

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**VARIANT IMPACT FUND**

**Institutional Class Shares**

**Dated December 7, 2021**

**c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc.**

**235 West Galena Street**

**Milwaukee, WI, 53212**

**(877) 770-7717**

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus. This SAI relates to and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus (the "Prospectus") of Variant Impact Fund (the "Fund") dated December 7, 2021, and as it may be further amended or supplemented from time to time. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Prospectus. A copy of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by contacting the Fund at the telephone number or address set forth above. You may also obtain the Prospectus by visiting the Fund's website at <https://funds.variantinvestments.com>.

This SAI is not an offer to sell shares of beneficial interest ("Institutional Shares" or "Shares") of the Fund and is not soliciting an offer to buy Shares in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein have the same meaning set forth in the Prospectus.

Shares are distributed by Foreside Fund Services, LLC ("Distributor") to institutions and financial intermediaries who may distribute Shares to clients and customers (including affiliates and correspondents) of the Fund's investment manager, Variant Investments, LLC (the "Investment Manager"), and to clients and customers of other organizations. The Fund's Prospectus, which is dated December 7, 2021 provides basic information investors should know before investing. This SAI is intended to provide additional information regarding the activities and operations of the Fund and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus.

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The identity of Trustees of the Board and officers of the Fund, and their brief biographical information, including their addresses, their year of birth and descriptions of their principal occupations during the past five years is set forth below.

The Trustees serve on the Board for terms of indefinite duration. A Trustee's position in that capacity will terminate if the Trustee is removed or resigns or, among other events, upon the Trustee's death, incapacity, retirement or bankruptcy. A Trustee may resign upon written notice to the other Trustees of the Fund, and may be removed either by (i) the vote of at least two-thirds of the Trustees of the Fund not subject to the removal vote or (ii) the vote of Shareholders of the Fund holding not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes eligible to be cast by all Shareholders of the Fund. In the event of any vacancy in the position of a Trustee, the remaining Trustees of the Fund may appoint an individual to serve as a Trustee so long as immediately after the appointment at least two-thirds of the Trustees of the Fund then serving have been elected by the Shareholders of the Fund. The Board may call a meeting of the Fund's Shareholders to fill any vacancy in the position of a Trustee of the Fund, and must do so if the Trustees who were elected by the Shareholders of the Fund cease to constitute a majority of the Trustees then serving on the Board.

#### INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH</b>	<b>POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND</b>	<b>LENGTH OF TIME SERVED</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX* OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE</b>	<b>OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE</b>
David G. Lee Year of Birth: 1952  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chairman and Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2012); President and Director, Client Opinions, Inc. (2003 – 2012); Chief Operating Officer, Brandywine Global Investment Management (1998 – 2002).	12	None
Robert Seyferth Year of Birth: 1952  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2009); Chief Procurement Officer/Senior Managing Director, Bear Stearns/JP Morgan Chase (1993 – 2009).	12	None
Gary E. Shugrue Year of Birth: 1954  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Managing Director, Veritable LP (investment advisory firm) (2016- Present); Founder/ President, Ascendant Capital Partners, LP (private equity firm) (2001 – 2015).	10	Trustee, Quaker Investment Trust (5 portfolios) (registered investment company).

\* The fund complex consists of the Fund, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Infinity Long/Short Equity Fund, LLC, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Corbin Multi-Strategy Fund, LLC, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Keystone Private Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Asset Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, AFA Multi-Manager Credit Fund and Optima Dynamic Alternatives Fund.



INTERESTED TRUSTEE AND OFFICERS

NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH	POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND	LENGTH OF TIME SERVED	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS	NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX* OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE
Terrance P. Gallagher**  Year of Birth: 1958  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Executive Vice President and Director of Fund Accounting, Administration and Tax; UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2007- present); President, Investment Managers Series Trust II (registered investment company) (2013- Present); Treasurer, American Independence Funds Trust (registered investment company) (2016-2018); Treasurer, Commonwealth International Series Trust (registered investment company) (2010-2015).	12	Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (19 portfolios) (registered investment company).

Robert W. Elsasser Year of Birth: 1968 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212	President	Since Inception	Principal, Variant Investments, LLC (2017 – Present); Director of Fixed Income, CTC myCFO, LLC (investment advisory firm) (2010 – 2016).	N/A	N/A
Curtis Fintel Year of Birth: 1970 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212	Treasurer	Since Inception	Principal, Variant Investments, LLC (2017 – Present); Chief Investment Strategist, CTC myCFO, LLC (investment advisory firm) (2006-2016).	N/A	N/A
Bernadette Murphy Year of Birth: 1964 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chief Compliance Officer	Since Inception	Director, Vigilant Compliance, LLC (investment management solutions firm) (2018-Present); Director of Compliance and operations, B. Riley Capital Management, LLC (investment advisory firm) (2017- 2018); Chief Compliance Officer, Dialectic Capital Management, LP (investment advisory firm) (2008-2018).	N/A	N/A

Ann Maurer	Secretary	Since Inception	Senior Vice President, Client Services (2017 – Present); Vice President, Senior Client Service Manager (2013 – 2017); Assistant Vice President, Client Relations Manager (2002 – 2013), each with UMB Fund Services, Inc.	N/A	N/A
Year of Birth: 1972					
c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212					

\* The fund complex consists of the Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Corbin Multi-Strategy Fund, LLC, Keystone Private Income Fund, Infinity Long/Short Equity Fund, LLC, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Asset Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, AFA Multi-Manager Credit Fund and Optima Dynamic Alternatives Fund.

\*\* Mr. Gallagher is deemed an interested person of the Fund because of his affiliation with the Fund’s Administrator.

The Board believes that each of the Trustees’ experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Trustees lead to the conclusion that each Trustee should serve in such capacity. Among the attributes common to all Trustees is the ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the other Trustees, the Investment Manager, the Fund’s other service providers, counsel and the independent registered public accounting firm, and to exercise effective business judgment in the performance of their duties as Trustees. A Trustee’s ability to perform his or her duties effectively may have been attained through the Trustee’s business, consulting, and public service; experience as a board member of non-profit entities or other organizations; education or professional training; and/or other life experiences. In addition to these shared characteristics, set forth below is a brief discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each Trustee.

*Terrance P. Gallagher.* Mr. Gallagher has been a Trustee since the Fund’s inception. He has more than 41 years of experience in the financial services industry. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds in the fund complex.

*David G. Lee.* Mr. Lee has been a Trustee since the Fund’s inception. He has more than 27 years of experience in the financial services industry. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds in the fund complex.

*Robert Seyferth.* Mr. Seyferth has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Seyferth has more than 32 years of business and accounting experience. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds in the fund complex.

*Gary E. Shugrue.* Mr. Shugrue has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Shugrue has more than 32 years of experience in the financial services industry. The Board also benefits from his experience as a member of the board of other funds in the fund complex.

Specific details regarding each Trustee's principal occupations during the past five years are included in the table above.

### **Leadership Structure and Oversight Responsibilities**

Overall responsibility for oversight of the Fund rests with the Board. The Fund has engaged the Investment Manager to manage the Fund on a day-to-day basis. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Investment Manager, and other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Investment Company Act, applicable provisions of state and other laws and the Fund's Agreement and Declaration of Trust. The Board is currently composed of four members, three of whom are Independent Trustees. The Board holds regularly scheduled meetings four times each year. In addition, the Board may hold special in-person or telephonic meetings or informal conference calls to discuss specific matters that may arise or require action between regular meetings. The Independent Trustees have also engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in performing their oversight responsibility. The Independent Trustees meet with their independent legal counsel prior to and/or during each quarterly board meeting. As described below, the Board has established a Valuation Committee, an Audit Committee and a Nominating Committee, and may establish ad hoc committees or working groups from time to time to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

The Board has appointed David Lee, an Independent Trustee, to serve in the role of Chairman. The Chairman's role is to preside at all meetings of the Board and to act as liaison with the Investment Manager, other service providers, counsel and other Trustees generally between meetings. The Chairman serves as a key point person for dealings between management and the Trustees. The Chairman may also perform such other functions as may be delegated by the Board from time to time. The Board has determined that the Board's leadership structure is appropriate because it allows the Board to exercise informed and independent judgment over matters under its purview and it allocates areas of responsibility among committees of Trustees and the full Board in a manner that enhances effective oversight.

The Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance, operational and valuation risks, among others. Risk oversight forms part of the Board's general oversight of the Fund and will be addressed as part of various Board and committee activities. Day-to-day risk management functions are subsumed within the responsibilities of the Investment Manager and other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk), which carry out the Fund's investment management and business affairs. The Investment Manager and other service providers employ a variety of processes, procedures and controls to identify various events or circumstances that give rise to risks, to lessen the probability of their occurrence and/or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur. Each of the Investment Manager and other service providers has its own independent interests in risk management, and their policies and methods of risk management depend on their functions and business models. The Board recognizes that it is not possible to identify all of the risks that may affect the Fund or to develop processes and controls to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects. The Board requires senior officers of the Fund, including the President, Treasurer and Chief Compliance Officer and the Investment Manager, to report to the full Board on a variety of matters at regular and special meetings of the Board, including matters relating to risk management. The Board and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm on internal control and financial reporting matters. The Board also receives reports from certain of the Fund's other primary service providers on a periodic or regular basis, including the Fund's custodian, distributor and administrator. The Board may, at any time and in its discretion, change the manner in which it conducts risk oversight.

## **Committees of the Board of Trustees**

### *Audit Committee*

The Board has formed an Audit Committee that is responsible for overseeing the Fund's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, its internal controls, and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; overseeing the quality and objectivity of the Fund's financial statements and the independent audit of those financial statements; and acting as a liaison between the Fund's independent auditors and the full Board. In performing its responsibilities, the Audit Committee will select and recommend annually to the entire Board a firm of independent certified public accountants to audit the books and records of the Fund for the ensuing year, and will review with the firm the scope and results of each audit. The Audit Committee consists of each of the Fund's Independent Trustees. As the Fund is recently organized, the Audit Committee did not hold any meetings during the last year.

### *Nominating Committee*

The Board has formed a Nominating Committee that is responsible for selecting and nominating persons to serve as Trustees of the Fund. The Nominating Committee is responsible for both nominating candidates to be appointed by the Board to fill vacancies and for nominating candidates to be presented to Shareholders for election. In performing its responsibilities, the Nominating Committee will consider candidates recommended by management of the Fund and by Shareholders and evaluate them both in a similar manner, as long as the recommendation submitted by a Shareholder includes at a minimum: the name, address and telephone number of the recommending Shareholder and information concerning the Shareholder's interests in the Fund in sufficient detail to establish that the Shareholder held Shares on the relevant record date; and the name, address and telephone number of the recommended nominee and information concerning the recommended nominee's education, professional experience, and other information that might assist the Nominating Committee in evaluating the recommended nominee's qualifications to serve as a trustee. The Nominating Committee may solicit candidates to serve as trustees from any source it deems appropriate. With the Board's prior approval, the Nominating Committee may employ and compensate counsel, consultants or advisers to assist it in discharging its responsibilities. The Nominating Committee consists of each of the Fund's Independent Trustees. As the Fund is recently organized, the Nominating Committee did not hold any meetings during the last year.

### *Valuation Committee*

The Board has formed a Valuation Committee that is responsible for reviewing fair valuations of securities held by the Fund in instances as required by the valuation procedures adopted by the Board and is responsible for carrying out the provisions of its charter. The Valuation Committee consists of each of the Fund's Trustees. As the Fund is recently organized, the Valuation Committee did not hold any meetings during the last year.

## **Trustee and Officer Ownership of Securities**

None of the Trustees own Shares of the Fund.

As of October 29, 2021, the Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group owned less than one percent of the outstanding Shares of the Fund.

## **Independent Trustee Ownership of Securities**

As of the date of this SAI, none of the Independent Trustees (or their immediate family members) owned securities of the Investment Manager, or of an entity (other than a registered investment company) controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Investment Manager.

### **Trustee Compensation**

In consideration of the services rendered by the Independent Trustees, the Fund will pay each Independent Trustee a retainer of \$14,000 per fiscal year. Interested Trustees will be compensated by the Fund's administrator and/or its affiliates and will not be separately compensated by the Fund.

### **CODES OF ETHICS**

The Fund and the Investment Manager have each adopted a code of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 of the Investment Company Act, which is designed to prevent affiliated persons of the Fund and the Investment Manager from engaging in deceptive, manipulative, or fraudulent activities in connection with securities held or to be acquired by the Fund. The codes of ethics permit persons subject to them to invest in securities, including securities that may be held or purchased by the Fund, subject to a number of restrictions and controls. Compliance with the codes of ethics is carefully monitored and enforced.

The codes of ethics are included as exhibits to the Fund's registration statement filed with the SEC and are available on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), and may also be obtained after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

## **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES**

### **The Investment Manager**

Variante Investments, LLC, serves as the investment advisor to the Fund. The Investment Manager is an investment adviser registered with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Subject to the general supervision of the Board, and in accordance with the investment objective, policies, and restrictions of the Fund, the Investment Manager is responsible for the management and operation of the Fund and the investment of the Fund's assets. The Investment Manager provides such services to the Fund pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement. Founded in 2017, the Investment Manager and its affiliates have approximately \$1.17 billion in assets under management as of September 30, 2021. Variante Investments is managed by Curtis Fintel, Robert Elsasser and J.B. Hayes. The firm is owned by Curtis Fintel, Robert Elsasser and J.B. Hayes, Boco Investments, LLC, Joseph Zimlich, and Brian Klemsz.

The Investment Management Agreement became effective as of October 29, 2021, and will continue in effect for an initial two-year term. Thereafter, the Investment Management Agreement will continue in effect from year to year provided such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or a majority of the Board, and (ii) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees of the Fund, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Agreements, or any other investment advisory contracts, will be available in the Fund's first annual or semi-annual report to Shareholders.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund pays the Investment Manager an Investment Management Fee equal to 1.25% on an annualized basis of the average daily “Managed Assets” of the Fund. “Managed Assets” means the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to any leverage that may be outstanding) minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than debt representing financial leverage and the aggregate liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred shares). Average daily Managed Assets is the sum of the Managed Assets at the beginning of each business day and the Managed Assets at the end of such business day and divided by two. The Investment Management Fee will be paid to the Investment Manager before giving effect to any repurchase of Shares in the Fund effective as of that date, and will decrease the net profits or increase the net losses of the Fund that are credited to its Shareholders. The Investment Management Fee is calculated and accrued daily, and is paid monthly within five (5) days after the end of each calendar month.

The Investment Manager has entered into an expense limitation and reimbursement agreement (the “Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement”) with the Fund, whereby the Investment Manager has agreed to waive fees that it would otherwise have been paid, and/or to assume expenses of the Fund (a “Waiver”), if required to ensure the Total Annual Expenses (excluding any taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses (as determined in accordance with SEC Form N-2), expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses, such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 1.75% of the average daily net assets of Institutional Shares (the “Expense Limit”). Because taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the Expense Limit, Total Annual Expenses (after fee waivers and expense reimbursements) are expected to exceed 1.75% of the Institutional Shares. For a period not to exceed three years from the date on which a Waiver is made, the Investment Manager may recoup amounts waived or assumed, provided it is able to effect such recoupment without causing the Fund’s expense ratio (after recoupment) to exceed the lesser of (i) the expense limit in effect at the time of the Waiver and (ii) the expense limit in effect at the time of the recoupment. The Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement is in effect until October 1, 2023 and will automatically renew for consecutive one-year terms thereafter. The Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement will automatically renew for consecutive one-year terms thereafter. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by the Fund’s Board of Trustees upon thirty (30) days’ written notice to the Investment Manager. This Agreement may be terminated by the Investment Manager as of the end of its then-current term upon thirty (30) days’ written notice to the Fund.

### *The Portfolio Managers*

#### *Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Managers<sup>(1)</sup>*

	Type of Accounts	Total # of Accounts Managed	Total Assets (\$mm)	# of Accounts Managed that Advisory Fee Based on Performance	Total Assets that Advisory Fee Based on Performance (\$mm)
1. Curtis Fintel	Registered Investment Companies:	1	\$1,173	0	\$0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$0	0	\$0
2. Robert Elsasser	Registered Investment Companies:	1	\$1,173	0	\$0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$0	0	\$0
3. J. B. Hayes	Registered Investment Companies:	1	\$1,173	0	\$0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	0	\$0	0	\$0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$0	0	\$0

<sup>(1)</sup> As of September 30, 2021.

## ***Conflicts of Interest***

The Fund may be subject to a number of actual and potential conflicts of interest.

The Investment Manager and its affiliates engage in financial advisory activities that are independent from, and may from time to time conflict with, those of the Fund. In the future, there might arise instances where the interests of such affiliates conflict with the interests of the Fund. The Investment Manager and its affiliates may provide services to, invest in, advise, sponsor and/or act as investment manager to investment vehicles and other persons or entities (including prospective investors in the Fund) which may have structures, investment objectives and/or policies that are similar to (or different than) those of the Fund; which may compete with the Fund for investment opportunities; and which may, subject to applicable law, co-invest with the Fund in certain transactions. In addition, the Investment Manager and its affiliates and respective clients may themselves invest in securities that would be appropriate for the Fund. By acquiring Shares, each Shareholder will be deemed to have acknowledged the existence of any such actual and potential conflicts of interest and to have waived any claim with respect to any liability arising from the existence of any such conflict of interest.

Although the Investment Manager and its affiliates seek to allocate investment opportunities among the Fund and their other clients in a fair and reasonable manner, there can be no assurance that an investment opportunity which comes to the attention of the Investment Manager or its affiliates will be appropriate for the Fund or will be referred to the Fund. The Investment Manager and its affiliates are not obligated to refer any investment opportunity to the Fund.

The directors, partners, trustees, managers, members, officers and employees of the Investment Manager and its affiliates may buy and sell securities or other investments for their own accounts (including through funds managed by the Investment Manager or its affiliates). As a result of differing trading and investment strategies or constraints, investments may be made by directors, partners, trustees, managers, members, officers and employees that are the same, different from or made at different times than investments made for the Fund. To reduce the possibility that the Fund will be materially adversely affected by the personal trading described above, the Fund and the Investment Manager have individually adopted codes of ethics (collectively, the "Codes of Ethics") in compliance with Section 17(j) of the Investment Company Act that restricts securities trading in the personal accounts of investment professionals and others who normally come into possession of information regarding the portfolio transactions of the Fund. The Codes of Ethics can be reviewed and may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-202-551-8090. The Codes of Ethics are also available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's website at <https://www.sec.gov>.



## Compensation of the Portfolio Managers

Total compensation paid to each Portfolio Manager includes a base salary fixed from year to year and a variable performance bonus consisting of cash incentives. The amounts paid to the Portfolio Managers are based on a percentage of the fees earned by the Investment Manager from managing the Fund and other investment accounts. The performance bonus reflects individual performance and the performance of the Investment Manager's business as a whole. These individuals will also participate in a 401K program and receive medical/dental insurance benefits on the same basis as other officers of the Investment Manager.

The compensation structure of key investment professionals is structured to incent long-term client retention and client service.

## Portfolio Managers' Ownership of Shares

Name of Portfolio Manager:	Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned by Portfolio Manager <sup>(1)</sup> :
Robert W. Elsasser	None
Curt Fintel	None
J.B. Hayes	None

(1) As of November 1, 2021. The named Portfolio Managers have indirect ownership of Shares purchased through the seed investments in the Fund by the Investment Manager.

## BROKERAGE

It is the Fund's policy to obtain the best results in connection with effecting its portfolio transactions, taking into account factors such as price, size of order, difficulty of execution and operational facilities of a brokerage firm and the firm's risk in positioning a block of securities. Generally, equity securities are bought and sold through brokerage transactions for which commissions are payable. Purchases from underwriters will include the underwriting commission or concession, and purchases from dealers serving as market makers will include a dealer's mark-up or reflect a dealer's mark-down. Money market securities and other debt securities are usually bought and sold directly from the issuer or an underwriter or market maker for the securities. Generally, the Fund will not pay brokerage commissions for such purchases. When a debt security is bought from an underwriter, the purchase price will usually include an underwriting commission or concession. The purchase price for securities bought from dealers serving as market makers will similarly include the dealer's mark up or reflect a dealer's mark down. When the Fund executes transactions in the over-the-counter market, it will generally deal with primary market makers unless prices that are more favorable are otherwise obtainable.

In addition, the Investment Manager may place a combined order for two or more accounts it manages, including the Fund, that are engaged in the purchase or sale of the same security if, in its judgment, joint execution is in the best interest of each participant and will result in best price and execution. Transactions involving commingled orders are allocated in a manner deemed equitable to each account or fund. Although it is recognized that, in some cases, the joint execution of orders could adversely affect the price or volume of the security that a particular account or the Fund may obtain, it is the opinion of the Investment Manager that the advantages of combined orders outweigh the possible disadvantages of separate transactions. The Investment Manager believes that the ability of the Fund to participate in higher volume transactions will generally be beneficial to the Fund.

The Investment Manager may pay a higher commission than otherwise obtainable from other brokers in return for brokerage or research services only if a good faith determination is made that the commission is reasonable in relation to the services provided.

While it is the Fund's general policy to seek to obtain the most favorable price and execution available in selecting a broker-dealer to execute portfolio transactions for the Fund, weight is also given to the ability of a broker-dealer to furnish brokerage and research services as defined in Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, to the Fund or to the Investment Manager, even if the specific services are not directly useful to the Fund and may be useful to the Investment Manager in advising other clients. When one or more brokers is believed capable of providing the best combination of price and execution, the Investment Manager may select a broker based upon brokerage or research services provided to the Investment Manager. In negotiating commissions with a broker or evaluating the spread to be paid to a dealer, the Fund may therefore pay a higher commission or spread than would be the case if no weight were given to the furnishing of these supplemental services, provided that the amount of such commission or spread has been determined in good faith by the Investment Manager to be reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and/or research services provided by such broker-dealer. The standard of reasonableness is to be measured in light of the Investment Manager's overall responsibilities to the Fund.

## **TAX MATTERS**

The following is intended to be a general summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences of investing, holding and disposing of Shares of the Fund. It is not intended to be a complete discussion of all such federal income tax consequences, nor does it purport to deal with all categories of investors. **INVESTORS ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR TAX ADVISORS BEFORE MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUND.**

Set forth below is a discussion of certain U.S. federal income tax issues concerning the Fund and the purchase, ownership and disposition of Shares. This discussion does not purport to be complete or to deal with all aspects of federal income taxation that may be relevant to Shareholders in light of their particular circumstances. Unless otherwise noted, this discussion assumes you are a U.S. Shareholder and that you hold your Shares as a capital asset. This discussion is based upon present provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), the regulations promulgated thereunder, and judicial and administrative ruling authorities, all of which are subject to change, which change may be retroactive. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisers with regard to the federal tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, or disposition of Shares, as well as the tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, foreign country, or other taxing jurisdiction.

The Fund intends to qualify annually as a regulated investment company (a "RIC") under the Code. To qualify for the favorable U.S. federal income tax treatment generally accorded to regulated investment companies, the Fund must, among other things, (a) derive in each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships; (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of its taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, the securities of other regulated investment companies and other securities, with such other securities of any one issuer limited for the purposes of this calculation to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. Government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) of a single issuer, in the securities (other than securities of other regulated investment companies) of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and are engaged in the same, similar or related trades or businesses, or in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships; and (c) distribute for each taxable year an amount at least equal to the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (determined without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and 90% of its net tax exempt interest income.

The Fund might not distribute all of its net investment income, and the Fund is not required to distribute any portion of its net capital gain. If the Fund qualifies for treatment as a regulated investment company but does not distribute all of its net capital gain and net investment income, it will be subject to tax at regular corporate rates on the amount retained. If the Fund retains any net capital gain, it may designate the retained amount of capital gain as undistributed capital gain in a notice to its Shareholders who, if subject to federal income tax on long-term capital gains, (i) will be required to include in income for federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gain, their share of such undistributed amount; (ii) will be deemed to have paid their proportionate share of the tax paid by the Fund on such undistributed amount and will be entitled to credit that amount of tax against their federal income tax liabilities, if any; and (iii) will be entitled to claim refunds to the extent the credit exceeds such liabilities. For federal income tax purposes, the tax basis of Shares owned by a Shareholder of the Fund will be increased by an amount equal to the difference between the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the Shareholder's gross income and the tax deemed paid by the Shareholder.

As a regulated investment company, the Fund generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code, but without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), if any, that it distributes to Shareholders. The Fund intends to distribute to its Shareholders, at least annually, substantially all of its net investment income and net capital gain. Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% excise tax. To prevent imposition of the excise tax, the Fund must distribute during each calendar year an amount equal to the sum of (1) at least 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (2) at least 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for the one-year period ending October 31 of the calendar year, and (3) any ordinary income and capital gains for previous years that were not distributed during those years. To prevent application of the excise tax, the Fund intends to make its distributions in accordance with the calendar year distribution requirement.

Although dividends generally will be treated as distributed when paid, any dividend declared by the Fund in October, November or December and payable to Shareholders of record in such a month that is paid during the following January will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as received by Shareholders on December 31 of the calendar year in which it was declared. In addition, certain other distributions made after the close of a taxable year of the Fund may be "spilled back" and treated for certain purposes as paid by the Fund during such taxable year. In such case, Shareholders generally will be treated as having received such dividends in the taxable year in which the distributions were actually made. For purposes of calculating the amount of a regulated investment company's undistributed income and gain subject to the 4% excise tax described above, such "spilled back" dividends are treated as paid by the regulated investment company when they are actually paid.

If the Fund fails to satisfy the qualifying income or diversification requirements in any taxable year, the Fund may be eligible for certain relief provisions if the failures are due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect and if a penalty tax is paid with respect to each failure to satisfy the applicable requirements. Additionally, relief is provided for certain de minimis failures of the diversification requirements where the Fund corrects the failure within a specified period. In order to be eligible for the relief provisions with respect to a failure to meet the diversification requirements, the Fund may be required to dispose of certain assets. If these relief provisions are not available to the Fund and it fails to qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company for a taxable year, the Fund will be taxable at regular corporate tax rates (and, to the extent applicable, at corporate alternative minimum tax rates). In such an event, all distributions (including capital gain distributions) will be taxable as ordinary dividends to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, subject to the dividends-received deduction for corporate Shareholders and to the tax rates applicable to qualified dividend income distributed to noncorporate Shareholders. In such an event, distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits will be treated first as a return of capital to the extent of the holder's adjusted tax basis in the Shares (reducing that basis accordingly), and any remaining distributions will be treated as a capital gain. To requalify for treatment as a RIC in a subsequent taxable year, the Fund would be required to satisfy the RIC qualification requirements for that year and to distribute any earnings and profits from any year in which the Fund failed to qualify for tax treatment as a RIC. In addition, if the Fund were to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company for a period greater than two taxable years, it would generally be required to pay a Fund-level tax on certain net built-in gains recognized with respect to certain of its assets upon a disposition of such assets within ten years of qualifying as a regulated investment company in a subsequent year.

The Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the Fund for treatment as a RIC if it determines such course of action to be beneficial to Shareholders.

## **Distributions**

Dividends paid out of the Fund's net investment income generally will be taxable to a Shareholder as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's earnings and profits, whether paid in cash or reinvested in additional Shares under the DRIP. The Fund may be able to report a portion of its income as "qualified dividend income," however, which is taxable to noncorporate Shareholders at rates of up to 20%.

In general, dividends may be reported by the Fund as qualified dividend income if they are attributable to qualified dividend income received by the Fund. Qualified dividend income generally means dividend income received from investments in common and preferred stock of U.S. companies and stock of certain qualified foreign corporations, provided that certain holding period and other requirements are met by both the Fund and the Shareholders.

A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation for this purpose if it is incorporated in a possession of the United States or it is eligible for the benefits of certain income tax treaties with the United States and meets certain additional requirements. Certain foreign corporations that are not otherwise qualified foreign corporations will be treated as qualified foreign corporations with respect to dividend paid by them if the stock with respect to which the dividends are paid is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Passive foreign investment companies are not qualified foreign investment companies for this purpose. Dividends received by the Fund from REITs generally are not expected to qualify for treatment as qualified dividend income, but may be eligible for reduced rates of taxation as described below.

A dividend that is attributable to qualified dividend income of the Fund that is paid by the Fund to a Shareholder will not be taxable as qualified dividend income to such Shareholder (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of the Fund held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date which is 60 days before the date on which such share became ex-dividend with respect to such dividend, (2) to the extent that the Shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, or (3) if the Shareholder elects to have the dividend treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest. The ex-dividend date is the date on which the owner of the share at the commencement of such date is entitled to receive the next issued dividend payment for such share even if the share is sold by the owner on that date or thereafter.

The Fund may make distributions to a Shareholder of “section 199A dividends” with respect to qualified dividends that it receives with respect to its investments in REITs. A section 199A dividend is any dividend or part of such dividend that the Fund pays to a Shareholder and reports as a section 199A dividend in written statements furnished to a Shareholder. Distributions paid by the Fund that are eligible to be treated as section 199A dividends for a taxable year may not exceed the “qualified REIT dividends” received by the Fund from REITs reduced by the Fund’s allocable expenses. Section 199A dividends may be taxed to individuals and other non-corporate shareholders at a reduced effective federal income tax rate, provided the Shareholder receiving the dividends has satisfied a holding period requirement for the Shares and satisfied certain other conditions. For the lower rates to apply, the Shareholder must have owned his or her Shares for at least 46 days during the 91-day period beginning on the date that is 45 days before the Fund’s ex-dividend date, but only to the extent that the Shareholder is not under an obligation (under a short-sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property.

Distributions of net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss), if any, reported as capital gain dividends are generally taxable to a Shareholder as long-term capital gains regardless of how long the Shareholder has held Shares, at rates of up to 20% for noncorporate taxpayers. Certain capital gain dividends attributable to dividends the Fund receives from REITs may be taxed to noncorporate taxpayers at a rate of 25%. Distributions of short-term capital gain are taxable to Shareholders as ordinary income. Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of additional Shares, rather than cash, generally will have a cost basis in each such share equal to the greater of the net asset value or fair market value of a share of the Fund on the reinvestment date. A distribution of an amount in excess of the Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits will first be treated by a Shareholder as a return of capital which is applied against and reduces the Shareholder’s basis in his or her Shares. To the extent that the amount of any such distribution exceeds the Shareholder’s basis in his or her Shares, the excess will be treated by the Shareholder as gain from a sale or exchange of Shares.

Shareholders will be notified annually as to the U.S. federal tax status of distributions, and Shareholders receiving distributions in the form of additional Shares will receive a report as to the net asset value of those Shares.

A dividend or distribution received shortly after the purchase of Shares reduces the net asset value of the Shares by the amount of the dividend or distribution and, although in effect a return of capital, will be taxable to the Shareholder. If the net asset value of Shares were reduced below the Shareholder’s cost by dividends and distributions representing gains realized on sales of securities, such dividends and distributions, although also in effect returns of capital, would be taxable to the Shareholder in the same manner as other dividends or distributions.

Capital losses in excess of capital gains (“net capital losses”) are not permitted to be deducted against a RIC’s net investment income. Instead, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, potentially subject to certain limitations, the Fund may carry net capital losses from any taxable year forward to offset capital gains in future years. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Fund is permitted to carry forward a net capital loss from any taxable year that began on or before December 22, 2010 to offset its capital gains, if any, for up to eight years following the year of the loss. The Fund is permitted to carry forward indefinitely a net capital loss from any taxable year that began after December 22, 2010 to offset its capital gains, if any, in years following the year of the loss. To the extent subsequent capital gains are offset by such losses, they will not result in U.S. federal income tax liability to the Fund and may not be distributed as capital gains to Shareholders. Carryforwards of losses from taxable years that began after December 22, 2010 must be fully utilized before the Fund may utilize carryforwards of losses from taxable years that began on or before December 22, 2010. Generally, the Fund may not carry forward any losses other than net capital losses. Under certain circumstances, the Fund may elect to treat certain losses as though they were incurred on the first day of the taxable year immediately following the taxable year in which they were actually incurred.

## **Sale or Exchange of Fund Shares**

Sales and repurchases generally are taxable events for Shareholders that are subject to tax. Shareholders should consult their own tax advisers with reference to their individual circumstances to determine whether any particular transaction in Shares is properly treated as a sale for tax purposes, as the following discussion assumes, and to ascertain the tax treatment of any gains or losses recognized in such transactions. In general, if Shares are sold, the Shareholder will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and the Shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the Shares. Such gain or loss generally will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the Shares were held for more than one year and otherwise generally will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. Any loss recognized by a Shareholder upon the sale, repurchase or other disposition of Shares with a tax holding period of six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as distributions to the Shareholder of long-term capital gain with respect to such Shares (including any amounts credited to the Shareholder as undistributed capital gains).

Losses on sales, repurchases or other dispositions of Shares may be disallowed under "wash sale" rules in the event of other investments in the Fund (including investments made pursuant to reinvestment of dividends and/or capital gain distributions) within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the sale or other disposition of Shares or in the event the Shareholder enters into a contract or option to repurchase Shares within such period. In such a case, the disallowed portion of any loss generally would be included in the adjusted tax basis of the Shares acquired in the other investments.

## **Nature of Fund's Investments**

Certain of the Fund's investment practices are subject to special and complex federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert long-term capital gain into short-term capital gain or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss (the deductibility of which is more limited), (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) change the time at which a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur and (vi) adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions. The Fund may make certain tax elections in order to mitigate the effect of these provisions.

The Code imposes constructive sale treatment for federal income tax purposes on certain hedging strategies with respect to appreciated financial positions. Under these rules, taxpayers will recognize gain, but not loss, with respect to securities if they enter into short sales or "offsetting notional principal contracts" (as defined by the Code) with respect to, or futures or forward contracts to deliver, the same or substantially identical property, or if they enter into such transactions and then acquire the same or substantially identical property.

As a result of entering into swap contracts, the Fund may make or receive periodic net payments. The Fund may also make or receive a payment when a swap is terminated prior to maturity through an assignment of the swap or other closing transaction. Periodic net payments will generally constitute ordinary income or expense, while termination of a swap will generally result in capital gain or loss (which will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Fund has been a party to the swap for more than one year).

## **Original Issue Discount Securities**

Investments by the Fund in zero coupon or other discount securities will result in income to the Fund equal to a portion of the excess of the face value of the securities over their issue price (“original issue discount”) each year that the securities are held, even though the Fund may receive no cash interest payments or may receive cash interest payments that are less than the income recognized for tax purposes. This income is included in determining the amount of income which the Fund must distribute to avoid the payment of federal income tax and the 4% excise tax. Because such income may not be matched by a corresponding cash payment to the Fund, the Fund may be required to borrow money or dispose of securities to be able to make distributions to its Shareholders.

## **Investments in Real Estate Investment Trusts**

The Fund may invest in REITs that hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits (“REMICs”). Under Treasury regulations that have not yet been issued, but may apply retroactively, a portion of the Fund’s income from a REIT that is attributable to the REIT’s residual interest in a REMIC (referred to in the Code as an “excess inclusion”) will be subject to federal income tax in all events. These regulations are also expected to provide that excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as the Fund, will be allocated to Shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such Shareholders, with the same consequences as if the Shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest directly. The Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) in Notice 2006-97 set forth some basic principles for the application of these rules until such regulations are issued. In general, the applicable rules under the Code and expected rules under the regulations will provide that the excess inclusion income allocated to Shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income to entities (including a qualified pension plan, an individual retirement account, a 401(k) plan, a Keogh plan or other tax-exempt entity) subject to tax on unrelated business income, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a foreign Shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a “disqualified organization” (as defined in the Code to include governmental units, tax-exempt entities and certain cooperatives) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the highest federal income tax rate imposed on corporations.

## **Investments in Non-U.S. Securities**

The Fund may invest in non-U.S. securities, which investments could subject the Fund to complex provisions of the Code applicable to equity interests in passive foreign investment companies (each, a “PFIC”). A PFIC is an equity interest (under Treasury regulations that may be promulgated in the future, generally including not only stock but also an option to acquire stock such as is inherent in a convertible bond) in certain foreign corporations (i) that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties, or capital gains) or (ii) where at least 50% of the corporation’s assets (computed based on average fair market value) either produce or are held for the production of passive income. If the Fund invests in PFICs, the Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and nondeductible interest charges on “excess distributions” received from such companies or on gain from the sale of stock in such companies, even if all income or gain actually received by the Fund is timely distributed to its Shareholders. The Fund would not be able to pass through to its Shareholders any credit or deduction for such a tax. A “qualified electing fund” election or a “mark-to-market” election may be available that would ameliorate these adverse tax consequences, but such elections could require the Fund to recognize taxable income or gain (subject to the distribution requirements applicable to RICs, as described above) without the concurrent receipt of cash. In order to satisfy the distribution requirements and avoid a tax at the Fund level, the Fund may be required to liquidate portfolio securities that it might otherwise have continued to hold, potentially resulting in additional taxable gain or loss to the Fund. Gains from the sale of stock of PFICs may also be treated as ordinary income. In order for the Fund to make a qualified electing fund election with respect to a PFIC, the PFIC would have to agree to provide certain tax information to the Fund on an annual basis, which it might not agree to do. The Fund may limit and/or manage its holdings in PFICs to limit its tax liability or maximize its returns from these investments.

Dividends received by the Fund on foreign securities may give rise to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the United States may reduce or eliminate such taxes. Shareholders of the Fund generally will not be entitled to a credit or deduction with respect to any such taxes paid by the Fund.

Gains or losses attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the time the Fund accrues income or receivables or expenses or other liabilities denominated in a foreign currency and the time the Fund actually collects such income or receivables or pays such liabilities are generally treated as ordinary income or loss. Similarly, gains or losses on foreign currency forward contracts and the disposition of debt securities denominated in foreign currency, to the extent attributable to fluctuations in exchange rates between the acquisition and disposition dates, are also treated as ordinary income or loss.

### **Backup Withholding**

The Fund is required to withhold (as “backup withholding”) a portion of dividends and certain other payments paid to certain holders of Shares who do not to provide the Fund with their correct taxpayer identification number (or, in the case of individuals, their social security numbers) or to make required certifications, or who are otherwise subject to backup withholding. The withholding rate is 24%. Corporate Shareholders and certain other Shareholders specified in the Code generally are exempt from such backup withholding. This withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld from payments made to a Shareholder may be refunded or credited against the Shareholder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information and forms are timely furnished to the IRS.

### **Foreign Shareholders**

U.S. taxation of a Shareholder who, as to the United States, is a nonresident alien individual, a foreign trust or estate, a foreign corporation or foreign partnership (“Foreign Shareholder”) generally depends on whether the income received from the Fund is “effectively connected” with a U.S. trade or business carried on by the Shareholder. In addition, unless certain foreign entities that hold Shares comply with IRS requirements that will generally require them to report information regarding U.S. persons investing in, or holding accounts with, such entities, a 30% withholding tax may apply to Fund distributions payable to such entities. A Foreign Shareholder may be exempt from the withholding described in this paragraph under an applicable intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. and a foreign government, provided that the Shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.



### **Income not Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business**

If the income received from the Fund is not “effectively connected” with a U.S. trade or business carried on by the Foreign Shareholder, distributions of net investment income (including distributions of short-term capital gain) will generally be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% (or lower treaty rate, except in the case of any excess inclusion income allocated to the Shareholder (see “Investments in Real Estate Investment Trusts” above)), which tax is generally withheld from such distributions. Dividends reported by the Fund as (i) interest-related dividends, to the extent such dividends are derived from the Fund’s “qualified net interest income,” or (ii) short-term capital gain dividends, to the extent such dividends are derived from the Fund’s “qualified short-term gain,” are generally exempt from this 30% withholding tax. “Qualified net interest income” is the Fund’s net income derived from U.S.-source interest and original issue discount, subject to certain exceptions and limitations. “Qualified short-term gain” generally means the excess of the Fund’s net short-term capital gain for the taxable year over its net long-term capital loss, if any.

Distributions of net capital gain and any amounts retained by the Fund which are designated as undistributed capital gains generally will not be subject to U.S. tax at the rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate). In the case of a Foreign Shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual, the Fund may be required to withhold U.S. income tax from distributions of net capital gain unless the Foreign Shareholder certifies his or her non-U.S. status under penalties of perjury or otherwise establishes an exemption

### **Income Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business**

If the income from the Fund is “effectively connected” with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a Foreign Shareholder, then distributions of net investment income and capital gain dividends, any amounts retained by the Fund which are designated as undistributed capital gains and any gains realized upon the sale or exchange of Shares will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens, residents and domestic corporations. Foreign corporate Shareholders may also be subject to the branch profits tax imposed by the Code. Certain certification and disclosure requirements, including delivery of a properly executed IRS Form W-8ECI, must be satisfied for income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business to be exempt from the 30% withholding described above under “Income not Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business.”

The Fund may be required to apply special withholding rules to distributions to certain non-U.S. persons to the extent such distributions are attributable to gain from sales of “United States real property interests” held directly or indirectly by the Fund. Those rules, if applicable, require withholding at the rate of 21% of such a distribution payable with respect to a class of Shares. A distribution that is subject to 21% withholding will not also be subject to the 30% withholding tax described in “Income not Effectively Connected with a U.S. Trade or Business,” above. Distributions subject to 21% withholding will be treated as income effectively connected with a trade or business within the United States, and a non-U.S. person receiving such a distribution generally will be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return for the period in which such distribution is received. Under certain circumstances, a sale of Shares may be treated as a disposition of “United States real property interests,” requiring non-U.S. Shareholders to file U.S. federal income tax returns and pay tax on the sale. Prospective non-U.S. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers regarding these rules before purchasing Shares.

The tax consequences to a Foreign Shareholder entitled to claim the benefits of an applicable tax treaty may differ from those described herein. Foreign Shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisers with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund.

## **Other Tax Considerations**

A 3.8% Medicare contribution tax generally applies to all or a portion of the net investment income of a Shareholder who is an individual and not a nonresident alien for federal income tax purposes and who has adjusted gross income (subject to certain adjustments) that exceeds a threshold amount (\$250,000 if married filing jointly or if considered a “surviving spouse” for federal income tax purposes, \$125,000 if married filing separately, and \$200,000 in other cases). This 3.8% tax also applies to all or a portion of the undistributed net investment income of certain Shareholders that are estates and trusts. For these purposes, interest, dividends, and certain capital gains (among other categories of income) are generally taken into account in computing a Shareholder’s net investment income.

Fund Shareholders may be subject to state, local and foreign taxes on their Fund distributions. Shareholders are advised to consult their own tax advisers with respect to the particular tax consequences to them of an investment in the Fund.

If a Shareholder recognizes a loss on a disposition of Shares of \$2 million or more for an individual Shareholder, or \$10 million or more for a corporate Shareholder, in any single taxable year (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the Shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct Shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases excepted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, Shareholder of a RIC are not excepted. In addition, significant penalties may be imposed for the failure to comply with the reporting requirements. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer’s treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisers to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

The foregoing discussion is a summary only and is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Purchasers of Shares should consult their own tax advisers as to the tax consequences of investing in such Shares, including under state, local and other tax laws.

### **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM; LEGAL COUNSEL**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., located at 151 North Franklin Street, Suite 575, Chicago, IL, 60606, has been selected as the independent registered public accountant for the Fund and in such capacity will audit the Fund’s annual financial statements and financial highlights.

Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, One Logan Square, Suite 2000, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996, serves as counsel to the Fund and the Independent Trustees.

### **CUSTODIAN**

UMB Bank, N.A. (the “Custodian”), serves as the primary custodian of the assets of the Fund, and may maintain custody of such assets with U.S. and non-U.S. subcustodians (which may be banks, trust companies, securities depositories and clearing agencies) in accordance with the requirements of Section 17(f) of the Investment Company Act. Assets of the Fund are not held by the Investment Manager or commingled with the assets of other accounts other than to the extent that securities are held in the name of the Custodian or U.S. or non-U.S. subcustodians in a securities depository, clearing agency or omnibus customer account of such custodian. The Custodian’s principal business address is 1010 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. The Custodian is an affiliate of UMB Fund Services, Inc., which serves as the Fund’s administrator.

### **DISTRIBUTOR**

Foreside Fund Services, LLC, (the “Distributor”) is the distributor of Shares and is located at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. Pursuant to the Distribution Agreement, the Distributor acts as the agent of the Fund in connection with the continuous offering of Shares of the Fund. The Distributor continually distributes Shares of the Fund on a best efforts basis. The Distributor has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Shares. The Distributor and its officers have no role in determining the investment policies of the Fund.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

The Board has delegated responsibility for decisions regarding proxy voting for securities held by the Fund to the Investment Manager. The Investment Manager will vote such proxies in accordance with its proxy policies and procedures. Copies of the Investment Manager's proxy policies and procedures are included as Appendix A to this SAI. The Board will periodically review the Fund's proxy voting record.

The Fund will be required to file Form N-PX, with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. The Fund's Form N-PX filing will be available: (i) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at (877) 770-7717. or (ii) by visiting the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

## **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

Variant Investments, LLC and affiliated entities (collectively, "Variant") have provided the initial seed investments in the Fund. For so long as Variant has a greater than 25% interest in the Fund, it may be deemed to be a "control person" of the Fund for purposes of the Investment Company Act. However, it is anticipated that Variant will no longer be a control person when or soon after the Fund commences operations and its Shares are sold to the public.

## APPENDIX A – Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

For most fixed income investments, the voting matters generally involve amendments to loan documentation, borrower compliance with financial covenants, registration rights, prepayments, insolvency, and other distressed creditor situations. The Investment Manager does not have specific proxy voting policies or guidelines regarding categories of proxy matters submitted to fixed income security holders. Instead, the Investment Manager votes fixed income proxy matters on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the unique circumstances related to a particular borrower and other relevant factors.

The Investment Manager also votes proxies related to equity securities held in discretionary portfolios. Additionally, the Investment Manager may vote proxies or other matters on the closed end funds, BDCs, private funds and other vehicles, exchange traded notes or exchange traded funds in which it invests.

Routine proxy matters associated with equity securities (including but not limited to electing boards of directors, selecting auditors, shareholder rights, proxy contests, corporate governance matters, and executive and director compensation) typically are voted in accordance with the recommendations of management of the issuer. In the event it is determined to be in the best interests of shareholders to vote against issuer management recommendations, the reasons for such determination will be documented. On non-routine matters, such as amendments to governing instruments, proposals relating to compensation and stock option and equity compensation plans, corporate governance proposals and shareholder proposals, the Investment Manager will vote, or abstain from voting if deemed appropriate, on a case-by-case basis in a manner it believes to be in the best economic interest of the Fund's shareholders.

For the Variant Impact Fund, the Investment Manager will also prioritize consistency with the Fund's Impact Investing Framework in determining its vote.

The Investment Manager may delegate our responsibilities under the Proxy Policy to a third party proxy voting service, however, no such delegation will relieve the Investment Manager of its responsibilities. The Investment Manager will retain final authority and fiduciary responsibility for such proxy voting.

The Portfolio Managers are responsible for monitoring proxy voting actions and ensuring that (i) proxies are received and forwarded to the appropriate decision makers; and (ii) proxies are voted in a timely manner upon receipt of voting instructions. The Investment Manager is not responsible for voting proxies that are not received but will make reasonable efforts to obtain missing proxies. The Chief Compliance Officer shall identify and monitor potential conflicts of interest that could affect the proxy voting process, including (i) significant client relationships; (ii) other potential material business relationships; and (iii) material personal and family relationships. The Investment Manager may determine not to vote a particular proxy if the costs and burdens exceed the benefits of voting.

## APPENDIX B – Ratings of Investments

### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES RATINGS

#### Short-Term Credit Ratings

An *S&P Global Ratings* short-term issue credit rating is generally assigned to those obligations considered short-term in the relevant market. The following summarizes the rating categories used by S&P Global Ratings for short-term issues:

“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 commitment 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.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings – S&P Global Ratings’ issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer can differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned or is no longer assigned.

*Moody’s Investors Service (“Moody’s”)* short-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial 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.

Moody's employs the following designations to indicate the relative repayment ability of rated issuers:

"P-1" – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 reflect a superior ability to repay short-term obligations.

"P-2" – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 reflect a strong ability to repay short-term obligations.

"P-3" – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 reflect an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.

"NP" – Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.

"NR" – Is assigned to an unrated issuer.

**Fitch, Inc. / Fitch Ratings Ltd. ("Fitch")** 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.<sup>1</sup> Typically, this means up to 13 months for corporate, sovereign, and structured obligations and up to 36 months for obligations in U.S. public finance markets. The following summarizes the rating categories used by Fitch for short-term obligations:

"F1" – Securities possess the highest short-term credit quality. This designation indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.

"F2" – Securities possess good short-term credit quality. This designation indicates good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.

"F3" – Securities possess fair short-term credit quality. This designation indicates that the intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.

"B" – Securities possess speculative short-term credit quality. This designation indicates minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.

"C" – Securities possess high short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.

<sup>1</sup> A long-term rating can also be used to rate an issue with short maturity.

"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.

Plus (+) or minus (-) – The “F1” rating may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show the relative status within that major rating category.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.

The *DBRS Morningstar® Ratings Limited (“DBRS Morningstar”)* short-term debt rating scale provides an opinion on the risk that an issuer will not meet its short-term financial obligations in a timely manner. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer and the relative ranking of claims. The R-1 and R-2 rating categories are further denoted by the sub-categories “(high)”, “(middle)”, and “(low)”.

The following summarizes the ratings used by DBRS Morningstar for commercial paper and short-term debt:

“R-1 (high)” - Short-term debt rated “R-1 (high)” is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is exceptionally high. Unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

“R-1 (middle)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (middle)” is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is very high. Differs from “R-1 (high)” by a relatively modest degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

“R-1 (low)” – Short-term debt rated “R-1 (low)” is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is substantial. Overall strength is not as favorable as higher rating categories. May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.

“R-2 (high)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (high)” is considered to be at the upper end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

“R-2 (middle)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (middle)” is considered to be of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events or may be exposed to other factors that could reduce credit quality.

“R-2 (low)” – Short-term debt rated “R-2 (low)” is considered to be at the lower end of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events. A number of challenges are present that could affect the issuer’s ability to meet such obligations.

“R-3” – Short-term debt rated “R-3” is considered to be at the lowest end of adequate credit quality. There is a capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due. May be vulnerable to future events and the certainty of meeting such obligations could be impacted by a variety of developments.

“R-4” – Short-term debt rated “R-4” is considered to be of speculative credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is uncertain.

“R-5” – Short-term debt rated “R-5” is considered to be of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet short- term financial obligations as they fall due.

“D” – Short-term debt rated “D” is assigned when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods, a downgrade to “D” may occur. DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.

## **Long-Term Credit Ratings**

The following summarizes the ratings used by *S&P Global Ratings* for long-term issues:

“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 five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The “D” rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. A rating on an obligation is lowered to “D” if it is subject to a distressed debt restructuring

Plus (+) or minus (-) – 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.

“NR” – This indicates that a rating has not been assigned, or is no longer assigned.

Local Currency and Foreign Currency Ratings - S&P Global Ratings’ issuer credit ratings make a distinction between foreign currency ratings and local currency ratings. A foreign currency rating on an issuer can differ from the local currency rating on it when the obligor has a different capacity to meet its obligations denominated in its local currency, versus obligations denominated in a foreign currency.

**Moody’s** long-term ratings are forward-looking opinions of the relative credit risks of financial obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. Such ratings reflect both on the likelihood of default or impairment on contractual financial obligations and the expected financial loss suffered in the event of default or impairment. The following summarizes the ratings used by Moody’s for long-term debt:

“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.

“NR” – Is assigned to unrated obligations.

The following summarizes long-term ratings used by *Fitch*:

“AAA” – Securities considered to be of the 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” – Securities considered to be of 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” – Securities considered to be of 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” – Securities considered to be of 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” – Securities considered to be speculative. “BB” ratings indicate that there is 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” – Securities considered to be highly speculative. “B” ratings indicate that material credit risk is present

“CCC” – A “CCC” rating indicates that substantial credit risk is present.

“CC” – A “CC” rating indicates very high levels of credit risk.

“C” – A “C” rating indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned “RD” or “D” ratings but are instead rated in the “CCC” to “C” rating categories, depending on their recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. Fitch believes that this approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Plus (+) or minus (-) may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the “AAA” obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below “CCC”.

“NR” – Is assigned to an unrated issue of a rated issuer.

The *DBRS* Morningstar long-term rating scale provides an opinion on the risk of default. That is, the risk that an issuer will fail to satisfy its financial obligations in accordance with the terms under which an obligation has been issued. Ratings are based on quantitative and qualitative considerations relevant to the issuer, and the relative ranking of claims. All rating categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category. The following summarizes the ratings used by *DBRS* Morningstar for long-term debt:

“AAA” – Long-term debt rated “AAA” is of the highest credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is exceptionally high and unlikely to be adversely affected by future events.

“AA” – Long-term debt rated “AA” is of superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered high. Credit quality differs from “AAA” only to a small degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.

“A” – Long-term debt rated “A” is of good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is substantial, but of lesser credit quality than “AA.” May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.

“BBB” – Long-term debt rated “BBB” is of adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.

“BB” – Long-term debt rated “BB” is of speculative, non-investment grade credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is uncertain.  
Vulnerable to future events.

“B” – Long-term debt rated “B” is of highly speculative credit quality. There is a high level of uncertainty as to the capacity to meet financial obligations.

“CCC”, “CC” and “C” – Long-term debt rated in any of these categories is of very highly speculative credit quality. In danger of defaulting on financial obligations. There is little difference between these three categories, although “CC” and “C” ratings are normally applied to obligations that are seen as highly likely to default, or subordinated to obligations rated in the “CCC” to “B” range. Obligations in respect of which default has not technically taken place but is considered inevitable may be rated in the “C” category.

“D” – A security rated “D” is assigned when the issuer has filed under any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency or winding up statute or there is a failure to satisfy an obligation after the exhaustion of grace periods, a downgrade to “D” may occur. DBRS Morningstar may also use “SD” (Selective Default) in cases where only some securities are impacted, such as the case of a “distressed exchange”.

## **Municipal 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.

Municipal Short-Term Note rating symbols are as follows:

“SP-1” – A municipal note rated “SP-1” exhibits a 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” – A municipal note rated “SP-2” exhibits a satisfactory capacity to pay principal and interest, with some vulnerability to adverse financial and economic changes over the term of the notes.

“SP-3” – A municipal note rated “SP-3” exhibits a speculative capacity to pay principal and interest.

“D” – This rating 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.

**Moody's** uses the global short-term Prime rating scale (listed above under Short-Term Credit Ratings) for commercial paper issued by U.S. 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 provided below.

Moody's uses the MIG scale for U.S. municipal cash flow notes, bond anticipation notes and certain other short-term obligations, which typically mature in three years or less. Under certain circumstances, Moody's uses the MIG scale for bond anticipation notes with maturities of up to five years.

#### MIG Scale

"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.

"NR" – Is assigned to an unrated obligation.

In the case of variable rate demand obligations ("VRDOs"), a two-component rating is assigned. The components are a long-term rating and a short-term demand obligation rating. The long-term rating addresses the issuer's ability to meet scheduled principal and interests payments. The short-term demand obligation rating addresses the ability of the issuer or the liquidity provider to make payments associated with the purchase-price-upon demand feature ("demand feature") of the VRDO. The short-term demand obligation rating uses the VMIG scale. VMIG ratings with liquidity support use as an input the short-term Counterparty Risk Assessment of the support provider, or the long-term rating of the underlying obligor in the absence of third party liquidity support. Transitions of VMIG ratings of demand obligations with conditional liquidity support differ from transitions on the Prime scale to reflect the risk that external liquidity support will terminate if the issuer's long-term rating drops below investment grade.

Moody's typically assigns the VMIG short-term demand obligation rating if the frequency of the demand feature is less than every three years. If the frequency of the demand feature is less than three years but the purchase price is payable only with remarketing proceeds, the short-term demand obligation rating is "NR".

"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 that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

"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 that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

"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 that ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

"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 the structural and/or legal protections necessary to ensure the timely payment of purchase price upon demand.

"NR" – Is assigned to an unrated obligation.

## **About Credit Ratings**

An *S&P Global Ratings* issue credit rating is a forward-looking opinion about the creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to a specific financial obligation, a specific class of financial obligations, or a specific financial program (including ratings on medium-term note programs and commercial paper programs). It takes into consideration the creditworthiness of guarantors, insurers, or other forms of credit enhancement on the obligation and takes into account the currency in which the obligation is denominated. The opinion reflects S&P Global Ratings' view of the obligor's capacity and willingness to meet its financial commitments as they come due, and this opinion may assess terms, such as collateral security and subordination, which could affect ultimate payment in the event of default.

Ratings assigned on *Moody's* global long-term and short-term rating scales 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.

*Fitch's* credit ratings relating to issuers are an opinion on the relative ability of an entity to meet financial commitments, such as interest, preferred dividends, repayment of principal, insurance claims or counterparty obligations. Fitch credit ratings are used by investors as indications of the likelihood of receiving the money owed to them in accordance with the terms on which they invested. Fitch's credit ratings cover the global spectrum of corporate, sovereign financial, bank, insurance, and public finance entities (including supranational and sub-national entities) and the securities or other obligations they issue, as well as structured finance securities backed by receivables or other financial assets.

***DBRS Morningstar*** provides independent credit ratings services for financial institutions, corporate and sovereign entities as well as in respect of structured finance products and instruments. Credit ratings are forward-looking opinions about credit risk that reflect the creditworthiness of an issuer, rated entity, security and/or obligation based on DBRS Morningstar's quantitative and qualitative analysis in accordance with applicable methodologies and criteria. The Rating Committee process facilitates rating decisions, which are a collective assessment of DBRS Morningstar's opinion rather than the view of an individual analyst. Ratings are based on sufficient information that incorporates both global and local considerations and the use of approved methodologies. They are independent of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest. DBRS Morningstar credit ratings are formed and disseminated based on established methodologies, models and criteria (Methodologies) that apply to entities and securities that we rate, including corporate finance issuers, financial institutions, insurance companies, public finance and sovereign entities as well as Structured Finance transactions. DBRS Morningstar methodologies are periodically reviewed and updated by the team.

APPENDIX C – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**VARIANT IMPACT FUND**

**(A Delaware Statutory Trust)**

**Financial Statements**

**October 15, 2021**

**VARIANT IMPACT FUND**  
**(A Delaware Statutory Trust)**

**October 15, 2021**

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Shareholders and Board of Trustees of  
Variant Impact Fund

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Variant Impact Fund (the “Fund”) as of October 15, 2021, the related statement of operations for the one day then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of October 15, 2021, and the results of its operations for the one day then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund’s financial statements based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement whether due to error or fraud.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and confirmation of cash owned as of October 15, 2021 by correspondence with the custodian. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We have served as the auditor of one or more of Variant Investments LLC’s investment companies since 2018.

*Cohen & Company, Ltd.*  
COHEN & COMPANY, LTD.  
Chicago, Illinois  
November 10, 2021

COHEN & COMPANY, LTD.  
800.229.1099 | 866.818.4538 FAX | cohencpa.com

Registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board

**VARIANT IMPACT FUND**

**(A Delaware Statutory Trust)**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

**As of October 15, 2021**

**Assets**

Cash	\$	100,000
Receivable from Investment Manager (See Note 2)		128,050
Deferred offering costs (See Note 2)		63,960
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>292,010</u>

**Liabilities**

Payable to Investment Manager (See Note 2)		126,034
Payable for offering costs (See Note 2)		35,711
Payable for organizational costs (See Note 2)		30,265
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>192,010</u>

<b>Net Assets</b>	\$	<u>100,000</u>
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**Components of Net assets:**

Paid-in capital	\$	<u>100,000</u>
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<b>Net Assets</b>	\$	<u>100,000</u>
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**Net assets attributable to:**

Institutional shares (4,000 shares outstanding)	\$	<u>100,000</u>
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**Net asset value per share:**

Institutional shares	\$	<u>25.00</u>
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See Notes to Financial Statements.

**VARIANT IMPACT FUND**

**(A Delaware Statutory Trust)**

**Statement of Operations**

**One Day Ended October 15, 2021**

**Expenses**

Organizational costs	\$	128,050
Less: Reimbursement from the Investment Manager		<u>(128,050)</u>

**Net Expenses**

**Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations**

**\$ -**

See Notes to Financial Statements.

## **VARIANT IMPACT FUND**

**(A Delaware Statutory Trust)**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

#### **1. Organization**

The Variant Impact Fund (the “Fund”) is a closed-end management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”) and organized as a Delaware statutory trust on June 10, 2021. Variant Investments, LLC serves as the investment adviser (the “Investment Manager”) of the Fund. The Investment Manager provides day-to-day investment management services to the Fund. The Fund is non-diversified, which means that under the Investment Company Act, it is not limited in the percentage of its assets that it may invest in any single issuer of securities. The Fund is an appropriate investment only for those investors who can tolerate a high degree of risk and do not require a liquid investment.

The Fund offers shares of beneficial interest designated as Institutional Class (“Institutional Class Shares” or “Shares”). In the future, other classes of Shares may be registered and included in this offering.

The Fund has a primary objective of providing a high level of current income. Capital appreciation is a secondary objective of the Fund. The Fund will also seek to generate positive social and environmental impact by targeting investment opportunities that are both aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDGs”) and consistent with the Fund’s impact investing framework. The Fund intends to invest in a wide range of opportunities across three core impact objectives: (i) financial inclusion; (ii) inclusive growth; and (iii) responsible consumption. Such investments are typically domestic and foreign privately-held investments that are outside of traditional public equity and bond markets. These assets may include, but are not limited to private credit, specialty finance, real estate equity and debt securities, education finance, infrastructure debt, renewable energy investments, as well as purchases of interests in impact-oriented private funds in the secondary market. The Fund may also invest in publicly-traded securities, such as real estate investment trusts (“REITs”) or exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), which are consistent with the Fund’s impact investing framework. The Fund allocates its investments across multiple strategies in both developed and emerging markets with varying levels of liquidity and credit quality, including distressed and defaulted investments. The Fund may use derivative investments and may have exposure to long and short positions across its asset classes to obtain the desired risk exposure consistent with its investment strategies. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective or that its investment strategy will be successful.

The Fund is currently inactive and launched after the close of business on October 29, 2021.

## **2. Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Preparation and Use of Estimates**

The Fund is an investment company and follows the accounting and reporting guidance under Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) Topic 946, *Financial Services – Investment Companies*. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”). The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, as well as reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### **Organizational and Offering Costs**

Organizational costs consist of the costs of forming the Fund, drafting of bylaws, administration, custody and transfer agency agreements, legal services in connection with the initial meeting of trustees and the Fund’s seed audit costs. Offering costs consist of the costs of preparation, review and filing with the SEC the Fund’s registration statement (including this Prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information), the costs of preparation, review and filing of any associated marketing or similar materials, the costs associated with the printing, mailing or other distribution of the Prospectus, SAI and/or marketing materials, and the amounts of associated filing fees and legal fees associated with the offering. The aggregate amount of the organizational costs and offering costs as of the date of the accompanying financial statements are \$128,050 and \$63,960, respectively.

The Investment Manager has agreed to reimburse the Fund’s organizational costs and offering costs already incurred and any additional costs incurred prior to the commencement of operations of the Fund. Organizational costs are expensed as incurred and are subject to recoupment by the Investment Manager in accordance with the Fund’s expense limitation agreement discussed in Note 4. Offering costs, which are also subject to the Fund’s expense limitation agreement discussed in Note 4, are accounted for as a deferred charge until Fund shares are offered to the public and will thereafter, be amortized to expense over twelve months on a straight-line basis.

### **Federal Income Taxes**

The Fund has elected to be treated and qualify as a regulated investment company (a “RIC”) for federal income tax purposes. As a RIC, the Fund will generally not be subject to federal corporate income tax, provided that when it is a RIC, it distributes out all of its income and gains each year.

### **Indemnifications**

In the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that provide general indemnifications. The Fund’s maximum exposure under these agreements is dependent on future claims that may be made against the Fund, and therefore cannot be established; however, the risk of loss from such claims is considered remote.

### **3. Capital Stock**

The Fund is authorized to offer Shares designated as Institutional Class Shares. While the Fund presently offers a single class of Shares, it may offer other classes of Shares as well in the future. From time to time, the Board may create and offer additional classes of Shares, or may vary the characteristics of the Institutional Class Shares described herein, including without limitation, in the following respects: (1) the amount of fees permitted by a distribution and/or service plan as to such class; (2) voting rights with respect to a distribution and/or service plan as to such class; (3) different class designations; (4) the impact of any class expenses directly attributable to a particular class of Shares; (5) differences in any dividends and net asset values resulting from differences in fees under a distribution and/or service plan or in class expenses; (6) the addition of sales loads; (7) any conversion features, as permitted under the Investment Company Act.

The minimum initial investment in Institutional Class Shares by any investor is \$1 million. However, the Fund, in its sole discretion, may accept investments below the minimum with respect to Institutional Class Shares. Shares may be purchased by principals and employees of the Investment Manager or its affiliates and their immediate family members without being subject to the minimum investment requirements. The purchase price for each class of Shares is based on the NAV per Share of that Class as of the date such Shares are purchased.

The Institutional Class Shares are not subject to any initial sales charge. However, investors will be assessed fees for returned checks and stop payment orders at prevailing rates charged by the Administrator. The returned check and stop payment fee are currently \$25.

Shares are generally offered for purchase on each business day, except that Shares may be offered more or less frequently as determined by the Board in its sole discretion. The Board may also suspend or terminate offerings of Shares at any time.

Except as otherwise permitted by the Board, initial and subsequent purchases of Shares will be payable in cash. Orders will be priced at the appropriate price next computed after the order is received by the Fund. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to accept or reject any subscription to purchase Shares in the Fund at any time.

A substantial portion of the Fund's investments are illiquid. For this reason, the Fund is structured as a closed-end interval fund, which means that the Shareholders will not have the right to redeem their Shares on a daily basis. In addition, the Fund does not expect any trading market to develop for the Shares. As a result, if investors decide to invest in the Fund, they will have very limited opportunity to sell their Shares.

For each repurchase offer the Board will set an amount between 5% and 25% of the Fund's Shares based on relevant factors, including the liquidity of the Fund's positions and the Shareholders' desire for liquidity. A Shareholder whose Shares (or a portion thereof) are repurchased by the Fund will not be entitled to a return of any sales charge that was charged in connection with the Shareholder's purchase of the Shares.

A Shareholder who tenders for repurchase only a portion of its Shares in the Fund will be required to maintain a minimum account balance of \$1,000,000 for Institutional Shares. If a Shareholder tenders a portion of its Shares and the repurchase of that portion would cause the Shareholder's account balance to fall below this required minimum of \$1,000,000 for Institutional Shares, the Fund reserves the right to repurchase all of such Shareholder's outstanding Shares. Such minimum capital account balance requirement may also be waived by the Board or by the Investment Manager in its sole discretion, subject to applicable federal securities laws.

#### **4. Agreements**

The Fund has entered into an investment management agreement (the "Investment Management Agreement") with the Investment Manager. Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund pays the Investment Manager a monthly Investment Management Fee equal to 1.25% on an annualized basis of the Fund's "Managed Assets." "Managed Assets" means the total assets of the Fund (including any assets attributable to any leverage that may be outstanding) minus the sum of accrued liabilities (other than debt representing financial leverage and the aggregate liquidation preference of any outstanding preferred shares) as of each month-end, subject to certain adjustments.

The Investment Manager has entered into an expense limitation and reimbursement agreement (the "Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement") with the Fund, whereby the Investment Manager has agreed to waive fees that it would otherwise have been paid, and/or to assume expenses of the Fund (a "Waiver"), if required to ensure the Total Annual Expenses (excluding any taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses (as determined in accordance with SEC Form N-2), expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses, such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 1.75% of the average daily net assets of Institutional Class Shares (the "Expense Limit"). Because taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, and extraordinary expenses are excluded from the Expense Limit, Total Annual Expenses (after fee waivers and expense reimbursements) are expected to exceed 1.75% of the average daily net assets of Institutional Class Shares. For a period not to exceed three years from the date on which a Waiver is made, the Investment Manager may recoup amounts waived or assumed, provided it is able to effect such recoupment and remain in compliance with the Expense Limit in place at the time of the Waiver and the current Expense Limit at the time of the recoupment. The Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement is in effect until October 1, 2023. The Expense Limitation and Reimbursement Agreement will automatically renew for consecutive one-year terms thereafter. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by the Fund's Board of Trustees upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the Investment Manager. This Agreement may be terminated by the Investment Manager as of the end of its then-current term upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the Fund.

## **5. Other Agreements**

### **Distribution and Services Agreement**

Foreside Fund Services, LLC (the “Distributor”) is the distributor (also known as principal underwriter) of the Shares of the Fund and acts as the agent of the Fund in connection with the continuous offering of shares of the Fund.

### **Fund Administration Agreement**

The Fund has retained the Administrator, UMB Fund Services, Inc. (the “Administrator”) to provide administrative services, and to assist with operational needs. In consideration for these services, the Fund pays the Administrator a minimum monthly administration fee (the “Administration Fee”). The Administration Fee is paid to the Administrator out of the assets of the Fund and therefore decreases the net profits or increases the net losses of the Fund. The Administrator is also reimbursed by the Fund for out-of-pocket expenses relating to services provided to the Fund, and receives a fee for transfer agency services. The Administration Fee and the other terms of the Administration Agreement may change from time to time as may be agreed to by the Fund and the Administrator.

### **Custodian Agreement**

UMB Bank, N.A. (the “Custodian”), an affiliate of the Administrator, serves as the primary custodian of the assets of the Fund, and may maintain custody of such assets with U.S. and non-U.S. sub-custodians (which may be banks and trust companies), securities depositories and clearing agencies in accordance with the requirements of Section 17(f) of the Investment Company Act and the rules thereunder. Assets of the Fund are not held by the Investment Manager or commingled with the assets of other accounts other than to the extent that securities are held in the name of the Custodian or U.S. or non-U.S. sub-custodians in a securities depository, clearing agency or omnibus customer account of such custodian. In consideration for these services, the Fund pays the Custodian a minimum monthly custodian fee.

## **6. Subsequent Events**

In preparing these financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of issuance of the financial statements included herein. On October 29, 2021, the Fund received \$1,000,000 from an accredited investor to be invested in the Fund.