excluding the reverse repurchase agreement) unless a fund treats all reverse repurchase agreements (or similar financing transactions) as derivatives transactions for all purposes under Rule 18f-4. Cash or liquid high-grade debt securities having an initial market value, including accrued interest, equal to at least 100% of the dollar amount sold by the Fund are segregated, i.e., set aside, as collateral and marked-to-market daily to maintain coverage of at least 100%. These transactions may increase the volatility of the Fund's income or net asset value. The Fund bears the risk that any securities purchased with the proceeds of the transaction will depreciate or not generate enough income to cover the Fund's obligations under the reverse repurchase transaction. These transactions also increase the interest and operating expenses of the Fund.

Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities retained by the Fund may decline below the price of the securities the Fund has sold but is obligated to repurchase under the agreement. A default by the purchaser might cause the Fund to experience a loss or delay in the liquidation costs. The Fund generally enters into reverse repurchase agreements with domestic or foreign

banks or securities dealers. The investment manager will evaluate the creditworthiness of these entities prior to engaging in such transactions.

Securities lending To generate additional income, the Fund may lend certain of its portfolio securities to qualified banks and broker-dealers (referred to as "borrowers"). In exchange, the Fund receives cash collateral from a borrower at least equal to the value of the security loaned by the Fund. Cash collateral typically consists of any combination of cash, securities issued by the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities, and irrevocable letters of credit. The Fund may invest this cash collateral while the loan is outstanding and generally retains part or all of the interest earned on the cash collateral. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income.

For each loan, the borrower usually must maintain with the Fund's custodian collateral with an initial market value at least equal to 102% of the market value of the domestic securities loaned (or 105% of the market value of foreign securities loaned), including any accrued interest thereon. Such collateral will be marked-to-market daily, and if the coverage falls below 100%, the borrower will be required to deliver additional collateral equal to at least 102% of the market value of the domestic securities loaned (or 105% of the foreign securities loaned).

The Fund retains all or a portion of the interest received on investment of the cash collateral or receives a fee from the borrower. The Fund also continues to receive any distributions paid on the loaned securities. The Fund seeks to maintain the ability to obtain the right to vote or consent on proxy proposals involving material events affecting securities loaned. The Fund may terminate a loan at any time and obtain the return of the securities loaned within the normal settlement period for the security involved.

If the borrower defaults on its obligation to return the securities loaned because of insolvency or other reasons, the Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the collateral. These delays and costs could be greater for foreign securities. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. Additional transaction costs would result, and the value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Until the replacement can be purchased, the Fund will not have the desired level of exposure to the security which the borrower failed to return. Cash received as collateral through loan transactions may be invested in other eligible securities, including shares of a money market fund. Investing this cash subjects the Fund to greater market risk including losses on the collateral and, should the Fund need to look to the collateral in the event of the borrower's default, losses on the loan secured by that collateral.

The Fund will loan its securities only to parties who meet creditworthiness standards approved by the Fund's board (i.e., banks or broker-dealers that the investment manager has determined are not apparently at risk of becoming involved in bankruptcy proceedings within the time frame contemplated by the loan). In addition, pursuant to the 1940 Act and SEC interpretations thereof, the aggregate market value of securities that may be loaned by the Fund is limited to 33 1/3% of the Fund's total assets or such lower limit as set by the Fund or its board.

Short sales In a short sale, the Fund sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the market value of that security. To complete the transaction, the Fund must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Fund is then obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing it at the market price at the time of replacement. The price at this time may be more or less than the price at which the security was sold by the Fund. Until the security is replaced, the Fund must pay the lender any dividends or interest that accrue during the period of the loan. To borrow the security, the Fund also may be required to pay a premium, which would increase the cost of the security sold. The proceeds of the short sale will be retained by the broker, to the extent necessary to meet margin requirements, until the short position is closed out. In buying the security to replace the borrowed security, the Fund expects to acquire the security in the market for less than the amount it earned in the short sale, thereby yielding a profit.

The Fund will incur a loss as a result of the short sale if the price of the security increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund replaces the borrowed security, and the Fund will realize a gain if the security declines in price between those same dates. The amount of any gain will be decreased, and the amount of any loss increased, by the amount of any premium, dividends or interest the Fund is required to pay in connection with the short sale.

The Fund will treat short sales as derivatives transactions under Rule 18f-4, as described more fully under “Derivative instruments” in this SAI.

The Fund may make a short sale when the investment manager believes the price of the stock may decline and when the investment manager does not currently want to sell the stock or convertible security it owns. In this case, any decline in the value of the Fund’s portfolio securities would be reduced by a gain in the short sale transaction. Conversely, any increase in the value of the Fund’s portfolio securities would be reduced by a loss in the short sale transaction.

The investment manager has adopted short sale procedures to prevent the short sale of a security by the Fund where another client of the investment manager also holds that

security. The procedures prohibit the execution of short sales by the Fund when there are open buy or sell orders or current long portfolio holdings in the same security or economic equivalent (e.g., a bond convertible into common stock) on the same trading desk on which the investment manager places trades or in the portfolios of other accounts managed by the investment manager. In addition, the procedures prohibit the execution of purchases and sales when there are open short sale orders in the same security on the same trading desk on which the investment manager places trades.

Short sales “against the box” are transactions in which the Fund sells a security short but it also owns an equal amount of the securities sold short or owns securities that are convertible or exchangeable, without payment of further consideration, into an equal amount of such security.

Standby commitment agreements A standby commitment agreement is an agreement committing the Fund to buy a stated amount of a security, for a stated period of time, at the option of the issuer. The price and interest rate of the security is fixed at the time of the commitment. When the Fund enters into the agreement, the Fund is paid a commitment fee, which it keeps regardless of whether the security is ultimately issued, typically equal to approximately 0.5% of the aggregate purchase price of the security that the Fund has committed to buy.

The purchase of a security subject to a standby commitment agreement and the related commitment fee will be recorded on the date on which the security can reasonably be expected to be issued. In the event the security is not issued, the commitment fee will be recorded as income on the expiration date of the standby commitment. Standby commitment agreements may be deemed "illiquid" and therefore subject to the Fund's limitation on investment in illiquid securities.

There can be no assurance that the securities subject to a standby commitment will be issued, and the value of the securities, if issued, on the delivery date may be more or less than their purchase price. Because the issuance of the security underlying the commitment is at the option of the issuer, the Fund generally bears the risk of a decline in the value of the security and may not benefit from an appreciation in the value of the security during the commitment period. If an issuer's financial condition deteriorates between the time of the standby commitment and the date of issuance, these commitments may have the effect of requiring the Fund to make an investment in an issuer at a time when it would not otherwise have done so. This is the case even if the issuer's condition makes it unlikely that any amounts invested by the Fund pursuant to the standby commitment will ever be repaid. The Fund will only enter into standby commitment agreements with issuers which the investment manager believes will not deteriorate in creditworthiness during the commitment period. The Fund will experience credit risk associated with the issuer.

Stripped securities Stripped securities are debt securities that have been transformed from a principal amount with periodic interest coupons into a series of zero coupon bonds, each with a different maturity date corresponding to one of the payment dates for interest coupon payments or the redemption date for the principal amount. Stripped securities are subject to all the risks applicable to zero coupon bonds as well as certain additional risks.

Like zero coupon bonds, stripped securities do not provide for periodic payments of interest prior to maturity. Rather they are offered at a discount from their face amount that will be paid at maturity. This results in the security being subject to greater fluctuations in response to changing interest rates than interest-paying securities of similar maturities. Federal income taxes generally accrue on stripped securities each year although no cash income is received until maturity, and the Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities that it would otherwise continue to hold in order to obtain sufficient cash to make distributions to shareholders required for U.S. tax purposes.

The riskiness of an investment in stripped securities depends on the type involved. Some stripped securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Others receive an implied backing by the U.S. government as a sponsor or partner in the agency or entity issuing the stripped security. A few are secured with a guarantee from the financial institution or broker or dealer through which the stripped security is held. Others are supported only by the collateral, revenue stream or third party guarantee securing the underlying debt obligation from which zero coupon bonds were stripped. Stripped securities include: U.S. Treasury STRIPS, Stripped Government Securities, Stripped Obligations of the Financing Corporation (FICO STRIPS), Stripped Corporate Securities, and Stripped Eurodollar Obligations.

Stripped government securities are issued by the U.S. federal, state and local governments and their agencies and instrumentalities, and by "mixed-ownership government corporations." Stripped government securities vary widely in the terms, conditions and relative assurances of payment. The type of debt obligation from which the stripped government security was taken will indicate many of the risks associated with that investment. U.S. Treasury STRIPS and FICO Strips are types of stripped government securities.

U.S. Treasury STRIPS (Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities) are considered U.S. Treasury securities for purposes of the Fund's investment policies and are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Their risks are similar to those of other U.S. government securities, although their price may be more volatile. The U.S. Treasury has facilitated transfers of ownership of zero coupon securities by accounting separately for the beneficial ownership of particular interest coupon and

principal payments on Treasury securities through the Federal Reserve book-entry record-keeping system.

FICO STRIPS represent interests in securities issued by the Financing Corporation (FICO). FICO was established to enable recapitalization of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) in the 1980's. FICO STRIPS are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government but are generally treated as U.S. government agency securities. The market for FICO STRIPS is substantially smaller and, therefore, less liquid and more volatile than the market for U.S. Treasury STRIPS. A higher yield is typically offered on FICO STRIPS to compensate investors for the greater illiquidity and additional risk that the U.S. government will not meet obligations on the FICO STRIPS if FICO defaults.

Structured investments Structured investments are interests in entities organized and operated solely for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of a security or securities and then issuing that restructured security. Restructuring involves the deposit with, or purchase by, an entity (such as a corporation or trust) of specified instruments and the issuance by that entity of one or more classes of securities (structured investments) backed by, or representing interests in, the underlying instruments.

Subordinated classes typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated classes. The extent of the payments made with respect to structured investments is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments.

Certain issuers of structured investments may be deemed to be "investment companies" as defined in the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund's investment in these structured investments may be limited by the restrictions contained in the 1940 Act. The risks associated with investing in a structured investment are usually tied to the risks associated with investing in the underlying instruments and securities. The risks will also depend upon the comparative subordination of the class held by the Fund, relative to the likelihood of a default on the structured investment. To the extent that the Fund is exposed to default, the Fund's structured investment may involve risks similar to those of high-yield debt securities. Structured investments typically are sold in private placement transactions, and there currently is no active trading market for structured investments. To the extent such investments are deemed to be illiquid, they will be subject to the Fund's restrictions on investments in illiquid securities.

These entities typically are organized by investment banking firms that receive fees in connection with establishing each entity and arranging for the placement of its securities. The Fund will indirectly pay its portion of these fees in addition to the fees associated with the creation and marketing of the underlying instruments and securities. If an active investment management component is combined with the underlying instruments and securities in the structured investment, there may be ongoing advisory fees which the Fund's shareholders would indirectly pay.

Subscription rights Foreign corporations frequently issue additional capital stock by means of subscription rights offerings to existing shareholders at a price below the market price of the shares. The failure to exercise such rights would result in dilution of the Fund's interest in the issuing company. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prohibit the Fund from purchasing the securities of any issuer pursuant to the exercise of subscription rights distributed to the Fund by the issuer, except that no such purchase may be made if, as a result, the Fund would no longer be a diversified investment company as defined in the 1940 Act.

Temporary investments When the investment manager believes market or economic conditions are unfavorable for investors, the investment manager may invest up to 100% of the Fund's assets in temporary defensive investments, including cash, cash equivalents or other high quality short-term investments, such as short-term debt instruments, including U.S. government securities, high grade commercial paper, repurchase agreements, negotiable certificates of deposit, non-negotiable fixed time deposits, bankers acceptances, and other money market equivalents. To the extent allowed by exemptions from and rules under the 1940 Act and the Fund's other investment policies and restrictions, the investment manager also may invest the Fund's assets in shares of one or more money market funds managed by the investment manager or its affiliates. Unfavorable market or economic conditions may include excessive volatility or a prolonged general decline in the securities markets, the securities in which the Fund normally invests, or the economies of the countries where the Fund invests. Temporary defensive investments can and do experience defaults. The likelihood of default on a temporary defensive investment may increase in the market or economic conditions which are likely to trigger the Fund's investment therein. The investment manager also may invest in these types of securities or hold cash while looking for suitable investment opportunities or to maintain liquidity. When the Fund's assets are invested in temporary investments, the Fund may not be able to achieve its investment goal.

Trade claims Trade claims are direct obligations or claims against companies that are in bankruptcy or other financial difficulty that are purchased from the creditors of such companies. For buyers, such as the Fund, trade claims offer the potential for profits because they are often purchased at a significantly discounted value and, consequently, may generate capital appreciation if the value of the claim increases as the debtor's financial position improves. If the debtor is able to pay the full face value of the claim as a result of a restructuring or an improvement in the debtor's financial condition, trade claims offer the potential for higher income

due to the difference in the face value of the claim as compared to the discounted purchase price.

An investment in trade claims is speculative and carries a high degree of risk. Trade claims are not backed by collateral or other forms of credit support. There can be no guarantee that the debtor will ever be able to satisfy the obligation on the trade claim. There is usually a substantial delay between purchasing a trade claim and receiving any return. Trade claims are not regulated by federal securities laws or the SEC, so the Fund's investment will not receive the same investor protections as with regulated securities. Currently, trade claims are regulated primarily by bankruptcy laws. Because trade claims are unsecured, holders of trade claims may have a lower priority in terms of payment than most other creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding.

Unrated debt securities Not all debt securities or their issuers are rated by rating agencies, sometimes due to the size of or manner of the securities offering, the decision by one or more rating agencies not to rate certain securities or issuers as a matter of policy, or the unwillingness or inability of the issuer to provide the prerequisite information and fees to the rating agencies. Some debt securities markets may have a disproportionately large number of unrated issuers.

In evaluating unrated securities, the investment manager may consider, among other things, the issuer's financial resources, its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, its operating history, the quality of the issuer's management and regulatory matters. Although unrated debt securities may be considered to be of investment grade quality, issuers typically pay a higher interest rate on unrated than on investment grade rated debt securities. Less information is typically available to the market on unrated securities and obligors, which may increase the potential for credit and valuation risk.

Unseasoned companies To the extent that the Fund may invest in small capitalization companies, it may have significant investments in relatively new or unseasoned companies that are in their early stages of development, or in new and emerging industries where the opportunity for rapid growth is expected to be above average. Securities of unseasoned companies present greater risks than securities of larger, more established companies.

U.S. government securities U.S. government securities include obligations of, or securities guaranteed by, the U.S. federal government, its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises. Some U.S. government securities are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. These include U.S. Treasury obligations and securities issued by the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA). A second category of U.S. government securities are those supported by the right of the agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise to borrow from the U.S. government to meet its obligations. These include securities issued by Federal Home Loan Banks.

A third category of U.S. government securities are those supported by only the credit of the issuing agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise. These include securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC). In the event of a default, an investor like the Fund would only have legal recourse to the issuer, not the U.S. government. Although the U.S. government has provided support for these securities in the past, there can be no assurance that it will do so in the future. The U.S. government has also made available additional guarantees for limited periods to stabilize or restore a market in the wake of an economic, political or natural crisis. Such guarantees, and the economic opportunities they present, are likely to be temporary and cannot be relied upon by the Fund. Any downgrade of the credit rating of the securities issued by the U.S. government may result in a downgrade of securities issued by its agencies or instrumentalities, including government-sponsored entities.

Variable rate securities Variable rate securities are debt securities that provide for periodic adjustments in the interest rate paid on the debt security. Floating rate securities, adjustable rate securities and inverse floating rate securities (referred to as "inverse floaters") are types of variable rate securities. An adjustable rate security is a debt security with an interest rate which is adjusted according to a formula that specifies the interval at which the rate will be reset and the interest rate index, benchmark or other mechanism upon which the reset rate is based. A floating rate debt security has a rate of interest which is usually established as the sum of a base lending rate (e.g., SOFR, the U.S. Prime Rate, the Prime Rate of a designated U.S. bank or the certificate of deposit rate) plus a specified margin. The interest rate on prime rate-based loans and securities floats periodically as the prime rate changes. The interest rate on SOFR-based and CD-based loans and securities is reset periodically, typically at regular intervals ranging between 30 days and one year. Certain floating rate securities will permit the borrower to select an interest rate reset period of up to one year.

Some variable rate securities are structured with put features that permit holders to demand payment of the unpaid principal balance plus accrued interest from the issuers or certain financial intermediaries at or about the time the interest rate is reset. If the Fund purchases a variable rate security with a put feature and market movements make exercise of the put unattractive, the Fund will forfeit the entire amount of any premium paid plus related transaction costs.

Movements in the relevant index or benchmark on which adjustments are based will affect the interest paid on these securities and, therefore, the current income earned by the Fund and the securities' market value. The degree of volatility

in the market value of the variable rate securities held by the Fund will generally increase along with the length of time between adjustments, the degree of volatility in the applicable index, benchmark or base lending rate and whether the index, benchmark or base lending rate to which it resets or floats approximates short-term or other prevailing interest rates. It will also be a function of the maximum increase or decrease of the interest rate adjustment on any one adjustment date, in any one year, and over the life of the security. These maximum increases and decreases are typically referred to as "caps" and "floors," respectively.

During periods when short-term interest rates move within the caps and floors of the security held by the Fund, the interest rate of such security will reset to prevailing rates within a short period. As a result, the fluctuation in market value of the variable rate security held by the Fund is generally expected to be limited.

In periods of substantial short-term volatility in interest rates, the market value of such debt securities may fluctuate more substantially if the caps and/or floors prevent the interest rates from adjusting to the full extent of the movements in the market rates during any one adjustment period or over the term of the security. In the event of dramatic increases in interest rates, any lifetime caps on these securities may prevent the securities from adjusting to prevailing rates over the term of the security. In either the case of caps or floors, the market value of the securities may be reduced.

The income earned by the Fund and distributed to shareholders will generally increase or decrease along with movements in the relevant index, benchmark or base lending rate. Thus the Fund's income will be more unpredictable than the income earned on similar investments with a fixed rate of interest.

Inverse floaters. Inverse floaters are variable rate debt securities with floating or variable interest rates that move in the opposite direction, usually at an accelerated speed, to short-term interest rates or a related benchmark or index. The prices of inverse floaters can be highly volatile as a result. When short-term interests rates rise, an inverse floater usually experiences a decline in both its price and rate of income. The result is that interest rate risk and volatility of inverse floaters is magnified, and valuation of inverse floaters will also be more difficult.

When-issued, delayed delivery and to-be-announced transactions When-issued, delayed delivery and to-be-announced (TBA) transactions are arrangements under which the parties agree on the sale of securities with payment for and delivery of the security scheduled for a future time. The securities may have been authorized but not yet issued, or, in the TBA market for U.S. Government agency mortgage-backed securities, the parties agree on a price, volume, and basic characteristics of securities to be delivered on the settlement date, rather than particular securities. In addition to buying securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or TBA basis, the Fund may also sell these securities on a TBA basis to close out an existing TBA position before the settlement date, to take advantage of an expected decline in value of the securities, or for hedging purposes.

Entering into a when-issued, delayed delivery or TBA transaction may be viewed as a form of leverage and will result in associated risks for the Fund. The Fund does not consider the purchase and/or sale of securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or TBA basis to be a borrowing for purposes of the Fund's fundamental restrictions or other limitations on borrowing.

Many when-issued, delayed-delivery or TBA transactions also are subject to the risk that a counterparty may become bankrupt or otherwise fail to perform its obligations due to financial difficulties, including making payments or fulfilling other obligations to the Fund. The Fund may obtain no or only limited recovery in a bankruptcy or other organizational proceedings, and any recovery may be significantly delayed. With respect to forward settling TBA transactions involving U.S. Government agency mortgage backed securities, the counterparty risk may be mitigated by the exchange of variation margin on a regular basis between counterparties as the market value of the deliverable security fluctuates.

The Fund also relies on the counterparty to complete the transaction. The counterparty's failure to do so may cause the Fund to miss a price or yield considered advantageous to the Fund. Although their price typically reflects accrued interest, securities purchased on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis do not generally earn interest until their scheduled delivery date. Purchases or sales of debt securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis are also subject to the risk that the market value or the yield at delivery may be more or less than the market price or yield available when the transaction was entered into, or that the Fund is unable to purchase securities for delivery at the settlement date with the characteristics agreed upon at the time of the transaction.

Zero coupon, deferred interest and pay-in-kind bonds Zero coupon or deferred interest bonds are debt securities that make no periodic interest payments until maturity or a specified date when the securities begin paying current interest (cash payment date). Zero coupon and deferred interest bonds generally are issued and traded at a discount from their face amount or par value.

The original discount on zero coupon or deferred interest bonds approximates the total amount of interest the bonds will accumulate over the period until maturity or the first cash payment date and compounds at a rate of interest reflecting the market rate of the security at the time of issuance. The discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity or the cash payment date, as well as prevailing interest rates,

liquidity of the market for the security, and the perceived credit quality of the issuer. The discount, in the absence of financial difficulties of the issuer, typically decreases as the final maturity or cash payment date approaches. The discount typically increases as interest rates rise, the market becomes less liquid or the creditworthiness of the issuer deteriorates.

Pay-in-kind bonds are debt securities that provide for interest payments to be made in a form other than cash, generally at the option of the issuer. Common forms include payment of additional bonds of the same issuer or an increase in principal underlying the pay-in-kind bonds. To the extent that no cash income will be paid for an extended period of time, pay-in-kind bonds resemble zero coupon or deferred interest bonds and are subject to similar influences and risks.

For accounting and federal tax purposes, holders of bonds issued at a discount, such as the Fund, are deemed to receive interest income over the life of the bonds even though the bonds do not pay out cash to their holders before maturity or the cash payment date. That income is distributable to Fund shareholders even though no cash is received by the Fund at the time of accrual, which may require the liquidation of other portfolio securities to satisfy the Fund's distribution obligations.

Because investors receive no cash prior to the maturity or cash payment date, an investment in debt securities issued at a discount generally has a greater potential for complete loss of principal and/or return than an investment in debt securities that make periodic interest payments. Such investments are more vulnerable to the creditworthiness of the issuer and any other parties upon which performance relies.

The following is a description of the general risks associated with the Fund's investing in debt securities:

Credit Debt securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's (or other party's) failure or inability to meet its obligations under the security. Multiple parties may have obligations under a debt security. An issuer or borrower may fail to pay principal and interest when due. A guarantor, insurer or credit support provider may fail to provide the agreed upon protection. A counterparty to a transaction may fail to perform its side of the bargain. An intermediary or agent interposed between the investor and other parties may fail to perform the terms of its service. Also, performance under a debt security may be linked to the obligations of other persons who may fail to meet their obligations. The credit risk associated with a debt security could increase to the extent that the Fund's ability to benefit fully from its investment in the security depends on the performance by multiple parties of their respective contractual or other obligations. The market value of a debt security is also affected by the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer.

The Fund may incur substantial losses on debt securities that are inaccurately perceived to present a different amount of credit risk than they actually do by the market, the investment manager or the rating agencies. Credit risk is generally greater where less information is publicly available, where fewer covenants safeguard the investors' interests, where collateral may be impaired or inadequate, where little legal redress or regulatory protection is available, or where a party's ability to meet obligations is speculative. Additionally, any inaccuracy in the information used by the Fund to evaluate credit risk may affect the value of securities held by the Fund.

Obligations under debt securities held by the Fund may never be satisfied or, if satisfied, only satisfied in part.

Some securities are subject to risks as a result of a credit downgrade or default by a government, or its agencies or, instrumentalities. Credit risk is a greater concern for high-yield debt securities and debt securities of issuers whose ability to pay interest and principal may be considered speculative. Debt securities are typically classified as investment grade-quality (medium to highest credit quality) or below investment grade-quality (commonly referred to as high-yield or junk bonds). Many individual debt securities are rated by a third party source, such as Moody's, S&P, or Fitch to help describe the creditworthiness of the issuer.

Debt securities ratings The investment manager performs its own independent investment analysis of securities being considered for the Fund's portfolio, which includes consideration of, among other things, the issuer's financial resources, its sensitivity to economic conditions and trends, its operating history, the quality of the issuer's management and regulatory matters. The investment manager also considers the ratings assigned by various investment services and independent rating agencies, such as Moody's, S&P, and Fitch, that publish ratings based upon their assessment of the relative creditworthiness of the rated debt securities. Generally, a lower rating indicates higher credit risk. Higher yields are ordinarily available from debt securities in the lower rating categories. These ratings are described at the end of this SAI under “Description of Ratings.”

Using credit ratings to evaluate debt securities can involve certain risks. For example, ratings assigned by the rating agencies are based upon an analysis completed at the time of the rating of the obligor's ability to pay interest and repay principal. Rating agencies typically rely to a large extent on historical data which may not accurately represent present or future circumstances. Ratings do not purport to reflect the risk of fluctuations in market value of the debt security and are not absolute standards of quality and only express the rating agency's current opinion of an obligor's overall financial capacity to pay its financial obligations. A credit rating is not a statement of fact or a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold a debt obligation. Also, credit quality can change suddenly and unexpectedly, and credit ratings may not reflect the issuer's current financial condition or events since the

security was last rated. Rating agencies may have a financial interest in generating business, including from the arranger or issuer of the security that normally pays for that rating, and providing a low rating might affect the rating agency's prospects for future business. While rating agencies have policies and procedures to address this potential conflict of interest, there is a risk that these policies will fail to prevent a conflict of interest from impacting the rating.

Extension The market value of some debt securities particularly mortgage securities and certain asset backed securities, may be adversely affected when bond calls or prepayments on underlying mortgage or other assets are less or slower than anticipated. This risk is extension risk. Extension risk may result from, for example, rising interest rates or unexpected developments in the markets for the underlying assets or mortgages. As a consequence, the security's effective maturity will be extended, resulting in an increase in interest rate sensitivity to that of a longer-term instrument. Extension risk generally increases as interest rates rise. This is because, in a rising interest rate environment, the rate of prepayment and exercise of call or buy-back rights generally falls and the rate of default and delayed payment generally rises. When the maturity of an investment is extended in a rising interest rate environment, a below-market interest rate is usually locked-in and the value of the security reduced. This risk is greater for fixed-rate than variable-rate debt securities.

Income Income risk is the risk that the Fund's income will decline during periods of falling interest rates, when the Fund experiences defaults on debt securities it holds or when the Fund realizes a loss upon a sale of a debt security. The Fund's income declines when interest rates fall because, as the Fund's higher-yielding debt securities mature, are prepaid or are sold, the Fund may have to re-invest the proceeds in debt securities that have lower interest rates. The amount and rate of distributions that the Fund's shareholders receive are affected by the income that the Fund receives from its portfolio holdings. If the income is reduced, distributions by the Fund to shareholders may be less.

Fluctuations in income paid to the Fund are generally greater for variable rate debt securities. The Fund may be deemed to receive taxable income on certain securities which pay no cash payments until maturity, such as zero-coupon securities. The Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities that it would otherwise continue to hold in order to obtain sufficient cash to make the distribution to shareholders required for U.S. tax purposes.

Inflation The market price of debt securities generally falls as inflation increases because the purchasing power of the future income and repaid principal is expected to be worth less when received by the Fund. Debt securities that pay a fixed rather than variable interest rate are especially vulnerable to inflation risk because variable-rate debt securities may be able to participate, over the long term, in rising interest rates which have historically corresponded with long-term inflationary trends.

Interest rate The market value of debt securities generally varies in response to changes in prevailing interest rates. Interest rate changes can be sudden and unpredictable. In addition, short-term and long-term rates are not necessarily correlated to each other as short-term rates tend to be influenced by government monetary policy while long-term rates are market driven and may be influenced by macroeconomic events (such as economic expansion or contraction), inflation expectations, as well as supply and demand. During periods of declining interest rates, the market value of debt securities generally increases. Conversely, during periods of rising interest rates, the market value of debt securities generally declines. This occurs because new debt securities are likely to be issued with higher interest rates as interest rates increase, making the old or outstanding debt securities less attractive. In general, the market prices of long-term debt securities or securities that make little (or no) interest payments are more sensitive to interest rate fluctuations than shorter-term debt securities. The longer the Fund's average weighted portfolio duration, the greater the potential impact a change in interest rates will have on its share price. Also, certain segments of the fixed income markets, such as high quality bonds, tend to be more sensitive to interest rate changes than other segments, such as lower-quality bonds.

Prepayment Debt securities, especially bonds that are subject to “calls” such as asset-backed or mortgage-backed securities, are subject to prepayment risk if their terms allow the payment of principal and other amounts due before their stated maturity. Amounts invested in a debt security that has been “called” or “prepaid” will be returned to an investor holding that security before expected by the investor. In such circumstances, the investor, such as a fund, may be required to re-invest the proceeds it receives from the called or prepaid security in a new security which, in periods of declining interest rates, will typically have a lower interest rate. Prepayment risk is especially prevalent in periods of declining interest rates and will result for other reasons, including unexpected developments in the markets for the underlying assets or mortgages. For example, a decline in mortgage interest rates typically initiates a period of mortgage refinancings. When homeowners refinance their mortgages, the investor in the underlying pool of mortgage-backed securities (such as a fund) receives its principal back sooner than expected, and must reinvest at lower, prevailing rates.

Securities subject to prepayment risk are often called during a declining interest rate environment and generally offer less potential for gains and greater price volatility than other income-bearing securities of comparable maturity.

Call risk is similar to prepayment risk and results from the ability of an issuer to call, or prepay, a debt security early. If interest rates decline enough, the debt security's issuer can save money by repaying its callable debt securities and issuing new debt securities at lower interest rates.

The following is a description of other risks associated with the Fund's investments:

Artificial Intelligence Artificial intelligence refers to computer systems that can perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence and encompasses various different forms of artificial intelligence, including machine learning models. Artificial intelligence is typically designed to analyze data, learn from patterns and experiences, make decisions, and solve problems. Artificial intelligence can be categorized into two types: narrow artificial intelligence, which is designed for specific tasks, and general artificial intelligence, which has the ability to perform any intellectual task that a human can do and includes generative artificial intelligence ("GAI"). GAI is a type of artificial intelligence technology that produces new text, images, audio, and other content based on training data that includes examples of the desired output.

Typically, users enter questions, queries, or other inputs that prompt the GAI model or tool to produce output. In addition, some software uses GAI to suggest changes, summarize information, or translate text. Artificial intelligence has various applications in many fields such as healthcare, finance, transportation, and law.

The use of artificial intelligence in general may adversely impact markets, the overall performance of the Fund's investments, or the services provided to the Fund by its service providers. The investment manager, the sub-advisor or a third party service provider may use and/or expand its use of artificial intelligence in connection with its business, operating and investment activities and the Fund's investments may also use such technologies. Actual usage of such artificial intelligence will vary, and while the investment manager or the sub-advisor expects it and the Fund's third party service provider may, from time to time, adopt and adjust usage policies and procedures governing the use of artificial intelligence by its personnel, there is a risk of misuse of artificial intelligence technologies.

Artificial intelligence is highly reliant on the collection and analysis of large amounts of data and complex algorithms, but it is not possible nor practicable to incorporate all data that would be relevant for a task conducted by artificial intelligence. Therefore, it is possible that the information provided through use of artificial intelligence could be insufficient, incomplete, inaccurate or biased leading to adverse effects for the Fund, including, potentially, operational errors and investment losses.

Artificial intelligence and its current and potential future applications, including in the investment and financial sectors, as well as the regulatory frameworks within which they operate, continue to rapidly evolve, and it is impossible to predict the full extent of future applications or regulations. Ongoing and future regulatory actions with respect to artificial intelligence generally or artificial intelligence's use in any industry in particular may alter, perhaps to a materially adverse extent, the ability of the investment manager or the sub-advisor, third-party service provider, the Fund or its investments to utilize artificial intelligence in the manner it has to-date, and may have an adverse impact on the ability of any of those entities to continue to operate as intended.

Cybersecurity With the increased use of technologies such as mobile devices and Web-based or "cloud" applications, and the dependence on the Internet and computer systems to conduct business, the Fund is susceptible to operational, information security and related risks. In general, cybersecurity incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events (arising from external or internal sources) that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, physical damage to a computer or network system or lose operational capacity. Cybersecurity attacks include, but are not limited to, infection by malicious software, such as malware or computer viruses or gaining unauthorized access to digital systems, networks or devices that are used to service the Fund's operations (e.g., through "hacking," "phishing" or malicious software coding) or other means for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cybersecurity attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on the Fund's websites (i.e., efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). Recently, geopolitical tensions may have increased the scale and sophistication of deliberate cybersecurity attacks, particularly those from nation-states or from entities with nation-state backing. In addition, authorized persons could inadvertently or intentionally release confidential or proprietary information stored on the Fund's systems.

Cybersecurity incidents affecting the Fund's investment manager, sub-advisors and other service providers to the Fund or its shareholders (including, but not limited to, sub-advisors, accountants, custodians, sub-custodians, transfer agents and financial intermediaries) have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses to both the Fund and its shareholders, interference with the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, impediments to trading, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions (including fulfillment of purchases and redemptions), violations of applicable privacy and other laws (including the release of private shareholder information) and attendant breach notification and credit monitoring costs,

regulatory fines, penalties, litigation costs, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, forensic investigation and remediation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity incidents affecting issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, counterparties with which the Fund engages in transactions, governmental and other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies and other financial institutions (including financial intermediaries and other service providers) and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to safeguard against and reduce the risk of any cybersecurity incidents in the future. In addition to administrative, technological and procedural safeguards, the Fund's investment manager and sub-advisors have established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent or reduce the impact of, such cybersecurity incidents. However, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified, as well as the rapid development of new threats. Furthermore, the Fund cannot control the cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers or any other third parties whose operations may affect the Fund and its shareholders. The Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

Because technology is frequently changing, new ways to carry out cyber attacks are always developing. Therefore, there is a chance that some risks have not been identified or prepared for, or that an attack may not be detected, which puts limitations on the Fund's ability to plan for or respond to a cyber attack. Like other funds and business enterprises, the Fund, the investment manager, sub-advisors and their service providers are subject to the risk of cyber incidents occurring from time to time.

Focus The greater the Fund's exposure to (or focus on) any single type of investment – including investment in a given industry, sector, country, region, or type of security – the greater the impact of adverse events or conditions in such industry, sector, country, region or investment will have on the Fund's performance. To the extent the Fund has greater exposure to any single type of investment, the Fund's potential for loss (or gain) will be greater than if its portfolio were invested more broadly in many types of investments.

The Fund's exposure to such industries, sectors, regions and other investments may also arise indirectly through the Fund's investments in debt securities (e.g., mortgage or asset-backed securities) that are secured by such investments. Similar risks associated with focusing on a particular type of investment may result if real properties and collateral securing the Fund's investments are located in the same geographical region or subject to the same risks or concerns.

Inside information The investment manager (through its representatives or otherwise) may receive information that restricts the investment manager's ability to cause the Fund to buy or sell securities of an issuer for substantial periods of time when the Fund otherwise could realize profit or avoid loss. This may adversely affect the Fund's flexibility with respect to buying or selling securities and may impair the Fund's liquidity.

Liquidity Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are or become difficult to purchase or sell at the price at which the Fund has valued the security, whether because of current market conditions, the financial condition of the issuer, or the specific type of investment. If the market for a particular security becomes illiquid (for example, due to changes in the issuer's financial condition), the Fund may be unable to sell such security at an advantageous time or price due to the difficulty in selling such securities. To the extent that the Fund and its affiliates hold a significant portion of an issuer's outstanding securities, the Fund may also be subject to greater liquidity risk than if the issuer's securities were more widely held. The Fund may also need to sell some of the Fund's more liquid securities when it otherwise would not do so in order to meet redemption requests, even if such sale of the liquid holdings would be disadvantageous from an investment standpoint. Reduced liquidity may also have an adverse impact on a security's market value and the sale of such securities often results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses. Reduced liquidity in the secondary market for certain securities will also make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain market quotations based on actual trades for purposes of valuing the Fund's portfolio and thus pricing may be prone to error when market quotations are volatile, infrequent and/or subject to large spreads between bid and ask prices. In addition, prices received by the Fund for securities may be based on institutional "round lot" sizes, but the Fund may purchase, hold or sell smaller, "odd lot" sizes, which may be harder to sell. Odd lots may trade at lower prices than round lots, which may affect the Fund's ability to accurately value its investments.

The market for certain equity or debt securities may become illiquid under adverse market or economic conditions independent of any specific adverse changes in the conditions of a particular issuer. Liquidity risk generally increases (meaning that securities become more illiquid) as the number, or relative need, of investors seeking to liquidate in a given market increases; for example, when an asset class or classes fall out of favor and investors sell their holdings in such classes, either directly or indirectly through investment funds, such as mutual funds.

Management The investment manager's judgments about markets, interest rates or the attractiveness, relative values or potential appreciation of particular investment strategies or sectors or securities purchased for the Fund's portfolio may

prove to be incorrect, all of which could cause the Fund to perform less favorably and may result in a decline in the Fund's share price.

The investment manager selects investments for the Fund based on its own analysis and information as well as on external sources of information, such as information that the investment manager obtains from other sources including through conferences and discussions with third parties, and data that issuers of securities provide to the investment manager or file with government agencies. The investment manager may also use information concerning institutional positions and buying activity in a security.

The investment manager and sub-advisors, as applicable, select investments for the Fund based on their own analysis and information as well as on external sources of information, such as information that the investment manager obtains from other sources including through conferences and discussions with third parties, and data that issuers of securities provide to the investment manager or file with government agencies. The investment manager and the sub-advisors may also use information concerning institutional positions and buying activity in a security. The investment manager and the sub-advisors are not in a position to confirm the completeness, genuineness or accuracy of any of such information that is provided or filed by an issuer, and in some cases, complete and accurate information is not readily available. It is also possible that information on which the investment manager relies could be wrong or misleading. Additionally, legislative, regulatory, or tax developments may affect the investment techniques available to the investment manager in connection with managing the Fund and may also adversely affect the ability of the Fund to achieve its investment goal. Management risk is greater when less qualitative information is available to the investment manager about an investment.

Market The market value of securities owned by the Fund may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably due to general market conditions which are not specifically related to a single corporate borrower or security issuer. These general market conditions include real or perceived adverse economic or regulatory conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency exchange rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. Market values may also decline due to factors which affect a particular industry or sector, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry, or a particular segment, such as mortgage or government securities. During a general downturn in the securities markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value simultaneously. When markets perform well, there can be no assurance that the Fund's securities will participate in or otherwise benefit from the advance.

Non-Diversification (Emerging Markets Fund and Global Bond Fund) A non-diversified fund for purposes of the 1940 Act may, with respect to more than 25% of its assets, invest more than 5% of its assets (taken at market value at the time of purchase) in the outstanding securities of any single issuer and/or own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer. However, the Fund intends to meet certain diversification requirements for tax purposes. Generally, to meet federal tax requirements at the close of each quarter, the Fund will not invest more than 25% of its total assets in any one issuer and, with respect to 50% of total assets, will not invest more than 5% of its total assets in any one issuer or more than 10% of the issuer's outstanding voting securities. These limitations do not apply to U.S. government securities and securities issued by regulated investment companies. If applicable federal income tax requirements are revised, the Fund may change its diversification policies without obtaining shareholder approval.

Because a non-diversified fund generally invests a greater portion of its assets in the securities of one or more issuers and/or invests overall in a smaller number of issuers than a diversified fund, the Fund may be more sensitive to a single economic, business, political, regulatory or other occurrence or to the financial results of a single issuer than a more diversified fund might be. Similarly, the Fund's credit risk increases as more of the Fund's assets are invested in a smaller number of issuers.

Portfolio turnover Portfolio turnover is a measure of how frequently the Fund's portfolio securities are bought and sold. High portfolio turnover rates generally increase transaction costs, which are Fund expenses. Such portfolio transactions may also result in the realization of taxable capital gains, including short-term capital gains, which are generally taxable at ordinary income tax rates for federal income tax purposes for shareholders subject to income tax and who hold their shares in a taxable account. Higher transaction costs reduce the Fund's returns.

The SEC requires annual portfolio turnover to be calculated generally as the lesser of the Fund's purchases or sales of portfolio securities during a given fiscal year, divided by the monthly average value of the Fund's portfolio securities owned during that year (excluding securities with a maturity or expiration date that, at the time of acquisition, was less than one year). For example, a fund reporting a 100% portfolio turnover rate would have purchased and sold securities worth as much as the monthly average value of its portfolio securities during the year.

The Fund's portfolio turnover rates are disclosed in the sections entitled “Portfolio Turnover” and “Financial Highlights” of the Fund's prospectus.

Portfolio turnover is affected by factors within and outside the control of the Fund and its investment manager. The investment manager's investment outlook for the type of securities in which the Fund invests may change as a result of

unexpected developments in domestic or international securities markets, or in economic, monetary or political relationships. High market volatility may result in the investment manager using a more active trading strategy than it might have otherwise pursued. The Fund's investment manager will consider the economic effects of portfolio turnover but generally will not treat portfolio turnover as a limiting factor in making investment decisions. Investment decisions affecting turnover may include changes in investment policies or management personnel, as well as individual portfolio transactions.

Factors wholly outside the control of the investment manager that may increase portfolio turnover include increased merger and acquisition activity, increased refinancing of outstanding debt by an issuer, or increased rates of bankruptcy or default, that may create involuntary transactions for funds that hold affected securities.

During periods of rapidly declining interest rates, the rate of prepayments on portfolio investments may increase rapidly. When this happens, "sales" of portfolio securities are increased due to the return of principal to the Fund followed by purchases of new portfolio securities to replace the "sold" ones.

The rate of bond calls by issuers of fixed-income debt securities may increase as interest rates decline. This causes "sales" of called bonds by the Fund and the subsequent purchase of replacement investments.

In addition, redemptions or exchanges by investors may require the liquidation of portfolio securities. Changes in particular portfolio holdings may also be made whenever a security is considered to be no longer the most appropriate investment for the Fund, or another security appears to have a relatively better opportunity.

Trade policy The U.S. government has indicated its intent to alter its approach to international trade policy and, in some cases, to renegotiate or potentially terminate certain existing bilateral or multilateral trade agreements and treaties with foreign countries and has made proposals and taken actions related thereto. In addition, the U.S. government has recently imposed tariffs on certain foreign goods and has indicated a willingness to impose tariffs on imports of other products. Some foreign governments have instituted retaliatory tariffs on certain U.S. goods and have indicated a willingness to impose additional tariffs on U.S. products. Other countries have threatened retaliatory tariffs on certain U.S. products.

Global trade disruption, significant introductions of trade barriers, and bilateral trade frictions, together with any future downturns in the global economy resulting therefrom, could adversely affect the financial performance of the Fund and its investments. Trade policy may be an ongoing source of instability, potentially resulting in significant currency fluctuations and/or having other adverse effects on international markets, international trade agreements, and/or other existing cross-border cooperation arrangements (whether economic, tax, fiscal, legal, regulatory, or otherwise). To the extent trade disputes escalate globally, there could be additional significant impacts on the sectors or industries in which the Fund invests and other adverse impacts on the Fund’s overall performance.

Policies and Procedures Regarding the Release of Portfolio Holdings

The Fund's overall policy with respect to the release of portfolio holdings is to release such information consistent with applicable legal requirements and the fiduciary duties owed to shareholders. Subject to the limited exceptions described below, the Fund will not make available to anyone non-public information with respect to its portfolio holdings, until such time as the information is made available to all shareholders or the general public.

For purposes of this policy, portfolio holdings information does not include aggregate, composite or descriptive information that, in the reasonable judgement of the Fund’s Chief Compliance Officer, does not present risks of dilution, arbitrage, market timing, insider trading or other inappropriate trading to the detriment of the Fund. Information excluded from the definition of portfolio holdings information generally includes, without limitation: (1) descriptions of allocations among asset classes, regions, countries or industries/sectors; (2) aggregated data such as average or median ratios, market capitalization, credit quality or duration; (3) performance attributions by industry, sector or country; or (4) aggregated risk statistics. Such information, if made available to anyone, will be made available to any person upon request, but, because such information is generally not material to investors, it may or may not be posted on the Fund's website. In addition, other information may also be deemed to not be portfolio holdings information if, in the reasonable belief of the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer (or his/her designee), the release of such information would not present risks of dilution, arbitrage, market timing, insider trading or other inappropriate trading for the Fund.

Consistent with current law, the Fund releases complete portfolio holdings information each fiscal quarter through regulatory filings with no more than a 60-day lag.

In addition, subject to the limited exceptions noted below, a complete list of the Fund's portfolio holdings is generally released no sooner than 15 calendar days after the end of each calendar month but may be released earlier provided the release is made available to the general public. Other portfolio holdings information, such as top 10 holdings, commentaries and other materials that may reference specific holdings information of the Fund as of the most recent month end are generally released five days after the end of each month but may be released earlier or later as deemed appropriate by the Fund’s portfolio manager. Released

portfolio holdings information can be viewed at www.franklintempleton.com.

To the extent that this policy would permit the release of portfolio holdings information regarding a particular portfolio holding for the Fund that is the subject of ongoing purchase or sale orders/programs, or if the release of such portfolio holdings information would otherwise be sensitive or inappropriate due to liquidity or other market considerations, the portfolio manager for the Fund may request that the release of such information be withheld.

Exceptions to the portfolio holdings release policy (to the extent not otherwise permitted pursuant to an exclusion) will be made only when: (1) the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for releasing portfolio holdings information in advance of release to all shareholders or the general public; (2) the recipient is subject to a duty of confidentiality pursuant to a signed non-disclosure agreement; and (3) the release of such information would not otherwise violate the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws or fiduciary duties owed to Fund shareholders. The determination of whether to grant an exception, which includes the determination of whether the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for releasing portfolio holdings information in advance of release to all shareholders shall be made by the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee, following a request submitted in writing.

The eligible third parties to whom portfolio holdings information may be released in advance of general release fall into the following categories: data consolidators (including rating agencies), fund rating/ranking services and other data providers; service providers to the Fund, investment manager and sub-advisors; municipal securities brokers using the Investor Tools product, which brings together buyers and sellers of municipal securities in the normal operation of the municipal securities markets; certain entities, in response to any regulatory requirements, approved by the investment manager's Chief Compliance Officer in limited circumstances; and transition managers hired by Fund shareholders. In addition, should the Fund process a shareholder's redemption request in-kind, the Fund may, under certain circumstances, provide portfolio holdings information to such shareholder to the extent necessary to allow the shareholder to prepare for receipt of such portfolio securities, which in some circumstances may include using such information to identify any securities the shareholder is not permitted to receive as redemption proceeds or to hedge or otherwise manage the shareholder's risk exposure in connection with the redemption.

The specific entities to whom the Fund, investment manager, and sub-advisors may provide portfolio holdings in advance of their release to the general public are:

- Bloomberg, Capital Access, CDA (Thomson Reuters), FactSet, Fidelity Advisors, S&P Global Ratings, Vestek, and Fidelity Trust Company, all of whom may receive portfolio holdings information 15 days after the quarter end.

- Service providers to the Fund, investment manager, and sub-advisors that receive portfolio holdings information from time to time in advance of general release in the course of performing, or to enable them to perform, services for the Fund, investment manager, and sub-advisors, including: Custodian Bank: JPMorgan Chase Bank; Sub-Administrator: JPMorgan Chase Bank; Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Outside Fund Legal Counsel: Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP; Independent Directors'/Trustees' Counsel: Vedder Price P.C; Proxy Voting Services: Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC and Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc.; Brokerage Analytical Services: Sanford Bernstein, Brown Brothers Harriman, Royal Bank of Canada Capital Markets, JP Morgan Securities Inc.; Financial Printers: Donnelley Financial Solutions, Inc. or GCOM Solutions, Inc.

Eligible third parties that do not otherwise have a duty of confidentiality or have not acknowledged such a duty are required to (a) execute a non-disclosure agreement that includes the following provisions or (b) otherwise acknowledge and represent adherence to substantially similar provisions. Non-disclosure agreements include the following provisions:

- The recipient agrees to keep confidential until such information either is released to the public or the release is otherwise approved by the Chief Compliance Officer.

- The recipient agrees not to trade on the non-public information received, except that a recipient of non-public holdings information received in connection with certain redemptions in-kind pursuant to contractual arrangements will not be prohibited from hedging or otherwise managing its risk exposure from the expected distribution of portfolio securities to be received in the redemptions in-kind.

- The recipient agrees to refresh its representation as to confidentiality and abstention from trading upon request from Franklin Templeton.

In no case does the Fund receive any compensation in connection with the arrangements to release portfolio holdings information to any of the above-described recipients of the information.

A fund other than a U.S. registered Franklin Templeton fund, such as an offshore fund or an unregistered private fund, with holdings that are not substantially similar to the holdings of a U.S. registered Franklin Templeton fund, is not subject to the restrictions imposed by the policy.

Several investment managers within Franklin Templeton (F-T Managers) serve as investment managers to offshore funds that are registered or otherwise authorized for sale with foreign regulatory authorities. Certain of these offshore funds may from time to time invest in securities substantially similar to those of the Fund. The release of portfolio holdings information for such offshore funds is excluded from the Fund's portfolio holdings release policy if such information is given to banks, broker-dealers, insurance companies, registered investment managers and other financial institutions (offshore investment managers) with discretionary authority to select offshore funds on behalf of their clients. Such information may only be disclosed for portfolio analytics, such as risk analysis/asset allocation, and the offshore investment manager will be required to execute a non-disclosure agreement, whereby such offshore investment manager: (1) agrees that it is subject to a duty of confidentiality; (2) agrees that it will not (a) purchase or sell any portfolio securities based on any information received; (b) trade against any U.S. registered Franklin Templeton fund, including the Fund; (c) knowingly engage in any trading practices that are adverse to any such fund or its shareholders; and (d) trade in shares of any such fund; and (3) agrees to limit the dissemination of such information so received within its organization other than to the extent necessary to fulfill its obligations with respect to portfolio analytics for its discretionary clients.

Certain F-T Managers serve as investment advisers to privately placed funds that are exempt from registration, including Canadian institutional pooled funds (“Canadian funds”). In certain circumstances, such unregistered private funds and Canadian funds may have portfolio holdings that are not, in the aggregate, substantially similar to the holdings of a U.S. registered fund, as determined by the Chief Compliance Officer or his/her designee. Under such circumstances the release of portfolio holdings information to a client or potential client or unitholder of the unregistered private fund or Canadian fund may be permissible. In circumstances where an unregistered private fund or Canadian fund invests in portfolio securities that, in the aggregate, are substantially similar to the holdings of a U.S. registered fund, such private funds and Canadian funds are subject to the restrictions imposed by the policy, except that the release of holdings information to a current investor therein is permissible conditioned upon such investor’s execution of a non-disclosure agreement to mitigate the risk that portfolio holdings information may be used to trade inappropriately against a fund. Such non-disclosure agreement must provide that the investor: (1) agrees that it is subject to a duty of confidentiality; (2) agrees to not disseminate such information (except that the investor may be permitted to disseminate such information to an agent as necessary to allow the performance of portfolio analytics with respect to the investor’s investment in such fund); and (3) agrees not to trade on the non-public information received or trade in shares of any U.S. registered Franklin or Templeton fund that is managed in a style substantially similar to that of such fund, in the case of a Canadian fund.

U.S. registered open-end funds and offshore registered funds that invest substantially all of their assets in registered open-end funds and/or Exchange Traded Funds are excepted from the policy’s restrictions.

Certain F-T Managers provide model portfolios composed of portfolio holdings information to the sponsors of programs offering separately managed accounts, unified model accounts or similar accounts (“Program Sponsors”). If such model portfolios are substantially similar to those of a U.S. registered fund, such model portfolios may be provided to Program Sponsors so long as: (1) the recipient Program Sponsors has executed a non-disclosure agreement or other agreement containing or incorporating confidentiality provisions that restrict the use and dissemination of confidential portfolio holdings information received by the Program Sponsor as described in the following sentence, or other provisions that impose similar restrictions on such use and dissemination and, (2) the model portfolio has been deemed sufficiently liquid by the F-T Manager's liquidity committee or the applicable F-T Managers for the strategies of the applicable model portfolios, as determined in their reasonable judgment. Such agreement must provide that the Program Sponsor agrees that: (1) it is subject to a duty of confidentiality; (2) it will use confidential model portfolio information only to the extent necessary to perform its obligations under the agreement; and (3) it will not disclose confidential model portfolio information except to personnel or parties who have a need to know such confidential information in connection with, or in order to fulfill the purposes contemplated by, the agreement.

Some F-T Managers serve as sub-advisers to other mutual funds not within the Franklin Templeton fund complex ("other funds"), which may be managed in a style substantially similar to that of a U.S. registered Franklin or Templeton fund. Such other funds are not subject to the Fund's portfolio holdings release policy. The sponsors of such funds may disclose the portfolio holdings of such funds at different times than the Fund discloses its portfolio holdings.

The Fund's portfolio holdings release policy and all subsequent amendments have been reviewed and approved by the Fund's board, and any other material amendments shall also be reviewed and approved by the board. The investment manager's compliance staff conducts periodic reviews of compliance with the policy and provides at least annually a report to the board regarding the operation of the policy and any material changes recommended as a result of such review. The investment manager's compliance staff also will supply the board yearly with a list of exceptions granted to the policy, along with an explanation of the legitimate

business purpose of the Fund that is served as a result of the exception.

Officers and Trustees

The Trust has a board of trustees. Each trustee will serve until that person resigns or retires and/or a successor is elected and qualified. The board is responsible for the overall management of the Trust, including general supervision and review of the Fund's investment activities. The board, in turn, appoints the officers of the Trust who are responsible for administering the Fund's day-to-day operations. The board also monitors the Fund to help ensure that no material conflicts exist among share classes. While none are expected, the board will act appropriately to resolve any material conflict that may arise.

The name, year of birth and address of the officers and board members, as well as their affiliations, positions held with the Trust, principal occupations during at least the past five years, number of portfolios overseen in the Franklin Templeton fund complex and other directorships held during at least the past five years are shown below.

Independent Board Members

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member[1]	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past 5 Years
Harris J. Ashton (1932) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 1988	114	Bar-S Foods (meat packing company) (1981-2010).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Director, RBC Holdings, Inc. (bank holding company) (until 2002); and President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, General Host Corporation (nursery and craft centers) (until 1998).

Terrence J. Checki (1945) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2017	114	Hess Corporation (exploration of oil and gas) (2014-2025).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Member of the Council on Foreign Relations (1996-present); Member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (1999-present); member of the board of trustees of the Economic Club of New York (2013-present); member of the board of trustees of the Foreign Policy Association (2005-present); member of the board of directors of Council of the Americas (2007-present) and the Tallberg Foundation (2018-present); and **formerly**, Executive Vice President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Head of its Emerging Markets and Internal Affairs Group and Member of Management Committee (1995-2014); and Visiting Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (2014).

Mary C. Choksi (1950) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2014	114	Omnicom Group Inc. (advertising and marketing communications services) (2011-present) and White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. (holding company) (2017-present); and **formerly**, Avis Budget Group Inc. (car rental) (2007-2020).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Founder and Senior Advisor, Strategic Investment Group (investment management group) (2015-2017); Founding Partner and Senior Managing Director, Strategic Investment Group (1987-2015); Founding Partner and Managing Director, Emerging Markets Management LLC (investment management firm) (1987-2011); and Loan Officer/Senior Loan Officer/Senior Pension Investment Officer, World Bank Group (international financial institution) (1977-1987).

Edith E. Holiday (1952) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Lead Independent Trustee	Trustee since 2005 and Lead Independent Trustee since 2019	114	Santander Holdings USA (holding company) (2019-present); and **formerly**, Hess Corporation (exploration of oil and gas) (1993-2025); Santander Consumer USA Holdings, Inc. (consumer finance) (2016-2023), Canadian National Railway (railroad) (2001-2021), White Mountains Insurance Group, Ltd. (holding company) (2004-2021), RTI International Metals, Inc. (manufacture and distribution of titanium) (1999-2015) and H.J. Heinz Company (processed foods and allied products) (1994-2013).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director or Trustee of various companies and trusts; and **formerly**, Assistant to the President of the United States and Secretary of the Cabinet (1990-1993); General Counsel to the United States Treasury Department (1989-1990); and Counselor to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Public Liaison-United States Treasury Department (1988-1989).

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member[1]	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past 5 Years
J. Michael Luttig (1954) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2009	114	Boeing Capital Corporation (aircraft financing) (2006-2010).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Counselor and Special Advisor to the CEO and Board of Directors of The Coca-Cola Company (beverage company) (2021-2025); Counselor and Senior Advisor to the Chairman, CEO, and Board of Directors, of The Boeing Company (aerospace company), and member of the Executive Council (2019-2020); Executive Vice President, General Counsel and member of the Executive Council, The Boeing Company (2006-2019); and Federal Appeals Court Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1991-2006).

Larry D. Thompson (1945) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2007	114	Graham Holdings Company (education and media organization) (2011-2021); The Southern Company (energy company) (2014-2020; previously 2010-2012) and Cbeyond, Inc. (business communications provider) (2010-2012).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director of various companies; Counsel, Finch McCranie, LLP (law firm) (2015-present); John A. Sibley Professor of Corporate and Business Law, University of Georgia School of Law (2015-present; previously 2011-2012); and **formerly**, Independent Compliance Monitor and Auditor, Volkswagen AG (manufacturer of automobiles and commercial vehicles) (2017-2020); Executive Vice President - Government Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (consumer products) (2012-2014); Senior Vice President - Government Affairs, General Counsel and Secretary, PepsiCo, Inc. (2004-2011); Senior Fellow of The Brookings Institution (2003-2004); Visiting Professor, University of Georgia School of Law (2004); and Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (2001-2003).

Valerie M. Williams (1956) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 2021	107	Omnicom Group, Inc. (advertising and marketing communications services) (2016-present), DTE Energy Co. (gas and electric utility) (2018-present), Devon Energy Corporation (exploration and production of oil and gas) (2021-present); and **formerly**, WPX Energy, Inc. (exploration and production of oil and gas) (2018-2021).

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director of various companies; and **formerly**, Regional Assurance Managing Partner, Ernst & Young LLP (public accounting) (2005-2016) and various roles of increasing responsibility at Ernst & Young (1981-2005).

Interested Board Members and Officers

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member[1]	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past 5 Years
Gregory E. Johnson[2] (1961) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chairman of the Board and Trustee	Chairman of the Board since 2023 and Trustee since 2013	123	None

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Executive Chairman, Chairman of the Board and Director, Franklin Resources, Inc.; officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex; Vice Chairman, Investment Company Institute; and **formerly**, Chief Executive Officer (2013-2020) and President (1994-2015) Franklin Resources, Inc.

Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.[3] (1940) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Trustee	Since 1988	114	None

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Director (Vice Chairman), Franklin Resources, Inc.; Director, Franklin Advisers, Inc.; and officer and/or director or trustee, as the case may be, of some of the other subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. and of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex.

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position	Length of Time Served	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member[1]	Other Directorships Held During at Least the Past 5 Years
Bjorn A. Davis (1965) 100 First Stamford Place Stamford, CT 06902	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 2024	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Vice President, Franklin Templeton Global Regulatory Compliance US Advisory Services; Chief Compliance Officer, Franklin Advisers, Inc., Franklin Mutual Advisers LLC, Franklin Templeton Institutional LLC, Templeton Investment Counsel LLC and Templeton Global Advisors Limited (since 2023); **formerly**, Director, Franklin Templeton Global Regulatory Compliance; Chief Compliance Officer, K2 Advisors, LLC and K2/D&S Management Co., LLC (2011 - 2023).

Susan Kerr (1949) One Madison Avenue New York, NY 10010	Vice President - AML Compliance	Since 2021	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Senior Compliance Analyst, Franklin Templeton; Chief Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer, Legg Mason & Co., or its affiliates; Anti Money Laundering Compliance Officer; Senior Compliance Officer, Franklin Distributors, LLC; and officer of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex.

Christopher Kings (1974) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chief Executive Officer - Finance and Administration	Since 2024	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Senior Vice President, Franklin Templeton Services, LLC; and officer of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex.

Edward D. Perks (1970) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	President and Chief Executive Officer – Investment Management	Since 2018	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
President and Director, Franklin Advisers, Inc.; and officer of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex.

Navid J. Tofigh (1972) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Vice President and Secretary	Vice President since 2015 and Secretary since 2023	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Senior Associate General Counsel, Franklin Templeton; and officer of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex.

Jeffrey W. White (1971) One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403-1906	Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and Treasurer	Since 2024	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Principal Occupation During at Least the Past 5 Years:
Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer & Treasurer and officer of certain funds in the Franklin Templeton fund complex; and **formerly**, Director and Assistant Treasurer within Franklin Templeton Global Fund Tax and Fund Administration and Financial Reporting (2017-2023).

Note 1: Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is the uncle of Gregory E. Johnson.
Note 2: Officer information is current as of the date of this SAI. It is possible that after this date, information about officers may change.
1. Information is for the calendar year ended December 31, 2025, unless otherwise noted. We base the number of portfolios on each separate series of the U.S. registered investment companies within the Franklin Templeton fund complex. These portfolios have a common investment manager or affiliated investment managers.
2. Gregory E. Johnson is considered to be an interested person of the Fund under the federal securities laws due to his position as an officer and director of Franklin Resources, Inc. (Resources), which is the parent company of the Fund's investment manager and distributor.
3. Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. is considered to be an interested person of the Fund under the federal securities laws due to his position as an officer and director and a major shareholder of Resources, which is the parent company of the Fund's investment manager and distributor.

The Trust's independent board members constitute the sole independent board members of 24 investment companies in the Franklin Templeton complex for which each independent board member currently is paid a $304,000 annual retainer fee, together with a $7,000 per meeting fee for attendance at each regularly scheduled board meeting, a portion of which fees are allocated to the Trust. To the extent held, compensation may also be paid for attendance at specially held board meetings. The Trust's lead independent board member is paid an annual supplemental retainer of $75,000 for services to such investment companies, a portion of which is allocated to the Trust. Board members who serve on the Audit Committee of the Trust and such other funds are paid a $10,000 annual retainer fee, together with a $3,000 fee per Committee meeting in which they participate, a portion of which is allocated to the Trust. Terrence J. Checki, who serves as chairman of the Audit Committee of the Trust and such other funds receives a fee of $50,000 per year in lieu of the Audit Committee member retainer fee, a portion of which is allocated to the Trust. The following table provides the total

fees paid to independent board members by the Trust and by other funds in Franklin Templeton. Prior to January 1, 2026, the Trust's lead independent board member was paid an annual supplemental retainer of $50,000 for services to such investment companies, a portion of which is allocated to the Trust.

Name	Total Fees Received from the Fund* ($)[1]	Total Fees Received from Franklin Templeton ($)[2]
Harris J. Ashton	16,593	623,000
Terrence J. Checki	20,537	732,000
Mary C. Choksi	18,798	670,000
Edith E. Holiday	21,146	770,000
J. Michael Luttig	18,185	679,000
Larry D. Thompson	18,795	670,000
Valerie M. Williams	18,651	674,000

* Represents aggregate fees received from the funds in this SAI.
1. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025.
2. For the calendar year ended December 31, 2025.

Independent board members are reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with attending board meetings and such expenses are paid pro rata by each fund in Franklin Templeton for which they serve as director or trustee. No officer or board member received any other compensation, including pension or retirement benefits, directly or indirectly from the Trust or other funds in Franklin Templeton. Certain officers or board members who are shareholders of Franklin Resources, Inc. (Resources) may be deemed to receive indirect remuneration by virtue of their participation, if any, in the fees paid to its subsidiaries.

Board members historically have followed a policy of having substantial investments in one or more of the Franklin Templeton funds, as is consistent with their individual financial goals. In February 1998, this policy was formalized through the adoption of a requirement that each board member invest one-third of fees received for serving as a director or trustee of a Templeton fund (excluding committee fees) in shares of one or more Templeton funds and one-third of fees received for serving as a director or trustee of a Franklin fund (excluding committee fees) in shares of one or more Franklin funds until the value of such investments equals or exceeds five times the annual retainer and regular board meeting fees paid to such board member. Investments in the name of family members or entities controlled by a board member constitute fund holdings of such board member for purposes of this policy, and a three-year phase-in period applies to such investment requirements for newly elected board members. In implementing such policy, a board member's fund holdings existing on February 27, 1998, are valued as of such date with subsequent investments valued at cost.

BOARD MEMBERS BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

The following tables provide the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the board members of the Trust on December 31, 2025.

Independent Board Members

Board Member	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund ($)	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds Overseen by the Board Member in the Franklin Templeton Fund Complex ($)
Harris J. Ashton	—	Over 100,000
Terrence J. Checki	—	Over 100,000
Mary C. Choksi	—	Over 100,000
Edith E. Holiday	—	Over 100,000
J. Michael Luttig	—	Over 100,000
Larry D. Thompson	—	Over 100,000
Valerie M. Williams	—	Over 100,000

Interested Board Members

Board Member	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund ($)	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Funds Overseen by the Board Member in the Franklin Templeton Fund Complex ($)
Gregory E. Johnson	—	Over 100,000
Rupert H. Johnson, Jr.	—	Over 100,000

Board committees The board maintains two standing committees: the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. The Audit Committee is generally responsible for recommending the selection of the

Trust's independent registered public accounting firm (auditors), including evaluating their independence and meeting with such auditors to consider and review matters relating to the Trust's financial reports and internal controls. The Audit Committee is comprised of the following independent trustees of the Trust: Terrence J. Checki, Mary C. Choksi, Edith E. Holiday, J. Michael Luttig, Larry D. Thompson and Valerie M. Williams. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is comprised of the following independent trustees of the Trust: Harris J. Ashton, Terrence J. Checki, Mary C. Choksi, Edith E. Holiday, J. Michael Luttig, Larry D. Thompson and Valerie M. Williams.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for selecting candidates to serve as board members and recommending such candidates (a) for selection and nomination as independent board members by the incumbent independent board members and the full board; and (b) for selection and nomination as interested board members by the full board.

When the board has or expects to have a vacancy, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee receives and reviews information on individuals qualified to be recommended to the full board as nominees for election as board members, including any recommendations by "Qualifying Fund Shareholders" (as defined below). To date, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has been able to identify, and expects to continue to be able to identify, from its own resources an ample number of qualified candidates. The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, however, will review recommendations from Qualifying Fund Shareholders to fill vacancies on the board if these recommendations are submitted in writing and addressed to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee at the Trust's offices at One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403-1906 and are presented with appropriate background material concerning the candidate that demonstrates his or her ability to serve as a board member, including as an independent board member, of the Trust. A Qualifying Fund Shareholder is a shareholder who (i) has continuously owned of record, or beneficially through a financial intermediary, shares of the Fund having a net asset value of not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars ($250,000) during the 24-month period prior to submitting the recommendation; and (ii) provides a written notice to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee containing the following information: (a) the name and address of the Qualifying Fund Shareholder making the recommendation; (b) the number of shares of the Fund which are owned of record and beneficially by such Qualifying Fund Shareholder and the length of time that such shares have been so owned by the Qualifying Fund Shareholder; (c) a description of all arrangements and understandings between such Qualifying Fund Shareholder and any other person or persons (naming such person or persons) pursuant to which the recommendation is being made; (d) the name, age, date of birth, business address and residence address of the person or persons being recommended; (e) such other information regarding each person recommended by such Qualifying Fund Shareholder as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed pursuant to the proxy rules of the SEC had the nominee been nominated by the board; (f) whether the shareholder making the recommendation believes the person recommended would or would not be an "interested person" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act; and (g) the written consent of each person recommended to serve as a board member of the Trust if so nominated and elected/appointed.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may amend these procedures from time to time, including the procedures relating to the evaluation of nominees and the process for submitting recommendations to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the Audit Committee met three times; the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee met once.

Board role in risk oversight The board, as a whole, considers risk management issues as part of its general oversight responsibilities throughout the year at regular board meetings, through regular reports that have been developed by management, in consultation with the board and its counsel. These reports address certain investment, valuation, liquidity and compliance matters. The board also may receive special written reports or presentations on a variety of risk issues, either upon the board's request or upon the investment manager's initiative. In addition, the Audit Committee of the board meets regularly with the investment manager's internal audit group to review reports on their examinations of functions and processes within Franklin Templeton that affect the Fund.

With respect to investment risk, the board receives regular written reports describing and analyzing the investment performance of the Fund. In addition, the portfolio managers of the Fund meet regularly with the board to discuss portfolio performance, including investment risk. To the extent that the Fund changes a particular investment strategy that could have a material impact on the Fund's risk profile, the board generally is consulted with respect to such change. To the extent that the Fund invests in certain complex securities, including derivatives, the board receives periodic reports containing information about exposure of the Fund to such instruments. In addition, the investment manager's investment risk personnel meet regularly with the board to discuss a variety of issues, including the impact on the Fund of the investment in particular securities or instruments, such as derivatives and commodities.

With respect to valuation, the Fund's investment manager provides periodic reports to the board that enable the board to oversee the Fund's investment manager, as the board's Valuation Designee, in monitoring and assessing material risks associated with fair valuation determinations, including material conflicts of interest. In addition, the board reviews the investment manager's performance of an annual valuation risk assessment under which the investment manager seeks to identify and enumerate material valuation risks which are or may be impactful to the Fund including, but not limited to (1) the types of investments held (or intended to be held) by the Fund, giving consideration to those investments' characteristics; (2) potential market or sector shocks or dislocations which may affect the ongoing valuation operations; and (3) the extent to which each fair value methodology uses unobservable inputs. The investment manager reports any material changes to the risk assessment, along with appropriate actions designed to manage such risks, to the board.

With respect to liquidity risk, the board receives liquidity risk management reports under the Fund's Liquidity Risk Management (LRM) Program and reviews, no less frequently than annually, a written report prepared by the LRM Program Administrator that addresses, among other items, the operation of the LRM Program and assesses its adequacy and effectiveness of implementation as well as any material changes to the LRM Program.

With respect to compliance risks, the board receives regular compliance reports prepared by the investment manager's compliance group and meets regularly with the Fund's Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) to discuss compliance issues, including compliance risks. In accordance with SEC rules, the independent board members meet regularly in executive session with the CCO, and the Fund's CCO prepares and presents an annual written compliance report to the board. The Fund's board adopts compliance policies and procedures for the Fund and approves such procedures for the Fund's service providers. The compliance policies and procedures are specifically designed to detect and prevent violations of the federal securities laws.

The investment manager periodically provides an enterprise risk management presentation to the board to describe the way in which risk is managed on a complex-wide level. Such presentation covers such areas as investment risk, reputational risk, personnel risk, and business continuity risk.

Board structure A super-majority of board members consist of independent board members who are not deemed to be "interested persons" as provided under the 1940 Act. While the Chairperson of the Board is an interested person, the board is also served by a lead independent board member. The lead independent board member, together with independent counsel, reviews proposed agendas for board meetings and generally acts as a liaison with management with respect to questions and issues raised by the independent board members. The lead independent board member also presides at separate meetings of independent board members held in advance of each scheduled board meeting where various matters, including those being considered at such board meeting are discussed. It is believed such structure and activities assure that proper consideration is given at board meetings to matters deemed important to the Fund and its shareholders.

Trustee qualifications Information on the Fund's officers and board members appears above including information on the business activities of board members during the past five years and beyond. In addition to personal qualities, such as integrity, the role of an effective Fund board member inherently requires the ability to comprehend, discuss and critically analyze materials and issues presented in exercising judgments and reaching informed conclusions relevant to his or her duties and fiduciary obligations. The board believes that the specific background of each board member evidences such ability and is appropriate to his or her serving on the Fund's board. As indicated, Harris J. Ashton has served as a chief executive officer of a NYSE-listed public corporation; Terrence J. Checki has served as a senior executive of a Federal Reserve Bank and has vast experience evaluating economic forces and their impact on markets, including emerging markets; Mary C. Choksi has an extensive background in asset management, including founding an investment management firm; Larry D. Thompson and Edith E. Holiday each have legal backgrounds, including high level legal positions with departments of the U.S. government; J. Michael Luttig has fifteen years of judicial experience as a Federal Appeals Court Judge and eleven years of experience as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of a major public company; Valerie M. Williams has over 35 years of audit and public accounting experience serving numerous global and multi-location companies in various industries; and Gregory E. Johnson and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. are both high ranking executive officers of Franklin Templeton.

Fair Valuation

The Fund's board of trustees has designated the investment manager as the board's Valuation Designee to perform fair value determinations for the Fund and to assess any material risks associated with such determinations, including material conflicts of interest, if any. The Valuation Designee also performs an annual valuation risk assessment to identify and enumerate material valuation risks which are or may be impactful to the Fund. The Fund's investment manager and its affiliates have formed a Valuation Committee (VC) to assist these obligations. The VC oversees and administers the policies and procedures governing fair valuation determination of securities. The VC meets monthly to review and approve fair value reports and conduct other business,

and meets whenever necessary to review potential significant market events and take appropriate steps to adjust valuations in accordance with established policies. The VC also reviews the investment manager's annual valuation risk assessment and provides periodic reports to the board of trustees regarding pricing determinations.

The Fund's policies and procedures governing fair valuation determination of securities have been initially reviewed and approved by the board of trustees and any material amendments will also be reviewed and approved by the board. The investment manager's compliance staff, or another group within Franklin Templeton, conducts periodic reviews of compliance with the policies and provides at least annually a report to the board of trustees regarding the operation of the policies and any material changes recommended as a result of such review.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

The board of trustees of the Fund has delegated the authority to vote proxies related to the portfolio securities held by the Fund to the Fund's investment manager, which, if applicable has delegated the authority to vote proxies to the subadvisors, in accordance with the Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (Policies) adopted by the investment manager or sub-advisor. The Policies are included in Appendix A. Shareholders may also view the complete Policies online at www.franklintempleton.com. Copies of the Fund's proxy voting records are available online at www.franklintempleton.com (search proxy voting records) and posted on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. The proxy voting records are updated each year by August 31 to reflect the most recent 12-month period ended June 30.

Management and Other Services

Investment Managers and Services Provided

Table of Investment Managers of the Funds

Investment Manager	Fund
Franklin Advisers, Inc. (Franklin Advisers)	Allocation Fund DynaTech Fund Global Real Estate Fund[1] Growth and Income Fund Income Fund Large Cap Growth Fund Rising Dividends Fund Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund Strategic Income Fund U.S. Government Fund Global Bond Fund
Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC (Franklin Mutual)	Global Discovery Fund Shares Fund Small Cap Value Fund
Templeton Asset Management Ltd. (Asset Management)	Emerging Markets Fund
Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC (Investment Counsel)	Foreign Fund
Templeton Global Advisors Limited (Global Advisors)	Growth Fund

1. Prior to May 1, 2023, Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC (FT Institutional) was the Global Real Estate Fund's investment manager. Effective May 1, 2023, Franklin Advisers serves as investment manager of the Fund.

The investment managers are directly or indirectly wholly-owned subsidiaries of Resources, a publicly owned company engaged in the financial services industry through its subsidiaries. Charles B. Johnson (former Chairman and Director of Resources) and Rupert H. Johnson, Jr. are the principal shareholders of Resources.

The investment manager provides investment research and portfolio management services, and selects the securities for the Fund to buy, hold or sell. The investment manager also selects the brokers who execute the Fund's portfolio transactions. The investment manager provides periodic reports to the board, which reviews and supervises the investment manager's investment activities. To protect the Fund, the investment manager, sub-advisors and their officers, directors and employees are covered by fidelity insurance.

The investment manager makes decisions for the Fund in accordance with its obligations as investment adviser to the Fund. From time to time, certain affiliates may request that the investment manager focus the Fund's investments on certain securities, strategies or markets or shift the Fund's strategy slightly to enhance its attractiveness to specific investors, which may create a conflict of interest. The investment manager may, but is not required to, focus or shift the Fund's investments in the manner requested provided that the investment manager believes that such investments are consistent with the Fund's stated investment goals and strategies and are in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. In addition, the investment manager and its affiliates manage numerous other investment companies and accounts. The investment manager may give advice and take action with respect to any of the other funds it manages, or for its own account, that may differ from action taken by the investment manager on behalf of the Fund. Similarly, with respect to the Fund, the investment manager is not obligated to recommend, buy or sell, or to refrain from recommending, buying or selling any security that the investment manager and access persons, as defined by applicable federal securities laws, may buy or sell for its or their own account or for the accounts of any other fund. The investment manager is not obligated to refrain from investing in securities held by the Fund or other funds it manages.

The Fund, its investment manager, sub-advisors and principal underwriter have each adopted a code of ethics, as required by federal securities laws. Under the code of ethics, employees who are designated as access persons may engage in personal securities transactions, including transactions involving securities that are being considered for

the Fund or that are currently held by the Fund, subject to certain general restrictions and procedures. The personal securities transactions of access persons of the Fund, its investment manager, sub-advisors and principal underwriter will be governed by the code of ethics. The code of ethics is on file with, and available from, the SEC.

In connection with managing the investment operations of the Allocation Fund, Franklin Advisers has the authority to supervise and direct the Fund's investments and has the discretion to determine from time to time what securities and other investments will be purchased or sold by the Fund and what portion of its assets will be invested or held uninvested as cash. Franklin Advisers has the authority and discretion to discharge and delegate its investment management responsibilities through the appointment of one or more sub-advisors. The Allocation Fund's sub-advisors are listed below under "Name of sub-advisors, annual fee rates and fees paid over the last three fiscal years." Each sub-advisor has an agreement with the investment manager and provides the investment manager with investment management advice and assistance. Each sub-advisor makes investment decisions for the Allocation Fund's assets it has been allocated to manage, subject to the overall supervision of the Fund's investment manager. The sub-advisor's activities are subject to the board's review and control, as well as the investment manager's instruction and supervision. In allocating the Fund's assets, Franklin Advisers has discretion to not allocate any assets to one or more sub-advisors at any time.

Management fees

The Fund pays the investment manager a fee equal to an annual rate of:

Fund	Management Fee Rates
Allocation Fund	0.55% of the value of its average daily net assets.
DynaTech Fund	0.63% of the value of its net assets up to and including $100 million; 0.50% of the value of its net assets over $100 million up to and including $250 million; 0.45% of the value of its net assets over $250 million up to and including $7.5 billion; 0.44% of the value of its net assets over $7.5 billion up to and including $10 billion; 0.43% of the value of its net assets over $10 billion up to and including $12.5 billion; 0.42% of the value of its net assets over $12.5 billion up to and including $15 billion; and 0.40% of the value of its net assets over $15 billion.
Growth and Income Fund Income Fund U.S. Government Fund Global Bond Fund	0.625% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $100 million; 0.500% of the value of its average daily net assets over $100 million up to and including $250 million; 0.450% of the value of its average daily net assets over $250 million up to and including $7.5 billion; 0.440% of the value of its average daily net assets over $7.5 billion up to and including $10 billion; 0.430% of the value of its average daily net assets over $10 billion up to and including $12.5 billion; 0.420% of the value of its average daily net assets over $12.5 billion up to and including $15 billion; and 0.400% of the value of its average daily net assets over $15 billion.
Global Real Estate Fund	1.05% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $500 million; 0.95% of the value of its average daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; 0.90% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1 billion up to and including $1.5 billion; 0.85% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1.5 billion up to and including $6.5 billion; 0.83% of the value of its average daily net assets over $6.5 billion up to and including $11.5 billion; 0.81% of the value of its average daily net assets over $11.5 billion up to and including $16.5 billion; 0.79% of the value of its average daily net assets over $16.5 billion up to and including $19.0 billion; 0.78% of the value of its average daily net assets over $19.0 billion up to and including $21.5 billion; and 0.77% of the value of its average daily net assets over $21.5 billion.
Large Cap Growth Fund	0.75% of the value of its average daily net assets up to $500 million; 0.625% of the value of its average daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; and 0.50% of the value of its average daily net assets in excess of $1 billion.
Global Discovery Fund	0.875% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $4 billion; 0.845% of the value of its average daily net assets over $4 billion, and up to and including $7 billion; 0.825% of the value of its average daily net assets over $7 billion, and up to and including $10 billion; 0.805% of the value of its average daily net assets over $10 billion, and up to and including $13 billion; 0.785% of the value of its average daily net assets over $13 billion, and up to and including $16 billion; 0.765% of the value of its average daily net assets over $16 billion, and up to and including $19 billion; 0.745% of the value of its average daily net assets over $19 billion, and up to and including $22 billion; 0.725% of the value of its average daily net assets over $22 billion, and up to and including $25 billion; 0.705% of the value of its average daily net assets over $25 billion, and up to and including $28 billion; and 0.685% of the value of its average daily net assets in excess of $28 billion.
Shares Fund	0.675% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $5 billion; 0.645% of the value of its average daily net assets over $5 billion, up to and including $10 billion; 0.625% of the value of its average daily net assets over $10 billion, up to and including $15 billion; 0.595% of the value of its average daily net assets over $15 billion, up to and including $20 billion; 0.585% of the value of its average daily net assets over $20 billion, up to and including $25 billion; 0.565% of the value of its average daily net assets over $25 billion, up to and including $30 billion; 0.555% of the value of its average daily net assets over $30 billion, up to and including $35 billion; and 0.545% of the value of its average daily net assets over $35 billion.
Rising Dividends Fund	0.75% of the value of its average daily net assets up to $500 million; 0.625% of the value of its average daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; 0.50% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1 billion up to and including $5 billion; and 0.49% of the value of its average daily net assets in excess of $5 billion.

Fund	Management Fee Rates
Small Cap Value Fund	0.750% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $200 million; 0.635% of the value of its average daily net assets over $200 million, up to and including $700 million; 0.600% of the value of its average daily net assets over $700 million, up to and including $1.2 billion; 0.575% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1.2 billion, up to and including $1.3 billion; and 0.475% of the value of its average daily net assets in excess of $1.3 billion.
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	0.800% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $500 million; 0.700% of the value of its average daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; 0.650% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1 billion up to and including $1.5 billion; 0.600% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1.5 billion up to and including $6.5 billion; 0.575% of the value of its average daily net assets over $6.5 billion up to and including $11.5 billion; 0.550% of the value of its average daily net assets over $11.5 billion up to and including $16.5 billion; 0.540% of the value of its average daily net assets over $16.5 billion up to and including $19 billion; 0.530% of the value of its average daily net assets over $19 billion up to and including $21.5 billion; and 0.520% of the value of its average daily net assets over $21.5 billion.
Strategic Income Fund	0.625% of the value of its average daily net assets up to $500 million; 0.525% of the value of its average daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; 0.480% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1 billion up to and including $1.5 billion; 0.435% of the value of its average daily net assets over $1.5 billion up to and including $6.5 billion; 0.415% of the value of its average daily net assets over $6.5 billion up to and including $11.5 billion; 0.400% of the value of its average daily net assets over $11.5 billion up to and including $16.5 billion; 0.390% of the value of its average daily net assets over $16.5 billion up to and including $19 billion; 0.380% of the value of its average daily net assets over $19 billion up to and including $21.5 billion; and 0.370% of the value of its average daily net assets over $21.5 billion.
Emerging Markets Fund	1.05% of the value of daily net assets up to and including $1 billion; 1.00% of the value of daily net assets over $1 billion and up to $5 billion; 0.95% of the value of daily net assets over $5 billion and up to $10 billion; 0.90% of the value of daily net assets over $10 billion and up to $15 billion; 0.85% of the value of daily net assets over $15 billion and up to $20 billion; and 0.80% of the value of daily net assets in excess of $20 billion.
Foreign Fund	0.800% of the value of its average daily net assets up to and including $700 million; 0.775% of the value of its average daily net assets over $700 million, up to and including $1.2 billion; and 0.675% of the value of its average daily net assets in excess of $1.2 billion.
Growth Fund	1.000% of the value of its daily net assets up to and including $100 million; 0.900% of the value of its daily net assets over $100 million up to and including $250 million; 0.800% of the value of its daily net assets over $250 million up to and $500 million; 0.750% of the value of its daily net assets over $500 million up to and including $1 billion; 0.700% of the value of its daily net assets over $1 billion up to and including $5 billion; 0.675% of the value of its daily net assets over $5 billion up to and including $10 billion; 0.655% of the value of its daily net assets over $10 billion up to and including $15 billion; 0.635% of the value of its daily net assets over $15 billion up to and including $20 billion; and 0.615% of the value of its daily net assets over $20 billion.

The fees are computed daily according to the terms of the management agreements and paid monthly based on the average daily net assets during the preceding month. Each class of the Fund's shares pays its proportionate share of the fee.

Table of fees paid over the last three fiscal years:

Fiscal Year / Fund	Management Fees Earned ($)	Management Fees Waived / Expenses Reimbursed ($)	Management Fee Paid (After Waivers / Expenses Reimbursed) ($)
2025			
Allocation Fund	3,034,497	274,234	2,760,263
DynaTech Fund	1,019,165	5,579	1,013,586
Global Real Estate Fund	1,076,683	183,038	893,645
Growth and Income Fund	339,992	108,625	231,367
Income Fund	14,479,292	95,841	14,383,451
Large Cap Growth Fund	677,326	219	677,107
Global Discovery Fund	3,731,611	9,317	3,722,294
Shares Fund	13,131,211	40,310	13,090,901
Rising Dividends Fund	9,515,850	76,272	9,439,578
Small Cap Value Fund	7,039,299	55,130	6,984,169
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	3,358,035	20,806	3,337,229
Strategic Income Fund	1,709,334	31,573	1,677,761
U.S. Government Fund	2,534,963	16,497	2,518,466
Emerging Markets Fund	3,080,860	10,004	3,070,856
Foreign Fund	6,807,779	103,576	6,704,203
Global Bond Fund	6,618,411	446,783	6,171,628
Growth Fund	3,241,190	255,226	2,985,964
2024			
Allocation Fund	3,164,436	104,324	3,060,112
DynaTech Fund	984,816	4,417	980,399
Global Real Estate Fund	1,113,129	126,498	986,631
Growth and Income Fund	318,754	78,987	239,767
Income Fund	14,560,820	226,786	14,334,034

Fiscal Year / Fund	Management Fees Earned ($)	Management Fees Waived / Expenses Reimbursed ($)	Management Fee Paid (After Waivers / Expenses Reimbursed) ($)
Large Cap Growth Fund	749,287	236	749,051
Global Discovery Fund	3,763,536	–	3,763,536
Shares Fund	14,186,945	–	14,186,945
Rising Dividends Fund	9,429,649	97,960	9,331,689
Small Cap Value Fund	7,241,201	69,478	7,171,723
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	3,532,037	40,519	3,491,518
Strategic Income Fund	1,794,875	19,867	1,775,008
U.S. Government Fund	2,685,794	–	2,685,794
Emerging Markets Fund	2,760,650	23,779	2,736,871
Foreign Fund	6,911,452	138,333	6,773,119
Global Bond Fund	6,998,919	348,958	6,649,961
Growth Fund	3,375,567	176,881	3,198,686
2023			
Allocation Fund	3,090,460	63,373	3,027,087
DynaTech Fund	780,429	9,076	771,353
Global Real Estate Fund	1,126,437	174,103	952,334
Growth and Income Fund	270,231	88,862	181,369
Income Fund	14,302,159	190,157	14,112,002
Large Cap Growth Fund	650,022	620	649,402
Global Discovery Fund	3,749,643	2,477	3,747,166
Shares Fund	13,717,084	3,291	13,713,793
Rising Dividends Fund	8,868,259	181,552	8,686,707
Small Cap Value Fund	6,782,527	97,884	6,684,643
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	3,207,679	73,814	3,133,865
Strategic Income Fund	1,845,445	136,257	1,709,188
U.S. Government Fund	2,817,455	–	2,817,455
Emerging Markets Fund	2,612,567	28,019	2,584,548
Foreign Fund	7,006,676	179,821	6,826,855
Global Bond Fund	7,562,918	369,910	7,193,008
Growth Fund	3,361,495	151,595	3,209,900

Name of sub-advisors, annual fee rates and fees paid over the last three fiscal years:

The Allocation Fund's investment manager pays fees to the Fund's sub-advisors for their services from the management fees it receives from the Allocation Fund equal to the following annual rates based on the net assets of the sub-advised portion of the Allocation Fund's portfolio:

Strategy Sleeve	Sub-Advisor	Sub-advisory Fee Rate
Templeton Foreign	Global Advisors (effective May 1, 2019)	0.25%
Franklin International Growth	FT Institutional (effective May 1, 2019)	0.25%
Investment Grade Corporate	FT Institutional (effective May 1, 2019)	0.40%
Franklin U.S. Treasury Securities	FT Institutional	0.03%
Franklin U.S. Core Bond	FT Institutional	0.04%
ClearBridge Large Cap Value Strategy	ClearBridge Investments, LLC (effective on or about April 22, 2022)	0.40%
ClearBridge Large Cap Growth Strategy	ClearBridge Investments, LLC (effective on or about April 22, 2022)	0.40%
Brandywine Global Opportunities Bond Strategy	Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC (effective on or about May 9, 2022)	0.30%

The Emerging Markets Fund's sub-advisor is Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources. The sub-advisor has an agreement with the investment manager and provides the investment manager with investment management advice and assistance. The sub-advisor's activities are subject to the board's review and control, as well as the investment manager's instruction and supervision. The investment manager pays the sub-advisor a fee equal to 50% of the net advisory fee paid by the Fund to the investment manager. The net investment advisory fee, in this case, is defined to equal: (i) 96% of an amount equal to the total investment management fee payable to the investment manager minus any Fund fees and/or expenses waived and/or reimbursed by the investment manager, minus (ii) any amounts paid by the investment manager to Franklin Templeton Services, LLC for fund administrative services.

Effective on March 31, 2024, the Growth Fund's sub-advisor was Templeton Asset Management Limited, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources. The sub-advisor had an agreement with the investment manager and provides the investment manager with investment management advice and assistance. The sub-advisor's activities were subject to the board's review and control, as well as the investment manager's instruction and supervision. The investment manager paid the sub-advisor a fee equal to 25% of the net advisory fee paid by the Fund to the investment manager. The net investment advisory fee, in this case, was defined to equal: (i) 96% of an amount equal to the total investment management fee payable to the investment manager minus any Fund fees and/or expenses waived and/or reimbursed by the investment manager, minus (ii) any amounts paid by the investment manager to Franklin Templeton Services, LLC for fund administrative services. The Growth Fund's sub-advisor was terminated effective August 1, 2025.

The investment managers have paid fees to affiliated sub-advisors from the management fees they received from the Fund. For the last three fiscal years, the investment managers paid the following sub-advisory fees:

Fees Paid ($)

Fund	2025	2024	2023
Allocation Fund	710,644	870,823	835,273
Emerging Markets Fund	1,262,493	1,121,694	1,060,898
Growth Fund	446,870	476,964	0

Portfolio managers

The following table identifies the portfolio managers, the number of other accounts (other than the Fund) for which the portfolio managers have day-to-day management responsibilities and the total assets in such accounts, within each of the following categories: registered investment companies, other pooled investment vehicles, and other accounts. For each category, the number of accounts and total assets in the accounts where fees are based on performance are also indicated, as applicable. Unless noted otherwise, all information is provided as of December 31, 2025.

Name	Type of Account	Number of Accounts Managed	Total Assets Managed (x $1 million)	Number of Accounts Managed for which Advisory Fee is Performance- Based	Assets Managed for which Advisory Fee is Performance-Based (x $1 million)
Heather Abdinoor	Registered Investment Companies	2	511.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	3	405.4	None	None
	Other Accounts	7	273.2	None	None
Sara Araghi	Registered Investment Companies	2	22,179.6	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	7	7,362.8	None	None
	Other Accounts	2	0.5	None	None
Berkeley Belknap[1]	Registered Investment Companies	31	10,757.4	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	48	9,321.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	104	2,955.8	1	0.1
Grant Bowers	Registered Investment Companies	1	4,496.1	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	4	7,247.1	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.4	None	None
Todd Brighton	Registered Investment Companies	7	84,413.8	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment	6	10,757.1	None	None

	Vehicles				
	Other Accounts	17	2,413.7	None	None
Albert Chan	Registered Investment Companies	19	24,337.9	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	9	2,173.7	None	None
	Other Accounts	37	2,517.3	1	447.3
Jennifer Chen	Registered Investment Companies	1	3,615.0	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	160.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.1	None	None
Brendan Circle	Registered Investment Companies	7	84,413.8	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	5	10,718.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	17	2,413.7	None	None
Christian Correa[2]	Registered Investment Companies	3	19,003.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	752.6	None	None
	Other Accounts	2	2.4	None	None
Sonal Desai	Registered Investment Companies	4	6,453.0	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	328.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	4	2,859.4	None	None
Neil Dhruv	Registered Investment Companies	6	3,582.2	None	None

	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	5	1,350.1	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	3,937.9	1	2,415.2
Brett S. Goldstein[3*]	Registered Investment Companies	38	16,062.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	28	15,821.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	11	64.8	None	None
Laura Green[3*]	Registered Investment Companies	17	14,034.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	28	6,781.4	None	None
	Other Accounts	246	5,219.3	2	81.1
Aman Gupta	Registered Investment Companies	2	10,530.3	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	248.8	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	2.5	None	None
Anthony Hardy	Registered Investment Companies	1	4,496.1	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	16	7,732.0	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.4	None	None
Michael Hasenstab	Registered Investment Companies	6	4,232.4	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	17	7,939.5	1	84.4
	Other Accounts	7	4,111.5	4	1,482.4

Calvin Ho	Registered Investment Companies	6	4,232.4	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	14	7,832.0	1	84.4
	Other Accounts	None	None	None	None
Grace Hoefig	Registered Investment Companies	2	7,759.3	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	248.8	None	None
	Other Accounts	2	0.1	None	None
Nicholas Karzon	Registered Investment Companies	4	4,373.8	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	536.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	5	173.7	None	None
Armritha Kasturirangan	Registered Investment Companies	5	28,042.7	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	975.7	None	None
	Other Accounts	5	13.8	None	None
Jacqueline Kenney	Registered Investment Companies	38	27,384.7	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	45	16,339.8	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	1,441.1	None	None
Patrick Klein	Registered Investment Companies	25	30,226.8	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	11	3,612.9	None	None
	Other				

	Accounts	14	6,458.8	2	1,429.5
Christopher Meeker	Registered Investment Companies	4	4,373.8	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	536.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	5	173.7	None	None
Jatin Misra	Registered Investment Companies	6	3,582.2	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	12	2,228.7	1	24.4
	Other Accounts	3	3,006.7	1	2,415.2
Matthew J. Moberg	Registered Investment Companies	7	28,824.1	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	9	1,108.4	None	None
	Other Accounts	14	1,159.8	None	None
Thomas A. Nelson	Registered Investment Companies	48	23,844.1	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	91	27,782.2	None	None
	Other Accounts	296	6,574.7	1	0.1
Andrew Ness	Registered Investment Companies	3	2,171.3	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	9	6,665.0	None	None
	Other Accounts	2	962.3	1	962.0
Peter A. Nori	Registered Investment Companies	2	511.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	3	405.4	None	None

	Other Accounts	7	273.2	None	None
Daniel Nuckles	Registered Investment Companies	1	4,551.1	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	None	None	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.4	None	None
Patricia O'Connor[4]	Registered Investment Companies	5	7,130.9	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	5	2,778.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	4	89.4	None	None
Christopher James Peel	Registered Investment Companies	3	14,652.6	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	4	10,588.9	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	129.8	None	None
Edward D. Perks	Registered Investment Companies	8	84,414.2	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	5	10,718.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	17	2,413.7	None	None
Warren Pustam	Registered Investment Companies	3	14,652.6	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	7	10,866.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	129.8	None	None
Matthew Quinlan	Registered Investment Companies	6	32,593.8	None	None

	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	975.7	None	None
	Other Accounts	7	21.9	None	None
Steven Raineri	Registered Investment Companies	5	4,579.5	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	536.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	6	173.7	None	None
Timothy Rankin	Registered Investment Companies	3	10,809.3	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	1,281.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	2	2.4	None	None
Michael V. Salm	Registered Investment Companies	25	40,043.3	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	27	24,128.0	1	24.4
	Other Accounts	23	8,686.8	3	4,172.0
Peter D. Sartori	Registered Investment Companies	3	14,652.6	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	7	10,866.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	6	4,620.7	2	3,908.3
John P. Scandalios	Registered Investment Companies	1	3,6150.0	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	160.5	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.1	None	None
Daniel Scher	Registered	1	227.3	None	None

	Investment Companies				
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	87.4	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.2	None	None
Blair Schmicker	Registered Investment Companies	2	7,328.4	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	87.4	None	None
	Other Accounts	1	0.2	None	None
Chetan Sehgal	Registered Investment Companies	4	2,482.2	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	14	8,267.3	None	None
	Other Accounts	3	1,151.9	1	962.0
Nayan Sheth[5]	Registered Investment Companies	5	28,042.7	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	975.7	None	None
	Other Accounts	5	13.8	None	None
Matthew J. Walkup[6*]	Registered Investment Companies	6	2,742.6	None	None
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	194.6	None	None
	Other Accounts	None	None	None	None

*Information is provided as of February 28, 2026.
[1] Effective June 1, 2026, Berkeley Belknap will step down as a member of the Allocation Fund's portfolio management team.
[2] Effective June 30, 2026, Christian Correa will step down as a member of the Shares Fund's portfolio management team.
[3] Effective June 1, 2026, Brett S. Goldstein and Laura Green will join the Allocation Fund's portfolio management team.
[4] Effective June 30, 2026, Patricia O'Connor will step down as a member of the Strategic Income Fund's portfolio management team.
[5] Effective May 31, 2026, Nayan Sheth will step down as a member of the Rising Dividends Fund's portfolio management team.
[6] Effective June 30, 2026, Matthew J. Walkup will join the Strategic Income Fund's portfolio management team.

Portfolio managers that provide investment services to the Fund may also provide services to a variety of other investment products, including other funds, institutional accounts and private accounts. The advisory fees for some of

such other products and accounts may be different than that charged to the Fund and may include performance based compensation (as noted above, if any). This may result in fees that are higher (or lower) than the advisory fees paid by the Fund. As a matter of policy, each fund or account is managed solely for the benefit of the beneficial owners thereof. As discussed below, the separation of the trading execution function from the portfolio management function and the application of objectively based trade allocation procedures help to mitigate potential conflicts of interest that may arise as a result of the portfolio managers managing accounts with different advisory fees.

Conflicts. The management of multiple funds, including the Fund, and accounts may also give rise to potential conflicts of interest if the funds and other accounts have different objectives, benchmarks, time horizons, and fees as the portfolio manager must allocate his or her time and investment ideas across multiple funds and accounts. The investment manager seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. Most other accounts managed by a portfolio manager are managed using the same investment strategies that are used in connection with the management of the Fund. Accordingly, portfolio holdings, position sizes, and industry and sector exposures tend to be similar across similar portfolios, which may minimize the potential for conflicts of interest. As noted above, the separate management of the trade execution and valuation functions from the portfolio management process also helps to reduce potential conflicts of interest. However, securities selected for funds or accounts other than the Fund may outperform the securities selected for the Fund. Moreover, if a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one fund or other account, the Fund may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of that opportunity across all eligible funds and other accounts. The investment manager seeks to manage such potential conflicts by using procedures intended to provide a fair allocation of buy and sell opportunities among funds and other accounts.

The structure of a portfolio manager's compensation may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. A portfolio manager's base pay and bonus tend to increase with additional and more complex responsibilities that include increased assets under management. As such, there may be an indirect relationship between a portfolio manager's marketing or sales efforts and his or her bonus.

Finally, the management of personal accounts by a portfolio manager may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. While the funds and the investment manager have adopted a code of ethics which they believe contains provisions designed to prevent a wide range of prohibited activities by portfolio managers and others with respect to their personal trading activities, there can be no assurance that the code of ethics addresses all individual conduct that could result in conflicts of interest.

The investment manager and the Fund have adopted certain compliance procedures that are designed to address these, and other, types of conflicts. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation where a conflict arises.

The description below of portfolio manager compensation applies to all Investment Managers and portfolio managers except where otherwise noted.

Compensation. The investment manager seeks to maintain a compensation program that is competitively positioned to attract, retain and motivate top-quality investment professionals. Portfolio managers receive a base salary, a cash incentive bonus opportunity, an equity compensation opportunity, and a benefits package. Portfolio manager compensation is reviewed annually, and the level of compensation is based on individual performance, the salary range for a portfolio manager's level of responsibility and Franklin Templeton guidelines. Portfolio managers are provided no financial incentive to favor one fund or account over another. Each portfolio manager's compensation consists of the following three elements:

Base salary Each portfolio manager is paid a base salary.

Annual bonus Annual bonuses are structured to align the interests of the portfolio manager with those of the Fund's shareholders. Each portfolio manager is eligible to receive an annual bonus. Bonuses generally are split between cash (50% to 65%) and restricted shares of Resources stock (17.5% to 25%) and mutual fund shares (17.5% to 25%). The deferred equity-based compensation is intended to build a vested interest of the portfolio manager in the financial performance of both Resources and mutual funds advised by the investment manager. The bonus plan is intended to provide a competitive level of annual bonus compensation that is tied to the portfolio manager achieving consistently strong investment performance, which aligns the financial incentives of the portfolio manager and Fund shareholders. The Chief Investment Officer of the investment manager and/or other officers of the investment manager, with responsibility for the Fund, have discretion in the granting of annual bonuses to portfolio managers in accordance with Franklin Templeton guidelines. The following factors are generally used in determining bonuses under the plan:

- *Investment performance.* Primary consideration is given to the historic investment performance over the 1, 3 and 5 preceding years of all accounts managed by the portfolio manager. The pre-tax performance of each fund managed is measured relative to a relevant peer group and/or applicable benchmark as appropriate.

- *Non-investment performance*. The more qualitative contributions of the portfolio manager to the investment manager's business and the investment management team, including professional knowledge, productivity, responsiveness to client needs and communication, are evaluated in determining the amount of any bonus award.

- *Responsibilities.* The characteristics and complexity of funds managed by the portfolio manager are factored in the investment manager's appraisal.

Additional long-term equity-based compensation Portfolio managers may also be awarded restricted shares or units of Resources stock or restricted shares or units of one or more mutual funds. Awards of such deferred equity-based compensation typically vest over time, so as to create incentives to retain key talent.

Benefits Portfolio managers also participate in benefit plans and programs available generally to all employees of the investment manager.

Ownership of Fund shares. Shares of the Funds of the Trust are owned only by insurance company separate accounts, qualified pension plans and other mutual funds. As of December 31, 2025, the portfolio managers of the Funds did not have any investments in separate accounts or qualified pension plans that invested in shares of the Funds they manage.

Administrator and services provided Franklin Templeton Services, LLC (FT Services) has agreements with the investment managers to provide certain administrative services and facilities for each Fund. FT Services is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Resources and is an affiliate of the Funds' managers, sub-advisors and principal underwriter.

The administrative services FT Services provides include preparing and maintaining books, records, and tax and financial reports, and monitoring compliance with regulatory requirements.

Administration fees The investment managers for all Funds pay FT Services a monthly fee equal to an annual rate of:

- 0.150% of the Fund's average daily net assets up to and including $200 million;
- 0.135% of the Fund's average daily net assets over $200 million, up to and including $700 million;
- 0.100% of the Fund's average daily net assets over $700 million, up to and including $1.2 billion; and
- 0.075% of the Fund's average daily net assets over $1.2 billion.

Table of Fees Paid Over the Last Three Fiscal Years:

Fiscal Year / Fund	Administration Fees Earned ($)	Administration Fees Waived / Expenses Reimbursed ($)	Administration Fees Paid (After Waivers / Expenses Reimbursed) ($)
2025			
Allocation Fund	766,783	–	766,783
DynaTech Fund	440,108	–	440,108
Global Real Estate Fund	253,691	–	253,691
Growth and Income Fund	80,754	–	80,754
Income Fund	2,921,549	–	2,921,549
Large Cap Growth Fund	133,945	–	133,945
Global Discovery Fund	599,629	–	599,629
Shares Fund	2,018,762	–	2,018,762
Rising Dividends Fund	1,708,887	–	1,708,887
Small Cap Value Fund	1,357,271	–	1,357,271
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	1,038,229	–	1,038,229
Strategic Income Fund	541,186	–	541,186
U.S. Government Fund	708,091	–	708,091
Emerging Markets Fund	421,963	–	421,963
Foreign Fund	1,121,649	–	1,121,649
Global Bond Fund	1,625,157	–	1,625,157
Growth Fund	512,534	–	512,534
2024			
Allocation Fund	804,612	–	804,612
DynaTech Fund	426,565	–	426,565
Global Real Estate Fund	264,437	–	264,437
Growth and Income Fund	76,347	–	76,347
Income Fund	2,954,339	–	2,954,339
Large Cap Growth Fund	149,569	–	149,569
Global Discovery Fund	609,091	–	609,091
Shares Fund	2,147,229	–	2,147,229
Rising Dividends Fund	1,705,861	–	1,705,861
Small Cap Value Fund	1,399,796	–	1,399,796
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	1,100,939	–	1,100,939
Strategic Income Fund	572,868	–	572,868
U.S. Government Fund	758,759	–	758,759
Emerging Markets Fund	384,009	–	384,009
Foreign Fund	1,141,457	–	1,141,457
Global Bond Fund	1,696,410	–	1,696,410
Growth Fund	539,123	–	539,123
2023			
Allocation Fund	776,351	–	776,351
DynaTech Fund	314,236	–	314,236
Global Real Estate Fund	264,513	–	264,513

Fiscal Year / Fund	Administration Fees Earned ($)	Administration Fees Waived / Expenses Reimbursed ($)	Administration Fees Paid (After Waivers / Expenses Reimbursed) ($)
Growth and Income Fund	63,820	–	63,820
Income Fund	2,877,802	–	2,877,802
Large Cap Growth Fund	127,431	–	127,431
Global Discovery Fund	599,338	–	599,338
Shares Fund	2,079,452	–	2,079,452
Rising Dividends Fund	1,608,040	–	1,608,040
Small Cap Value Fund	1,313,238	–	1,313,238
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	983,065	–	983,065
Strategic Income Fund	581,840	–	581,840
U.S. Government Fund	789,047	–	789,047
Emerging Markets Fund	359,371	–	359,371
Foreign Fund	1,141,066	–	1,141,066
Global Bond Fund	1,776,279	–	1,776,279
Growth Fund	528,524	–	528,524

Payments to Insurance Companies by FT Services or its Affiliates FT Services or affiliates of FT Services make certain payments out of their own resources to insurance companies for providing or assisting with the provision of administrative and other services to the Funds relating to the insurance companies' investment in the Funds on behalf of variable contract owners. These payments and the provision of services and assistance by the insurance companies are governed by an agreement between FT Services or an affiliate and the insurance companies (the "Services Agreement"). The services provided by the insurance companies under the Services Agreement typically involve (i) the handling of transactions, record-keeping, and other administrative matters; and (ii) communications with and other assistance to contract owners on matters relating to the ultimate investment of their contract value in the Funds. Under the form of Services Agreement, such payments can range between 0.05% and 0.25%, as an annual rate, of a Fund's average daily net assets attributable to an insurance company, depending on a number of factors. The payments may be more fully described in the prospectuses for the contracts provided by the insurance companies.

Other compensation paid to insurance companies and their affiliates by other Resources entities are described below, under "The Underwriter."

Shareholder servicing and transfer agent Franklin Templeton Investor Services, LLC (Investor Services) is the Fund's shareholder servicing agent and acts as the Fund's transfer agent and dividend-paying agent. Investor Services is located at 100 Fountain Parkway, St. Petersburg, FL 33716. Please send all correspondence to Institutional Services at P.O. Box 33030, St. Petersburg, FL 33733.

Under the terms of its servicing contract with the Fund, Investor Services may receive a fee for servicing Fund shareholder accounts. The Fund also will reimburse Investor Services for certain out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in servicing the shareholder accounts in accordance with the terms of its servicing contract with the Fund.

Sub-administrator JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (JPMorgan) has an agreement with FT Services to provide certain sub-administrative services for the Fund. The administrative services provided by JPMorgan include, but are not limited to, certain fund accounting, financial reporting, tax, corporate governance and compliance and legal administration services.

Securities lending agent The board of trustees has approved the Fund's participation in a securities lending program. Under the securities lending program, The Bank of New York Mellon, JPMorgan Chase Bank and Goldman Sachs Agency Lending serve as the Fund's securities lending agents (together, the "Securities Lending Agents").

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the income earned by the Fund as well as the fees and/or compensation paid by the Fund (in dollars) pursuant to a securities lending agreement between the Trust with respect to the Fund and the Securities Lending Agent were as follows (figures may differ from those shown in the Fund's financial statements due to time of availability and use of estimates):

	DynaTech Fund ($)	Global Real Estate Fund ($)	Growth and Income Fund ($)	Income Fund ($)	Global Discovery Fund ($)	Small Cap Value Fund ($)
Gross Income earned by the Fund from securities lending activities	20,782	9,467	506	259,624	2,173	14,217
Fees and/or compensation paid by the Fund for securities lending activities and related services						
Fees paid to Securities Lending Agent from revenue split	826	385	32	7,584	38	893
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative fees not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indemnification fees not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rebate (paid to borrower)	10,461	4,659	103	164,815	1,700	3,058
Other fees not included above[1]	77	36	3	711	4	83
Aggregate fees/compensation paid by the Fund for securities lending activities	11,364	5,080	138	173,110	1,742	4,034
Net income from securities lending activities	9,418	4,387	368	86,514	431	10,183

1. Other fees consist of vendor fees for analytic services provided in connection with the securities lending program.

	Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund ($)	Strategic Income Fund ($)	Emerging Markets Fund ($)	Foreign Fund ($)	Growth Fund ($)
Gross Income earned by the Fund from securities lending activities	41,294	1,711	50,623	298,834	38,275
Fees and/or compensation paid by the Fund for securities lending activities and related services					
Fees paid to Securities Lending Agent from revenue split	1,433	130	684	4,742	1,388
Fees paid for any cash collateral management service (including fees deducted from a pooled cash collateral reinvestment vehicle) not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative fees not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-
Indemnification fees not included in a revenue split	-	-	-	-	-
Rebate (paid to borrower)	23,379	86	42,078	239,562	20,931
Other fees not included above[1]	134	12	63	444	130
Aggregate fees/compensation paid by the Fund for securities lending activities	24,946	228	42,825	244,748	22,449
Net income from securities lending activities	16,348	1,483	7,798	54,086	15,826

1. Other fees consist of vendor fees for analytic services provided in connection with the securities lending program.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the Securities Lending Agent provided the following services to the Fund in connection with its securities lending activities: (i) entering into loans subject to guidelines or restrictions provided by the Fund; (ii) establishing and maintaining collateral accounts; (iii) monitoring daily the value of the loaned securities and collateral; (iv) seeking additional collateral as necessary from borrowers, and returning collateral to borrowers; (v) receiving and holding collateral from borrowers, and facilitating the investment and reinvestment of cash collateral; (vi) negotiating loan terms; (vii) selecting securities to be loaned subject to guidelines or restrictions provided by the Fund; (viii) recordkeeping and account servicing; (ix) monitoring dividend and proxy activity relating to loaned securities; and (x) arranging for return of loaned securities to the Fund at loan termination.

Custodian JPMorgan Chase Bank, at its principal office at 270 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017-2070, and at the offices of its branches and agencies throughout the world, acts as custodian of the Fund's securities and other assets. As foreign custody manager, the bank selects and monitors foreign sub-custodian banks, selects and evaluates non-

compulsory foreign depositories, and furnishes information relevant to the selection of compulsory depositories.

Millennium Trust Company, LLC, 2001 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60523, acts as the custodian of the Fund's marketplace loans.

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, 405 Howard Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94105, is the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. The independent registered public accounting firm audits the financial statements included in the Fund's Form N-CSR filed with the SEC.

Research Services The investment managers may receive research services from various affiliates. The services may include information, analytical reports, computer screening studies, statistical data, and factual resumes pertaining to securities eligible for purchase by the Fund. Such supplemental research, when utilized, is subject to analysis by the investment managers before being incorporated into the investment advisory process.

Portfolio Transactions

The investment manager selects brokers and dealers to execute the Fund's portfolio transactions in accordance with criteria set forth in the management agreement and any directions that the board may give.

When placing a portfolio transaction, the trading department of the investment manager seeks to obtain "best execution" -- the best combination of high quality transaction execution services, taking into account the services and products to be provided by the broker or dealer, and low relative commission rates with the view of maximizing value for the Fund and its other clients. For most transactions in equity securities, the amount of commissions paid is negotiated between the investment manager and the broker executing the transaction. The determination and evaluation of the reasonableness of the brokerage commissions paid are based to a large degree on the professional opinions of the persons within the trading department of the investment manager responsible for placement and review of the transactions. These opinions are based on the experience of these individuals in the securities industry and information available to them about the level of commissions being paid by other institutional investors. The investment manager may also place orders to buy and sell equity securities on a principal rather than agency basis if the investment manager believes that trading on a principal basis will provide best execution. Orders for fixed income securities are ordinarily placed with market makers on a net basis, without any brokerage commissions. Purchases of portfolio securities from underwriters will include a commission or concession paid to the underwriter, and purchases from dealers will include a spread between the bid and ask price.

The investment manager may cause the Fund to pay certain brokers commissions that are higher than those another broker may charge, if the investment manager determines in good faith that the amount paid is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services it receives. This may be viewed in terms of either the particular transaction or the investment manager's overall responsibilities to client accounts over which it exercises investment discretion. The brokerage commissions that are used to acquire services other than brokerage are known as "soft dollars." Research provided can be either proprietary (created and provided by the broker-dealer, including tangible research products as well as access to analysts and traders) or third party (created by a third party but provided by the broker-dealer). To the extent permitted by applicable law, the investment manager may use soft dollars to acquire both proprietary and third-party research.

The research services that brokers may provide to the investment manager include, among others, supplying information about particular companies, markets, countries, or local, regional, national or transnational economies, statistical data, quotations and other securities pricing information, and other information that provides lawful and appropriate assistance to the investment manager in carrying out its investment advisory responsibilities. These services may not always directly benefit the Fund. They must, however, be of value to the investment manager in carrying out its overall responsibilities to its clients.

To the extent the Fund invests in bonds or participates in other principal transactions at net prices, the Fund incurs little or no brokerage costs. The Fund deals directly with the selling or buying principal or market maker without incurring charges for the services of a broker on its behalf, unless it is determined that a better price or execution may be obtained by using the services of a broker.

Purchases of portfolio securities from underwriters will include a commission or concession paid to the underwriter, and purchases from dealers will include a spread between the bid and ask price. The Fund seeks to obtain prompt execution of orders at the most favorable net price. Transactions may be directed to dealers in return for research and statistical information, as well as for special services provided by the dealers in the execution of orders.

It is not possible to place an accurate dollar value on the special execution or on the research services the investment manager receives from dealers effecting transactions in portfolio securities. The allocation of transactions to obtain additional research services allows the investment manager to supplement its own research and analysis activities and to receive the views and information of individuals and research staffs from many securities firms. The receipt of these products and services does not reduce the investment

manager's research activities in providing investment advice to the Fund.

As long as it is lawful and appropriate to do so, the investment manager and its affiliates may use this research and data in their investment advisory capacities with other clients.

Because Franklin Distributors, LLC (Distributors) is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), it may sometimes receive certain fees when the Fund tenders portfolio securities pursuant to a tender-offer solicitation. To recapture brokerage for the benefit of the Fund, any portfolio securities tendered by the Fund will be tendered through Distributors if it is legally permissible to do so. In turn, the next management fee payable to the investment manager will be reduced by the amount of any fees received by Distributors in cash, less any costs and expenses incurred in connection with the tender.

If purchases or sales of securities of the Fund and one or more other investment companies or clients supervised by the investment manager are considered at or about the same time, transactions in these securities will be allocated among the several investment companies and clients in a manner deemed equitable to all by the investment manager, taking into account the respective sizes of the accounts and the amount of securities to be purchased or sold. In some cases this procedure could have a detrimental effect on the price or volume of the security so far as the Fund is concerned. In other cases it is possible that the ability to participate in volume transactions may improve execution and reduce transaction costs to the Fund.

For the last three fiscal years ended December 31, the Fund paid the following brokerage commissions:

	Brokerage Commissions ($)		
Fund	2025	2024	2023
Allocation Fund	126,235	131,393	120,676
DynaTech Fund	29,969	18,889	17,380
Global Real Estate Fund	68,139	65,422	41,604
Growth and Income Fund	6,851	5,761	6,368
Income Fund[1]	96,917	330,997	348,593
Large Cap Growth Fund	14,949	9,460	13,398
Global Discovery Fund	234,731	193,712	177,185
Shares Fund	694,094	534,406	624,139
Rising Dividends Fund	135,042	117,351	62,173
Small Cap Value Fund	766,867	910,637	805,217
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	99,394	84,034	102,438
Strategic Income Fund	4,118	4,279	3,736
U.S. Government Fund	–	–	–
Emerging Markets Fund	79,958	67,364	91,315
Foreign Fund[2,3]	1,086,618	531,972	319,996
Global Bond Fund	–	–	–
Growth Fund[2]	387,614	304,773	137,030

1. For fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the brokerage commissions for Income Fund were lower than the year prior due to a decrease in portfolio transactions during the year.

2. For fiscal year ended December 31, 2024, the brokerage commissions for Foreign Fund and Growth Fund were higher than the year prior due to an increase in portfolio transactions during the year.

3. For fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the brokerage commissions for Foreign Fund were higher than the year prior due to an increase in portfolio transactions during the year.

Table Listing Brokerage Commissions Paid to Brokers who Provided Research Services for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2025.

Fund	Brokerage Commissions ($)	Aggregate Portfolio Transactions ($)
Allocation Fund	—	—
DynaTech Fund	15,373	117,814,750
Global Real Estate Fund	39,822	65,657,640
Growth and Income Fund	4,625	27,825,472
Income Fund	52,547	253,872,480
Large Cap Growth Fund	7,942	76,578,144
Global Discovery Fund	103,545	207,074,448
Shares Fund	279,339	916,546,674
Rising Dividends Fund	78,543	668,234,220
Small Cap Value Fund	348,437	600,324,676
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	61,560	312,081,514
Strategic Income Fund	—	—
U.S. Government Fund	—	—
Emerging Markets Fund	—	—
Foreign Fund	636,902	908,022,310
Global Bond Fund	—	—
Growth Fund	—	—

The following table identifies each Fund that held securities of its regular brokers or dealers during 2025, the names of each such broker or dealer, and the value, if any, of such securities as of December 31, 2025.

Table Listing Securities Holdings of Regular Brokers or Dealers by the Funds

Fund Name	Regular Broker or Dealer	Value of Securities Owned in the Aggregate ($ in thousands)
Allocation Fund	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	6,870
	Bank of America Corp.	5,050
	Morgan Stanley	3,060
	Wells Fargo & Co.	2,763
	Citigroup, Inc.	2,513
	UBS Group AG	1,919
	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (The)	1,544
	HSBC Holdings plc	1,198
	Barclays plc	653
	Royal Bank of Canada	266
Growth and Income Fund	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2,636
	Bank of America Corp.	1,865
Income Fund	Morgan Stanley	57,571
	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	43,947
	Citigroup, Inc.	32,523
	Barclays plc	27,191
	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (The)	18,954
	Wells Fargo & Co.	10,490
Global Discovery Fund	BNP Paribas SA	10,734
	Bank of America Corp.	8,924
	Deutsche Bank AG	7,564
	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	5,878
Shares Fund	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	44,939
	Bank of America Corp.	42,192
	Wells Fargo & Co.	40,554
Rising Dividends Fund	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	52,372
	Morgan Stanley	41,132
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	MSCI, Inc.	6,885
Strategic Income Fund	HSBC Holdings plc	1,581
	Morgan Stanley	1,331
	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (The)	1,315
	Wells Fargo & Co.	1,309
	Bank of America Corp.	906
	Citigroup, Inc.	803
	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	502
Foreign Fund	UBS Group AG	22,703
	Royal Bank of Canada	20,099
Growth Fund	Royal Bank of Canada	5,253

Because the Fund may, from time to time, invest in broker-dealers, it is possible that the Fund will own more than 5% of the voting securities of one or more broker-dealers through whom the Fund places portfolio brokerage transactions. In such circumstances, the broker-dealer would be considered an affiliated person of the Fund. To the extent the Fund places brokerage transactions through such a broker-dealer at a time when the broker-dealer is considered to be an affiliate of the Fund, the Fund will be required to adhere to certain rules relating to the payment of commissions to an affiliated broker-dealer. These rules require the Fund to adhere to procedures adopted by the board to ensure that the commissions paid to such broker-dealers do not exceed what would otherwise be the usual and customary brokerage commissions for similar transactions.

Distributions and Taxes

Election to be Taxed as a Regulated Investment Company

Each Fund has elected to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code (Code). Each Fund has qualified as a regulated investment company for its most recent fiscal year, and intends to continue to qualify during the current fiscal year. As a regulated investment company, a Fund generally pays no federal income tax on the income and gains it distributes. Each Fund also intends to comply with the additional requirements of Section 817(h) of the Code, relating to diversification of its assets, to make it possible that holders of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy (variable contracts) that have chosen a Fund as an investment option under their contracts will not be subject to federal income tax on distributions made by a Fund before they receive payments under the variable contracts. If the requirements of Section 817(h) are not met, or under other limited circumstances, it is possible that the variable contract holders (rather than the insurance company separate accounts) will be treated for federal income tax purposes as the taxable owners of the assets held by the insurance company separate accounts.

If for any taxable year a Fund does not qualify as a regulated investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders. Failure to qualify as a regulated investment

company, subject to savings provisions for certain qualification failures, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, would thus have a negative impact on the Fund's income and performance. In that case, the Fund would be subject to federal, and possibly state, corporate taxes on its taxable income and gains; and any distributions of income and gains by these Funds to insurance company separate accounts could result in these earnings becoming or a policy owner's interest in their separate contract to become immediately taxable. Even if such savings provisions apply, the Fund may be subject to a monetary sanction of $50,000 or more. Moreover, the board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of any of these Funds in the Trust as a regulated investment company if it determines this course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

Tax Considerations

Insurance company separate accounts may invest in each of the Funds of the Trust and, in turn, may offer variable annuity and variable life insurance products to investors through insurance contracts. Because the insurance company separate accounts are directly or indirectly the shareholders in each Fund, all of the tax characteristics of each Fund's investments flow into the separate accounts and not to each individual contract owner. The tax consequences from each contract owner's investment in a variable contract will depend upon the provisions of these contracts, and contract owners should consult with their contract prospectus for more information on these tax consequences.

Other tax information. This discussion of "Distributions and Taxes" is for general information only and is not tax advice. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding your particular circumstances and about any federal, state or local tax consequences before making an investment in a variable contract or the Fund.

Organization, Voting Rights and Principal Holders

The Trust is an open-end management investment company, commonly called a mutual fund. The Trust was originally organized as a Massachusetts business trust on April 26, 1988 and was reorganized effective May 1, 2007, as a Delaware statutory trust on October 18, 2006, and is registered with the SEC. Each Fund, except the Emerging Markets Fund and Global Bond Fund, is a diversified series of the Trust. Emerging Markets Fund and Global Bond Fund are non-diversified Funds as defined under the 1940 Act.

Most series or Funds in the Trust offer two classes of shares, Class 1 and Class 2; and some offer Class 4 shares. Shares of each class of the Fund in the Trust represent proportionate interests in the Fund's assets and are identical except that the Fund's Class 2 and Class 4 shares will bear the expense of Class 2 or Class 4 distribution plans. On matters that affect the Fund as a whole, each class has the same voting and other rights and preferences as any other class. On matters that affect only one class, only shareholders of that class may vote. Each class votes separately on matters affecting only that class, or matters expressly required to be voted on separately by state or federal law. Shares of each class of a series have the same voting and other rights and preferences as the other classes and series of the Trust for matters that affect the Trust as a whole. Additional series or classes may be offered in the future.

Franklin Allocation VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2019, Franklin Founding Funds Allocation VIP Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Templeton VIP Founding Funds Allocation Fund)

Franklin Allocation VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2019, Franklin Founding Funds Allocation VIP Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Templeton VIP Founding Funds Allocation Fund)

Franklin Allocation VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2019 Franklin Founding Funds Allocation VIP Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Templeton VIP Founding Funds Allocation Fund)

Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2021, Franklin Flex Cap Growth Fund VIP Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Flex Cap Growth Securities Fund)

Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2021, Franklin Flex Cap Growth Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Flex Cap Growth Securities Fund)

Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Global Real Estate Securities Fund)

Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Global Real Estate Securities Fund, prior to May 1, 2007, Franklin Real Estate Fund and prior to September 1999, Real Estate Securities Fund)

Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Growth and Income Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 1995, Equity Growth Fund)

Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Growth and Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Income VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Income VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Income VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Large Cap Growth Securities Fund and prior to December 15, 1999, Franklin Capital Growth Fund)

Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Large Cap Growth Securities Fund and prior to December 15, 1999, Franklin Capital Growth Fund)

Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Global Discovery Securities Fund)

Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Global Discovery Securities Fund)

Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Global Discovery Securities Fund)

Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Shares Securities Fund)

Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Shares Securities Fund)

Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Mutual Shares Securities Fund)

Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Rising Dividends Securities Fund and prior to September 1999, Franklin Rising Dividends Fund)

Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Rising Dividends Securities Fund and prior to September 1999, Franklin Rising Dividends Fund)

Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Rising Dividends Securities Fund)

Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small Cap Value Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2002, Franklin Value Securities Fund)

Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small Cap Value Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2002, Franklin Value Securities Fund)

Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small Cap Value Securities Fund)

Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2005, Franklin Small Cap Fund)

Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2005, Franklin Small Cap Fund)

Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth Securities Fund)

Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Strategic Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Strategic Income Securities Fund)

Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin Strategic Income Securities Fund)

Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund - Class 1[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin U.S. Government Fund)

Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund - Class 2[1]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Franklin U.S. Government Fund)

Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund - Class 1[2]
(prior to May 1, 2026, Templeton Developing Markets VIP Fund, prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Developing Markets Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2000, Templeton Developing Markets Fund)

Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund - Class 2[2, 3]
(prior to May 1, 2026, Templeton Developing Markets VIP Fund, prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Developing Markets Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2000, Templeton Developing Markets Fund)

Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2026, Templeton Developing Markets VIP Fund and prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Developing Markets Securities Fund)

Templeton Foreign VIP Fund - Class 1[2]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Foreign Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2002, Templeton International Securities Fund)

Templeton Foreign VIP Fund - Class 2[2, 3]

(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Foreign Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2002, Templeton International Securities Fund)

Templeton Foreign VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Foreign Securities Fund)

Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Global Bond Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2009, Templeton Global Income Securities Fund; prior to May 1, 1996, Global Bond Fund)

Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund - Class 2[3]
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Global Bond Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2009, Templeton Global Income Securities Fund)

Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Global Bond Securities Fund and prior to May 1, 2009, Templeton Global Income Securities Fund)

Templeton Growth VIP Fund - Class 1
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Growth Securities Fund)

Templeton Growth VIP Fund - Class 2
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Growth Securities Fund)

Templeton Growth VIP Fund - Class 4
(prior to May 1, 2014, Templeton Growth Securities Fund)

1. In September 1999, the names of the Funds were changed to include "Franklin."

2. On February 8, 2000, Fund shareholders approved a merger and reorganization that combined the Fund, a series of Templeton Variable Products Series Fund with a similar fund of the Trust, effective May 1, 2000. The Fund is the surviving fund of the merger.

3. On April 30, 2014, Class 3 shares of the Fund were recapitalized into Class 2 shares of the Fund.

Shares of each class represent proportionate interests in the Fund's assets. On matters that affect the Fund as a whole, each class has the same voting and other rights and preferences as any other class. On matters that affect only one class, only shareholders of that class may vote. Each class votes separately on matters affecting only that class, or matters expressly required to be voted on separately by state or federal law. Shares of each class of a series have the same voting and other rights and preferences as the other classes and series of the Trust for matters that affect the Trust as a whole. Additional series may be offered in the future.

The Trust has noncumulative voting rights. For board member elections, this gives holders of more than 50% of the shares voting the ability to elect all of the members of the board. If this happens, holders of the remaining shares voting will not be able to elect anyone to the board.

The Trust does not intend to hold annual shareholder meetings. The Trust or a series of the Trust may hold special meetings, however, for matters requiring shareholder approval.

Principal shareholders:

Fund classes are generally sold to and owned by insurance company separate accounts to serve as the investment vehicle for variable annuity and life insurance contracts.

Shareholders will exercise voting rights attributable to shares they own in accordance with voting instructions received by owners of the contracts issued by the insurance companies. To this extent, shareholders do not exercise control over the Trust by virtue of the voting rights from their ownership of Trust shares.

The name, address and percentage of ownership of insurance companies, the separate accounts of which owned of record 5% or more of Fund shares, as of April 1, 2026, are as follows:

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
Franklin Allocation VIP Fund		
NATIONWIDE LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY NWVL-G PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	56.59
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023506	1	21.40
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVLI7 PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	6.67
AUL AMERICAN VARIABLE ANNUITY UNIT TRST ATTN SEPARATE ACCOUNTS PO BOX 368 INDIANAPOLIS IN 462060368	1	6.36
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVAII PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	2	25.75
SUNAMERICA ANNUITY & LIFE ASSURANCE CO 21650 OXNARD ST STE 750 MS 6 2 WOODLAND HILLS CA 913674997	2	23.95

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO SEPARATE ACCOUNT A 700 NEWPORT CENTER DR NEWPORT BEACH CA 926606307	2	12.90
GENWORTH LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO ATTN VARIABLE ACCOUNTING 6610 W BROAD ST BLDG 3 RICHMOND VA 232301702	2	11.87
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	2	7.74
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO SEPARATE ACCOUNT A 700 NEWPORT CENTER DR NEWPORT BEACH CA 926606307	4	65.13
TRANSAMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO SEPARATE ACCOUNT VA B ATTN FMG ACCOUNTING MS4410 4333 EDGEWOOD RD NE CEDAR RAPIDS IA 524990001	4	10.77
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	10.48
AUGUSTAR LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS ML5A PO BOX 237 CINCINNATI OH 452010237	4	5.56
Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund		
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	30.95
MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA 1701 1ST AVE ROCK ISLAND IL 612018724	2	16.77
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	14.37
AUGUSTAR LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS ML5A 1 FINANCIAL WAY CINCINNATI OH 452425800	2	11.44
MIDLAND NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE SEPARATE ACCOUNT C 8300 MILLS CIVIC PKWY WEST DES MOINES IA 502663833	2	7.92
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	6.55
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO VARIABLE LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT PO BOX 2606 BIRMINGHAM AL 352022606	2	5.50
AUGUSTAR LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS ML5A PO BOX 237 CINCINNATI OH 452010237	4	80.47
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	12.07
Franklin Global Real Estate VIP Fund		
AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO OF DELAWARE 2727 ALLEN PKWY 4-D1 HOUSTON TX 770192115	1	91.76
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY DELAWARE LIFE VARIABLE ACCOUNT G 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	1	8.24
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE CO FORMERLY IDS LIFE INS CO 1497 AXP FINANCIAL CTR MINNEAPOLIS MN 554740016	2	74.28
JEFFERSON NATIONAL LIFE C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	2	5.81
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund		
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO VARIABLE LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT PO BOX 2606 BIRMINGHAM AL 352022606	1	89.06
NATIONAL INTEGRITY LIFE INSURANCE CO MAIL STATION 24 400 BROADWAY ST CINCINNATI OH 452023312	1	6.90
ALLSTATE LIFE INSURANCE CO VA ATTN PRODUCT VALUATION 5801 SW 6TH AVE TOPEKA KS 666360001	2	34.92
INTEGRITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY MAIL STATION 24 400 W BROADWAY ST CININNATI OH 452023341	2	21.88
NATIONAL INTEGRITY LIFE INSURANCE CO MAIL STATION 24 400 BROADWAY ST CINCINNATI OH 452023312	2	12.91

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
ALLSTATE LIFE INSURANCE CO OF NY VA ATTN PRODUCT VALUATION 5801 SW 6TH AVE TOPEKA KS 666360001	2	11.09
LIBERTY LIFE SPECTRUM SELECT 100 LIBERTY WAY DOVER NH 038220001	2	10.63
Franklin Income VIP Fund		
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	87.08
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	2	12.37
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	9.87
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	8.77
SUNAMERICA ANNUITY & LIFE ASSURANCE CO 21650 OXNARD ST STE 750 MS 6 2 WOODLAND HILLS CA 913674997	2	7.33
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 1 FINANCIAL CTR FL 20 BOSTON MA 021112694	2	7.33
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVAII PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	2	6.56
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	5.35
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	53.15
AUGUSTAR LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS ML5A PO BOX 237 CINCINNATI OH 452010237	4	12.71
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	8.49
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	4	7.83

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
Franklin Large Cap Growth VIP Fund		
AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO OF DELAWARE 2727 ALLEN PKWY 4-D1 HOUSTON TX 770192115	1	60.48
COREBRIDGE INSURANCE CO OF BERMUDA LTD AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING 29 RICHMOND ROAD PO BOX HM 152 HAMILTON HM AX BERMUDA	1	39.52
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	51.35
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	21.29
ALLSTATE LIFE INSURANCE CO VA ATTN PRODUCT VALUATION 5801 SW 6TH AVE TOPEKA KS 666360001	2	10.37
INTEGRITY LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY MAIL STATION 24 400 W BROADWAY ST CININNATI OH 452023341	2	6.40
ALLSTATE LIFE INSURANCE CO OF NY VA ATTN PRODUCT VALUATION 5801 SW 6TH AVE TOPEKA KS 666360001	2	5.39
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund		
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVL-G PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	68.78
LINCOLN BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE CO VL PO BOX 94210 PALATINE IL 600944210	1	17.77
NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY VARITRAK - VUL ATTN INVESTMENT ACCTING M415 1 NATIONAL LIFE DR MONTPELIER VT 056041000	1	6.15
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO SEPARATE ACCOUNT A 700 NEWPORT CENTER DR NEWPORT BEACH CA 926606307	2	36.11
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	23.23

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY SEPERATE ACCOUNT ATTN UIT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	13.10
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	6.69
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	59.00
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	15.65
CMFG 2000 HERITAGE WAY WAVERLY IA 506779208	4	15.03
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE CO FORMERLY IDS LIFE INS CO 10468 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CTR MINNEAPOLIS MN 554740001	4	8.84
Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund		
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	92.78
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	2	24.96
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	21.60
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	13.00
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	51.96
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	32.87
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	9.08
Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund		
ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	1	65.34
MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA 1701 1ST AVE ROCK ISLAND IL 612018724	1	15.96
ALLIANZ LIFE OF NEW YORK PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	1	7.72
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	5.58
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	27.95
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO SEPARATE ACCOUNT A 700 NEWPORT CENTER DR NEWPORT BEACH CA 926606307	2	19.83
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	17.74
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	7.43
ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	2	6.25
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	74.29
PRINCIPAL LIFE INSURANCE CO CUST FBO PRINCIPAL PIVOT SER VAR ANNUITY III 711 HIGH ST DES MOINES IA 503920001	4	8.89
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	4	6.18
Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund		
MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE CO 401 ROBERT ST N A6-5216 SAINT PAUL MN 551012005	1	35.90
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE CO FORMERLY IDS LIFE INS CO 10468 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CTR MINNEAPOLIS MN 554740001	1	13.23
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVLI4 PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	12.72

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING NWVLI7 PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	7.49
NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING PMLIC-VLI PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	1	6.49
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE CO FORMERLY IDS LIFE INS CO 1497 AXP FINANCIAL CTR MINNEAPOLIS MN 554740016	2	15.67
VOYA RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND ANNUITY CO FBO 1 ORANGE WAY B3N WINDSOR CT 060954774	2	13.65
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 1 FINANCIAL CTR FL 20 BOSTON MA 021112694	2	7.94
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	7.53
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY SEPERATE ACCOUNT ATTN UIT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	5.33
MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE CO 401 ROBERT ST N A6-5216 SAINT PAUL MN 551012005	2	5.02
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	49.36
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	17.02
RIVERSOURCE LIFE INSURANCE CO FORMERLY IDS LIFE INS CO 10468 AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL CTR MINNEAPOLIS MN 554740001	4	16.06
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	4	8.84
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund		
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	57.29
TIAA CREF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TIAA CREF LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT VA-1 8500 ANDREW CARNEGIE BLVD E3/N5 CHARLOTTE NC 282628500	1	18.85
MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA 1701 1ST AVE ROCK ISLAND IL 612018724	1	5.94
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	28.54
MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE CO 401 N ROBERT ST A6-5216 SAINT PAUL MN 551012015	2	12.67
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	9.40
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN SHAREHOLDER ACCOUNTING UNIT PO BOX 990027 HARTFORD CT 061990027	2	8.84
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	8.22
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	73.74
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	16.85
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	5.71
Franklin Strategic Income VIP Fund		
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	1	60.40
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	1	19.44
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY SEPERATE ACCOUNT ATTN UIT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	1	14.96
PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP EXECUTIVE VAR UNIVERSAL LIFE II 711 HIGH ST DES MOINES IA 503920001	2	15.15

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
WOODMEN OF THE WORLD LIFE INS SOCIETY 1700 FARNAM ST OMAHA NE 681022022	2	14.87
JEFFERSON NATIONAL LIFE C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING PO BOX 182029 COLUMBUS OH 432182029	2	13.98
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	9.74
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	2	8.62
SUNAMERICA ANNUITY & LIFE ASSURANCE CO 21650 OXNARD ST STE 750 MS 6 2 WOODLAND HILLS CA 913674901	2	8.30
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	8.28
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	73.43
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	23.75
Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund		
ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	1	58.31
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	30.02
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	57.45
ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	2	13.92
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS LIFE INSURANCE CO 82 DEVONSHIRE ST V5A BOSTON MA 021093605	2	12.78
Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund		
TIAA CREF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TIAA CREF LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT VA-1 8500 ANDREW CARNEGIE BLVD E3/N5 CHARLOTTE NC 282628500	1	40.01
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	1	29.20
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	1	9.00
TIAA-CREF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TIAA-CREF LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT VLI-1 730 3RD AVE NEW YORK NY 100173207	1	5.79
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK CUST FBO M INTELLIGENT VARIABLE UNIV LIFE TIAA-CREF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 8625 ANDREW CARNEGIE BLVD CHARLOTTE NC 282628551	1	5.61
MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE CO 401 N ROBERT ST A6-5216 SAINT PAUL MN 551012015	2	25.75
AXA EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNT FP 1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK NY 101040101	2	15.15
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN SHAREHOLDER ACCOUNTING UNIT PO BOX 990027 HARTFORD CT 061990027	2	8.94
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	48.96
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	4	33.83
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	16.59
Templeton Foreign VIP Fund		
AMERICAN GENERAL LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO COMPANY OF DELAWARE 2727 ALLEN PKWY 4-D1 HOUSTON TX 770192115	1	39.24
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	29.27
METLIFE ATTN SEPARATE ACCOUNTS TEAM 18210 CRANE NEST DR TAMPA FL 336472748	1	6.37

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
NATIONWIDE INSURANCE CO / SBL-NWMF 1 SECURITY BENEFIT PL TOPEKA KS 666361000	1	6.35
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	12.47
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	8.70
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN SHAREHOLDER ACCOUNTING UNIT PO BOX 990027 HARTFORD CT 061990027	2	7.93
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 1 FINANCIAL CTR FL 20 BOSTON MA 021112694	2	7.47
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	2	6.77
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	2	5.14
AUGUSTAR LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS ATTN MUTUAL FUND OPERATIONS ML5A PO BOX 237 CINCINNATI OH 452010237	4	59.04
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	15.77
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	10.82
NATIONAL SECURITY LIFE & ANNUITY CO FBO ITS SEPARATE ACCOUNTS PO BOX 5363 CINCINNATI OH 452015363	4	10.01
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund		
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	75.25
ALLIANZ LIFE INSURANCE PO BOX 1117 MINNEAPOLIS MN 554401117	2	15.88
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	2	12.61
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	12.06
BRIGHTHOUSE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY ATTN INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 1 FINANCIAL CTR FL 20 BOSTON MA 021112694	2	9.56
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	4	35.81
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	32.85
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	9.99
HORACE MANN LIFE INSURANCE CO SEPARATE ACCOUNT 1 HORACE MANN PLZ SPRINGFIELD IL 627150001	4	8.11
Templeton Growth VIP Fund		
PHOENIX HOME LIFE 15 TECH VALLEY DR STE 2 EAST GREENBUSH NY 120614137	1	43.45
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	1	36.49
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY DELAWARE LIFE VARIABLE ACCOUNT G 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	1	10.16
DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY DELAWARE LIFE VARIABLE ACCOUNT G 230 3RD AVE WALTHAM MA 024517528	1	5.55
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	23.46
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO FBO PL01 VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT 2801 HIGHWAY 280 S BIRMINGHAM AL 352232407	2	21.96
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	13.05
PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY FBO VARIABLE LIFE SEPARATE ACCOUNT PO BOX 2606 BIRMINGHAM AL 352022606	2	6.32

Name and Address	Share Class	Percentage (%)
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY INSURANCE COMPANY SEPERATE ACCOUNT ATTN UIT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	2	6.17
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO 1300 S CLINTON ST STOP 6H-02 FORT WAYNE IN 468023518	2	5.55
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE & ANNUITY INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	67.28
TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INS CO PO BOX 5051 HARTFORD CT 061025051	4	27.65
FORETHOUGHT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNT A 10 W MARKET ST INDIANAPOLIS IN 462042954	4	5.07

As of April 1, 2026, the officers and board members, as a group, owned of record and beneficially less than 1% of the outstanding shares of each Fund and class. The board members may own shares in other funds offered by Franklin Templeton.

The Underwriter

Franklin Distributors, LLC (Distributors) acts as the principal underwriter in the continuous public offering of the Fund's shares. Distributors is located at One Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403-1906.

Distributors may be entitled to payment under Class 2 and Class 4 Rule 12b-1 plans as discussed below. Except as noted, Distributors received no other compensation from the Trust for acting as underwriter.

Distribution and service (12b-1) fees

The board has adopted a plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 for the Fund's Class 2 shares. Under each Fund's Class 2 plan (except for Strategic Income Fund, Global Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Fund and Foreign Fund), the Fund may pay up to a maximum of 0.35% per year of the average daily net assets attributable to its Class 2 shares. The board of trustees, however, has set the current rate at 0.25% per year. The maximum rate for Class 2 shares of Strategic Income Fund, Global Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Fund and Foreign Fund has been set at 0.25% per share under each plan.

The board has adopted a plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 for the Fund's Class 4 shares. Under the Fund's Class 4 plan, the Fund may pay up to a maximum of 0.35% per year of the average daily net assets attributable to its Class 4 shares.

The plans are expected to, among other things, increase advertising of the Fund, encourage purchases of Fund shares and service to their shareholders, and increase or maintain assets of the Fund so that certain fixed expenses may be spread over a broader asset base, with a positive impact on per share expense ratios. In addition, a positive cash flow into the Fund is useful in managing the Fund because the investment manager has more flexibility in taking advantage of new investment opportunities and handling shareholder redemptions.

Under each plan, the Funds pay Distributors, the insurance companies or others to assist in the promotion and distribution of Class 2 or Class 4 shares, or variable contracts offering Class 2 or Class 4 shares. Payments made under the plans may be used for, among other things, the printing of prospectuses and reports used for sales purposes, preparing and distributing sales literature and related expenses, advertisements, education of contract owners or dealers and their representatives, and other distribution-related expenses. Payments made under the plans may also be used to pay insurance companies, dealers or others for, among other things, furnishing personal services and maintaining customer accounts and records, or as service fees as defined under FINRA rules. Together, these expenses, including the service fees, are "eligible expenses."

Agreements for the payment of fees to the insurance companies or others shall be in a form which has been approved from time to time by the board, including the non-interested board members.

Fees paid for last fiscal year:

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2025, the amounts paid by the Fund's Class 2 and Class 4 shares pursuant to the plans in effect during the period, which were used by Distributors to pay insurance companies or their affiliates, were as follows:

Fund Name	Class 2 Amounts Paid ($)	Class 4 Amounts Paid ($)
Allocation Fund	507,777	1,216,359
DynaTech Fund	377,639	93,721
Global Real Estate Fund	254,568	N/A
Growth and Income Fund	80,858	N/A
Income Fund	6,155,355	1,329,417
Large Cap Growth Fund	213,493	N/A
Global Discovery Fund	1,003,090	66,343
Shares Fund	4,268,506	359,088
Rising Dividends Fund	3,279,026	344,018
Small Cap Value Fund	2,398,436	176,842
Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	804,135	80,212
Strategic Income Fund	172,844	118,153
U.S. Government Fund	1,194,534	N/A
Emerging Markets Fund	503,482	15,718
Foreign Fund	1,670,224	259,421
Global Bond Fund	3,022,712	161,068

Growth Fund	779,169	49,108

Distributors may be entitled to payments from the Fund under the Rule 12b-1 plans, as discussed below. Except as noted, Distributors received no other compensation from the Fund for acting as underwriter.

Dealer Compensation

In addition to the payments above, Distributors and/or its affiliates may make the following payments out of its own assets to certain insurance companies that use the Funds as underlying investment options for their variable contracts, dealers who sell shares of Franklin Templeton funds, or participate in the offering of variable insurance products that invest directly or indirectly in the Trust (VIP Qualifying Dealers) or other financial intermediaries (together, the intermediaries):

Marketing support payments. Distributors may make payments to intermediaries out of its own resources in connection with their efforts to educate financial advisors and provide services which may facilitate, directly or indirectly, investment in the Funds. An intermediary's marketing support services may include the provision of services to contract holders, business planning assistance, marketing and advertising, training and ongoing education and support for dealer personnel about the Franklin Templeton funds (including the Trust) and financial planning needs of shareholders of the Franklin Templeton funds or contract owners that allocate contract value indirectly to one or more Franklin Templeton funds, placement on the an intermediary's list of offered funds, access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the dealer, and contract owner assistance in allocating contract value directly or indirectly to the Trust. Distributors compensates financial intermediaries differently depending upon, among other factors, whether the intermediary is directly selling Franklin Templeton funds, or participating in the offering of variable insurance products that invest directly or indirectly in the Trust, sales and asset levels, redemption rates and the level and/or type of marketing and educational activities provided by the financial intermediary. Such compensation may include financial assistance to such intermediaries that enable Distributors to develop, manage or participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other employees, client and investor events, and other intermediary-sponsored events. These payments may vary depending upon the nature of the event. Distributors will, on an annual basis, determine whether to continue such payments. Marketing support payments will generally not exceed 0.25% of the relevant Fund's or Funds' average daily net assets attributable to an insurance company, on an annual basis. In other circumstances, Distributors or an affiliate will have alternative arrangements with an intermediary that provides for payments in excess of the 0.25% limitation, which may include arrangements based on assets or sales of related funds, or other criteria.

The following list includes the firms Distributors anticipates will receive marketing support payments as of the date of this SAI.

Allianz Life Insurance Company of New York, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, American General Life Insurance Company, American United Life Insurance Company, Inc., Ameritas Life Insurance Corp., Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company, AuguStar Life Insurance Company, Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, Brighthouse Life Insurance Company of NY, C.M. Life Insurance Company, CMFG Life Insurance Company, Commonwealth Annuity and Life Insurance Company, Corebridge Insurance Company of Bermuda, Ltd., Delaware Life Insurance Company, Empire Fidelity Investments Life Insurance Company, Empower Annuity Insurance Company of America, Empower Life & Annuity Insurance Company of New York, Equitable Financial, Life Insurance Company of America, Everlake Life Insurance Company, First Allmerica Financial Life Insurance Company, First Security Benefit Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York, Forethought Life Insurance Company, Genworth Life and Annuity Insurance Company, Genworth Life and Annuity Insurance Company of New York, Guardian Insurance & Annuity Company, Inc. (The), Lincoln Benefit Life Company, Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York, Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (The), Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Midland National Life Insurance Company, Minnesota Life Insurance Company, MONY Life Insurance Company, Nassau Life and Annuity Company, Nassau Life Insurance Company, National Security Life and Annuity Company, Nationwide Life Insurance Company, Pacific Life & Annuity Company, Pacific Life Insurance Company, PHL Variable Insurance Company, Principal Life Insurance Company, Principal National Life Insurance Company, Protective Life Insurance Company, Pruco Life Insurance Company, Pruco Life Insurance Company of New Jersey, Prudential Insurance Company of America, RiverSource Life Insurance Company, RiverSource Life Insurance Company of New York, Security Benefit Life Insurance Company, Symetra Life Insurance Company, Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America, The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Transamerica Financial Life Insurance Company, Transamerica Life Insurance Company, Venerable Insurance and Annuity Company, and Wilton Reassurance Life Company of New York.

Other payments. From time to time, Distributors, at its expense, may provide additional compensation to intermediaries which sell or arrange for the direct or indirect sale of shares of Franklin Templeton funds, including the Trust. Such compensation may include financial assistance to VIP Qualifying Dealers that enable Distributors to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training

programs for invited registered representatives and other employees, client and investor events and other dealer-sponsored events. These payments may vary depending upon the nature of the event.

Distributors routinely sponsors due diligence meetings for registered representatives during which they receive updates on various Franklin Templeton funds and are afforded the opportunity to speak with portfolio managers. Invitation to these meetings is not conditioned on selling a specific number of shares. Those who have shown an interest in Franklin Templeton funds, however, are more likely to be considered. To the extent permitted by their firm's policies and procedures, registered representatives' expenses in attending these meetings may be covered by Distributors.

Other compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by federal or state laws or any self-regulatory agency, such as FINRA. Distributors makes payments for events it deems appropriate, subject to Distributors' guidelines and applicable law. Distributors and/or its affiliates may also reimburse intermediaries and/or their affiliates for certain costs associated with obtaining voting instructions from contract owners and the solicitation process in connection with Trust-sponsored proxy statements.

You can ask your insurance company and VIP Qualifying Dealer for information about any payments they receive from Distributors and any services provided. Additional disclosure may be included in the insurance contract prospectus.

Redemptions in kind To the extent consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the Fund reserves the right to satisfy all or a portion of a redemption request by distributing securities or other property in lieu of cash ("in-kind" redemptions), except in the case of redemption requests by retail investors who hold shares of the Fund through financial intermediaries. The Fund will effect an in-kind redemption only when the Fund determines it to be in the Fund's best interest to do so, and in accordance with the Fund's policies on in-kind redemptions. In-kind redemptions may benefit the Fund and its shareholders by reducing the need to maintain significant cash balances or to sell securities held in the Fund to meet redemption requests, or for other selling activities and, in so doing, may avoid or reduce cash drag, transaction costs and capital gain realization that could otherwise arise from reserves maintained or securities sold.

In some circumstances, the Fund, in its discretion, may accept large purchase orders from one or more financial institutions that are willing, upon redemption of their investment, to receive redemption proceeds in-kind rather than in cash. The Fund's ability to pay these redemption proceeds in-kind relieves it of the need to sell the securities that are distributed in-kind and allows it to avoid the brokerage and other transaction costs associated with such sale. As with other in-kind redemptions, the Fund would enter into these transactions only when it determines it to be in the Fund's best interests to do so, and in accordance with the Fund's policies covering in-kind redemptions.

With respect to any in-kind redemption, shareholders will receive either a pro rata basket or a custom basket of securities valued in the same manner as they are for purposes of determining the Fund's net asset value. The custom basket includes only securities that have been disclosed in the Fund's most recent public holdings disclosure.

The Fund may provide a shareholder receiving redemption proceeds in-kind (including with respect to in-kind redemptions involving custom baskets of securities) with information concerning the securities to be distributed. To the extent the redeeming shareholder receives information regarding a significant portion of the securities held by the Fund, the redeeming shareholder may be required to agree to keep the information confidential, except to the extent necessary to dispose of the securities. In connection with in-kind redemptions involving custom baskets of securities, the Fund's portfolio holdings may be released to the public earlier than typical as provided in its Portfolio Holdings Release Policy & Procedures.

Any transaction costs or other expenses involved in liquidating securities received in an in-kind redemption will be borne by the redeeming investor. Also, there is a risk that in-kind redemptions (including the impact of any likely hedging transactions by shareholders with whom the Fund engages in custom basket in-kind redemptions) could negatively impact the market value of the securities redeemed in-kind and, in turn, the net asset value of the Fund.

For additional information regarding procedures for in-kind redemptions, please contact Distributors.

To the extent that a shareholder submits redemption requests during any 90-day period that combined are limited to the lesser of $250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets (as calculated at the beginning of the 90-day period), the Fund has committed to pay such redemptions in cash (by check, wire or otherwise). This commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of redemption requests in excess of these amounts, the Fund reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the Fund, in case of an emergency, or if the payment of such a redemption in cash would be detrimental to the existing shareholders of the Fund. In these circumstances, the securities distributed would be valued at the price used to compute the Fund's net assets and you may incur brokerage fees in converting the securities to cash. The Fund does not intend to redeem illiquid securities in kind. If this happens, however, you may not be able to recover your investment in a timely manner. In addition, in certain circumstances, the Fund may not be able

to redeem securities in-kind or the investment manager may not have the ability to determine whether a particular redemption can be paid in-kind before the redemption request is paid.

Miscellaneous Information

Funds with Similar Investment Goals and Strategies

The investment goals and strategies of certain of the Funds in the Trust are similar but not identical to those of certain public Franklin Templeton funds indicated in the following table. Because of differences in portfolio size, the investments held, the timing of purchases of similar investments, cash flows, differences in certain investment policies, insurance product related tax diversification requirements, state insurance regulations, and additional administrative and insurance costs associated with insurance company separate accounts, the investment performance of the Fund will differ from the performance of the corresponding Franklin Templeton fund:

Franklin Templeton Variable Insurance Products Trust	**Franklin Templeton Funds**
	Franklin Custodian Funds:
Franklin DynaTech VIP Fund	Franklin DynaTech Fund
Franklin Income VIP Fund	Franklin Income Fund
Franklin U.S. Government Securities VIP Fund	Franklin U.S. Government Securities Fund
	Franklin Investors Securities Trust:
Franklin Growth and Income VIP Fund	Franklin Equity Income Fund
	Franklin Managed Trust:
Franklin Rising Dividends VIP Fund	Franklin Rising Dividends Fund
	Franklin Strategic Series:
Franklin Small-Mid Cap Growth VIP Fund	Franklin Small Mid-Cap Growth Fund
	Franklin Value Investors Trust:
Franklin Small Cap Value VIP Fund	Franklin Small Cap Value Fund
	Franklin Mutual Series Funds:
Franklin Mutual Global Discovery VIP Fund	Franklin Mutual Global Discovery Fund
Franklin Mutual Shares VIP Fund	Franklin Mutual Shares Fund
Templeton Emerging Markets VIP Fund	Templeton Developing Markets Trust*
	Templeton Funds:
Templeton Foreign VIP Fund	Templeton Foreign Fund
	Templeton Income Trust:
Templeton Global Bond VIP Fund	Templeton Global Bond Fund
Templeton Growth VIP Fund	Templeton Growth Fund, Inc.

*Effective June 1, 2026, Templeton Developing Markets Trust will be renamed "Templeton Emerging Markets Equity Fund".

Description of Ratings

The ratings of Moody's Investors Service, Inc., S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings represent their opinions as to the quality of various debt obligations. It should be emphasized, however, that ratings are not absolute standards of quality. Consequently, debt obligations with the same maturity, coupon and rating may have different yields while debt obligations of the same maturity and coupon with different ratings may have the same yield. As described by the rating agencies, ratings are generally given to securities at the time of issuances. While the rating agencies may from time to time revise such ratings, they undertake no obligation to do so.

Moody's Investors Service, Inc. Global Rating Scales

Credit Ratings are assigned on Moody's global long-term and short-term rating scales and are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations issued by non-financial corporates, financial institutions, structured finance vehicles, project finance vehicles, and public sector entities. Moody's defines credit risk as the risk that an entity may not meet its contractual financial obligations as they come due and any estimated financial loss in the event of default or impairment. The contractual financial obligations[1] addressed by Moody's ratings are those that call for, without regard to enforceability, the payment of an ascertainable amount, which may vary based upon standard sources of variation (e.g., floating interest rates), by an ascertainable date. Moody's rating addresses the issuer's ability to obtain cash sufficient to service the obligation, and its willingness to pay.[2] Moody's ratings do not address non-standard sources of variation in the amount of the principal obligation (e.g., equity indexed), absent an express statement to the contrary in a press release accompanying an initial rating.[3] Long-term ratings are assigned to issuers or obligations with an original maturity of eleven months or more and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. Short-term ratings are assigned to obligations with an original maturity of thirteen months or less and reflect both on the likelihood of a default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment.[4, 5, 6] Moody's issues ratings at the issuer level and instrument level on both the long- term scale and the short-term scale. Typically, ratings are made publicly available although private and unpublished ratings may also be assigned.[7]

Moody's differentiates structured finance ratings from fundamental ratings (i.e., ratings on nonfinancial corporate, financial institution, and public sector entities) on the global long-term scale by adding (sf) to all structured finance ratings.[8] The addition of (sf) to structured finance ratings should eliminate any presumption that such ratings and fundamental ratings at the same letter grade level will behave the same.

1. In the case of impairments, there can be a financial loss even when contractual obligations are met.
2. In some cases, the relevant credit risk relates to a third party, in addition to, or instead of the issuer. Examples include credit-linked notes and guaranteed obligations.
3. Because the number of possible features or structures is limited only by the creativity of issuers, Moody's cannot comprehensively catalogue all the types of non-standard variation affecting financial obligations, but examples include equity indexed principal values and cash flows, prepayment penalties, and an obligation to pay an amount that is not ascertainable at the inception of the transaction.
4. For certain preferred stock and hybrid securities in which payment default events are either not defined or do not match investors' expectations for timely payment, long-term and short-term ratings reflect the likelihood of impairment and financial loss in the event of impairment.
5. Debts held on the balance sheets of official sector institutions – which include supranational institutions, central banks and certain government-owned or controlled banks – may not always be treated the same as debts held by private investors and lenders. When it is known that an obligation is held by official sector institutions as well as other investors, a rating (short-term or long-term) assigned to that obligation reflects only the credit risks faced by non-official sector investors.
6. Where grace periods are disproportionately long relative to the stated maturity, Moody's may choose not to rate the Instrument. This is particularly relevant in the commercial paper market where maturities may be 30 days or less with strong investor expectation of prompt payment.
7. For information on how to obtain a Moody's credit rating, including private and unpublished credit ratings, please see Moody's Investors Service Products. Please note that Moody's always reserves the right to choose not to assign or maintain a credit rating for its own business reasons.
8. Like other global scale ratings, (sf) ratings reflect both the likelihood of a default and the expected loss suffered in the event of default. Ratings are assigned based on a rating committee's assessment of a security's expected loss rate (default probability multiplied by expected loss severity), and may be subject to the constraint that the final expected loss rating assigned would not be more than a certain number of notches, typically three to five notches, above the rating that would be assigned based on an assessment of default probability alone. The magnitude of this constraint may vary with the level of the rating, the seasoning of the transaction, and the uncertainty around the assessments of expected loss and probability of default.

The (sf) indicator for structured finance security ratings indicates that otherwise similarly rated structured finance and fundamental securities may have different risk characteristics. Through its current methodologies, however, Moody's aspires to achieve broad expected equivalence in structured finance and fundamental rating performance when measured over a long period of time.

Description of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s Global Long-Term Ratings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: *Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a "(hyb)" indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms.*[*]

** By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.*

Description of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s Global Short-Term Ratings:

P-1—Ratings of Prime-1 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

P-2—Ratings of Prime-2 reflect a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

P-3—Ratings of Prime-3 reflect an acceptable ability to repay short-term debt obligations.

NP—Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

Description of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s US Municipal Ratings:

US Municipal Short-Term Debt and Demand Obligation Ratings:

Moody's uses the global short-term Prime rating scale for commercial paper issued by US municipalities and nonprofits. These commercial paper programs may be backed by

external letters of credit or liquidity facilities, or by an issuer's self-liquidity.

For other short-term municipal obligations, Moody's uses one of two other short-term rating scales, the Municipal Investment Grade (MIG) and Variable Municipal Investment Grade (VMIG) scales discussed below.

MIG Ratings:

Moody's uses the MIG scale for US municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less.

MIG 1—This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by established cash flows, highly reliable liquidity support, or demonstrated broad-based access to the market for refinancing.

MIG 2—This designation denotes strong credit quality. Margins of protection are ample, although not as large as in the preceding group.

MIG 3—This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Liquidity and cash-flow protection may be narrow, and market access for refinancing is likely to be less well-established.

SG—This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Debt instruments in this category may lack sufficient margins of protection.

VMIG Ratings:

For variable rate demand obligations (VRDOs), Moody's assigns both a long-term rating and a short-term payment obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer's ability to meet scheduled principal and interest payments. The short-term payment obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to meet any purchase price payment obligation resulting from optional tenders ("on demand") and/or mandatory tenders of the VRDO. The short-term payment obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. Transitions of VMIG ratings with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions of Prime ratings reflecting the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

For VRDOs, Moody's typically assigns a VMIG rating if the frequency of the payment obligation is less than every three years. If the frequency of the payment obligation is less than three years, but the obligation is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the VMIG short-term rating is not assigned and it is denoted as "NR". Industrial development bonds in the US where the obligor is a corporate may carry a VMIG rating that reflects Moody's view of the relative likelihood of default and loss. In these cases, liquidity assessment is based on the liquidity of the corporate obligor.

VMIG 1—This designation denotes superior credit quality. Excellent protection is afforded by the superior short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

VMIG 2—This designation denotes strong credit quality. Good protection is afforded by the strong short- term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

VMIG 3—This designation denotes acceptable credit quality. Adequate protection is afforded by the satisfactory short-term credit strength of the liquidity provider and structural and legal protections.

SG—This designation denotes speculative-grade credit quality. Demand features rated in this category may be supported by a liquidity provider that does not have a sufficiently strong short-term rating or may lack structural or legal protections.

Description of Moody's Investors Service, Inc.'s National Scale Long-Term Ratings:

Moody's long-term National Scale Ratings (NSRs) are opinions of the relative creditworthiness of issuers and financial obligations within a particular country. NSRs are not designed to be compared among countries; rather, they address relative credit risk within a given country. Moody's assigns national scale ratings in certain local capital markets in which investors have found the global rating scale provides inadequate differentiation among credits or is inconsistent with a rating scale already in common use in the country.

In each specific country, the last two characters of the rating indicate the country in which the issuer is located or the financial obligation was issued (e.g., Aaa.ke for Kenya).

Long-Term NSR Scale

Aaa.n Issuers or issues rated Aaa.n demonstrate the strongest creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
Aa.n Issuers or issues rated Aa.n demonstrate very strong creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
A.n Issuers or issues rated A.n demonstrate above-average creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
Baa.n Issuers or issues rated Baa.n demonstrate average creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
Ba.n Issuers or issues rated Ba.n demonstrate below-average creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
B.n Issuers or issues rated B.n demonstrate weak creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.

Caa.n Issuers or issues rated Caa.n demonstrate very weak creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
Ca.n Issuers or issues rated Ca.n demonstrate extremely weak creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.
C.n Issuers or issues rated C.n demonstrate the weakest creditworthiness relative to other domestic issuers and issuances.

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.

Description of S&P Global Ratings' Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings:

Issue credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on S&P Global Ratings' analysis of the following considerations:

- The likelihood of payment—the capacity and willingness of the obligor to meet its financial commitments on an obligation in accordance with the terms of the obligation;
- The nature and provisions of the financial obligation, and the promise S&P Global Ratings imputes; and
- The protection afforded by, and relative position of, the financial obligation in the event of a bankruptcy, reorganization, or other arrangement under the laws of bankruptcy and other laws affecting creditors' rights.

An issue rating is an assessment of default risk but may incorporate an assessment of relative seniority or ultimate recovery in the event of default. Junior obligations are typically rated lower than senior obligations, to reflect lower priority in bankruptcy, as noted above. (Such differentiation may apply when an entity has both senior and subordinated obligations, secured and unsecured obligations, or operating company and holding company obligations.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CC—An obligation rated "CC" is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment.

The "CC" rating is used when a default has not yet occurred but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

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

D—An obligation rated "D" is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within the next five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or the next 30 calendar days. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for

example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to "D" if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring.

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

Description of S&P Global Ratings' Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings:

A-1—A short-term obligation rated "A-1" is rated in the highest category by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on these obligations is extremely strong.

A-2—A short-term obligation rated "A-2" is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation is satisfactory.

A-3—A short-term obligation rated "A-3" exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken an obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

B—A short-term obligation rated "B" is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties that could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

C—A short-term obligation rated "C" is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitments on the obligation.

D—A short-term obligation rated "D" is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the "D" rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period.

However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The "D" rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to "D" if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring.

Description of S&P Global Ratings' Municipal Short-Term Note Ratings:

An S&P Global Ratings U.S. municipal note rating reflects S&P Global Ratings' opinion about the liquidity factors and market access risks unique to the notes. Notes due in three years or less will likely receive a note rating. Notes with an original maturity of more than three years will most likely receive a long-term debt rating. In determining which type of rating, if any, to assign, S&P Global Ratings' analysis will review the following considerations:

- Amortization schedule—the larger the final maturity relative to other maturities, the more likely it will be treated as a note; and
- Source of payment—the more dependent the issue is on the market for its refinancing, the more likely it will be treated as a note.

SP-1—Strong capacity to pay principal and interest. An issue determined to possess a very strong capacity to pay debt service is given a plus (+) designation.

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

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

D—"D" is assigned upon failure to pay the note when due, completion of a distressed debt restructuring, or 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.

Description of S&P Global Ratings' Long-Term Issuer Credit Ratings

AAA An obligor rated "AAA" has extremely strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. "AAA" is the highest issuer credit rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings.

AA An obligor rated "AA" has very strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. It differs from the highest-rated obligors only to a small degree.

A An obligor rated "A" has strong capacity to meet its financial commitments but is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligors in higher-rated categories.

BBB An obligor rated "BBB" has adequate capacity to meet its financial commitments. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitments.

BB, B, CCC, and CC Obligors rated "BB", "B", "CCC", and "CC" are regarded as having significant speculative

characteristics. “BB” indicates the least degree of speculation and “CC” the highest. While such obligors will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposure to adverse conditions.

BB An obligor rated “BB” is less vulnerable in the near term than other lower-rated obligors. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties and exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

B An obligor rated “B” is more vulnerable than the obligors rated “BB”, but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor’s capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitments.

CCC An obligor rated “CCC” is currently vulnerable and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions to meet its financial commitments.

CC An obligor rated “CC” is currently highly vulnerable. The “CC” rating is used when a default has not yet occurred but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.

SD and D An obligor is rated “SD” (selective default) or “D” if S&P Global Ratings considers there to be a default on one or more of its financial obligations, whether long- or short-term, including rated and unrated obligations but excluding hybrid instruments classified as regulatory capital or in nonpayment according to terms. A “D” rating is assigned when S&P Global Ratings believes that the default will be a general default and that the obligor will fail to pay all or substantially all of its obligations as they come due. An “SD” rating is assigned when S&P Global Ratings believes that the obligor has selectively defaulted on a specific issue or class of obligations but it will continue to meet its payment obligations on other issues or classes of obligations in a timely manner. A rating on an obligor is lowered to “D” or “SD” if it is conducting a distressed debt restructuring.

Ratings from “AA” to “CCC” may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the rating categories.

Description of S&P Global Ratings’ Short-Term Issuer Credit Ratings

A-1 An obligor rated “A-1” has strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. It is rated in the highest category by S&P Global Ratings. Within this category, certain obligors are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments is extremely strong.

A-2 An obligor rated “A-2” has satisfactory capacity to meet its financial commitments. However, it is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligors in the highest rating category.

A-3 An obligor rated “A-3” has adequate capacity to meet its financial obligations. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to weaken the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitments.

B An obligor rated “B” is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties that could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.

C An obligor rated “C” is currently vulnerable to nonpayment that would result in an “SD” or “D” issuer rating and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions to meet its financial commitments.

SD and D An obligor is rated “SD” (selective default) or “D” if S&P Global Ratings considers there to be a default on one or more of its financial obligations, whether long- or short-term, including rated and unrated obligations but excluding hybrid instruments classified as regulatory capital or in nonpayment according to terms. A “D” rating is assigned when S&P Global Ratings believes that the default will be a general default and that the obligor will fail to pay all or substantially all of its obligations as they come due. An “SD” rating is assigned when S&P Global Ratings believes that the obligor has selectively defaulted on a specific issue or class of obligations but it will continue to meet its payment obligations on other issues or classes of obligations in a timely manner. A rating on an obligor is lowered to “D” or “SD” if it is conducting a distressed debt restructuring.

Description of S&P Global Ratings’ Dual Ratings:

Dual ratings may be assigned to debt issues that have a put option or demand feature. The first component of the rating addresses the likelihood of repayment of principal and interest as due, and the second component of the rating addresses only the demand feature. The first component of the rating can relate to either a short-term or long-term transaction and accordingly use either short-term or long-term rating symbols. The second component of the rating relates to the put option and is assigned a short-term rating symbol (for example, “AAA/A-1+” or “A-1+/A-1”). With U.S. municipal short-term demand debt, the U.S. municipal short-term note rating symbols are used for the first component of the rating (for example, “SP-1+/A-1+”).

Description of S&P Global Ratings’ Active Qualifiers:

S&P Global Ratings uses the following qualifiers that limit the scope of a rating. The structure of the transaction can require the use of a qualifier such as a "p" qualifier, which indicates the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only. A qualifier appears as a suffix and is part of the rating.

Federal deposit insurance limit: "L" qualifier. Ratings qualified with "L" apply only to amounts invested up to federal deposit insurance limits.

Principal: "p" qualifier. This suffix is used for issues in which the credit factors, the terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of payment of principal are different from the credit factors, terms, or both that determine the likelihood of receipt of interest on the obligation. The "p" suffix indicates that the rating addresses the principal portion of the obligation only and that the interest is not rated.

Preliminary ratings: "prelim" qualifier. Preliminary ratings, with the "prelim" suffix, may be assigned to obligors or obligations, including financial programs, in the circumstances described below. Assignment of a final rating is conditional on the receipt by S&P Global Ratings of appropriate documentation. S&P Global Ratings reserves the right not to issue a final rating. Moreover, if a final rating is issued, it may differ from the preliminary rating.

- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations, most commonly structured and project finance issues, pending receipt of final documentation and legal opinions.
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to obligations that will likely be issued upon the obligor's emergence from bankruptcy or similar reorganization, based on late-stage reorganization plans, documentation, and discussions with the obligor. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligors. These ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the reorganized or post-bankruptcy issuer as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s).
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned to entities that are being formed or that are in the process of being independently established when, in S&P Global Ratings' opinion, documentation is close to final. Preliminary ratings may also be assigned to the obligations of these entities.
- Preliminary ratings may be assigned when a previously unrated entity is undergoing a well-formulated restructuring, recapitalization, significant financing, or other transformative event, generally at the point that investor or lender commitments are invited. The preliminary rating may be assigned to the entity and to its proposed obligation(s). These preliminary ratings consider the anticipated general credit quality of the obligor, as well as attributes of the anticipated obligation(s), assuming successful completion of the transformative event. Should the transformative event not occur, S&P Global Ratings would likely withdraw these preliminary ratings.
- A preliminary recovery rating may be assigned to an obligation that has a preliminary issue credit rating.

Termination structures: "t" qualifier. This symbol indicates termination structures that are designed to honor their contracts to full maturity or, should certain events occur, to terminate and cash settle all their contracts before their final maturity date.

Counterparty instrument rating: "cir" qualifier. This symbol indicates a counterparty instrument rating (CIR), which is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an issuer in a securitization structure with respect to a specific financial obligation to a counterparty (including interest rate swaps, currency swaps, and liquidity facilities). The CIR is determined on an ultimate payment basis; these opinions do not take into account timeliness of payment.

Description of Fitch Ratings' Corporate Finance Obligations:

Ratings of individual securities or financial obligations of a corporate issuer address relative vulnerability to default on an ordinal scale. In addition, for financial obligations in corporate finance, a measure of recovery given default on that liability is also included in the rating assessment. This notably applies to covered bonds ratings, which incorporate both an indication of the probability of default and of the recovery given a default of this debt instrument. On the contrary, ratings of debtor-in-possession (DIP) obligations incorporate the expectation of full repayment.

The relationship between the issuer scale and obligation scale assumes a generic historical average recovery. Individual obligations can be assigned ratings higher, lower, or the same as that entity's issuer rating or Issuer Default Rating (IDR), based on their relative ranking, relative vulnerability to default or based on explicit Recovery Ratings.

As a result, individual obligations of entities, such as corporations, are assigned ratings higher, lower, or the same as that entity's issuer rating or IDR, except DIP obligation ratings that are not based off an IDR and senior tranches of Enhanced Equipment Trust Certificates, for which IDRs are secondary dependencies, as Fitch focuses primarily on structure, collateral and legal protection.

At the lower end of the ratings scale, Fitch publishes explicit Recovery Ratings in many cases to complement issuer and obligation ratings.

AAA: Highest Credit Quality. "AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA: Very High Credit Quality. “AA” ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A: High Credit Quality. “A” ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

BBB: Good Credit Quality. “BBB” ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

BB: Speculative. “BB” ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.

B: Highly Speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present.

CCC: Substantial Credit Risk. “CCC” ratings indicate that substantial credit risk is present.

CC: Very High Levels of Credit Risk. “CC” ratings indicate very high levels of credit risk.

C: Exceptionally High Levels of Credit Risk. “C” indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

The ratings of corporate finance obligations are linked to IDRs (or sometimes Viability Ratings for banks and non-bank financial institutions) by i) recovery expectations, including as often indicated by Recovery Ratings assigned in the case of low speculative grade issuers and ii) for banks and non-bank financial institutions an assessment of nonperformance risk relative to the risk captured in the IDR or Viability Ratings (e.g. in respect of certain hybrid securities).

For performing obligations, the obligation rating represents the risk of default including the effect of expected recoveries on the credit risk should a default occur.

If the obligation rating is higher than the rating of the issuer, this indicates above average recovery expectations in the event of default. If the obligations rating is lower than the rating of the issuer, this indicates low expected recoveries should default occur.

Ratings in the categories of “CCC”, “CC” and “C” can also relate to obligations or issuers that are in default. In this case, the rating does not opine on default risk but reflects the recovery expectation only.

Description of Fitch Ratings’ Issuer Default Ratings:

Rated entities in several sectors, including financial and non-financial corporations, sovereigns, insurance companies and some sectors within public finance, are generally assigned IDRs. IDRs are also assigned to certain entities or enterprises in global infrastructure, project finance and public finance. IDRs opine on an entity’s relative vulnerability to default including by way of a distressed debt exchange (DDE) – on financial obligations. The threshold default risk addressed by the IDR is generally that of the financial obligations whose non-payment would best reflect the uncured failure of that entity. As such, IDRs also address relative vulnerability to bankruptcy, administrative receivership or similar concepts.

In aggregate, IDRs provide an ordinal ranking of issuers based on the agency’s view of their relative vulnerability to default, rather than a prediction of a specific percentage likelihood of default.

AAA: Highest Credit Quality. “AAA” ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA: Very High Credit Quality. “AA” ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A: High Credit Quality. “A” ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

BBB: Good Credit Quality. “BBB” ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

BB: Speculative. “BB” ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial flexibility exists that supports the servicing of financial commitments.

B: Highly Speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.

CCC: Substantial Credit Risk. Default is a real possibility.

CC: Very High Levels of Credit Risk. Very low margin for safety. Default of some kind appears probable.

C: Near Default. A default or default-like process has begun, or for a closed funding vehicle, payment capacity is irrevocably impaired. Conditions that are indicative of a "C" category rating for an issuer include:

- The issuer has entered into a grace or cure period following non-payment of a material financial obligation;
- The formal announcement by the issuer or their agent of a DDE; and
- A closed financing vehicle where payment capacity is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to pay interest and/or principal in full during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default is imminent.

RD: Restricted Default. "RD" ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch's opinion has experienced:

- An uncured payment default or DDE on a bond, loan or other material financial obligations, but has not entered into bankruptcy filing, administration, receivership, liquidation, or other formal winding-up procedure, and
- Has not otherwise ceased operating.
- This would include:
    - The selective payment default on a specific class or currency of debt;
    - The uncured expiry of any applicable original grace period, cure period or default forbearance period following a payment default on a bank loan, capital markets security or other material financial obligation;

D: Default. "D" ratings indicate an issuer that in Fitch's opinion has entered into bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other formal winding-up procedure or which has otherwise ceased business.

Default ratings are not assigned prospectively to entities or their obligations; within this context, non-payment on an instrument that contains a deferral feature or grace period will generally not be considered a default until after the expiration of the deferral or grace period, unless a default is otherwise driven by bankruptcy or other similar circumstance, or by a distressed debt exchange.

In all cases, the assignment of a default rating reflects the agency's opinion as to the most appropriate rating category consistent with the rest of its universe of ratings and may differ from the definition of default under the terms of an issuer's financial obligations or local commercial practice.

Description of Fitch Ratings' Structured Finance Long-Term Obligation Ratings:

Ratings of structured finance obligations on the long-term scale consider the obligations' relative vulnerability to default. These ratings are typically assigned to an individual security or tranche in a transaction and not to an issuer.

AAA: Highest Credit Quality.

"AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA: Very High Credit Quality.

"AA" ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A: High Credit Quality.

"A" ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

BBB: Good Credit Quality.

"BBB" ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

BB: Speculative.

"BB" ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.

B: Highly Speculative.

"B" ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.

CCC: Substantial Credit Risk.

Very low margin for safety. Default is a real possibility.

CC: Very High Levels of Credit Risk.

Default of some kind appears probable.

C: Exceptionally High Levels of Credit Risk.

Default appears imminent or inevitable.

D: Default.

Indicates a default. Default generally is defined as one of the following:

- Failure to make payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of the rated obligation;
- Bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of the business of an issuer/obligor; or
- Distressed exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation to avoid a probable payment default.

Description of Fitch Ratings' Country Ceilings Ratings:

Country Ceilings are expressed using the symbols of the long-term issuer primary credit rating scale and relate to sovereign jurisdictions also rated by Fitch on the IDR scale. They reflect the agency's judgment regarding the risk of capital and exchange controls being imposed by the sovereign authorities that would prevent or materially impede the private sector's ability to convert local currency into foreign currency and transfer to non-resident creditors — transfer and convertibility (T&C) risk. They are not ratings but expressions of a cap for the foreign currency issuer ratings of most, but not all, issuers in a given country. Intervention through capital or currency controls where an issuer is prevented comprehensively by its own government from paying out on cross-border bonds, held by investors both inside and outside its borders, would typically lead to a T&C default.

Description of Fitch Ratings' Sovereigns, Public Finance and Global Infrastructure Obligations:

Ratings of public finance obligations, infrastructure and project finance obligations on the long-term scale, structured finance and fund finance obligations only consider the obligations' relative vulnerability to default.

In limited cases in U.S. public finance, where Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code provides reliably superior prospects for ultimate recovery to local government obligations that benefit from a statutory lien on revenues, Fitch reflects this in a security rating with limited notching above the IDR. Recovery expectations can also be reflected in a security rating in the U.S. during the pendency of a bankruptcy proceeding under the Code if there is sufficient visibility on potential recovery prospects.

Recovery Ratings are only assigned to infrastructure and project finance obligations, to indicate likely recovery prospects upon request. They are assessed in parallel to instrument ratings and typically do not influence the obligation rating, which remains premised on vulnerability to default.

AAA: Highest Credit Quality. "AAA" ratings denote the lowest expectation of default risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.

AA: Very High Credit Quality. "AA" ratings denote expectations of very low default risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

A: High Credit Quality. "A" ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

BBB: Good Credit Quality. "BBB" ratings indicate that expectations of default risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.

BB: Speculative. "BB" ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to default risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time.

B: Highly Speculative. "B" ratings indicate that material default risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is vulnerable to deterioration in the business and economic environment.

CCC: Substantial Credit Risk. Very low margin for safety. Default is a real possibility.

CC: Very High Levels of Credit Risk. Default of some kind appears probable.

C: Exceptionally High Levels of Credit Risk. Default appears imminent or inevitable.

D: Default. Indicates a default. Default generally is defined as one of the following:

- Failure to make payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of the rated obligation;
- Bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership, liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of the business of an issuer/obligor where payment default on an obligation is a virtual certainty; or
- Distressed exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation to avoid a probable payment default.

Notes: In U.S. public finance, obligations may be pre-refunded, where funds sufficient to meet the requirements of

the respective obligations are placed in an escrow account. When obligation ratings are maintained based on the escrowed funds and their structural elements, the ratings carry the suffix "pre" (e.g. "AAApre", "AA+pre").

Structured Finance Defaults

Imminent default, categorized under "C", typically refers to the occasion where a payment default has been intimated by the issuer and is all but inevitable. This may, for example, be where an issuer has missed a scheduled payment but (as is typical) has a grace period during which it may cure the payment default. Another alternative would be where an issuer has formally announced a distressed debt exchange, but the date of the exchange still lies several days or weeks in the immediate future.

Additionally, in structured finance transactions, where analysis indicates that an instrument is irrevocably impaired such that it is not expected to pay interest and/or principal in full in accordance with the terms of the obligation's documentation during the life of the transaction, but where no payment default in accordance with the terms of the documentation is imminent, the obligation will typically be rated in the "C" category.

Structured Finance Write-downs

Where an instrument has experienced an involuntary and, in the agency's opinion, irreversible write-down of principal (i.e. other than through amortization, and resulting in a loss to the investor), a credit rating of "D" will be assigned to the instrument. Where the agency believes the write-down may prove to be temporary (and the loss may be written up again in future if and when performance improves), then a credit rating of "C" will typically be assigned. Should the write-down then later be reversed, the credit rating will be raised to an appropriate level for that instrument. Should the write-down later be deemed as irreversible, the credit rating will be lowered to "D".

Notes:

In the case of structured finance, while the ratings do not address the loss severity given default of the rated liability, loss severity assumptions on the underlying assets are nonetheless typically included as part of the analysis. Loss severity assumptions are used to derive pool cash flows available to service the rated liability.

The suffix "sf" denotes an issue that is a structured finance transaction.

Description of Fitch Ratings' Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers and Obligations:

A short-term issuer or obligation rating is based in all cases on the short-term vulnerability to default of the rated entity and relates to the capacity to meet financial obligations in accordance with the documentation governing the relevant obligation. Short-term deposit ratings may be adjusted for loss severity. Short-Term Ratings are assigned to obligations whose initial maturity is viewed as "short term" based on market convention (a long-term rating can also be used to rate an issue with short maturity). Typically, this means a timeframe of up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations, and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets.

F1: Highest Short-Term Credit Quality. Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

F2: Good Short-Term Credit Quality. Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

F3: Fair Short-Term Credit Quality. The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

B: Speculative Short-Term Credit Quality. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

C: High Short-Term Default Risk. Default is a real possibility.

RD: Restricted Default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only.

D: Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.

APPENDIX A

Brandywine Global Investment Management, LLC

Proxy Voting

Responsibility to Vote Proxies

As an investment adviser, Brandywine Global owes its clients a duty of care and loyalty with respect to services undertaken on their behalf, including proxy voting. Rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 requires an investment adviser who exercises voting authority with respect to client securities to adopt and implement written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that the investment adviser votes proxies in the best interest of its clients.

Client Accounts for which Brandywine Global Votes Proxies

Brandywine Global votes proxies for each client account for which the client has specifically delegated to Brandywine Global the power to vote proxies in the applicable investment management agreement or other written document, or in instances where the client has assigned Brandywine Global investment discretion over their account. Brandywine Global also votes proxies for any employee benefit plan client subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"), unless the applicable investment management agreement specifically reserves the responsibility for voting proxies to the plan trustees or other named fiduciary.

At or prior to the inception of each client account, Brandywine Global will determine whether it has proxy voting authority over such account. In instances where the client has retained proxy voting responsibility, Brandywine Global will have no involvement in the proxy voting process for that client.

General Principles

In exercising discretion to vote proxies for securities held in client accounts, Brandywine Global is guided by general fiduciary principles. Brandywine Global's goal in voting proxies is to act prudently and solely in the best economic interest of its clients. In furtherance of such goal, Brandywine Global will vote proxies in a manner that Brandywine Global believes will be consistent with efforts to maximize shareholder value and to protect shareholder interests.

Brandywine Global does not exercise its proxy voting discretion to further policy, political or other issues that have no connection to enhancing the economic value of a client's investment. As part of its fiduciary duty, Brandywine Global does consider environmental, social, and governance issues that may impact the value of an investment, through introducing opportunity or by creating risk, or both.

How Brandywine Global Votes Proxies

Appendix A sets forth general guidelines considered by Brandywine Global in voting common proxy items.

In the case of a proxy issue for which there is a stated position set forth in Appendix A, Brandywine Global generally votes in accordance with the stated position. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is no stated position set forth in Appendix A, Brandywine Global votes on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the General Principles.

The general guidelines set forth in Appendix A are not binding on Brandywine Global, but rather are intended to provide an analytical framework for the review and assessment of common proxy issues. Such guidelines can always be superseded based on an assessment of the proxy issue and determination that a vote that is contrary to such general guidelines is in the best economic interests of client accounts. Different portfolio management teams within Brandywine Global may vote differently on the same issue based on their respective assessments of the proxy issue and determinations as to what is in the best economic interests of client accounts for which they are responsible.

Use of an Independent Proxy Service Firm

Brandywine Global may contract with an independent proxy service firm to provide Brandywine Global with certain services, including but not limited to, information or recommendations with regard to proxy votes or other administrative support.

Brandywine Global is not required to follow any recommendation furnished by such service provider. The use of an independent proxy service firm to provide proxy voting information or recommendations does not relieve Brandywine Global of its responsibility for any proxy votes.

With respect to any independent proxy service firm engaged by Brandywine Global to provide Brandywine Global with information or recommendations with regard to proxy votes, Brandywine Global will periodically review and assess such firm's policies, procedures and practices including those with respect to the disclosure and handling of conflicts of interest.

Conflict of Interest Procedures

In furtherance of Brandywine Global's goal to vote proxies in the best interests of clients, Brandywine Global follows procedures designed to identify and address material conflicts that may arise between the interests of Brandywine Global and its employees and those of its clients before voting proxies on behalf of such clients. Conflicts of interest may arise as a result of the firm's business or as a result of an employee's personal relationships or circumstances.

A. Procedures for Identifying Conflicts of Interest

Brandywine Global relies on the procedures set forth below to seek to identify conflicts of interest with respect to proxy voting.

1. Brandywine Global's Compliance Department annually requires each Brandywine Global employee to complete a questionnaire designed to elicit information that may reveal potential conflicts between the employee's interests and those of Brandywine Global clients.

2. Brandywine Global treats client relationships as creating a material conflict of interest for Brandywine Global in voting proxies with respect to securities issued by such client or its known affiliates.

3. As a general matter, Brandywine Global takes the position that relationships between a non-Brandywine Global Franklin Resources business unit and an issuer (e.g., investment management relationship between an issuer and a non-Brandywine Global Franklin Resources-owned asset manager) do not present a conflict of interest for Brandywine Global in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because Brandywine Global operates as an independent business unit from other Franklin Resources business units and because of the existence of informational barriers between Brandywine Global and certain other Franklin Resources business units.

B. Procedures for Assessing Materiality of Conflicts of Interest

1. All potential conflicts of interest identified must be brought to the attention of the Investment Committee for resolution.

2. The Investment Committee determines whether a conflict of interest is material. A conflict of interest will be considered material to the extent that it is determined that such conflict is likely to influence, or appear to influence, Brandywine Global's decision-making in voting the proxy. All materiality determinations will be based on an assessment of the particular facts and circumstances. A written record of all materiality determinations made by the Investment Committee will be maintained.

3. If it is determined by the Investment Committee that a conflict of interest is not material, Brandywine Global may vote proxies following normal processes notwithstanding the existence of the conflict.

C. Procedures for Addressing Material Conflicts of Interest

1. With the exception of those material conflicts identified in A.2. which will be voted in accordance with paragraph C.1.b. below, if it is determined by the Investment Committee that a conflict of interest is material, the Investment Committee will determine an appropriate method or combination of methods to resolve such conflict of interest before the proxy affected by the conflict of interest is voted by Brandywine Global. Such determination will be based on the particular facts and circumstances, including the importance of the proxy issue, the nature of the conflict of interest, etc. Such methods may include:

    a. confirming that the proxy will be voted in accordance with the recommendations of an independent proxy service firm retained by Brandywine Global;

b. in the case of a conflict of interest resulting from a particular employee's personal relationships or circumstances, removing such employee from the decision-making process with respect to such proxy vote; or

c. such other method as is deemed appropriate given the particular facts and circumstances.

2. A written record of the method used to resolve a material conflict of interest will be maintained.

Other Considerations

In certain situations, Brandywine Global may decide not to vote proxies on behalf of a client account for which it has discretionary voting authority because Brandywine Global believes that the expected benefit to the client account of voting shares is outweighed by countervailing considerations (excluding the existence of a potential conflict of interest). Examples of situations in which Brandywine Global may determine not to vote proxies are set forth below.

A. Share Blocking

Proxy voting in certain countries requires "share blocking." This means that shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the date of the meeting (e.g. one week) with a designated depositary. During the blocking period, shares that will be voted at the meeting cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares have been returned to client accounts by the designated depositary. In deciding whether to vote shares subject to share blocking, Brandywine Global may consider and weigh, based on the particular facts and circumstances, the expected benefit to client accounts of voting in relation to the potential detriment to clients of not being able to sell such shares during the applicable period.

B. Securities on Loan

Certain clients of Brandywine Global, such as an institutional client or a registered investment company for which Brandywine Global acts as a sub-adviser, may engage in securities lending with respect to the securities in their accounts. Brandywine Global typically does not direct or oversee such securities lending activities. To the extent feasible and practical under the circumstances, Brandywine Global may request that the client recall shares that are on loan so that such shares can be voted if Brandywine Global believes that the expected benefit to the client of voting such shares outweighs the detriment to the client of recalling such shares (e.g., foregone income). The ability to timely recall shares for proxy voting purposes typically is not entirely within the control of Brandywine Global and requires the cooperation of the client and its other service providers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates and administrative considerations.

Proxy Voting-Related Disclosures

A. Proxy Voting Independence and Intent

Brandywine Global exercises its proxy voting authority independently of other Franklin Resources-owned asset managers. Brandywine Global and its employees will not consult with or enter into any formal or informal agreements with Brandywine Global's ultimate parent, Franklin Resources, Inc., any other Franklin Resources business unit, or any of their respective officers, directors or employees, regarding the voting of any securities by Brandywine Global on behalf of its clients.

Brandywine Global and its employees may not disclose to any person outside of Brandywine Global, including without limitation another investment management firm (affiliated or unaffiliated) how Brandywine Global intends to vote a proxy without prior approval from Brandywine Global's Chief Compliance Officer. Prior approval is not required in instances where Brandywine Global discloses directly to representatives of an issuer how Brandywine Global intends to vote a proxy so long as the disclosure is made solely to representatives of the issuer and Brandywine Global believes that the disclosure is in the best interests of its clients.

If a Brandywine Global employee receives a request to disclose Brandywine Global's proxy voting intentions to another person outside of Brandywine Global (including an employee of another Franklin Resources business unit) in connection with an upcoming proxy voting matter, the employee should immediately notify Brandywine Global's Chief Compliance Officer.

If a Brandywine Global portfolio manager wants to take a public stance with regards to a proxy, the portfolio manager must consult with and obtain the approval of Brandywine Global's Chief Compliance Officer before making or issuing a public statement.

B. Disclosure of Proxy Votes and Policy and Procedures

Upon Brandywine Global's receipt of any oral or written client request for information on how Brandywine Global voted proxies for that client's account, Brandywine Global will promptly provide the client with such requested information in writing.

Brandywine Global will deliver to each client, for which it has proxy voting authority, no later than the time it accepts such authority, a written summary of this Proxy Voting policy and procedures. This summary must include information on how clients may obtain information about how Brandywine Global has voted proxies for their accounts and must also state that a copy of Brandywine Global's Proxy Voting policy and procedures is available upon request.

Brandywine Global must create and maintain a record of each written client request for proxy voting information. Such record must be created promptly after receipt of the request and must include the date the request was received, the content of the request, and the date of Brandywine Global's response. Brandywine Global must also maintain copies of written client requests and copies of all responses to such requests.

C. Delegation of Duties

Brandywine Global may delegate to non-investment personnel the responsibility to vote proxies in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Appendix A. Such delegation of duties will only be made to employees deemed to be reasonably capable of performing this function in a satisfactory manner.

Proxy Engagement and Certain Non-Proxy Voting Matters

Brandywine Global may determine that it is appropriate and beneficial to engage in a dialogue or written communication with a company or other shareholders regarding certain matters on a company's proxy statement from time to time, if and to the extent that Brandywine Global determines that doing so is consistent with law and applicable general fiduciary principles. A company or shareholder may also seek to engage with Brandywine Global in advance of the company's formal proxy solicitation to review issues more generally or gauge support for certain proposals.

Absent a specific contrary written agreement with a client or other legal obligation, Brandywine Global does not (1) render any advice to, or take any action on behalf of, clients with respect to any legal proceedings, including bankruptcies and shareholder litigation, to which any securities or other investments held in client accounts, or the issuers thereof, become subject, or (2) initiate or pursue legal proceedings, including without limitation shareholder litigation, on behalf of clients with respect to transactions or securities or other investments held in client accounts, or the issuers thereof. Except as otherwise agreed to in writing with a particular client, the right to take any action with respect to any legal proceeding, including without limitation bankruptcies and shareholder litigation, and the right to initiate or pursue any legal proceedings, including without limitation shareholder litigation, with respect to transactions or securities or other investments held in a client account is expressly reserved to the client.

Recordkeeping

In addition to all other records required by this Policy and Procedures, Brandywine Global will maintain the following records relating to proxy voting:

A. a copy of this Policy and Procedures, including any and all amendments that may be adopted;

B. a copy of each proxy statement that Brandywine Global receives regarding client securities;

C. a record of each vote cast by Brandywine Global on behalf of a client;

D. documentation relating to the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest;

E. any documents created by Brandywine Global that were material to a proxy voting decision or that memorialized the basis for that decision;

F. a copy of each written client request for information on how Brandywine Global voted proxies on behalf of the client, and a copy of any written response by Brandywine Global to any (written or oral) client request for information on how Brandywine Global voted proxies on behalf of the requesting client; and

G. records showing whether or not Brandywine Global has proxy voting authority for each client account.

All required records will be maintained and preserved in an easily accessible place for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record, the first two years in an appropriate office of Brandywine Global. Brandywine Global also will maintain a copy of any proxy voting policies and procedures that were in effect at any time within the last five years.

To the extent that Brandywine Global is authorized to vote proxies for a United States registered investment company, Brandywine Global will maintain such records as are necessary to allow such fund to comply with its recordkeeping, reporting and disclosure obligations under applicable laws, rules and regulations.

In lieu of keeping copies of proxy statements, Brandywine Global may rely on proxy statements filed on the EDGAR system as well as on third party records of proxy statements if the third party provides an undertaking to provide copies of such proxy statements promptly upon request.

Brandywine Global may rely on a third party to make and retain, on Brandywine Global's behalf, records of votes cast by Brandywine Global on behalf of clients if the third party provides an undertaking to provide a copy of such records promptly upon request.

Appendix A

Proxy Voting Guidelines

Below are proxy voting guidelines that Brandywine Global generally follows when voting proxies for securities held in client accounts. One or more portfolio management teams may decide to deviate from these guidelines with respect to any one or more particular proxy votes, subject in all cases to the duty to act solely in the best interest of client accounts holding the applicable security.

I. Compensation

A. We vote for non-employee director stock options, unless we consider the number of shares available for issue excessive.

B. We vote for employee stock purchase programs.

C. We vote for compensation plans that are tied to the company achieving set profitability hurdles.

D. We vote against attempts to re-price options. Also, we vote against the re-election of incumbent Directors in the event of such a re-pricing proposal.

E. We vote against attempts to increase incentive stock options available if they are excessive, either in total or for one individual.

F. We vote against stock option plans allowing for stock options with exercise prices less than 100% of the stock's price at the time of the option grant.

G. We vote for measures that give shareholders a vote on executive compensation.

II. Governance

A. We vote for proposals to separate the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board positions.

B. We vote against "catch-all" authorizations permitting proxy holders to conduct unspecified business that arises during shareholder meetings.

III. Anti-Takeover

We vote against anti-takeover measures, including without limitation:

A. Staggered Boards of Directors (for example, where 1/3 of a company's Board is elected each year rather than the entire Board each year).

B. Super-Majority Voting Measures (for example, requiring a greater than 50% vote to approve takeovers or make certain changes).

C. Poison Pills, which are special stock rights that go into effect upon a takeover offer or an outsider acquiring more than a specified percentage of a company's outstanding shares.

IV. Capital Structure

We vote against attempts to increase authorized shares by more than twice the number of outstanding shares unless there is a specific purpose for such increase given, such as a pending stock split or a corporate purchase using shares, and we determine that increasing authorized shares for such purpose is appropriate.

CLEARBRIDGE INVESTMENTS

PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

AMENDED AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

I. Types of Accounts for Which ClearBridge Votes Proxies

II. General Guidelines

III. How ClearBridge Votes

IV. Conflicts of Interest

- A. Procedures for Identifying Conflicts of Interest
- B. Procedures for Assessing Materiality of Conflicts of Interest and for Addressing Material Conflicts of Interest
- C. Third Party Proxy Voting Firm - Conflicts of Interest

V. Other Considerations

- A. When Votes May Not be Cast.
- B. Split Voting in Sub-Custodial Accounts (Non-US Markets)

VI. Disclosure of Proxy Voting

VII. Recordkeeping and Oversight

APPENDIX A Voting Policy

- A. Election of Directors
- B. Proxy Contests
- C. Auditors
- D. Proxy Contest Defenses
- E. Tender Offer Defenses
- F. Miscellaneous Governance Provisions
- G. Capital Structure
- H. Executive and Director Compensation
- I. State/Country of Incorporation
- J. Mergers and Corporate Restructuring
- K. Social and Environmental Issues
- L. Miscellaneous

CLEARBRIDGE INVESTMENTS

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

I. TYPES OF ACCOUNTS FOR WHICH CLEARBRIDGE VOTES PROXIES

ClearBridge votes proxies for each client for which it has investment discretion unless the investment management agreement provides that the client or other authorized party (e.g., a trustee or named fiduciary of a plan) is responsible for voting proxies.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

In voting proxies, we are guided by general fiduciary principles. Our goal is to act prudently, solely in the best interest of the beneficial owners of the accounts we manage. We attempt to provide for the consideration of all factors that could affect the value of the investment and will vote proxies in the manner that we believe will be consistent with efforts to maximize shareholder values.

III. HOW CLEARBRIDGE VOTES

Appendix A attached hereto sets forth certain stated positions. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is a stated position, we generally vote in accordance with the stated position. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is a list of factors set forth in Appendix A that we consider in voting on such issue, we consider those factors and vote on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the general principles set forth above. In the case of a proxy issue for which there is no stated position or list of factors that we consider in voting on such issue, we vote on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the general principles set forth above. We may utilize an external service provider to provide us with information and/or a recommendation with regard to proxy votes but we are not required to follow any such recommendations. The use of an external service provider does not relieve us of our responsibility for the proxy vote.

For routine matters, we usually vote according to our policy or the external service provider's recommendation, although we are not obligated to do so and each individual portfolio management team may vote contrary to our policy or the recommendation of the external service provider. If a matter is non-routine, e.g., management's recommendation is different than that of the external service provider and ClearBridge is a significant holder or it is a significant holding for ClearBridge, the issues will be highlighted to the appropriate investment teams. Different investment teams may vote differently on the same issue, depending upon their assessment of clients' best interests.

ClearBridge's policies are reviewed annually and its proxy voting process is overseen and coordinated by its Proxy Committee.

IV. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In furtherance of ClearBridge's goal to vote proxies in the best interests of clients, ClearBridge follows procedures designed to identify and address material conflicts that may arise between ClearBridge's interests and those of its clients before voting proxies on behalf of such clients.

A. Procedures for Identifying Conflicts of Interest

ClearBridge relies on the following to seek to identify conflicts of interest with respect to proxy voting:

1. ClearBridge's employees are periodically reminded of their obligation (i) to be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest on the part of ClearBridge with respect to voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts both as a result of their personal relationships or personal or business relationships relating to another Franklin Resources, Inc. ("Franklin") business unit, and (ii) to bring conflicts of interest of which they become aware to the attention of ClearBridge's Chief Compliance Officer.

2. ClearBridge's finance area maintains and provides to ClearBridge Compliance and proxy voting personnel an up-to-date list of all client relationships that have historically accounted for or are projected to account for greater than 1% of ClearBridge's net revenues.

3. As a general matter, ClearBridge takes the position that relationships between a non-ClearBridge Franklin unit and an issuer (e.g., investment management relationship between an issuer and a non-ClearBridge Franklin affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for ClearBridge in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because ClearBridge operates as an independent business unit from other Franklin business units and because of the existence of informational barriers between ClearBridge and certain other Franklin business units. As noted above, ClearBridge employees are under an obligation to bring such conflicts of interest, including conflicts of interest which may arise because of an attempt by another Franklin business unit or non-ClearBridge Franklin officer or employee to influence proxy voting by ClearBridge to the attention of ClearBridge Compliance.

4. A list of issuers with respect to which ClearBridge has a potential conflict of interest in voting proxies on behalf of client accounts will be maintained by ClearBridge proxy voting personnel. ClearBridge will not vote proxies relating to such issuers until it has been determined that the conflict of interest is not material or a method for resolving the conflict of interest has been agreed upon and implemented, as described below.

B. Procedures for Assessing Materiality of Conflicts of Interest and for Addressing Material Conflicts of Interest

1. ClearBridge maintains a Proxy Committee which, among other things, reviews and addresses conflicts of interest brought to its attention. The Proxy Committee is comprised of such ClearBridge personnel (and others, at ClearBridge's request), as are designated from time to time. The current members of the Proxy Committee are set forth in the Proxy Committee's Terms of Reference.

2. All conflicts of interest identified pursuant to the procedures outlined in Section IV. A. must be brought to the attention of the Proxy Committee for resolution. A proxy issue that will be voted in accordance with a stated ClearBridge position on such issue or in accordance with the recommendation of an independent third party generally is not brought to the attention of the Proxy Committee for a conflict of interest review because ClearBridge's position is that any conflict of interest issues are resolved by voting in accordance with a pre-determined policy or in accordance with the recommendation of an independent third party.

3. The Proxy Committee will determine whether a conflict of interest is material. A conflict of interest will be considered material to the extent that it is determined that such conflict is likely to influence, or appear to influence, ClearBridge's decision-making in voting the proxy. All materiality determinations will be based on an assessment of the particular facts and circumstances. A written record of all materiality determinations made by the Proxy Committee will be maintained.

4. If it is determined by the Proxy Committee that a conflict of interest is not material, ClearBridge may vote proxies notwithstanding the existence of the conflict.

5. If it is determined by the Proxy Committee that a conflict of interest is material, the Proxy Committee will determine an appropriate method to resolve such conflict of interest before the proxy affected by the conflict of interest is voted. Such determination shall be based on the particular facts and circumstances, including the importance of the proxy issue, the nature of the conflict of interest, etc. Such methods may include:

- disclosing the conflict to clients and obtaining their consent before voting;
- suggesting to clients that they engage another party to vote the proxy on their behalf;
- in the case of a conflict of interest resulting from a particular employee's personal relationships, removing such employee from the decision-making process with respect to such proxy vote; or
- such other method as is deemed appropriate given the particular facts and circumstances, including the importance of the proxy issue, the nature of the conflict of interest, etc.*

A written record of the method used to resolve a material conflict of interest shall be maintained.

C. Third Party Proxy Voting Firm - Conflicts of Interest

* Especially in the case of an apparent, as opposed to actual, conflict of interest, the Proxy Committee may resolve such conflict of interest by satisfying itself that ClearBridge's proposed vote on a proxy issue is in the best interest of client accounts and is not being influenced by the conflict of interest.

With respect to a third-party proxy voting firm described herein, the Proxy Committee will periodically review and assess such firm's policies, procedures and practices with respect to the disclosure and handling of conflicts of interest.

V. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. When Votes May Not be Cast

In certain situations, ClearBridge may determine not to vote proxies on behalf of a client because ClearBridge believes that the expected benefit to the client of voting shares is outweighed by countervailing considerations. Examples of situations in which ClearBridge may determine not to vote proxies on behalf of a client include:

Share Blocking

Proxy voting in certain countries requires "share blocking." This means that shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the date of the meeting (e.g. one week) with a designated depositary. During the blocking period, shares that will be voted at the meeting cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares have been returned to client accounts by the designated depositary. In deciding whether to vote shares subject to share blocking, ClearBridge will consider and weigh, based on the particular facts and circumstances, the expected benefit to clients of voting in relation to the detriment to clients of not being able to sell such shares during the applicable period.

Securities on Loan

Certain clients of ClearBridge, such as an institutional client or a mutual fund for which ClearBridge acts as a sub-adviser, may engage in securities lending with respect to the securities in their accounts. ClearBridge typically does not direct or oversee such securities lending activities. To the extent feasible and practical under the circumstances, ClearBridge will request that the client recall shares that are on loan so that such shares can be voted if ClearBridge believes that the expected benefit to the client of voting such shares outweighs the detriment to the client of recalling such shares (e.g., foregone income). The ability to timely recall shares for proxy voting purposes typically is not entirely within the control of ClearBridge and requires the cooperation of the client and its other service providers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates and administrative considerations.

B. Split Votes in Sub-Custodial Accounts (Non-US Markets)

In some non-US markets, where shares across multiple client accounts maybe he held in a joint sub-custodial account, split voting by a manager in such sub-custodial account may not be allowed. In those instances, ClearBridge will vote all shares in accordance with the pre-determined proxy voting guidelines, or if there is no voting policy established in this policy on the particular topic or issue, in accordance with the recommendations of the portfolio manager responsible for the client accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the relevant issuer.

VI. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING

ClearBridge employees may not disclose to others outside of ClearBridge (including employees of other Franklin business units) how ClearBridge intends to vote a proxy absent prior approval from ClearBridge's Chief Compliance Officer, except that a ClearBridge investment professional may disclose to a third party (other than an employee of another Franklin business unit) how s/he intends to vote without obtaining prior approval from ClearBridge's Chief Compliance Officer if (1) the disclosure is intended to facilitate a discussion of publicly available information by ClearBridge personnel with a representative of a company whose securities are the subject of the proxy, and (2) ClearBridge has voting power with respect to less than 5% of the outstanding common stock of the company.

If a ClearBridge employee receives a request to disclose ClearBridge's proxy voting intentions to, or is otherwise contacted by, another person outside of ClearBridge (including an employee of another Franklin business unit or an existing ClearBridge client or its designated agent or representative) in connection with an upcoming proxy voting matter, he/she should immediately notify ClearBridge's Chief Compliance Officer and not share any information regarding proxy voting intentions with such persons without obtaining the Chief Compliance Officer's prior approval.

If a portfolio manager wants to take a public stance with regards to a proxy, s/he must consult with ClearBridge's Chief Compliance Officer before making or issuing a public statement.

VII. RECORDKEEPING AND OVERSIGHT

ClearBridge shall maintain the following records relating to proxy voting:

- a copy of these policies and procedures;
- a copy of each proxy form (as voted);
- a copy of each proxy solicitation (including proxy statements) and related materials with regard to each vote;
- documentation relating to the identification and resolution of conflicts of interest;
- any documents created by ClearBridge that were material to a proxy voting decision or that memorialized the basis for that decision; and
- a copy of each written client request for information on how ClearBridge voted proxies on behalf of the client, and a copy of any written response by ClearBridge to any (written or oral) client request for information on how ClearBridge voted proxies on behalf of the requesting client.

Such records shall be maintained and preserved in an easily accessible place for a period of not less than six years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record, the first two years in an appropriate office of the ClearBridge adviser.

To the extent that ClearBridge is authorized to vote proxies for a United States Registered Investment Company, ClearBridge shall maintain such records as are necessary to allow such fund to comply with its recordkeeping, reporting and disclosure obligations under applicable laws, rules and regulations.

In lieu of keeping copies of proxy statements, ClearBridge may rely on proxy statements filed on the EDGAR system as well as on third party records of proxy statements and votes cast if the third party provides an undertaking to provide the documents promptly upon request.

APPENDIX A

VOTING POLICY

These are policy guidelines that can always be superseded, subject to the duty to act solely in the best interest of the beneficial owners of accounts, by the investment management professionals responsible for the account holding the shares being voted. There may be occasions when different investment teams vote differently on the same issue. In addition, in the case of Taft-Hartley clients, ClearBridge will comply with a client direction to vote proxies in accordance with Institutional Shareholder Services' (ISS) PVS Proxy Voting Guidelines, which ISS represents to be fully consistent with AFL-CIO guidelines.

A. Election of Directors

1. Voting on Director Nominees in Uncontested Elections.

    a. We withhold our vote from a director nominee who:

    - attended less than 75 percent of the company's board and committee meetings without a valid excuse (illness, service to the nation/local government, work on behalf of the company);
    - received more than 50 percent withheld votes of the shares cast at the previous board election, and the company has failed to address the issue as to why;
    - is a member of the company's audit committee, when excessive non-audit fees were paid to the auditor, or there are chronic control issues and an absence of established effective control mechanisms;

- is a member of the company's compensation committee if the compensation committee ignore a say on pay proposal that a majority of shareholders opposed;

b. We vote on a case-by-case basis in the following circumstances:

- *Significant Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emitters* – We will vote on a case-by-case basis with respect to the Chair of the board and the Chair of the responsible committee in the case of companies that are significant GHG emitters but are not taking the minimum steps needed to understand, assess, and mitigate risks related to climate change to the company and the larger economy. Minimum steps include detailed disclosure of climate-related risks, such as the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD); and, at this time, "appropriate" GHG emissions reductions targets (i.e., short-term and medium-term GHG reduction targets).

- *Nominating Committee Members*. We will vote on a case-by-case basis with respect to director nominees who are members of the company's nominating committee and there is no gender diversity or ethnic/racial diversity on the board (or those currently proposed for election to the board do not meet that criteria).

- *Board Independence*. We will vote on a case-by-case basis with respect to non-independent members of the board who are up for re-election and the chair of the board's nominating committee if the board is not comprised of a majority of independent directors. This also applies to situations where board independence is not in line with local market regulations or best practices.

- *Director Independence*. We will vote on a case-by-case basis with respect to an independent member of the board whose independence is not in line with local best practices and market-specific governance frameworks (e.g., listing standards, governance codes, laws and regulations).

- *Overboarding*. We will vote on a case-by-case basis with respect to a member of the board who is up for re-election and sits on five or more unaffiliated public company boards.

c. We vote for all other director nominees.

2. Chairman and CEO is the Same Person.

We vote on a case-by-case basis on shareholder proposals that would require the positions of the Chairman and CEO to be held by different persons. We would generally vote FOR such a proposal unless there are compelling reasons to vote against the proposal, including:

- Designation of a lead director
- Majority of independent directors (supermajority)
- All independent key committees
- Size of the company (based on market capitalization)
- Established governance guidelines
- Company performance

3. Majority of Independent Directors

a. We vote for shareholder proposals that request that the board be comprised of a majority of independent directors. Generally that would require that the director have no connection to the company other than the board seat. In determining whether an independent director is truly independent (e.g. when voting on a slate of director candidates), we consider certain factors including, but not necessarily limited to, the following: whether the director or his/her company provided professional services to the company or its affiliates either currently or in the past year;

whether the director has any transactional relationship with the company; whether the director is a significant customer or supplier of the company; whether the director is employed by a foundation or university that received significant grants or endowments from the company or its affiliates; and whether there are interlocking directorships.

b. We vote for shareholder proposals that request that the board audit, compensation and/or nominating committees include independent directors exclusively.

4. Stock Ownership Requirements

We vote against shareholder proposals requiring directors to own a minimum amount of company stock in order to qualify as a director, or to remain on the board.

5. Term of Office

We vote against shareholder proposals to limit the tenure of independent directors.

6. Director and Officer Indemnification and Liability Protection

a. Subject to subparagraphs b., c., and d. below, we vote for proposals concerning director and officer indemnification and liability protection.

b. We vote for proposals to limit and against proposals to eliminate entirely director and officer liability for monetary damages for violating the duty of care.

c. We vote against indemnification proposals that would expand coverage beyond just legal expenses to acts, such as negligence, that are more serious violations of fiduciary obligations than mere carelessness.

d. We vote for only those proposals that provide such expanded coverage noted in subparagraph 3 above in cases when a director's or officer's legal defense was unsuccessful if: (1) the director was found to have acted in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed was in the best interests of the company, and (2) if only the director's legal expenses would be covered.

7. Director Qualifications

a. We vote case-by-case on proposals that establish or amend director qualifications. Considerations include how reasonable the criteria are and to what degree they may preclude dissident nominees from joining the board.

b. We vote against shareholder proposals requiring two candidates per board seat.

B. Proxy Contests

1. Voting for Director Nominees in Contested Elections

We vote on a case-by-case basis in contested elections of directors. Considerations include: chronology of events leading up to the proxy contest; qualifications of director nominees (incumbents and dissidents); for incumbents, whether the board is comprised of a majority of outside directors; whether key committees (i.e.: nominating, audit, compensation) comprise solely of independent outsiders; discussion with the respective portfolio manager(s).

2. Reimburse Proxy Solicitation Expenses

We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to provide full reimbursement for dissidents waging a proxy contest. Considerations include: identity of persons who will pay solicitation expenses; cost of solicitation; percentage that will be paid to proxy solicitation firms.

C. Auditors

1. Ratifying Auditors

We vote for proposals to ratify auditors, unless an auditor has a financial interest in or association with the company, and is therefore not independent; or there is reason to believe that the independent auditor has rendered an opinion that is neither accurate nor indicative of the company's financial position or there is reason to believe the independent auditor has not followed the highest level of ethical conduct. Specifically, we will vote to ratify auditors if the auditors only provide the company audit services and such other audit-related and non-audit services the provision of which will not cause such auditors to lose their independence under applicable laws, rules and regulations.

2. Financial Statements and Director and Auditor Reports

   We generally vote for management proposals seeking approval of financial accounts and reports and the discharge of management and supervisory board members, unless there is concern about the past actions of the company's auditors or directors.

3. Remuneration of Auditors

   We vote for proposals to authorize the board or an audit committee of the board to determine the remuneration of auditors, unless there is evidence of excessive compensation relative to the size and nature of the company.

4. Indemnification of Auditors

   We vote against proposals to indemnify auditors.

D. Proxy Contest Defenses

1. Board Structure: Staggered vs. Annual Elections

   a. We vote against proposals to classify the board.

   b. We vote for proposals to repeal classified boards and to elect all directors annually.

2. Shareholder Ability to Remove Directors

   a. We vote against proposals that provide that directors may be removed only for cause.

   b. We vote for proposals to restore shareholder ability to remove directors with or without cause.

   c. We vote against proposals that provide that only continuing directors may elect replacements to fill board vacancies.

   d. We vote for proposals that permit shareholders to elect directors to fill board vacancies.

3. Cumulative Voting

   a. If plurality voting is in place for uncontested director elections, we vote for proposals to permit or restore cumulative voting.

   b. If majority voting is in place for uncontested director elections, we vote against cumulative voting.

   c. If plurality voting is in place for uncontested director elections, and proposals to adopt both cumulative voting and majority voting are on the same slate, we vote for majority voting and against cumulative voting.

4. Majority Voting

   We vote for non-binding and/or binding resolutions requesting that the board amend a company's by-laws to stipulate that directors need to be elected with an affirmative majority of the votes cast, provided that it does not conflict with the state law where the company is incorporated. In addition, all resolutions need to provide for a carve-out for a plurality vote standard when there are more nominees than board seats (i.e. contested election). In addition, ClearBridge strongly encourages companies to adopt a post-election

director resignation policy setting guidelines for the company to follow to promptly address situations involving holdover directors.

5. Shareholder Ability to Call Special Meetings

    a. We vote against proposals to restrict or prohibit shareholder ability to call special meetings.

    b. We vote for proposals that provide shareholders with the ability to call special meetings, taking into account a minimum ownership threshold of 10 percent (and investor ownership structure, depending on bylaws).

6. Shareholder Ability to Act by Written Consent

    a. We vote against proposals to restrict or prohibit shareholder ability to take action by written consent.

    b. We vote for proposals to allow or make easier shareholder action by written consent.

7. Shareholder Ability to Alter the Size of the Board

    a. We vote for proposals that seek to fix the size of the board.

    b. We vote against proposals that give management the ability to alter the size of the board without shareholder approval.

8. Advance Notice Proposals

    We vote on advance notice proposals on a case-by-case basis, giving support to those proposals which allow shareholders to submit proposals as close to the meeting date as reasonably possible and within the broadest window possible.

9. Amendment of By-Laws

    a. We vote against proposals giving the board exclusive authority to amend the by-laws.

    b. We vote for proposals giving the board the ability to amend the by-laws in addition to shareholders.

10. Article Amendments (not otherwise covered by ClearBridge Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures).

    a. We review on a case-by-case basis all proposals seeking amendments to the articles of association.

    b. We vote for article amendments if:

        - shareholder rights are protected;
        - there is negligible or positive impact on shareholder value;
        - management provides adequate reasons for the amendments; and
        - the company is required to do so by law (if applicable).

E. Tender Offer Defenses

1. Poison Pills

    a. We vote for shareholder proposals that ask a company to submit its poison pill for shareholder ratification.

    b. We vote on a case-by-case basis on shareholder proposals to redeem a company's poison pill. Considerations include: when the plan was originally adopted; financial condition of the company; terms of the poison pill.

    c. We vote on a case-by-case basis on management proposals to ratify a poison pill. Considerations include: sunset provision - poison pill is submitted to shareholders for ratification or rejection every 2

to 3 years; shareholder redemption feature - 10% of the shares may call a special meeting or seek a written consent to vote on rescinding the rights plan.

2. Fair Price Provisions

   a. We vote for fair price proposals, as long as the shareholder vote requirement embedded in the provision is no more than a majority of disinterested shares.

   b. We vote for shareholder proposals to lower the shareholder vote requirement in existing fair price provisions.

3. Greenmail

   a. We vote for proposals to adopt anti-greenmail charter or bylaw amendments or otherwise restrict a company's ability to make greenmail payments.

   b. We vote on a case-by-case basis on anti-greenmail proposals when they are bundled with other charter or bylaw amendments.

4. Unequal Voting Rights

   a. We vote against dual class exchange offers.

   b. We vote against dual class re-capitalization.

5. Supermajority Shareholder Vote Requirement to Amend the Charter or Bylaws

   a. We vote against management proposals to require a supermajority shareholder vote to approve charter and bylaw amendments.

   b. We vote for shareholder proposals to lower supermajority shareholder vote requirements for charter and bylaw amendments.

6. Supermajority Shareholder Vote Requirement to Approve Mergers

   a. We vote against management proposals to require a supermajority shareholder vote to approve mergers and other significant business combinations.

   b. We vote for shareholder proposals to lower supermajority shareholder vote requirements for mergers and other significant business combinations.

7. White Knight/Squire Placements

   We vote for shareholder proposals to require approval of blank check preferred stock issues.

F. Miscellaneous Governance Provisions

1. Confidential Voting

   a. We vote for shareholder proposals that request corporations to adopt confidential voting, use independent tabulators and use independent inspectors of election as long as the proposals include clauses for proxy contests as follows: in the case of a contested election, management is permitted to request that the dissident group honor its confidential voting policy. If the dissidents agree, the policy remains in place. If the dissidents do not agree, the confidential voting policy is waived.

   b. We vote for management proposals to adopt confidential voting subject to the proviso for contested elections set forth in sub-paragraph B.1. above.

2. Equal Access

We vote for shareholder proposals that would allow significant company shareholders equal access to management's proxy material in order to evaluate and propose voting recommendations on proxy proposals and director nominees, and in order to nominate their own candidates to the board.

3. Bundled Proposals

   We vote on a case-by-case basis on bundled or "conditioned" proxy proposals. In the case of items that are conditioned upon each other, we examine the benefits and costs of the packaged items. In instances when the joint effect of the conditioned items is not in shareholders' best interests and therefore not in the best interests of the beneficial owners of accounts, we vote against the proposals. If the combined effect is positive, we support such proposals.

4. Shareholder Advisory Committees

   We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to establish a shareholder advisory committee. Considerations include: rationale and cost to the firm to form such a committee. We generally vote against such proposals if the board and key nominating committees are comprised solely of independent/outside directors.

5. Other Business

   We vote for proposals that seek to bring forth other business matters.

6. Adjourn Meeting

   We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals that seek to adjourn a shareholder meeting in order to solicit additional votes.

7. Lack of Information

   We vote against proposals if a company fails to provide shareholders with adequate information upon which to base their voting decision.

G. Capital Structure

1. Common Stock Authorization

   a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to increase the number of shares of common stock authorized for issue, except as described in paragraph 2 below.

   b. Subject to paragraph 3, below we vote for the approval requesting increases in authorized shares if the company meets certain criteria:

      - Company has already issued a certain percentage (i.e. greater than 50%) of the company's allotment.

      - The proposed increase is reasonable (i.e. less than 150% of current inventory) based on an analysis of the company's historical stock management or future growth outlook of the company.

   c. We vote on a case-by-case basis, based on the input of affected portfolio managers, if holding is greater than 1% of an account.

2. Stock Distributions: Splits and Dividends

   We vote on a case-by-case basis on management proposals to increase common share authorization for a stock split, provided that the split does not result in an increase of authorized but unissued shares of more than 100% after giving effect to the shares needed for the split.

3. Reverse Stock Splits

We vote for management proposals to implement a reverse stock split, provided that the reverse split does not result in an increase of authorized but unissued shares of more than 100% after giving effect to the shares needed for the reverse split.

4. Blank Check Preferred Stock

   a. We vote against proposals to create, authorize or increase the number of shares with regard to blank check preferred stock with unspecified voting, conversion, dividend distribution and other rights.

   b. We vote for proposals to create "declawed" blank check preferred stock (stock that cannot be used as a takeover defense).

   c. We vote for proposals to authorize preferred stock in cases where the company specifies the voting, dividend, conversion, and other rights of such stock and the terms of the preferred stock appear reasonable.

   d. We vote for proposals requiring a shareholder vote for blank check preferred stock issues.

5. Adjust Par Value of Common Stock

   We vote for management proposals to reduce the par value of common stock.

6. Preemptive Rights

   a. We vote on a case-by-case basis for shareholder proposals seeking to establish them and consider the following factors:

      - Size of the Company.
      - Characteristics of the size of the holding (holder owning more than 1% of the outstanding shares)
      - Percentage of the rights offering (rule of thumb less than 5%).

   b. We vote on a case-by-case basis for shareholder proposals seeking the elimination of pre-emptive rights.

7. Debt Restructuring

   We vote on a case-by-case basis for proposals to increase common and/or preferred shares and to issue shares as part of a debt-restructuring plan. Generally, we approve proposals that facilitate debt restructuring.

8. Share Repurchase Programs

   We vote for management proposals to institute open-market share repurchase plans in which all shareholders may participate on equal terms.

9. Dual-Class Stock

   We vote for proposals to eliminate dual-class structures, unless a company has a stated policy that stipulates that the dual class structure will be eliminated in a period not to exceed 5 years from its initial public offering.

10. Issue Stock for Use with Rights Plan

    We vote against proposals that increase authorized common stock for the explicit purpose of implementing a shareholder rights plan (poison pill).

11. Debt Issuance Requests

When evaluating a debt issuance request, the issuing company's present financial situation is examined. The main factor for analysis is the company's current debt-to-equity ratio, or gearing level. A high gearing level may incline markets and financial analysts to downgrade the company's bond rating, increasing its investment risk factor in the process. A gearing level up to 100 percent is considered acceptable.

We vote for debt issuances for companies when the gearing level is between zero and 100 percent.

We view on a case-by-case basis proposals where the issuance of debt will result in the gearing level being greater than 100 percent. Any proposed debt issuance is compared to industry and market standards.

12. Financing Plans

    We generally vote for the adopting of financing plans if we believe they are in the best economic interests of shareholders.

H. Executive and Director Compensation

In general, we vote for executive and director compensation plans, with the view that viable compensation programs reward the creation of stockholder wealth by having high payout sensitivity to increases in shareholder value. Certain factors, however, such as repricing underwater stock options without shareholder approval, would cause us to vote against a plan. Additionally, in some cases we would vote against a plan deemed unnecessary.

1. OBRA-Related Compensation Proposals

    a. Amendments that Place a Cap on Annual Grant or Amend Administrative Features

        We vote for plans that simply amend shareholder-approved plans to include administrative features or place a cap on the annual grants any one participant may receive to comply with the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

    b. Amendments to Added Performance-Based Goals

        We vote for amendments to add performance goals to existing compensation plans to comply with the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

    c. Amendments to Increase Shares and Retain Tax Deductions Under OBRA

        We vote for amendments to existing plans to increase shares reserved and to qualify the plan for favorable tax treatment under the provisions of Section 162(m) the Internal Revenue Code.

    d. Approval of Cash or Cash-and-Stock Bonus Plans

        We vote for cash or cash-and-stock bonus plans to exempt the compensation from taxes under the provisions of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

2. Expensing of Options

    We vote for proposals to expense stock options on financial statements.

3. Shareholder Proposals to Limit Executive and Director Pay

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on all shareholder proposals that seek additional disclosure of executive and director pay information. Considerations include: cost and form of disclosure. We vote for such proposals if additional disclosure is relevant to shareholder's needs and would not put the company at a competitive disadvantage relative to its industry.

    b. We vote on a case-by-case basis on all other shareholder proposals that seek to limit executive and director pay.

We have a policy of voting to reasonably limit the level of options and other equity-based compensation arrangements available to management to reasonably limit shareholder dilution and management compensation. For options and equity-based compensation arrangements, we vote FOR proposals or amendments that would result in the available awards being less than 10% of fully diluted outstanding shares (i.e. if the combined total of shares, common share equivalents and options available to be awarded under all current and proposed compensation plans is less than 10% of fully diluted shares). In the event the available awards exceed the 10% threshold, we would also consider the % relative to the common practice of its specific industry (e.g. technology firms). Other considerations would include, without limitation, the following:

- Compensation committee comprised of independent outside directors
- Maximum award limits
- Repricing without shareholder approval prohibited
- 3-year average burn rate for company
- Plan administrator has authority to accelerate the vesting of awards
- Shares under the plan subject to performance criteria

4. Golden Parachutes

    a. We vote for shareholder proposals to have golden parachutes submitted for shareholder ratification.

    b. We vote on a case-by-case basis on all proposals to ratify or cancel golden parachutes. Considerations include: the amount should not exceed 3 times average base salary plus guaranteed benefits; golden parachute should be less attractive than an ongoing employment opportunity with the firm.

5. Golden Coffins

    a. We vote for shareholder proposals that request a company not to make any death benefit payments to senior executives' estates or beneficiaries, or pay premiums in respect to any life insurance policy covering a senior executive's life ("golden coffin"). We carve out benefits provided under a plan, policy or arrangement applicable to a broader group of employees, such as offering group universal life insurance.

    b. We vote for shareholder proposals that request shareholder approval of survivor benefits for future agreements that, following the death of a senior executive, would obligate the company to make payments or awards not earned.

6. Anti-Tax Gross-up Policy

    a. We vote for proposals that ask a company to adopt a policy whereby it will not make, or promise to make, any tax gross-up payment to its senior executives, except for tax gross-ups provided pursuant to a plan, policy, or arrangement applicable to management employees of the company generally, such as relocation or expatriate tax equalization policy; we also vote for proposals that ask management to put gross-up payments to a shareholder vote.

    b. We vote against proposals where a company will make, or promise to make, any tax gross-up payment to its senior executives without a shareholder vote, except for tax gross-ups provided pursuant to a plan, policy, or arrangement applicable to management employees of the company generally, such as relocation or expatriate tax equalization policy.

7. Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)

    We vote for proposals that request shareholder approval in order to implement an ESOP or to increase authorized shares for existing ESOPs, except in cases when the number of shares allocated to the ESOP is "excessive" (i.e., generally greater than five percent of outstanding shares).

8. Employee Stock Purchase Plans

    a. We vote for qualified plans where all of the following apply:

        - The purchase price is at least 85 percent of fair market value
        - The offering period is 27 months or less
        - The number of shares allocated to the plan is five percent or less of outstanding shares.

        If the above do not apply, we vote on a case-by-case basis.

    b. We vote for non-qualified plans where all of the following apply:

        - All employees of the company are eligible to participate (excluding 5 percent or more beneficial owners)
        - There are limits on employee contribution (ex: fixed dollar amount)
        - There is a company matching contribution with a maximum of 25 percent of an employee's contribution
        - There is no discount on the stock price on purchase date (since there is a company match)

        If the above do not apply, we vote against the non-qualified employee stock purchase plan.

9. 401(k) Employee Benefit Plans

    We vote for proposals to implement a 401(k) savings plan for employees.

10. Stock Compensation Plans

    a. We vote for stock compensation plans which provide a dollar-for-dollar cash for stock exchange.

    b. We vote on a case-by-case basis for stock compensation plans which do not provide a dollar-for-dollar cash for stock exchange using a quantitative model.

11. Directors Retirement Plans

    a. We vote against retirement plans for non-employee directors.

    b. We vote for shareholder proposals to eliminate retirement plans for non-employee directors.

12. Management Proposals to Reprice Options

    We vote against management proposals seeking approval to reprice options.

13. Shareholder Proposals Regarding Executive and Director Pay

    a. We vote against shareholder proposals seeking to set absolute levels on compensation or otherwise dictate the amount or form of compensation.

    b. We vote against shareholder proposals requiring director fees be paid in stock only.

    c. We vote against shareholder proposals to eliminate vesting of options and restricted stock on change of control.

    d. We vote for shareholder proposals to put option repricing to a shareholder vote.

    e. We vote for shareholder proposals that call for a non-binding advisory vote on executive pay ("say-on-pay"). Company boards would adopt a policy giving shareholders the opportunity at each annual meeting to vote on an advisory resolution to ratify the compensation of the named executive officers set forth in the proxy statement's summary compensation table.

f. We vote “annual” for the frequency of say-on-pay proposals rather than once every two or three years.

g. We vote on a case-by-case basis for all other shareholder proposals regarding executive and director pay, taking into account company performance, pay level versus peers, pay level versus industry, and long term corporate outlook.

14. Management Proposals on Executive Compensation

For non-binding advisory votes on executive officer compensation, when management and the external service provider agree, we vote for the proposal. When management and the external service provider disagree, the proposal becomes a refer item. In the case of a Refer item, the factors under consideration will include the following:

- Company performance over the last 1, 3, and 5-year periods on a total shareholder return basis
- Performance metrics for short- and long-term incentive programs
- CEO pay relative to company performance (is there a misalignment)
- Tax gross-ups to senior executives
- Change-in-control arrangements
- Presence of a clawback provision, ownership guidelines, or stock holding requirements for senior executives

15. Stock Retention / Holding Period of Equity Awards

We vote on a case-by-case basis on shareholder proposals asking companies to adopt policies requiring senior executives to retain all or a significant (>50 percent) portion of their shares acquired through equity compensation plans, either:

- While employed and/or for one to two years following the termination of their employment; or
- For a substantial period following the lapse of all other vesting requirements for the award, with ratable release of a portion of the shares annually during the lock-up period

The following factors will be taken into consideration:

- Whether the company has any holding period, retention ratio, or named executive officer ownership requirements currently in place
- Actual stock ownership of the company’s named executive officers
- Policies aimed at mitigating risk taking by senior executives
- Pay practices at the company that we deem problematic

I. State/Country of Incorporation

1. Voting on State Takeover Statutes

a. We vote for proposals to opt out of state freeze-out provisions.

b. We vote for proposals to opt out of state disgorgement provisions.

2. Voting on Re-incorporation Proposals

We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals to change a company's state or country of incorporation. Considerations include: reasons for re-incorporation (i.e. financial, restructuring, etc); advantages/benefits for change (i.e. lower taxes); compare the differences in state/country laws governing the corporation.

3. Control Share Acquisition Provisions

    a. We vote against proposals to amend the charter to include control share acquisition provisions.

    b. We vote for proposals to opt out of control share acquisition statutes unless doing so would enable the completion of a takeover that would be detrimental to shareholders.

    c. We vote for proposals to restore voting rights to the control shares.

    d. We vote for proposals to opt out of control share cashout statutes.

J. Mergers and Corporate Restructuring

1. Mergers and Acquisitions

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on mergers and acquisitions. Considerations include: benefits/advantages of the combined companies (i.e. economies of scale, operating synergies, increase in market power/share, etc.); offer price (premium or discount); change in the capital structure; impact on shareholder rights.

2. Corporate Restructuring

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on corporate restructuring proposals involving minority squeeze outs and leveraged buyouts. Considerations include: offer price, other alternatives/offers considered and review of fairness opinions.

3. Spin-offs

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on spin-offs. Considerations include the tax and regulatory advantages, planned use of sale proceeds, market focus, and managerial incentives.

4. Asset Sales

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on asset sales. Considerations include the impact on the balance sheet/working capital, value received for the asset, and potential elimination of diseconomies.

5. Liquidations

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on liquidations after reviewing management's efforts to pursue other alternatives, appraisal value of assets, and the compensation plan for executives managing the liquidation.

6. Appraisal Rights

    a. We vote for proposals to restore, or provide shareholders with, rights of appraisal.

7. Changing Corporate Name

    a. We vote for proposals to change the “corporate name”, unless the proposed name change bears a negative connotation.

8. Conversion of Securities

    a. We vote on a case-by-case basis on proposals regarding conversion of securities. Considerations include the dilution to existing shareholders, the conversion price relative to market value, financial issues, control issues, termination penalties, and conflicts of interest.

9. Stakeholder Provisions

a. We vote against proposals that ask the board to consider non-shareholder constituencies or other non-financial effects when evaluating a merger or business combination.

K. Social and Environmental Issues

When considering environmental and social (E&S) proposals, we have an obligation to vote proxies in the best interest of our clients, considering both shareholder value as well as societal impact.

1. Sustainability Reporting

   a. We vote for proposals seeking greater disclosure on the company's environmental, social & governance policies and practices;

   b. We vote for proposals that would require companies whose annual revenues are at least $5 billion to prepare a sustainability report. All others will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

2. Diversity

   a. We vote for proposals supporting nomination of most qualified candidates, inclusive of a diverse pool of women and people of color, to the Board of Directors and senior management levels;

   b. We vote for proposals requesting comprehensive disclosure on board diversity;

   c. We vote for proposals requesting comprehensive disclosure on employee diversity;

   d. We vote for proposals requesting comprehensive reports on gender and racial pay disparity;

3. Climate Risk Disclosure

   a. We vote for climate proposals that are not overly prescriptive seeking more disclosure on financial, physical or regulatory risks related to climate change and/or how the company measures and manages such risks;

   b. We vote for climate proposals that are not overly prescriptive requesting a report/disclosure of goals on GHG emissions reduction targets from company operations and/or products;

4. Case-by-case E&S proposals (examples)

   a. Animal welfare policies

   b. Human rights and related company policies

   c. Talent acquisition and retention policies; we generally support proposals that enable a company to recruit, support and retain talent in a globally competitive world

   d. Operations in high-risk or sensitive areas

   e. Product integrity and marketing

   f. Proposals asking a company to conduct an independent racial equity and/or civil rights audit.

L. Miscellaneous

1. Charitable Contributions

   We vote against proposals to eliminate, direct or otherwise restrict charitable contributions.

2. Political Contributions

   We will vote in favor of non-binding proposals for reports on corporate lobbying and political contributions.

In general, we vote on a case-by-case basis on other shareholder proposals pertaining to political contributions. In determining our vote on political contribution proposals we consider, among other things, the following:

- Does the company have a political contributions policy publicly available
- How extensive is the disclosure on these documents
- What oversight mechanisms the company has in place for approving/reviewing political contributions and expenditures
- Does the company provide information on its trade association expenditures
- Total amount of political expenditure by the company in recent history

3. Operational Items

   a. We vote against proposals to provide management with the authority to adjourn an annual or special meeting absent compelling reasons to support the proposal.

   b. We vote against proposals to reduce quorum requirements for shareholder meetings below a majority of the shares outstanding unless there are compelling reasons to support the proposal.

   c. We vote for by-law or charter changes that are of a housekeeping nature (updates or corrections).

   d. We vote for management proposals to change the date/time/location of the annual meeting unless the proposed change is unreasonable.

   e. We vote against shareholder proposals to change the date/time/location of the annual meeting unless the current scheduling or location is unreasonable.

   f. We vote against proposals to approve other business when it appears as voting item.

4. Routine Agenda Items

   In some markets, shareholders are routinely asked to approve:

   - the opening of the shareholder meeting
   - that the meeting has been convened under local regulatory requirements
   - the presence of a quorum
   - the agenda for the shareholder meeting
   - the election of the chair of the meeting
   - regulatory filings
   - the allowance of questions
   - the publication of minutes
   - the closing of the shareholder meeting

   We generally vote for these and similar routine management proposals.

5. Allocation of Income and Dividends

   We generally vote for management proposals concerning allocation of income and the distribution of dividends, unless the amount of the distribution is consistently and unusually small or large.

6. Stock (Scrip) Dividend Alternatives

a. We vote for most stock (scrip) dividend proposals.

b. We vote against proposals that do not allow for a cash option unless management demonstrates that the cash option is harmful to shareholder value.

ClearBridge has determined that portfolio holdings that are registered investment companies, particularly closed end investment companies, raise special policy issues making specific voting guidelines frequently inapplicable. To the extent that ClearBridge has proxy voting authority with respect to shares of registered investment companies, ClearBridge shall vote such shares in the best interest of client accounts and subject to the general fiduciary principles set forth herein without regard to the specific voting guidelines set forth in Appendix A, A. through L.

The voting policy guidelines set forth herein will be reviewed annually and may be changed by ClearBridge's Proxy Committee in its sole discretion.

Appendix A

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions, a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, comprised of investment personnel from the SEC-registered investment advisers listed on Appendix A (hereinafter individually an "Investment Manager" and collectively the "Investment Managers") have delegated the administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for securities to the Franklin Templeton Proxy Group. Proxy duties consist of disseminating proxy materials and analyses of issuers whose stock is owned by any client (including both investment companies and any separate accounts managed by the Investment Managers) that has either delegated proxy voting administrative responsibility to the Investment Managers or has asked for information and/or recommendations on the issues to be voted. The Investment Managers will inform advisory clients that have not delegated the voting responsibility but that have requested voting advice about the Investment Managers' views on such proxy votes. The Proxy Group also provides these services to other advisory affiliates of the Investment Managers.

The Proxy Group will process proxy votes on behalf of, and the Investment Managers vote proxies solely in the best interests of, separate account clients, the Investment Managers'-managed investment company shareholders, or shareholders of funds that have appointed Franklin Templeton International Services S.à.r.l. ("FTIS S.à.r.l.") as the Management Company, provided such funds or clients have properly delegated such responsibility in writing, or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved ("ERISA accounts"), in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively, "Advisory Clients"), unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the Investment Managers or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the Investment Managers from voting proxies. The Investment Managers recognize that the exercise of voting rights on securities held by ERISA plans for which the Investment Managers have voting responsibility is a fiduciary duty that must be exercised with care, skill, prudence and diligence.

In certain circumstances, Advisory Clients are permitted to direct their votes in a solicitation pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. An Advisory Client that wishes to direct its vote shall give reasonable prior written notice to the Investment Managers indicating such intention and provide written instructions directing the Investment Managers or the Proxy Group to vote regarding the solicitation. Where such prior written notice is received, the Proxy Group will vote proxies in accordance with such written notification received from the Advisory Client.

The Investment Managers have adopted and implemented Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") that they believe are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of Advisory Clients in accordance with their fiduciary duties and rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. To the extent that the Investment Managers have a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client, the Investment Managers may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser. The Investment Managers may also delegate proxy voting responsibility to a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser in certain limited situations as disclosed to fund shareholders (e.g., where an Investment Manager to a pooled investment vehicle has engaged a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser to manage all or a portion of the assets).

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Investment Managers' instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the Investment Managers subscribe to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas and vote recommendations. In addition, the Investment Managers subscribe to ISS's Proxy Voting Service and Vote Disclosure Service. These services include receipt of proxy ballots, custodian bank relations, account maintenance, vote execution, ballot reconciliation, vote record maintenance, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and vote disclosure services. Also, the Investment

* Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") and Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (together the "Compliance Rule") require registered investment companies and registered investment advisers to, among other things, adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws ("Compliance Rule Policies and Procedures").

Managers subscribe to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research.

Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, and/or another independent third-party proxy service provider (each a “Proxy Service”) are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third-party to be determinative of the Investment Managers’ ultimate decision. Rather, the Investment Managers exercise their independent judgment in making voting decisions. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and employees of the Investment Managers and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients.

For ease of reference, the Proxy Policies often refer to all Advisory Clients. However, our processes and practices seek to ensure that proxy voting decisions are suitable for individual Advisory Clients. In some cases, the Investment Managers’ evaluation may result in an individual Advisory Client or Investment Manager voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the fund or account, the composition of its portfolio, whether the Investment Manager has adopted a specialty or custom voting policy, and other factors.

Conflicts of Interest

All conflicts of interest will be resolved in the best interests of the Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers are affiliates of a large, diverse financial services firm with many affiliates and make their best efforts to mitigate conflicts of interest. However, as a general matter, the Investment Managers take the position that relationships between certain affiliates that do not use the “Franklin Templeton” name (“Independent Affiliates”) and an issuer (e.g., an investment management relationship between an issuer and an Independent Affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for an Investment Manager in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because: (i) the Investment Managers operate as an independent business unit from the Independent Affiliate business units, and (ii) informational barriers exist between the Investment Managers and the Independent Affiliate business units.

Material conflicts of interest could arise in a variety of situations, including as a result of the Investment Managers’ or an affiliate’s (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above): (i) material business relationship with an issuer or proponent, (ii) direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an issuer or proponent; or (iii) significant personal or family relationship with an issuer or proponent. Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker dealer, and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public filings. The Proxy Group gathers and analyzes this information on a best-efforts basis, as much of this information is provided directly by individuals and groups other than the Proxy Group, and the Proxy Group relies on the accuracy of the information it receives from such parties.

Nonetheless, even though a potential conflict of interest between the Investment Managers or an affiliate (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above) and an issuer may exist: (1) the Investment Managers may vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer’s management even if contrary to the recommendations of a third-party proxy voting research provider; (2) if management has made no recommendations, the Proxy Group may defer to the voting instructions of the Investment Managers; and (3) with respect to shares held by Franklin Resources, Inc. or its affiliates for their own corporate accounts, such shares may be voted without regard to these conflict procedures.

Otherwise, in situations where a material conflict of interest is identified between the Investment Managers or one of its affiliates (other than Independent Affiliates) and an issuer, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Investment Managers’ recommendation regarding the vote for approval. To address certain affiliate conflict situations, the Investment Managers will employ pass-through voting or mirror voting when required pursuant to a fund’s governing documents or applicable law.

Where the Proxy Group refers a matter to an Advisory Client, it may rely upon the instructions of a representative of the Advisory Client, such as the board of directors or trustees, a committee of the board, or an appointed delegate in the case of a U.S. registered investment company, a conducting officer in the case of a fund that has appointed FTIS S.à.r.l as its Management Company, the Independent Review Committee for Canadian investment funds, or a plan administrator in the case of an employee benefit plan. A quorum of the board of directors or trustees or of a committee of the board can be reached by a majority of members, or a majority of non-recused members. The Proxy Group may determine to vote all shares held by Advisory Clients of the Investment Managers and affiliated Investment Managers (other than Independent Affiliates) in accordance with the instructions of one or more of the Advisory Clients.

The Investment Managers may also decide whether to vote proxies for securities deemed to present conflicts of interest that are sold following a record date, but before a shareholder meeting date. The Investment Managers may consider various factors in deciding whether to vote such proxies, including the Investment Managers' long-term view of the issuer's securities for investment, or it may defer the decision to vote to the applicable Advisory Client. The Investment Managers also may be unable to vote, or choose not to vote, a proxy for securities deemed to present a conflict of interest for any of the reasons outlined in the first paragraph of the section of these policies entitled "Proxy Procedures."

Weight Given Management Recommendations

One of the primary factors the Investment Managers consider when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company's management. Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the Investment Managers consider in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Each issue is considered on its own merits, and the Investment Managers will not support the position of a company's management in any situation where it determines that the ratification of management's position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company's shares.

Engagement with Issuers

The Investment Managers believe that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The Investment Managers may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The Investment Managers may also engage with management on a range of issues throughout the year.

THE PROXY GROUP

The Proxy Group's full-time staff members and support staff are devoted to proxy voting administration and oversight and providing support and assistance where needed. On a daily basis, the Proxy Group will review each proxy upon receipt as well as any agendas, materials and recommendations that they receive from a Proxy Service or other sources. The Proxy Group maintains a record of all shareholder meetings that are scheduled for companies whose securities are held by the Investment Managers' managed funds and accounts. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst that follows the security and provide the analyst with the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Investment Managers' research analyst and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company and any other information publicly available.

In situations where the Investment Managers have not responded with vote recommendations to the Proxy Group by the deadline date, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the vote recommendations of a Proxy Service. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Investment Managers' research analysts, relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or the Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote. In the event that an account holds a security that an Investment Manager did not purchase on its behalf, and the Investment Manager does not normally consider the security as a potential investment for other accounts, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendations of a Proxy Service or take no action on the meeting.

PROXY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Situations Where Proxies Are Not Voted

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records as may be required by relevant rules and regulations. In addition, the Investment Managers understand their fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Investment Managers will generally attempt to process every proxy they receive for all domestic and foreign securities.

However, there may be situations in which the Investment Managers may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if an Investment Manager votes a proxy or where the Investment Manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law,

economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney; (v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the Investment Managers held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) the Advisory Client held shares on the record date, but the Advisory Client closed the account prior to the meeting date; (viii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (ix) due to either system error or human error, the Investment Managers' intended vote is not correctly submitted; (x) the Investment Managers believe it is not in the best interest of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (xi) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

Rejected Votes

Even if the Investment Managers use reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of their Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Investment Managers do not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Investment Managers. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Investment Managers' votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

Securities on Loan

The Investment Managers or their affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the Investment Managers or their affiliates, make efforts to recall any security on loan where the Investment Manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on an event that may materially affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The ability to timely recall shares is not entirely within the control of the Investment Managers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates or other administrative considerations.

Split Voting

There may be instances in certain non-U.S. markets where split voting is not allowed. Split voting occurs when a position held within an account is voted in accordance with two differing instructions. Some markets and/or issuers only allow voting on an entire position and do not accept split voting. In certain cases, when more than one Franklin Templeton investment manager has accounts holding shares of an issuer that are held in an omnibus structure, the Proxy Group will seek direction from an appropriate representative of the Advisory Client with multiple Investment Managers (such as a conducting officer of the Management Company in the case of a SICAV), or the Proxy Group will submit the vote based on the voting instructions provided by the Investment Manager with accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the security within the omnibus structure.

Bundled Items

If several issues are bundled together in a single voting item, the Investment Managers will assess the total benefit to shareholders and the extent that such issues should be subject to separate voting proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS INVOLVING FIXED INCOME SECURITIES & PRIVATELY HELD ISSUERS

From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the Investment Managers for each account or fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the Investment Managers, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The Investment Managers may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled "Proxy Procedures."

In the rare instance where there is a vote for a privately held issuer, the decision will generally be made by the relevant portfolio managers or research analysts.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities or privately held issuers for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures. If a fixed income or privately held issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the Investment Managers may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of its Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers will report such decisions on an annual basis to Advisory Clients as may be required.

Appendix A

These Proxy Policies apply to accounts managed by personnel within Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions, which includes the following Investment Managers:

Franklin Advisers, Inc. (FAV)
Franklin Advisory Services, LLC (FASL)
Franklin Mutual Advisers LLC (FMA)
Franklin Templeton Investments Corp. (FTIC)
Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited (FTIML)
Templeton Asset Management Ltd. (TAML)

The following Proxy Policies apply to FAV, FMA, FTIC, FTIML, and TAML only:

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

Certain of the Investment Managers' separate accounts or funds (or a portion thereof) are included under Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions ("FTIS"), a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, and employ a quantitative strategy.

For such accounts, FTIS's proprietary methodologies rely on a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and behavioral analysis rather than fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively managed portfolio would ordinarily employ. Accordingly, absent client direction, in light of the high number of positions held by such accounts and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis.

In addition, the Investment Managers may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions however, there is no obligation or inference for the investment manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process, and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

The Investment Manager, however, retains the ability to vote a proxy differently than ISS or Glass Lewis recommends if the Investment Manager determines that it would be in the best interests of Advisory Clients.

The following Proxy Policies apply to FASL only:

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

Passively managed exchange traded funds (collectively, "ETFs"), seek to track a particular securities index. As a result, each ETF may hold the securities of hundreds of issuers. Because the primary criteria for determining whether a security should be included (or continued to be included) in an ETF's investment portfolio is whether such security is a representative component of the securities index that the ETF is seeking to track, the ETFs do not require the fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively managed portfolio would require. Accordingly, in light of the high number of positions held by an ETF and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis rather than analyze each individual proxy vote. Permitting the Investment Manager of the ETFs to defer its judgment for voting on a proxy to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis may result in a proxy related to the securities of a particular issuer held by an ETF being voted differently from the same proxy that is voted on by other funds managed by the Investment Managers.

In addition, the investment managers may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions however,

there is no obligation or inference for the investment manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process, and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

The following Proxy Policies apply to FTIC, FTIML, and TAML only:

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

For accounts managed by the Templeton Global Equity Group ("TGEG"), in making voting decisions, the Investment Manager may consider Glass Lewis's Proxy Voting Guidelines, ISS's Policies' and TGEG's custom sustainability guidelines, where appropriate.

The following Proxy Policies apply to FTIC only:

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

To the extent that the Investment Manager has a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client or the Investment Manager chooses securities for an Advisory Client's portfolios that are recommended by an Affiliated Subadviser, the Investment Manager may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser or vote proxies in accordance with the Affiliated Subadviser's recommendations.

Appendix A

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGER TO VOTE PROXIES

Franklin Mutual Advisers, LLC (hereinafter the "Investment Manager") has delegated its administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for securities to the Franklin Templeton Proxy Group. Proxy duties consist of disseminating proxy materials and analyses of issuers whose stock is owned by any client (including both investment companies and any separate accounts managed by the Investment Manager) that has either delegated proxy voting administrative responsibility to the Investment Manager or has asked for information and/or recommendations on the issues to be voted. The Investment Manager will inform advisory clients that have not delegated the voting responsibility but that have requested voting advice about the Investment Manager's views on such proxy votes. The Proxy Group also provides these services to other advisory affiliates of the Investment Manager.

The Proxy Group will process proxy votes on behalf of, and the Investment Manager votes proxies solely in the best interests of, separate account clients, the Investment Manager-managed investment company shareholders, or shareholders of funds that have appointed Franklin Templeton International Services S.à.r.l. (“FTIS S.à.r.l.”) as the Management Company, provided such funds or clients have properly delegated such responsibility in writing, or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved (“ERISA accounts”), in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively, "Advisory Clients"), unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the Investment Manager or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the Investment Manager from voting proxies. The Investment Manager recognizes that the exercise of voting rights on securities held by ERISA plans for which the Investment Manager has voting responsibility is a fiduciary duty that must be exercised with care, skill, prudence and diligence.

In certain circumstances, Advisory Clients are permitted to direct their votes in a solicitation pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. An Advisory Client that wishes to direct its vote shall give reasonable prior written notice to the Investment Manager indicating such intention and provide written instructions directing the Investment Manager or the Proxy Group to vote regarding the solicitation. Where such prior written notice is received, the Proxy Group will vote proxies in accordance with such written notification received from the Advisory Client.

The Investment Manager has adopted and implemented Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures (“Proxy Policies”) that it believes are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of Advisory Clients in accordance with its fiduciary duties and rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. To the extent that the Investment Manager has a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the “Affiliated Subadviser”) with respect to a particular Advisory Client, the Investment Manager may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser. The Investment Manager may also delegate proxy voting responsibility to a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser in certain limited situations as disclosed to fund shareholders (e.g., where an Investment Manager to a pooled investment vehicle has engaged a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser to manage all or a portion of the assets).

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGER VOTES PROXIES

Proxy Services

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Investment Manager's instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the Investment Manager subscribes to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas and vote recommendations. In addition, the Investment Manager subscribes to ISS’s Proxy Voting Service and Vote Disclosure Service. These services include receipt of proxy ballots, custodian bank relations, account maintenance, vote execution, ballot reconciliation, vote record maintenance, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and vote disclosure services. Also, the Investment Manager subscribes to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive

* Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (“1940 Act”) and Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (“Advisers Act”) (together the “Compliance Rule”) require registered investment companies and registered investment advisers to, among other things, adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws (“Compliance Rule Policies and Procedures”).

analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research. Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, and/or another independent third-party proxy service provider (each a "Proxy Service") are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Investment Manager does not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third-party to be determinative of the Investment Manager's ultimate decision. Rather, the Investment Manager exercises its independent judgment in making voting decisions. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and employees of the Investment Manager and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients.

For ease of reference, the Proxy Policies often refer to all Advisory Clients. However, our processes and practices seek to ensure that proxy voting decisions are suitable for individual Advisory Clients. In some cases, the Investment Manager's evaluation may result in an individual Advisory Client or Investment Manager voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the fund or account, the composition of its portfolio, whether the Investment Manager has adopted a specialty or custom voting policy, and other factors.

Proxy Services

Certain of the Investment Managers' separate accounts or funds (or a portion thereof) are included under Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions ("FTIS"), a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, and employ a quantitative strategy. For such accounts, FTIS's proprietary methodologies rely on a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and behavioral analysis rather than fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively-managed portfolio would ordinarily employ. Accordingly, absent client direction, in light of the high number of positions held by such accounts and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis.

The Investment Manager, however, retains the ability to vote a proxy differently than ISS or Glass Lewis recommends if the Investment Manager determines that it would be in the best interests of Advisory Clients.

Conflicts of Interest

All conflicts of interest will be resolved in the best interests of the Advisory Clients. The Investment Manager is an affiliate of a large, diverse financial services firm with many affiliates and makes its best efforts to mitigate conflicts of interest. However, as a general matter, the Investment Manager takes the position that relationships between certain affiliates that do not use the "Franklin Templeton" name ("Independent Affiliates") and an issuer (e.g., an investment management relationship between an issuer and an Independent Affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for the Investment Manager in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because: (i) the Investment Manager operates as an independent business unit from the Independent Affiliate business units, and (ii) informational barriers exist between the Investment Manager and the Independent Affiliate business units.

Material conflicts of interest could arise in a variety of situations, including as a result of the Investment Manager's or an affiliate's (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above): (i) material business relationship with an issuer or proponent, (ii) direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an issuer or proponent; or (iii) significant personal or family relationship with an issuer or proponent. Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker dealer, and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public filings. The Proxy Group gathers and analyzes this information on a best-efforts basis, as much of this information is provided directly by individuals and groups other than the Proxy Group, and the Proxy Group relies on the accuracy of the information it receives from such parties.

Nonetheless, even though a potential conflict of interest between the Investment Manager or an affiliate (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above) and an issuer may exist: (1) the Investment Manager may vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer's management even if contrary to the recommendations of a third-party proxy voting research provider; (2) if management has made no recommendations, the Proxy Group may defer to the voting instructions of the Investment Manager; and (3) with respect to shares held by Franklin Resources, Inc. or its affiliates for their own corporate accounts, such shares may be voted without regard to these conflict procedures.

Otherwise, in situations where a material conflict of interest is identified between the Investment Manager or one of its affiliates (other than Independent Affiliates) and an issuer, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Investment Manager's recommendation regarding the

vote for approval. To address certain affiliate conflict situations, the Investment Manager will employ pass-through voting or mirror voting when required pursuant to a fund's governing documents or applicable law.

Where the Proxy Group refers a matter to an Advisory Client, it may rely upon the instructions of a representative of the Advisory Client, such as the board of directors or trustees, a committee of the board, or an appointed delegate in the case of a U.S. registered investment company, a conducting officer in the case of a fund that has appointed FTIS S.à.r.l as its Management Company, the Independent Review Committee for Canadian investment funds, or a plan administrator in the case of an employee benefit plan. A quorum of the board of directors or trustees or of a committee of the board can be reached by a majority of members, or a majority of non-recused members. The Proxy Group may determine to vote all shares held by Advisory Clients of the Investment Manager and affiliated Investment Managers (other than Independent Affiliates) in accordance with the instructions of one or more of the Advisory Clients.

The Investment Manager may also decide whether to vote proxies for securities deemed to present conflicts of interest that are sold following a record date, but before a shareholder meeting date. The Investment Manager may consider various factors in deciding whether to vote such proxies, including the Investment Manager's long-term view of the issuer's securities for investment, or it may defer the decision to vote to the applicable Advisory Client. The Investment Manager also may be unable to vote, or choose not to vote, a proxy for securities deemed to present a conflict of interest for any of the reasons outlined in the first paragraph of the section of these policies entitled "Proxy Procedures."

Weight Given Management Recommendations

One of the primary factors the Investment Manager considers when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company's management. Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the Investment Manager considers in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the Investment Manager does not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the Investment Manager's ultimate decision. Each issue is considered on its own merits, and the Investment Manager will base its decision on its own analysis, proxy guidelines, and its judgment as to what is the best interest of the client. The recommendation of management will be an input into this analysis.

Engagement with Issuers

The Investment Manager believes that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The Investment Manager may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The Investment Manager may also engage with management on a range of issues throughout the year.

The Investment Manager may choose engagement as the preferred route to achieving change over voting for a proposal, which may be poorly written or overly burdensome, but where there is a legitimate issue being raised. In such cases, the Investment Manager will consider management's response to such engagement in future votes.

THE PROXY GROUP

The Proxy Group's full-time staff members and support staff are devoted to proxy voting administration and oversight and providing support and assistance where needed. On a daily basis, the Proxy Group will review each proxy upon receipt as well as any agendas, materials and recommendations that they receive from a Proxy Service or other sources. The Proxy Group maintains a record of all shareholder meetings that are scheduled for companies whose securities are held by the Investment Manager's managed funds and accounts. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst that follows the security and provide the analyst with the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Investment Manager's research analyst and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company, the investment objectives of the client if known, and any other information publicly available.

In situations where the Investment Manager has not responded with vote recommendations to the Proxy Group by the deadline date, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the vote recommendations of a Proxy Service. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Investment Manager's research analyst, relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or the Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote. In the event that an account holds a security that the Investment Manager did not purchase on its behalf, and the Investment Manager does not normally consider the security as a potential investment for other accounts, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendations of a Proxy Service or take no action on the meeting.

GENERAL PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

The Investment Manager has adopted general guidelines for voting proxies as summarized below. In keeping with its fiduciary obligations to its Advisory Clients, the Investment Manager reviews all proposals, even those that may be considered to be routine matters. Although these guidelines are to be followed as a general policy, in all cases each proxy and proposal (including both management and shareholder proposals) will be considered based on the relevant facts and circumstances on a case-by- case basis. The Investment Manager may deviate from the general policies and procedures when it determines that the particular facts and circumstances warrant such deviation to protect the best interests of the Advisory Clients. These guidelines cannot provide an exhaustive list of all the issues that may arise, nor can the Investment Manager anticipate all future situations. Corporate governance issues are diverse and continually evolving and the Investment Manager devotes significant time and resources to monitor these changes.

THE INVESTMENT MANAGER'S PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

The Investment Manager's proxy voting positions have been developed based on years of experience with proxy voting and corporate governance issues. These principles have been reviewed by various members of the Investment Manager's organization, including portfolio management, legal counsel, and the Investment Manager's officers. Potential changes to the proxy voting policies are considered on an annual basis, and the Board of Directors of Franklin Templeton's U.S.-registered investment companies will approve the proxy voting policies and procedures annually.

The following guidelines reflect what the Investment Manager believes to be good corporate governance and behavior:

Board of Directors: The election of directors and an independent board are key to good corporate governance. Directors are expected to be competent individuals and they should be accountable and responsive to shareholders. The Investment Manager supports an independent, diverse board of directors, and believes that key committees such as audit, nominating, and compensation committees should be comprised of independent directors. The Investment Manager supports boards with strong risk management oversight and clear disclosures regarding the Board of Directors' role and responsibilities.

In evaluating its vote for directors, the Investment Manager will consider the individual's qualifications, their ability to devote sufficient time to the Board, and their independence from management, as well as the overall composition of the Board. As it relates to the composition of a Board, the Investment Manager will consider current local market best practices and governance structures. Consideration will be given to the different qualifications and expertise of each director and the relevance of their experience to the company's operations, how representative the Board is of the company's operations, diversity of experience and backgrounds and other factors deemed relevant to that specific situation. Additionally, the Investment Manager will consider withholding votes from directors chairing or serving on committees which in its view have not been sufficiently responsive to shareholder concerns.

The Investment Manager will generally vote against management efforts to classify a board and will generally support proposals to declassify the board of directors. The Investment Manager will consider withholding votes from directors who have attended less than 75% of meetings without a valid reason. The Investment Manager will generally vote in favor of separating Chair and CEO positions, although consideration will be given to whether there is a strong Lead Independent Director as well as the company's corporate governance performance generally. The Investment Manager evaluates proposals to restore or provide for cumulative voting on a case-by-case basis and considers such factors as corporate governance provisions as well as relative performance. The Investment Manager generally will support non-binding shareholder proposals to require a majority vote standard for the election of directors; however, if these proposals are binding, the Investment Manager will give careful review on a case-by-case basis of the potential ramifications of such implementation. In control situations, the Investment Manager will consider the specific circumstances of the situation. In general, the Investment Manager will focus on the protection of minority shareholder rights, and the history of the exercise of control by the controlling shareholder(s). While the general proxy voting guidelines generally apply to control situations as well, the Investment Manager will be mindful of the specifics of the situation in evaluating any matter up for vote.

In the event of a contested election, the Investment Manager will review a number of factors in making a decision including management's track record, the company's financial performance, qualifications of candidates on both slates, and the strategic plan of the dissidents and/or shareholder nominees.

Ratification of Auditors: The Investment Manager will closely scrutinize the independence, role, and performance of auditors. On a case-by-case basis, The Investment Manager will examine proposals relating to non-audit relationships and non-audit fees. The Investment Manager will also consider, on a case-by-case basis, proposals to rotate auditors, and will vote against the ratification

of auditors when there is clear and compelling evidence of a lack of independence, accounting irregularities or negligence attributable to the auditors. The Investment Manager may also consider whether the ratification of auditors has been approved by an appropriate audit committee that meets applicable composition and independence requirements.

Management & Director Compensation: A company's equity-based compensation plan should be in alignment with the shareholders' long-term interests. The Investment Manager believes that executive compensation should be directly linked to the performance of the company. The Investment Manager evaluates plans on a case-by-case basis by considering several factors to determine whether the plan is fair and reasonable. The Investment Manager reviews the ISS quantitative model utilized to assess such plans and/or the Glass Lewis evaluation of the plan. The Investment Manager will generally oppose plans that have the potential to be excessively dilutive and will almost always oppose plans that are structured to allow the repricing of underwater options, or plans that have an automatic share replenishment "evergreen" feature. The Investment Manager will generally support employee stock option plans in which the purchase price is at least 85% of fair market value, and when potential dilution is 10% or less.

Severance compensation arrangements will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, although the Investment Manager will generally oppose "golden parachutes" that are considered excessive or include tax gross-ups. The Investment Manager will normally support proposals that require that a percentage of directors' compensation be in the form of common stock, as it aligns their interests with those of the shareholders.

The Investment Manager will generally support holding say-on-pay votes annually. The Investment Manager will review non-binding say-on-pay proposals on a case-by-case basis. The Investment Manager will consider ISS's and/or Glass Lewis's analysis of the plan, the alignment of pay and performance, the overall structure of the plan, the metrics used to judge performance and management performance. This will all be considered in light of current best practice for the local market. The Investment Manager will generally seek strong disclosure of the basis and rationale for pay decisions. Any discretionary elements of the compensation plan will be reviewed on the basis of sound judgement. Repricing of compensation awards, retroactive adjustments favoring management, or discretion which is considered poorly exercised will lead to strong consideration of a vote against the compensation decision.

In addition, the Investment Manager may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions, however there is no obligation or inference for the Investment Manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process, and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

Anti-Takeover Mechanisms and Related Issues: The Investment Manager generally opposes anti-takeover measures since they tend to reduce shareholder rights. However, as with all proxy issues, the Investment Manager conducts an independent review of each anti-takeover proposal. On occasion, the Investment Manager may vote with management when the research analyst has concluded that the proposal is not onerous and would not harm Advisory Clients' interests as stockholders. The Investment Manager generally supports proposals that require shareholder rights plans ("poison pills") to be subject to a shareholder vote. The Investment Manager will closely evaluate shareholder rights' plans on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not they warrant support. The Investment Manager will generally vote against any proposal to issue stock that has unequal or subordinate voting rights. In addition, the Investment Manager generally opposes any supermajority voting requirements as well as the payment of "greenmail." The Investment Manager usually supports "fair price" provisions and confidential voting. The Investment Manager will review a company's proposal to reincorporate to a different state or country on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration financial benefits such as tax treatment as well as comparing corporate governance provisions and general business laws that may result from the change in domicile. The Investment Manager will generally support strong rights for shareholders as it relates to calling special meetings and acting by written consent.

Changes to Capital Structure: The Investment Manager realizes that a company's financing decisions have a significant impact on its shareholders, particularly when they involve the issuance of additional shares of common or preferred stock or the assumption of additional debt. The Investment Manager will carefully review, on a case-by-case basis, proposals by companies to increase authorized shares and the purpose for the increase. The Investment Manager will generally not vote in favor of dual- class capital structures to increase the number of authorized shares where that class of stock would have superior voting rights. The Investment Manager will generally vote in favor of the issuance of preferred stock in cases where the company specifies the voting, dividend, conversion and other rights of such stock and the terms of the preferred stock issuance are deemed reasonable. The Investment Manager will review proposals seeking preemptive rights on a case-by-case basis.

Mergers and Corporate Restructuring: Mergers and acquisitions will be subject to careful review by the research analyst to determine whether they would be beneficial to shareholders. The Investment Manager will analyze various economic and strategic factors in making the final decision on a merger or acquisition. Corporate restructuring proposals are also subject to a thorough examination on a case-by-case basis.

Political Lobbying: The Investment Manager believes that companies should have strong oversight of lobbying spending and political contributions, with the oversight process clearly explained to shareholders. The Investment Manager believes such spending and contributions should be thoroughly disclosed and readily accessible. The Investment Manager believes all lobbying spending should be consistent with the company's stated strategies and policies. The Investment Manager will consider any shareholder proposals related to lobbying and political contributions based on the specifics of the situation, with these guidelines in mind.

Human Capital Management & Diversity: The Investment Manager will generally support reasonable shareholder resolutions requesting disclosure of diversity data and targets and disclosure on gender pay gaps within companies, while considering existing policies and procedures of the company, local market norms, and whether the proposed information is useful to shareholders.

Governance Matters: The Investment Manager generally supports the right of shareholders to call special meetings and act by written consent. However, the Investment Manager will review such shareholder proposals on a case-by-case basis in an effort to ensure that such proposals do not disrupt the course of business or require a disproportionate or inappropriate use of company resources.

Proxy Access: The Investment Manager will consider shareholder proxy access proposals on a case-by-case basis, taking into account factors such as the size of the company, ownership thresholds and holding periods, nomination limits (e.g., number of candidates that can be nominated), the responsiveness of management, the intentions of the shareholder proponent, company performance, and shareholder base.

Global Corporate Governance: The Investment Manager manages investments in countries worldwide. Many of the tenets discussed above generally apply to the Investment Manager's proxy voting decisions around the world, subject to local market best practices. Principles of good corporate governance may vary by country, given the constraints of a country's laws and acceptable practices in the markets. As a result, it is on occasion difficult to apply a consistent set of governance practices to all issuers. As experienced money managers, the Investment Manager's analysts are skilled in understanding the complexities of the regions in which they specialize and are trained to analyze proxy issues germane to their regions.

PROXY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Situations Where Proxies Are Not Voted

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records as may be required by relevant rules and regulations. In addition, the Investment Manager understands its fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Investment Manager will generally attempt to process every proxy it receives for all domestic and foreign securities. However, there may be situations in which the Investment Manager may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if the Investment Manager votes a proxy or where the Investment Manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law, economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney; (v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the Investment Manager held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) the Advisory Client held shares on the record date, but the Advisory Client closed the account prior to the meeting date; (viii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (ix) due to either system error or human error, the Investment Manager's intended vote is not correctly submitted; (x) the Investment Manager believes it is not in the best interest of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (xi) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

Rejected Votes

Even if the Investment Manager uses reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of its Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Investment Manager does not

have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Investment Manager. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Investment Manager's votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

Securities on Loan

The Investment Manager or its affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the Investment Manager or its affiliates, make efforts to recall any security on loan where the Investment Manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on an event that may materially affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The ability to timely recall shares is not entirely within the control of the Investment Manager. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates or other administrative considerations.

Split Voting

There may be instances in certain non-U.S. markets where split voting is not allowed. Split voting occurs when a position held within an account is voted in accordance with two differing instructions. Some markets and/or issuers only allow voting on an entire position and do not accept split voting. In certain cases, when more than one Franklin Templeton Investment Manager has accounts holding shares of an issuer that are held in an omnibus structure, the Proxy Group will seek direction from an appropriate representative of the Advisory Client with multiple Investment Managers (such as a conducting officer of the Management Company in the case of a SICAV), or the Proxy Group will submit the vote based on the voting instructions provided by the Investment Manager with accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the security within the omnibus structure.

Bundled Items

If several issues are bundled together in a single voting item, the Investment Manager will assess the total benefit to shareholders and the extent that such issues should be subject to separate voting proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS INVOLVING FIXED INCOME SECURITIES & PRIVATELY HELD ISSUERS

From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the Investment Manager for each account or fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the Investment Manager, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The Investment Manager may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled "Proxy Procedures."

In the rare instance where there is a vote for a privately held issuer, the decision will generally be made by the relevant portfolio managers or research analysts.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities or privately held issuers for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures. If a fixed income or privately held issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the Investment Manager may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of its Advisory Clients. The Investment Manager will report such decisions on an annual basis to Advisory Clients as may be required.

Appendix A

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

Franklin Templeton Emerging Markets Equity Group, a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, comprised of investment personnel from the SEC-registered investment advisers listed on Appendix A (hereinafter individually an "Investment Manager" and collectively the "Investment Managers") have delegated the administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for securities to the Franklin Templeton Proxy Group. Proxy duties consist of disseminating proxy materials and analyses of issuers whose stock is owned by any client (including both investment companies and any separate accounts managed by the Investment Managers) that has either delegated proxy voting administrative responsibility to the Investment Managers or has asked for information and/or recommendations on the issues to be voted. The Investment Managers will inform advisory clients that have not delegated the voting responsibility but that have requested voting advice about the Investment Managers' views on such proxy votes. The Proxy Group also provides these services to other advisory affiliates of the Investment Managers.

The Proxy Group will process proxy votes on behalf of, and the Investment Managers vote proxies solely in the best interests of, separate account clients, the Investment Managers'-managed investment company shareholders, or shareholders of funds that have appointed Franklin Templeton International Services S.à.r.l. ("FTIS S.à.r.l.") as the Management Company, provided such funds or clients have properly delegated such responsibility in writing, or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved ("ERISA accounts"), in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively, "Advisory Clients"), unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the Investment Managers or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the Investment Managers from voting proxies. The Investment Managers recognize that the exercise of voting rights on securities held by ERISA plans for which the Investment Managers have voting responsibility is a fiduciary duty that must be exercised with care, skill, prudence and diligence.

In certain circumstances, Advisory Clients are permitted to direct their votes in a solicitation pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. An Advisory Client that wishes to direct its vote shall give reasonable prior written notice to the Investment Managers indicating such intention and provide written instructions directing the Investment Managers or the Proxy Group to vote regarding the solicitation. Where such prior written notice is received, the Proxy Group will vote proxies in accordance with such written notification received from the Advisory Client.

The Investment Managers have adopted and implemented Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") that they believe are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of Advisory Clients in accordance with their fiduciary duties and rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. To the extent that the Investment Managers have a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client, the Investment Managers may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser. The Investment Managers may also delegate proxy voting responsibility to a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser in certain limited situations as disclosed to fund shareholders (e.g., where an Investment Manager to a pooled investment vehicle has engaged a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser to manage all or a portion of the assets).

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Investment Managers' instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the Investment Managers subscribe to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas and

* Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") and Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (together the "Compliance Rule") require registered investment companies and registered investment advisers to, among other things, adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws ("Compliance Rule Policies and Procedures").

vote recommendations. In addition, the Investment Managers subscribe to ISS's Proxy Voting Service and Vote Disclosure Service. These services include receipt of proxy ballots, custodian bank relations, account maintenance, vote execution, ballot reconciliation,vote record maintenance, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and vote disclosure services. Also, the Investment Managers subscribe to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research.

For accounts managed by the Templeton Global Equity Group ("TGEG"), in making voting decisions, the Investment Managers may consider Glass Lewis's proxy voting guidelines, ISS's guidelines, and TGEG's custom sustainability guidelines, where appropriate. Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, and/or another independent third-party proxy service provider (each a "Proxy Service") are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third-party to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Rather, the Investment Managers exercise their independent judgment in making voting decisions. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and employees of the Investment Managers and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients.

For ease of reference, the Proxy Policies often refer to all Advisory Clients. However, our processes and practices seek to ensure that proxy voting decisions are suitable for individual Advisory Clients. In some cases, the Investment Managers' evaluation may result in an individual Advisory Client or Investment Manager voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the fund or account, the composition of its portfolio, whether the Investment Manager has adopted a specialty or custom voting policy, and other factors.

Proxy Services

Certain of the Investment Managers' separate accounts or funds (or a portion thereof) are included under Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions ("FTIS"), a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, and employ a quantitative strategy.

For such accounts, FTIS's proprietary methodologies rely on a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and behavioral analysis rather than fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively-managed portfolio would ordinarily employ. Accordingly, absent client direction, in light of the high number of positions held by such accounts and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis.

In addition, the Investment Managers may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions; however, there is no obligation or inference for the Investment Manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process, and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

The Investment Manager, however, retains the ability to vote a proxy differently than ISS or Glass Lewis recommends if the Investment Manager determines that it would be in the best interests of Advisory Clients.

Conflicts of Interest

All conflicts of interest will be resolved in the best interests of the Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers are affiliates of a large, diverse financial services firm with many affiliates and make their best efforts to mitigate conflicts of interest. However, as a general matter, the Investment Managers take the position that relationships between certain affiliates that do not use the "Franklin Templeton" name ("Independent Affiliates") and an issuer (e.g., an investment management relationship between an issuer and an Independent Affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for an Investment Manager in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because: (i) the Investment Managers operate as an independent business unit from the Independent Affiliate business units, and (ii) informational barriers exist between the Investment Managers and the Independent Affiliate business units.

Material conflicts of interest could arise in a variety of situations, including as a result of the Investment Managers' or an affiliate's (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above): (i) material business relationship with an issuer or proponent, (ii) direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an issuer or proponent; or (iii) significant personal or family relationship with an issuer or proponent. Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker dealer, and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public

filings. The Proxy Group gathers and analyzes this information on a best-efforts basis, as much of this information is provided directly by individuals and groups other than the Proxy Group, and the Proxy Group relies on the accuracy of the information it receives from such parties.

Nonetheless, even though a potential conflict of interest between the Investment Managers or an affiliate (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above) and an issuer may exist: (1) the Investment Managers may vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer's management even if contrary to the recommendations of a third-party proxy voting research provider; (2) if management has made no recommendations, the Proxy Group may defer to the voting instructions of the Investment Managers; and (3) with respect to shares held by Franklin Resources, Inc. or its affiliates for their own corporate accounts, such shares may be voted without regard to these conflict procedures.

Otherwise, in situations where a material conflict of interest is identified between the Investment Managers or one of its affiliates (other than Independent Affiliates) and an issuer, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Investment Managers' recommendation regarding the vote for approval. To address certain affiliate conflict situations, the Investment Managers will employ pass-through voting or mirror voting when required pursuant to a fund's governing documents or applicable law.

Where the Proxy Group refers a matter to an Advisory Client, it may rely upon the instructions of a representative of the Advisory Client, such as the board of directors or trustees, a committee of the board, or an appointed delegate in the case of a U.S. registered investment company, a conducting officer in the case of a fund that has appointed FTIS S.à.r.l as its Management Company, the Independent Review Committee for Canadian investment funds, or a plan administrator in the case of an employee benefit plan. A quorum of the board of directors or trustees or of a committee of the board can be reached by a majority of members, or a majority of non-recused members. The Proxy Group may determine to vote all shares held by Advisory Clients of the Investment Managers and affiliated Investment Managers (other than Independent Affiliates) in accordance with the instructions of one or more of the Advisory Clients.

The Investment Managers may also decide whether to vote proxies for securities deemed to present conflicts of interest that are sold following a record date, but before a shareholder meeting date. The Investment Managers may consider various factors in deciding whether to vote such proxies, including the Investment Managers' long-term view of the issuer's securities for investment, or it may defer the decision to vote to the applicable Advisory Client. The Investment Managers also may be unable to vote, or choose not to vote, a proxy for securities deemed to present a conflict of interest for any of the reasons outlined in the first paragraph of the section of these policies entitled "Proxy Procedures."

Weight Given Management Recommendations

One of the primary factors the Investment Managers consider when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company's management. Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the Investment Managers consider in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Each issue is considered on its own merits, and the Investment Managers will not support the position of a company's management in any situation where it determines that the ratification of management's position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company's shares.

Engagement with Issuers

The Investment Managers believe that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The Investment Managers may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The Investment Managers may also engage with management on a range of issues throughout the year.

THE PROXY GROUP

The Proxy Group's full-time staff members and support staff are devoted to proxy voting administration and oversight and providing support and assistance where needed. On a daily basis, the Proxy Group will review each proxy upon receipt as well as any agendas, materials and recommendations that they receive from a Proxy Service or other sources. The Proxy Group maintains a record of all shareholder meetings that are scheduled for companies whose securities are held by the Investment Managers' managed funds and accounts. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst

that follows the security and provide the analyst with the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Investment Managers' research analyst and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company and any other information publicly available.

In situations where the Investment Managers have not responded with vote recommendations to the Proxy Group by the deadline date, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the vote recommendations of a Proxy Service. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Investment Managers' research analysts, relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or the Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote. In the event that an account holds a security that an Investment Manager did not purchase on its behalf, and the Investment Manager does not normally consider the security as a potential investment for other accounts, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendations of a Proxy Service or take no action on the meeting.

PROXY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Situations Where Proxies Are Not Voted

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records as may be required by relevant rules and regulations. In addition, the Investment Managers understand their fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Investment Managers will generally attempt to process every proxy they receive for all domestic and foreign securities.

However, there may be situations in which the Investment Managers may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if an Investment Manager votes a proxy or where the Investment Manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law, economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney;(v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the Investment Managers held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) the Advisory Client held shares on the record date, but the Advisory Client closed the account prior to the meeting date; (viii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (ix) due to either system error or human error, the Investment Managers' intended vote is not correctly submitted; (x) the Investment Managers believe it is not in the best interest of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (xi) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

Rejected Votes

Even if the Investment Managers use reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of their Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Investment Managers do not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Investment Managers. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Investment Managers' votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

Securities on Loan

The Investment Managers or their affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the Investment Managers or their affiliates, make efforts to recall any security on loan where the Investment Manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on an event that may materially affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The ability to timely recall shares is not entirely within the control of the Investment Managers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates or other administrative considerations.

Split Voting

There may be instances in certain non-U.S. markets where split voting is not allowed. Split voting occurs when a position held within an account is voted in accordance with two differing instructions. Some markets and/or issuers only allow voting on an entire

position and do not accept split voting. In certain cases, when more than one Franklin Templeton investment manager has accounts holding shares of an issuer that are held in an omnibus structure, the Proxy Group will seek direction from an appropriate representative of the Advisory Client with multiple Investment Managers (such as a conducting officer of the Management Company in the case of a SICAV), or the Proxy Group will submit the vote based on the voting instructions provided by the Investment Manager with accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the security within the omnibus structure.

Bundled Items

If several issues are bundled together in a single voting item, the Investment Managers will assess the total benefit to shareholders and the extent that such issues should be subject to separate voting proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS INVOLVING FIXED INCOME SECURITIES & PRIVATELY HELD ISSUERS

From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the Investment Managers for each account or fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the Investment Managers, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The Investment Managers may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled “Proxy Procedures.”

In the rare instance where there is a vote for a privately held issuer, the decision will generally be made by the relevant portfolio managers or research analysts.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities or privately held issuers for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures. If a fixed income or privately held issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the Investment Managers may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of its Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers will report such decisions on an annual basis to Advisory Clients as may be required.

Appendix A

These Proxy Policies apply to accounts managed by personnel within Franklin Templeton Emerging Markets Equity Group, which includes the following Investment Managers:

Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited
Templeton Asset Management Ltd.
Franklin Templeton Investments (ME) Limited



FRANKLIN EQUITY GROUP
Proxy Voting Policies & Procedures
An SEC Compliance Rule Policy and Procedures*

March 2025, as amended July 16, 2025

Appendix A

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

Franklin Equity Group, a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, comprised of investment personnel from the SEC-registered investment advisers listed on Appendix A (hereinafter individually an "Investment Manager" and collectively the "Investment Managers") have delegated the administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for securities to the Franklin Templeton Proxy Group. Proxy duties consist of disseminating proxy materials and analyses of issuers whose stock is owned by any client (including both investment companies and any separate accounts managed by the Investment Managers) that has either delegated proxy voting administrative responsibility to the Investment Managers or has asked for information and/or recommendations on the issues to be voted. The Investment Managers will inform advisory clients that have not delegated the voting responsibility but that have requested voting advice about the Investment Managers' views on such proxy votes. The Proxy Group also provides these services to other advisory affiliates of the Investment Managers.

The Proxy Group will process proxy votes on behalf of, and the Investment Managers vote proxies solely in the best interests of, separate account clients, the Investment Managers'-managed investment company shareholders, or shareholders of funds that have appointed Franklin Templeton International Services S.à.r.l. ("FTIS S.à.r.l.") as the Management Company, provided such funds or clients have properly delegated such responsibility in writing, or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved ("ERISA accounts"), in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively, "Advisory Clients"), unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the Investment Managers or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the Investment Managers from voting proxies. The Investment Managers recognize that the exercise of voting rights on securities held by ERISA plans for which the Investment Managers have voting responsibility is a fiduciary duty that must be exercised with care, skill, prudence and diligence.

In certain circumstances, Advisory Clients are permitted to direct their votes in a solicitation pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. An Advisory Client that wishes to direct its vote shall give reasonable prior written notice to the Investment Managers indicating such intention and provide written instructions directing the Investment Managers or the Proxy Group to vote regarding the solicitation. Where such prior written notice is received, the Proxy Group will vote proxies in accordance with such written notification received from the Advisory Client.

The Investment Managers have adopted and implemented Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") that they believe are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of Advisory Clients in accordance with their fiduciary duties and rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. To the extent that the Investment Managers have a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client, the Investment Managers may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser. The Investment Managers may also delegate proxy voting responsibility to a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser in certain limited situations as disclosed to fund shareholders (e.g., where an Investment Manager to a pooled investment vehicle has engaged a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser to manage all or a portion of the assets).

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

* Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") and Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (together the "Compliance Rule") require registered investment companies and registered investment advisers to, among other things, adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws ("Compliance Rule Policies and Procedures").

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Investment Managers' instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the Investment Managers subscribe to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder meeting agendas and vote recommendations. In addition, the Investment Managers subscribe to ISS's Proxy Voting Service and Vote Disclosure Service. These services include receipt of proxy ballots, custodian bank relations, account maintenance, vote execution, ballot reconciliation, vote record maintenance, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and vote disclosure services. Also, the Investment Managers subscribe to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research.

In addition, the Investment Manager may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions, however there is no obligation or inference for the Investment Manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, and/or another independent third-party proxy service provider (each a "Proxy Service") are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third-party to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Rather, the Investment Managers exercise their independent judgment in making voting decisions. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and employees of the Investment Managers and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients.

For ease of reference, the Proxy Policies often refer to all Advisory Clients. However, our processes and practices seek to ensure that proxy voting decisions are suitable for individual Advisory Clients. In some cases, the Investment Managers' evaluation may result in an individual Advisory Client or Investment Manager voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the fund or account, the composition of its portfolio, whether the Investment Manager has adopted a specialty or custom voting policy, and other factors.

Conflicts of Interest

All conflicts of interest will be resolved in the best interests of the Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers are affiliates of a large, diverse financial services firm with many affiliates and make their best efforts to mitigate conflicts of interest. However, as a general matter, the Investment Managers take the position that relationships between certain affiliates that do not use the "Franklin Templeton" name ("Independent Affiliates") and an issuer (e.g., an investment management relationship between an issuer and an Independent Affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for an Investment Manager in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because: (i) the Investment Managers operate as an independent business unit from the Independent Affiliate business units, and (ii) informational barriers exist between the Investment Managers and the Independent Affiliate business units.

Material conflicts of interest could arise in a variety of situations, including as a result of the Investment Managers' or an affiliate's (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above): (i) material business relationship with an issuer or proponent, (ii) direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an issuer or proponent; or (iii) significant personal or family relationship with an issuer or proponent. Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker dealer, and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public filings. The Proxy Group gathers and analyzes this information on a best-efforts basis, as much of this information is provided directly by individuals and groups other than the Proxy Group, and the Proxy Group relies on the accuracy of the information it receives from such parties.

Nonetheless, even though a potential conflict of interest between the Investment Managers or an affiliate (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above) and an issuer may exist: (1) the Investment Managers may vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer's management even if contrary to the recommendations of a third-party proxy voting research provider; (2) if management has made no recommendations, the Proxy Group may defer to the voting instructions of the Investment Managers; and(3) with respect to shares held by Franklin Resources, Inc. or its affiliates for their own corporate accounts, such shares may be voted without regard to these conflict procedures.

Otherwise, in situations where a material conflict of interest is identified between the Investment Managers or one of its affiliates (other than Independent Affiliates) and an issuer, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Investment Managers' recommendation regarding the

vote for approval. To address certain affiliate conflict situations, the Investment Managers will employ pass-through voting or mirror voting when required pursuant to a fund's governing documents or applicable law.

Where the Proxy Group refers a matter to an Advisory Client, it may rely upon the instructions of a representative of the Advisory Client, such as the board of directors or trustees, a committee of the board, or an appointed delegate in the case of a U.S. registered investment company, a conducting officer in the case of a fund that has appointed FTIS S.à.r.l as its Management Company, the Independent Review Committee for Canadian investment funds, or a plan administrator in the case of an employee benefit plan. A quorum of the board of directors or trustees or of a committee of the board can be reached by a majority of members, or a majority of non-recused members. The Proxy Group may determine to vote all shares held by Advisory Clients of the Investment Managers and affiliated Investment Managers (other than Independent Affiliates) in accordance with the instructions of one or more of the Advisory Clients.

The Investment Managers may also decide whether to vote proxies for securities deemed to present conflicts of interest that are sold following a record date, but before a shareholder meeting date. The Investment Managers may consider various factors in deciding whether to vote such proxies, including the Investment Managers' long-term view of the issuer's securities for investment, or it may defer the decision to vote to the applicable Advisory Client. The Investment Managers also may be unable to vote, or choose not to vote, a proxy for securities deemed to present a conflict of interest for any of the reasons outlined in the first paragraph of the section of these policies entitled "Proxy Procedures."

Weight Given Management Recommendations

One of the primary factors the Investment Managers consider when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company's management. Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the Investment Managers consider in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Each issue is considered on its own merits, and the Investment Managers will not support the position of a company's management in any situation where it determines that the ratification of management's position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company's shares.

Engagement with Issuers

The Investment Managers believe that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The Investment Managers may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The Investment Managers may also engage with management on a range of issues throughout the year.

THE PROXY GROUP

The Proxy Group’s full-time staff members and support staff are devoted to proxy voting administration and oversight and providing support and assistance where needed. On a daily basis, the Proxy Group will review each proxy upon receipt as well as any agendas, materials and recommendations that they receive from a Proxy Service or other sources. The Proxy Group maintains a record of all shareholder meetings that are scheduled for companies whose securities are held by the Investment Managers' managed funds and accounts. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst that follows the security and provide the analyst with the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Investment Managers' research analyst and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company and any other information publicly available.

In situations where the Investment Managers have not responded with vote recommendations to the Proxy Group by the deadline date, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the vote recommendations of a Proxy Service. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Investment Managers' research analysts, relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or the Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote. In the event that an account holds a security that an Investment Manager did not purchase on its behalf, and the Investment Manager does not normally consider the security as a potential investment for other accounts, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendations of a Proxy Service or take no action on the meeting.

PROXY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Situations Where Proxies Are Not Voted

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records as may be required by relevant rules and regulations. In addition, the Investment Managers understand their fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Investment Managers will generally attempt to process every proxy they receive for all domestic and foreign securities.

However, there may be situations in which the Investment Managers may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if an Investment Manager votes a proxy or where the Investment Manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law, economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney; (v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the Investment Managers held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) the Advisory Client held shares on the record date, but the Advisory Client closed the account prior to the meeting date; (viii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (ix) due to either system error or human error, the Investment Managers' intended vote is not correctly submitted; (x) the Investment Managers believe it is not in the best interest of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (xi) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

Rejected Votes

Even if the Investment Managers use reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of their Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Investment Managers do not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Investment Managers. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Investment Managers' votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

Securities on Loan

The Investment Managers or their affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the Investment Managers or their affiliates, make efforts to recall any security on loan where the Investment Manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on an event that may materially affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The ability to timely recall shares is not entirely within the control of the Investment Managers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates or other administrative considerations.

Split Voting

There may be instances in certain non-U.S. markets where split voting is not allowed. Split voting occurs when a position held within an account is voted in accordance with two differing instructions. Some markets and/or issuers only allow voting on an entire position and do not accept split voting. In certain cases, when more than one Franklin Templeton investment manager has accounts holding shares of an issuer that are held in an omnibus structure, the Proxy Group will seek direction from an appropriate representative of the Advisory Client with multiple Investment Managers (such as a conducting officer of the Management Company in the case of a SICAV), or the Proxy Group will submit the vote based on the voting instructions provided by the Investment Manager with accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the security within the omnibus structure.

Bundled Items

If several issues are bundled together in a single voting item, the Investment Managers will assess the total benefit to shareholders and the extent that such issues should be subject to separate voting proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS INVOLVING FIXED INCOME SECURITIES & PRIVATELY HELD ISSUERS

From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events

on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the Investment Managers for each account or fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the Investment Managers, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The Investment Managers may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled "Proxy Procedures."

In the rare instance where there is a vote for a privately held issuer, the decision will generally be made by the relevant portfolio managers or research analysts.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities or privately held issuers for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures. If a fixed income or privately held issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the Investment Managers may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of its Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers will report such decisions on an annual basis to Advisory Clients as may be required.

Appendix A

These Proxy Policies apply to accounts managed by personnel within Franklin Equity Group, which includes the following Investment Managers:

Franklin Advisers, Inc. (FAV)
Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC
Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited

The following Proxy Policies apply to FAV only:

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

Certain of the Investment Managers' separate accounts or funds (or a portion thereof) are included under Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions ("FTIS"), a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, and employ a quantitative strategy.

For such accounts, FTIS's proprietary methodologies rely on a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and behavioral analysis rather than fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively-managed portfolio would ordinarily employ. Accordingly, absent client direction, in light of the high number of positions held by such accounts and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis.

The Investment Manager, however, retains the ability to vote a proxy differently than ISS or Glass Lewis recommends if the Investment Manager determines that it would be in the best interests of Advisory Clients.

Appendix A

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

Templeton Global Equity Group, a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, comprised of investment personnel from the SEC-registered investment advisers listed on Appendix A (hereinafter individually an "Investment Manager" and collectively the "Investment Managers") have delegated the administrative duties with respect to voting proxies for securities to the Franklin Templeton Proxy Group. Proxy duties consist of disseminating proxy materials and analyses of issuers whose stock is owned by any client (including both investment companies and any separate accounts managed by the Investment Managers) that has either delegated proxy voting administrative responsibility to the Investment Managers or has asked for information and/or recommendations on the issues to be voted. The Investment Managers will inform Advisory clients that have not delegated the voting responsibility but that have requested voting advice about the Investment Managers' views on such proxy votes. The Proxy Group also provides these services to other advisory affiliates of the Investment Managers.

The Proxy Group will process proxy votes on behalf of, and the Investment Managers vote proxies solely in the best interests of, separate account clients, the Investment Managers'-managed investment company shareholders, or shareholders of funds that have appointed Franklin Templeton International Services S.à.r.l. ("FTIS S.à.r.l.") as the Management Company, provided such funds or clients have properly delegated such responsibility in writing, or, where employee benefit plan assets subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, are involved ("ERISA accounts"), in the best interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries (collectively, "Advisory Clients"), unless (i) the power to vote has been specifically retained by the named fiduciary in the documents in which the named fiduciary appointed the Investment Managers or (ii) the documents otherwise expressly prohibit the Investment Managers from voting proxies. The Investment Managers recognize that the exercise of voting rights on securities held by ERISA plans for which the Investment Managers have voting responsibility is a fiduciary duty that must be exercised with care, skill, prudence and diligence.

In certain circumstances, Advisory Clients are permitted to direct their votes in a solicitation pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. An Advisory Client that wishes to direct its vote shall give reasonable prior written notice to the Investment Managers indicating such intention and provide written instructions directing the Investment Managers or the Proxy Group to vote regarding the solicitation. Where such prior written notice is received, the Proxy Group will vote proxies in accordance with such written notification received from the Advisory Client.

The Investment Managers have adopted and implemented Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Proxy Policies") that they believe are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interest of Advisory Clients in accordance with their fiduciary duties and rule 206(4)-6 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. To the extent that the Investment Managers have a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client, the Investment Managers may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser. The Investment Managers may also delegate proxy voting responsibility to a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser in certain limited situations as disclosed to fund shareholders (e.g., where an Investment Manager to a pooled investment vehicle has engaged a subadviser that is not an Affiliated Subadviser to manage all or a portion of the assets).

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

All proxies received by the Proxy Group will be voted based upon the Investment Managers' instructions and/or policies. To assist it in analyzing proxies of equity securities, the Investment Managers subscribe to Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("ISS"), an unaffiliated third-party corporate governance research service that provides in-depth analyses of shareholder

* Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") and Rule 206(4)-7 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 ("Advisers Act") (together the "Compliance Rule") require registered investment companies and registered investment advisers to, among other things, adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent violations of the federal securities laws ("Compliance Rule Policies and Procedures").

meeting agendas and vote recommendations. In addition, the Investment Managers subscribe to ISS's Proxy Voting Service and Vote Disclosure Service. These services include receipt of proxy ballots, custodian bank relations, account maintenance, vote execution, ballot reconciliation,

vote record maintenance, comprehensive reporting capabilities, and vote disclosure services. Also, the Investment Managers subscribe to Glass, Lewis & Co., LLC ("Glass Lewis"), an unaffiliated third-party analytical research firm, to receive analyses and vote recommendations on the shareholder meetings of publicly held U.S. companies, as well as a limited subscription to its international research.

In making voting decisions, the Investment Managers may consider Glass Lewis's proxy voting guidelines, ISS's guidelines and Templeton Global Equity Group's ("TGEG") custom sustainability guidelines, where appropriate. Although analyses provided by ISS, Glass Lewis, and/or another independent third-party proxy service provider (each a "Proxy Service") are thoroughly reviewed and considered in making a final voting decision, the Investment Manager do not consider recommendations from a Proxy Service or any third-party to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Rather, the Investment Managers exercise their independent judgment in making voting decisions. As a matter of policy, the officers, directors and employees of the Investment Managers and the Proxy Group will not be influenced by outside sources whose interests conflict with the interests of Advisory Clients.

In addition, the Investment Manager may request in-house voting research from Franklin Templeton's Stewardship Team (FT Stewardship). FT Stewardship provides customized research on specific corporate governance issues that is tailored to the investment manager and corporate engagement undertaken. This research may include opinions on voting decisions, however there is no obligation or inference for the Investment Manager to formally vote in line with these opinions. This research supports the independent vote decision making process and may reduce reliance on third-party advice for certain votes.

For ease of reference, the Proxy Policies often refer to all Advisory Clients. However, our processes and practices seek to ensure that proxy voting decisions are suitable for individual Advisory Clients. In some cases, the Investment Managers' evaluation may result in an individual Advisory Client or Investment Manager voting differently, depending upon the nature and objective of the fund or account, the composition of its portfolio, whether the Investment Manager has adopted a specialty or custom voting policy, and other factors.

Conflicts of Interest

All conflicts of interest will be resolved in the best interests of the Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers are affiliates of a large, diverse financial services firm with many affiliates and make their best efforts to mitigate conflicts of interest. However, as a general matter, the Investment Managers take the position that relationships between certain affiliates that do not use the "Franklin Templeton" name ("Independent Affiliates") and an issuer (e.g., an investment management relationship between an issuer and an Independent Affiliate) do not present a conflict of interest for an Investment Manager in voting proxies with respect to such issuer because: (i) the Investment Managers operate as an independent business unit from the Independent Affiliate business units, and (ii) informational barriers exist between the Investment Managers and the Independent Affiliate business units.

Material conflicts of interest could arise in a variety of situations, including as a result of the Investment Managers' or an affiliate's (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above): (i) material business relationship with an issuer or proponent, (ii) direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an issuer or proponent; or (iii) significant personal or family relationship with an issuer or proponent.

Material conflicts of interest are identified by the Proxy Group based upon analyses of client, distributor, broker dealer, and vendor lists, information periodically gathered from directors and officers, and information derived from other sources, including public filings. The Proxy Group gathers and analyzes this information on a best-efforts basis, as much of this information is provided directly by individuals and groups other than the Proxy Group, and the Proxy Group relies on the accuracy of the information it receives from such parties.

Nonetheless, even though a potential conflict of interest between the Investment Managers or an affiliate (other than an Independent Affiliate as described above) and an issuer may exist: (1) the Investment Managers may vote in opposition to the recommendations of an issuer's management even if contrary to the recommendations of a third-party proxy voting research provider; (2) if management has made no recommendations, the Proxy Group may defer to the voting instructions of the Investment Managers; and

(3) with respect to shares held by Franklin Resources, Inc. or its affiliates for their own corporate accounts, such shares may be voted without regard to these conflict procedures.

Otherwise, in situations where a material conflict of interest is identified between the Investment Managers or one of its affiliates (other than Independent Affiliates) and an issuer, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service or send the proxy directly to the relevant Advisory Clients with the Investment Managers' recommendation regarding the vote for approval. To address certain affiliate conflict situations, the Investment Managers will employ pass-through voting or mirror voting when required pursuant to a fund's governing documents or applicable law.

Where the Proxy Group refers a matter to an Advisory Client, it may rely upon the instructions of a representative of the Advisory Client, such as the board of directors or trustees, a committee of the board, or an appointed delegate in the case of a U.S. registered investment company, a conducting officer in the case of a fund that has appointed FTIS S.à.r.l as its Management Company, the Independent Review Committee for Canadian investment funds, or a plan administrator in the case of an employee benefit plan. A quorum of the board of directors or trustees or of a committee of the board can be reached by a majority of members, or a majority of non-recused members. The Proxy Group may determine to vote all shares held by Advisory Clients of the Investment Managers and affiliated Investment Managers (other than Independent Affiliates) in accordance with the instructions of one or more of the Advisory Clients.

The Investment Managers may also decide whether to vote proxies for securities deemed to present conflicts of interest that are sold following a record date, but before a shareholder meeting date. The Investment Managers may consider various factors in deciding whether to vote such proxies, including the Investment Managers' long-term view of the issuer's securities for investment, or it may defer the decision to vote to the applicable Advisory Client. The Investment Managers also may be unable to vote, or choose not to vote, a proxy for securities deemed to present a conflict of interest for any of the reasons outlined in the first paragraph of the section of these policies entitled "Proxy Procedures."

Weight Given Management Recommendations

One of the primary factors the Investment Managers consider when determining the desirability of investing in a particular company is the quality and depth of that company's management. Accordingly, the recommendation of management on any issue is a factor that the Investment Managers consider in determining how proxies should be voted. However, the Investment Managers do not consider recommendations from management to be determinative of the Investment Managers' ultimate decision. Each issue is considered on its own merits, and the Investment Managers will not support the position of a company's management in any situation where it determines that the ratification of management's position would adversely affect the investment merits of owning that company's shares.

Engagement with Issuers

The Investment Managers believe that engagement with issuers is important to good corporate governance and to assist in making proxy voting decisions. The Investment Managers may engage with issuers to discuss specific ballot items to be voted on in advance of an annual or special meeting to obtain further information or clarification on the proposals. The Investment Managers may also engage with management on a range of issues throughout the year.

THE PROXY GROUP

The Proxy Group’s full-time staff members and support staff are devoted to proxy voting administration and oversight and providing support and assistance where needed. On a daily basis, the Proxy Group will review each proxy upon receipt as well as any agendas, materials and recommendations that they receive from a Proxy Service or other sources. The Proxy Group maintains a record of all shareholder meetings that are scheduled for companies whose securities are held by the Investment Managers' managed funds and accounts. For each shareholder meeting, a member of the Proxy Group will consult with the research analyst that follows the security and provide the analyst with the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, recommendations and any other information provided to the Proxy Group. Except in situations identified as presenting material conflicts of interest, the Investment Managers' research analyst and relevant portfolio manager(s) are responsible for making the final voting decision based on their review of the agenda, analyses of one or more Proxy Services, proxy statements, their knowledge of the company and any other information publicly available.

In situations where the Investment Managers have not responded with vote recommendations to the Proxy Group by the deadline date, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the vote recommendations of a Proxy Service. Except in cases where the Proxy Group is voting consistent with the voting recommendation of a Proxy Service, the Proxy Group must obtain voting instructions from the Investment Managers' research analysts, relevant portfolio manager(s), legal counsel and/or the

Advisory Client prior to submitting the vote. In the event that an account holds a security that an Investment Manager did not purchase on its behalf, and the Investment Manager does not normally consider the security as a potential investment for other accounts, the Proxy Group may vote consistent with the voting recommendations of a Proxy Service or take no action on the meeting.

PROXY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

Situations Where Proxies Are Not Voted

The Proxy Group is fully cognizant of its responsibility to process proxies and maintain proxy records as may be required by relevant rules and regulations. In addition, the Investment Managers understand their fiduciary duty to vote proxies and that proxy voting decisions may affect the value of shareholdings. Therefore, the Investment Managers will generally attempt to process every proxy they receive for all domestic and foreign securities.

However, there may be situations in which the Investment Managers may be unable to successfully vote a proxy, or may choose not to vote a proxy, such as where: (i) a proxy ballot was not received from the custodian bank; (ii) a meeting notice was received too late; (iii) there are fees imposed upon the exercise of a vote and it is determined that such fees outweigh the benefit of voting; (iv) there are legal encumbrances to voting, including blocking restrictions in certain markets that preclude the ability to dispose of a security if an Investment Manager votes a proxy or where the Investment Manager is prohibited from voting by applicable law, economic or other sanctions, or other regulatory or market requirements, including but not limited to, effective Powers of Attorney;

(v) additional documentation or the disclosure of beneficial owner details is required; (vi) the Investment Managers held shares on the record date but has sold them prior to the meeting date; (vii) the Advisory Client held shares on the record date, but the Advisory Client closed the account prior to the meeting date; (viii) a proxy voting service is not offered by the custodian in the market; (ix) due to either system error or human error, the Investment Managers' intended vote is not correctly submitted; (x) the Investment Managers believe it is not in the best interest of the Advisory Client to vote the proxy for any other reason not enumerated herein; or (xi) a security is subject to a securities lending or similar program that has transferred legal title to the security to another person.

Rejected Votes

Even if the Investment Managers use reasonable efforts to vote a proxy on behalf of their Advisory Clients, such vote or proxy may be rejected because of (a) operational or procedural issues experienced by one or more third parties involved in voting proxies in such jurisdictions; (b) changes in the process or agenda for the meeting by the issuer for which the Investment Managers do not have sufficient notice; or (c) the exercise by the issuer of its discretion to reject the vote of the Investment Managers. In addition, despite the best efforts of the Proxy Group and its agents, there may be situations where the Investment Managers' votes are not received, or properly tabulated, by an issuer or the issuer's agent.

Securities on Loan

The Investment Managers or their affiliates may, on behalf of one or more of the proprietary registered investment companies advised by the Investment Managers or their affiliates, make efforts to recall any security on loan where the Investment Manager or its affiliates (a) learn of a vote on an event that may materially affect a security on loan and (b) determine that it is in the best interests of such proprietary registered investment companies to recall the security for voting purposes. The ability to timely recall shares is not entirely within the control of the Investment Managers. Under certain circumstances, the recall of shares in time for such shares to be voted may not be possible due to applicable proxy voting record dates or other administrative considerations.

Split Voting

There may be instances in certain non-U.S. markets where split voting is not allowed. Split voting occurs when a position held within an account is voted in accordance with two differing instructions. Some markets and/or issuers only allow voting on an entire position and do not accept split voting. In certain cases, when more than one Franklin Templeton investment manager has accounts holding shares of an issuer that are held in an omnibus structure, the Proxy Group will seek direction from an appropriate representative of the Advisory Client with multiple Investment Managers (such as a conducting officer of the Management Company in the case of a SICAV), or the Proxy Group will submit the vote based on the voting instructions provided by the Investment Manager with accounts holding the greatest number of shares of the security within the omnibus structure.

Bundled Items

If several issues are bundled together in a single voting item, the Investment Managers will assess the total benefit to shareholders and the extent that such issues should be subject to separate voting proposals.

PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS INVOLVING FIXED INCOME SECURITIES & PRIVATELY HELD ISSUERS

From time to time, certain custodians may process events for fixed income securities through their proxy voting channels rather than corporate action channels for administrative convenience. In such cases, the Proxy Group will receive ballots for such events on the ISS voting platform. The Proxy Group will solicit voting instructions from the Investment Managers for each account or fund involved. If the Proxy Group does not receive voting instructions from the Investment Managers, the Proxy Group will take no action on the event. The Investment Managers may be unable to vote a proxy for a fixed income security, or may choose not to vote a proxy, for the reasons described under the section entitled "Proxy Procedures."

In the rare instance where there is a vote for a privately held issuer, the decision will generally be made by the relevant portfolio managers or research analysts.

The Proxy Group will monitor such meetings involving fixed income securities or privately held issuers for conflicts of interest in accordance with these procedures. If a fixed income or privately held issuer is flagged as a potential conflict of interest, the Investment Managers may nonetheless vote as it deems in the best interests of its Advisory Clients. The Investment Managers will report such decisions on an annual basis to Advisory Clients as may be required.

Appendix A

These Proxy Policies apply to accounts managed by personnel within Templeton Global Equity Group, which includes the following Investment Managers:

Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited (FTIML)
Franklin Templeton Investments Corp. (FTIC)
Templeton Asset Management Ltd. (TAML)
Templeton Global Advisors Limited
Templeton Investment Counsel, LLC

The following Proxy Policies apply to FTIML, FTIC, and TAML only:

HOW THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS VOTE PROXIES

Proxy Services

Certain of the Investment Managers' separate accounts or funds (or a portion thereof) are included under Franklin Templeton Investment Solutions ("FTIS"), a separate investment group within Franklin Templeton, and employ a quantitative strategy.

For such accounts, FTIS's proprietary methodologies rely on a combination of quantitative, qualitative, and behavioral analysis rather than fundamental security research and analyst coverage that an actively managed portfolio would ordinarily employ. Accordingly, absent client direction, in light of the high number of positions held by such accounts and the considerable time and effort that would be required to review proxy statements and ISS or Glass Lewis recommendations, the Investment Manager may review ISS's guidelines or Glass Lewis's US guidelines (the "ISS and Glass Lewis Proxy Voting Guidelines") and determine, consistent with the best interest of its clients, to provide standing instructions to the Proxy Group to vote proxies according to the recommendations of ISS or Glass Lewis.

The Investment Manager, however, retains the ability to vote a proxy differently than ISS or Glass Lewis recommends if the Investment Manager determines that it would be in the best interests of Advisory Clients.

The following Proxy Policies apply to FTIC only:

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INVESTMENT MANAGERS TO VOTE PROXIES

To the extent that the Investment Manager has a subadvisory agreement with an affiliated investment manager (the "Affiliated Subadviser") with respect to a particular Advisory Client or the Investment Manager chooses securities for an Advisory Client's portfolios that are recommended by an Affiliated Subadviser, the Investment Manager may delegate proxy voting responsibility to the Affiliated Subadviser or vote proxies in accordance with the Affiliated Subadviser's recommendations.