

## STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **Zacks Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF**

(Ticker Symbol: ZECF)

*Listed and traded on:*

*Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.*

### **Zacks Focus Growth ETF**

(Ticker Symbol: GROZ)

*Listed and traded on:*

*Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc.*

### **Zacks Small/Mid Cap ETF**

(Ticker Symbol: SMIZ)

*Listed and traded on:*

*NYSE Arca*

April 1, 2025

Each a series of the

**Zacks Trust**

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is meant to be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for Zacks Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF, Zacks Focus Growth ETF and Zacks Small/Mid Cap ETF (each, a “Fund” and together, the “Funds”), dated April 1, 2025 and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Prospectus. Because this SAI is not itself a prospectus, no investment in shares of the Funds should be made solely upon the information contained herein. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meaning as in the Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. You can obtain copies of the Funds’ Prospectus, and annual or semi-annual reports without charge by contacting the Funds’ Distributor, Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, located at 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, NE 68022-3474 or by calling 855-813-3507. You may also obtain a Prospectus by visiting the website at [www.zacksetfs.com](http://www.zacksetfs.com). The Funds’ Prospectus is incorporated by reference into this SAI.

**Reference to the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, (the “1940 Act”), or other applicable law, will include any rules promulgated thereunder and any guidance, interpretations or modifications by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), SEC staff or other authority with appropriate jurisdiction, including court interpretations, and exemptive, no action or other relief or permission from the SEC, SEC staff or other authority.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUNDS	1
INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS AND POLICIES	1
INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS	2
CONTINUOUS OFFERING	14
MANAGEMENT	15
ALLOCATION OF BROKERAGE	28
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUST	29
PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES	31
TAXES	39
DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS	44
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	44
APPENDIX A	A-1

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUNDS

Zacks Trust (the "Trust") was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on November 14, 2018 and is authorized to have multiple series or portfolios. The Trust is an open-end management investment company, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Trust currently consists of six series. This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") relates to the Zacks Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF (the "Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF"), Zacks Focus Growth ETF (the "Focus Growth ETF") and Zacks Small/Mid Cap ETF (the "Small/Mid Cap ETF") (each, a "Fund" and together, the "Funds"). The offering of each Fund's shares is registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). Each Fund is an exchange-traded fund (commonly referred to as an "ETF"). ETFs are funds that trade like other publicly-traded securities. The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as "Shares" or "Fund Shares." Effective February 1, 2024, the fiscal year end for the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed from January 31 to November 30.

The Fund's investment objective, restrictions and policies are more fully described here and in the Prospectus. The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the "Board") may start other series and offer shares of a new fund under the Trust at any time. The Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF and Small/Mid Cap ETF are each classified as "diversified," and the Focus Growth ETF is classified as "non-diversified."

Each Fund is managed by Zacks Investment Management, Inc. (the "Advisor").

Each Fund will offer and issue Shares at net asset value ("NAV") only in aggregations of a specified number of Shares (each a "Creation Unit" or a "Creation Unit Aggregation"), generally in exchange for a basket of securities specified by the Fund (the "Deposit Securities"), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment (the "Cash Component").

Each of the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF's Shares and the Focus Growth ETF's Shares are listed on the Cboe BZX Exchange, Inc. (the "Cboe Exchange") and the Small/Mid Cap ETF's Shares are listed on NYSE Arca (together with the Cboe Exchange, each, an "Exchange"), each under the applicable trading symbol set out on the front cover.

Fund Shares will trade on the applicable Exchange at market prices that may be below, at or above NAV. Shares are redeemable only in Creation Unit Aggregations and, generally, in exchange for portfolio securities and a specified cash payment. Creation Units are aggregations of 25,000 Shares.

The Trust reserves the right to offer a "cash" option for creations and redemptions of Fund Shares. Fund Shares may be issued in advance of receipt of Deposit Securities subject to various conditions including a requirement to maintain on deposit with the Trust cash at least equal to 115% of the market value of the missing Deposit Securities. See the "Creation and Redemption of Creation Unit Aggregations" section. In each instance of such cash creations or redemptions, transaction fees may be imposed that will be higher than the transaction fees associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. In all cases, such fees will be limited in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities.

## INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS AND POLICIES

The investment restrictions set forth below have been adopted by the Board as fundamental policies that cannot be changed with respect to a Fund without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. The investment objective of a Fund and all other investment policies or practices of the Fund are considered by the Trust not to be fundamental and accordingly may be changed without shareholder approval. For purposes of the 1940 Act, a "majority of the outstanding voting securities" means the lesser of the vote of (i) 67% or more of the Shares of a Fund present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares of a Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (ii) more than 50% of the Shares of a Fund.

As a matter of fundamental policy, each Fund (except as otherwise noted below) may not:

- (1) Purchase the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activity in the same industry if,

immediately after the purchase and as a result thereof, the value of the Fund's investments in that industry would equal or exceed 25% of the current value of the Fund's total assets, provided that this restriction does not limit the Fund's: (i) investments in securities of other investment companies, (ii) investments in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or (iii) investments in repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities.

(2) Borrow money, except that (i) the Fund may borrow from banks for temporary or emergency (not leveraging) purposes, including the meeting of redemption requests which might otherwise require the untimely disposition of securities; and (ii) the Fund may, to the extent consistent with its investment policies, enter into repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, forward roll transactions and similar investment strategies and techniques. To the extent that it engages in transactions described in (i) and (ii), the Fund will be limited so that no more than 33 1/3% of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) is derived from such transactions. Any borrowings which come to exceed this amount will be reduced in accordance with applicable law.

(3) Issue any senior security, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as amended, and as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.

(4) Make loans, except as permitted under the 1940 Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.

(5) Purchase or sell real estate unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this restriction shall not prevent the Fund from investing in securities of companies engaged in the real estate business or securities or other instruments backed by real estate or mortgages), or commodities or commodity contracts.

(6) Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by other persons, except to the extent that the Fund may technically be deemed to be an underwriter under the 1933 Act, in disposing of portfolio securities.

Senior securities may include any obligation or instrument issued by a fund evidencing indebtedness. The 1940 Act generally prohibits funds from issuing senior securities, although it does not treat certain transactions as senior securities, such as certain borrowings, short sales, firm commitment agreements, and standby commitments, with appropriate earmarking or segregation of assets to cover such obligations. The Funds' specific policies for segregation of assets are described in "Investment Policies and Risks" below.

Each Fund is allowed to pledge, mortgage, or hypothecate assets up to the amounts allowable under the 1940 Act, which presently allows each Fund to borrow from any bank (including pledging, mortgaging or hypothecating assets) in an amount up to 33 1/3% of its total assets (not including temporary borrowings not in excess of 5% of its total assets).

For purposes of a Fund's concentration policy, if the Fund invests in one or more investment companies, the Fund will examine the holdings of such investment companies to ensure that the Fund is not indirectly concentrating its investments in a particular industry or group of industries. In determining the exposure of a Fund to a particular industry or group of industries for purposes of the fundamental investment restriction on concentration, the Fund currently uses Standard & Poor's Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) in order to classify industries. With respect to the fundamental investment restrictions above (other than those involving senior securities and borrowings), if a percentage limitation is adhered to at the time of investment, a later increase or decrease in percentage resulting from any change in value or net assets will not result in a violation of such restriction (i.e., percentage limitations are determined at the time of purchase).

Each Fund may invest up to 15% of net assets in illiquid securities, which are investments that cannot be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the prices at which they are valued. This restriction is not limited to the time of purchase.

## **INVESTMENT POLICIES AND RISKS**

**The investment objective and principal investment strategies for each Fund are provided in the Prospectus. Each**

**Fund may not invest in all of the investments listed below. Unless a strategy, instrument, or policy described below is specifically prohibited by a Fund's investment restrictions or by applicable law, the Fund may, but will not necessarily, engage in each of the investment practices described below. Except as stated elsewhere in the Funds' Prospectus or this SAI, to the extent a Fund has reserved the freedom to invest in a type of investment or to utilize a particular investment practice, the Fund may invest in such investment or engage in such investment practice without limit.**

A discussion of the risks associated with an investment in each Fund is contained in the Funds' Prospectus under the headings "Principal Risks of Investing in the Funds," and "Additional Information About the Funds' Investment Objectives, Principal Investment Strategies, And Risks." The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, such sections of the Funds' Prospectus.

General Considerations and Risks. Investment in a Fund should be made with an understanding that the value of the Fund's portfolio securities may fluctuate in accordance with changes in the financial condition of the issuers of the portfolio securities, the value of securities generally and other factors.

An investment in a Fund should also be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in securities, including the risk that the financial condition of issuers may become impaired or that the general condition of the securities markets may deteriorate (either of which may cause a decrease in the value of the portfolio securities and thus in the value of Shares). Securities are susceptible to general market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic, and banking crises.

Equity Securities. The value of equity securities fluctuates in response to general market and economic conditions (market risk) and in response to the fortunes of individual companies (company risk). Therefore, the value of an investment in a Fund that holds equity securities may decrease. The market as a whole can decline for many reasons, including adverse political or economic developments here or abroad, changes in investor psychology, or heavy institutional selling. Also, certain unanticipated events, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, war, and other geopolitical events, can have a dramatic adverse effect on stock markets. Changes in the financial condition of a company or other issuer, changes in specific market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions that affect a particular type of investment or issuer, and changes in general market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions can adversely affect the price of equity securities. These developments and changes can affect a single issuer, issuers within a broad market sector, industry or geographic region, or the market in general.

Common Stock. Holders of common stocks incur more risk than holders of preferred stocks and debt obligations because common stockholders, as owners of the issuer, have generally inferior rights to receive payments from the issuer in comparison with the rights of creditors of, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks issued by the issuer. Further, unlike debt securities which typically have a stated principal amount payable at maturity (whose value, however, will be subject to market fluctuations prior thereto), or preferred stocks which typically have a liquidation preference and which may have stated optional or mandatory redemption provisions, common stocks have neither a fixed principal amount nor a maturity. Common stock values are subject to market fluctuations as long as the common stock remains outstanding.

Loans of Portfolio Securities. Each Fund may lend its investment securities to approved borrowers. Any gain or loss on the market price of the securities loaned that might occur during the term of the loan would be for the account of a Fund. These loans cannot exceed 33 1/3% of a Fund's total assets.

Approved borrowers are brokers, dealers, domestic and foreign banks, or other financial institutions that meet credit or other requirements as established by the securities lending agent, so long as the terms, the structure, and the aggregate amount of such loans are not inconsistent with the 1940 Act and the rules and regulations thereunder or interpretations of the SEC, which require that (a) the borrowers pledge and maintain with a Fund collateral consisting of cash, an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank, or securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government having a value at all times of not less than 102% of the value of the securities loaned (on a "mark-to-market" basis),

and maintained in an amount equal to at least 100% of the value of the portfolio securities being lent; (b) the loan be made subject to termination by a Fund at any time; and (c) a Fund receives reasonable interest on the loan. From time to time, a Fund may return a part of the interest earned from the investment of collateral received from securities loaned to the borrower and/or a third-party securities lending agent that is unaffiliated with the Fund.

Risks of Securities Lending. A Fund will not have the right to vote securities while they are on loan, but it will recall securities on loan if the Advisor determines that the shareholder meeting is called for purposes of voting on material events that could have a material impact on the Fund's loaned securities and for which the vote could be material to the Fund. A Fund would receive income in lieu of dividends on loaned securities and may, at the same time, generate income on the loan collateral or on the investment of any cash collateral.

Securities lending involves a risk of loss because the borrower may fail to return the securities in a timely manner or at all. If the borrower defaults on its obligation to return the securities loaned because of insolvency or other reasons, a Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering securities loaned or gaining access to the collateral. If a Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement security in the market. Lending securities entails a risk of loss to a Fund if, and to the extent that, the market value of the loaned securities increases and the collateral is not increased accordingly. Securities lending also involves exposure to "operational risk" (the risk of loss resulting from errors in the settlement and accounting process) and "gap risk" (the risk that the return on cash collateral reinvestments will be less than the fees paid to the borrower).

Any cash received as collateral for loaned securities may be invested in short-term liquid fixed income securities or in money market or short-term mutual funds, or similar investment vehicles. A Fund bears the risk of such investments. Investing this cash subjects that investment to market appreciation or depreciation. For purposes of determining whether a Fund is complying with its investment policies, strategies, and restrictions, the Fund or the Advisor will consider the loaned securities as assets of the Fund but will not consider any collateral received as the Fund's asset. A Fund may have to pay the borrower a fee based on the amount of cash collateral. The Fund may pay lending fees to a party arranging the loan.

Senior Securities. In general, a Fund may not issue any class of senior security, except within the limitations of the 1940 Act. These limitations allow a Fund to (i) borrow from banks, provided that immediately following any such borrowing there is an asset coverage of at least 300% (the "Asset Coverage Requirement") for all Fund borrowings, and (ii) engage in trading practices which could be deemed to involve the issuance of a senior security, including but not limited to options, futures, forward contracts, and reverse repurchase agreements, provided that the Fund complies with applicable SEC regulations and interpretations.

Repurchase Agreements. Each Fund may enter into repurchase agreements pursuant to which securities are acquired by the Fund from a third party with the understanding that they will be repurchased by the seller at a fixed price on an agreed date. These agreements may be made with respect to any of the portfolio securities in which a Fund is authorized to invest. Repurchase agreements may be characterized as loans secured by the underlying securities. Each Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with (i) member banks of the Federal Reserve System having total assets in excess of \$500 million and (ii) securities dealers ("Qualified Institutions"). The Advisor will monitor the continued creditworthiness of Qualified Institutions.

The use of repurchase agreements involves certain risks. For example, if the seller of securities under a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligation to repurchase the underlying securities, as a result of its bankruptcy or otherwise, a Fund will seek to dispose of such securities, which action could involve costs or delays. If the seller becomes insolvent and subject to liquidation or reorganization under applicable bankruptcy or other laws, the Fund's ability to dispose of the underlying securities may be restricted. Finally, it is possible that a Fund may not be able to substantiate its interest in the underlying securities. To minimize this risk, the securities underlying the repurchase agreement will be held by the custodian at all times in an amount at least equal to the repurchase price, including accrued interest. If the seller fails to repurchase the securities, a Fund may suffer a loss to the extent proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities are less than the repurchase price.

The resale price reflects the purchase price plus an agreed upon market rate of interest. The collateral is marked-to-market daily.

Reverse Repurchase Agreements. Each Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements, which involve the sale of securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities at an agreed-upon price, date, and interest payment and have the characteristics of borrowing. The securities purchased with the funds obtained from the agreement and securities collateralizing the agreement will have maturity dates no later than the repayment date. Generally, the effect of such transactions is that a Fund can recover all or most of the cash invested in the portfolio securities involved during the term of the reverse repurchase agreement, while in many cases the Fund is able to keep some of the interest income associated with those securities. Such transactions are only advantageous if a Fund has an opportunity to earn a greater rate of return on the cash derived from these transactions than the interest cost of obtaining the same amount of cash. Opportunities to realize earnings from the use of the proceeds equal to or greater than the interest required to be paid may not always be available and a Fund intends to use the reverse repurchase technique only when the Advisor believes it will be advantageous to the Fund. The use of reverse repurchase agreements may exaggerate any interim increase or decrease in the value of a Fund's assets. The custodian bank will maintain a separate account for a Fund with securities having a value equal to or greater than such commitments. Under the 1940 Act, reverse repurchase agreements are considered loans.

Money Market Instruments. Each Fund may invest a portion of its assets in high-quality money market instruments on an ongoing basis to provide liquidity. The instruments in which a Fund may invest include: (i) short-term obligations issued by the U.S. Government; (ii) negotiable certificates of deposit ("CDs"), fixed time deposits and bankers' acceptances of U.S. and foreign banks and similar institutions; (iii) commercial paper rated at the date of purchase "Prime-1" by Moody's Investors Service, Inc., or "A-1+" or "A-1" by S&P Global Ratings or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by the Advisor; (iv) repurchase agreements; and (v) money market mutual funds. CDs are short-term negotiable obligations of commercial banks. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates. Bankers' acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions.

Investment Companies. Each Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies (including money market funds). Under the 1940 Act, a Fund's investment in investment companies is limited to, subject to certain exceptions: (i) 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of any one investment company, (ii) 5% of the Fund's total assets with respect to any one investment company, and (iii) 10% of the Fund's total assets of investment companies in the aggregate.

Illiquid Securities. Each Fund may invest in illiquid assets, including Rule 144A securities deemed illiquid by the Advisor. Illiquid securities include securities subject to contractual or other restrictions on resale and other instruments that lack readily available markets.

Futures and Options. Each Fund may utilize exchange-traded futures and options contracts.

Futures contracts generally provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified commodity at a specified future time and at a specified price. Stock index futures contracts are settled daily with a payment by one party to the other of a cash amount based on the difference between the level of the stock index specified in the contract from one day to the next. Futures contracts are standardized as to maturity date and underlying instrument and are traded on futures exchanges.

Futures traders are required to make a good faith margin deposit in cash or U.S. government securities with a broker or custodian to initiate and maintain open positions in futures contracts. A margin deposit is intended to assure completion of the contract (delivery or acceptance of the underlying commodity or payment of the cash settlement amount) if it is not terminated prior to the specified delivery date. Brokers may establish deposit requirements which are higher than the exchange minimums. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margin deposits which may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

After a futures contract position is opened, the value of the contract is marked-to-market daily. If the futures contract price changes to the extent that the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, payment of additional "variation" margin will be required. Conversely, a change in the contract value may reduce the required margin, resulting in a repayment of excess margin to the contract holder. Variation margin payments are made to and from the futures broker for as long as the contract remains open. In such case, a Fund would expect to earn

interest income on its margin deposits. Closing out an open futures position is done by taking an opposite position (“buying” a contract which has previously been “sold,” or “selling” a contract previously “purchased”) in an identical contract to terminate the position. Brokerage commissions are incurred when a futures contract position is opened or closed.

An option on a futures contract, as contrasted with the direct investment in such a contract, gives the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in the underlying futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option. Upon exercise of an option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer’s futures margin account that represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. The potential for loss related to the purchase of an option on a futures contract is limited to the premium paid for the option plus transaction costs. Because the value of the option is fixed at the point of purchase, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying contract; however, the value of the option changes daily and that change would be reflected in the NAV of a Fund. The potential for loss related to writing call options on equity securities or indices is unlimited. The potential for loss related to writing put options is limited only by the aggregate strike price of the put option less the premium received.

Each Fund may purchase and write put and call options on futures contracts that are traded on a U.S. exchange as a hedge against changes in value of its portfolio securities, or in anticipation of the purchase of securities, and may enter into closing transactions with respect to such options to terminate existing positions. There is no guarantee that such closing transactions can be affected.

Restrictions on the Use of Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts. With respect to investments in swap transactions, commodity futures, commodity options, or certain other derivatives used for purposes other than bona fide hedging purposes, an investment company must meet one of the following tests under the amended regulations in order to claim an exemption from being considered a “commodity pool” or commodity pool operator (“CPO”). First, the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish an investment company’s positions in such investments may not exceed five percent (5%) of the liquidation value of the investment company’s portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such investments). Alternatively, the aggregate net notional value of such instruments, determined at the time of the most recent position established, may not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the liquidation value of the investment company’s portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, the investment company may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the commodity futures, commodity options or swaps and derivatives markets. If the Advisor were required to register as a CPO with respect to a Fund, the disclosure and operations of the Fund would need to comply with all applicable Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) regulations. Compliance with these additional registration and regulatory requirements would increase operational expenses. Other potentially adverse regulatory initiatives could also develop.

Swap Agreements. Swap agreements are contracts between parties in which one party agrees to make periodic payments to the other party (the “Counterparty”) based on the change in market value or level of a specified rate, index or asset. In return, the Counterparty agrees to make periodic payments to the first party based on the return of a different specified rate, index, or asset. Swap agreements will usually be done on a net basis, with a Fund receiving or paying only the net amount of the two payments. The net amount of the excess, if any, of a Fund’s obligations over its entitlements with respect to each swap is accrued daily and an amount of cash or highly liquid securities having an aggregate value at least equal to the accrued excess is maintained in an account at the Trust’s custodian bank.

The use of interest rate and index swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. These transactions generally do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal.

The use of swap agreements involves certain risks. For example, if the Counterparty under a swap agreement



defaults on its obligation to make payments due from it, because of its bankruptcy or otherwise, a Fund may lose such payments altogether, or collect only a portion thereof, which collection could involve costs or delays.

Risks of Derivatives. Derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends on, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate, or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates, commodities, and related indexes. The various derivative instruments that a Fund may use are described in more detail under “Futures and Options,” “Swap Agreements,” and “Currency Transactions” in this SAI. A Fund may, but is not required to, use derivative instruments for risk management purposes or as part of its investment strategies.

A Fund’s use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. Derivatives are subject to a number of risks including liquidity risk, market risk, credit risk, default risk, counterparty risk, and management risk. They also involve the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate exactly with the change in the value of the underlying asset, rate or index. Also, suitable derivative transactions may not be available in all circumstances and there can be no assurance that a Fund will engage in these transactions to reduce exposure to other risks when that would be beneficial.

Participation in the options or futures markets, as well as the use of various swap instruments and forward contracts, involves investment risks and transaction costs to which a Fund would not be subject absent the use of these strategies. Risks inherent in the use of options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forwards and swaps include: (i) imperfect correlation between the price of options and futures contracts and options thereon and movements in the prices of the securities being hedged; (ii) the fact that skills needed to use these strategies are different from those needed to select non-derivative portfolio securities; (iii) the potential absence of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument at any time; (iv) the possible need to defer closing out certain positions to avoid adverse tax consequences; (v) for swaps, additional credit risk and the risk of counterparty default and the risk of failing to correctly evaluate the creditworthiness of the company on which the swap is based; and (vi) the possible inability of a Fund to purchase or sell a portfolio security at a time that otherwise would be favorable for it to do so, or the possible need for the Fund to sell the security at a disadvantageous time, due to the requirement that the Fund maintain “cover” or collateral securities in connection with the use of certain derivatives.

A Fund could lose the entire amount it invests in futures. The loss from investing in other derivatives is potentially unlimited. There also is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for futures contracts and options in which a Fund may invest. A Fund limits its investment in futures contracts so that the notional value (meaning the stated contract value) of the futures contracts does not exceed the net assets of the Fund.

Furthermore, regulatory requirements for a Fund to set aside assets to meet its obligations with respect to derivatives may result in the Fund being unable to purchase or sell securities when it would otherwise be favorable to do so, or in the Fund needing to sell securities at a disadvantageous time. A Fund may also be unable to close out its derivatives positions when desired. Investments in derivatives can cause the Fund to be more volatile and can result in significant losses.

Because the markets for certain derivative instruments (including markets located in foreign countries) are relatively new and still developing, suitable derivatives transactions may not be available in all circumstances. Upon the expiration of a particular contract, the Advisor may wish to retain a Fund’s position in the derivative instrument by entering into a similar contract but may be unable to do so if the counterparty to the original contract is unwilling to enter into the new contract and no other suitable counterparty can be found. There is no assurance that a Fund will engage in derivatives transactions at any time or from time to time. A Fund’s ability to use derivatives may also be limited by certain regulatory and tax considerations.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) and related regulatory developments require the clearing and exchange-trading of certain standardized over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivative instruments that the CFTC and SEC defined as “swaps” and “security-based swaps,” respectively. Mandatory exchange-trading and clearing is occurring on a phased-in basis based on the type of market participant and CFTC approval of contracts for central clearing and exchange trading. In a cleared swap, a Fund’s ultimate

counterparty is a central clearinghouse rather than a swap dealer, bank, or other financial institution. A Fund enters into cleared swaps through an executing broker. Such transactions are then submitted for clearing and, if cleared, will be held at regulated futures commission merchants (“FCMs”) that are members of the clearinghouse that serves as the central counterparty. When a Fund enters into a cleared swap, it must deliver to the central counterparty (via an FCM) an amount referred to as “initial margin.” Initial margin requirements are determined by the central counterparty, but an FCM may require additional initial margin above the amount required by the central counterparty. During the term of the swap agreement, a “variation margin” amount may also be required to be paid by a Fund or may be received by the Fund in accordance with margin controls set for such accounts, depending upon changes in the price of the underlying reference asset subject to the swap agreement. At the conclusion of the term of the swap agreement, if a Fund has a loss equal to or greater than the margin amount, the margin amount is paid to the FCM along with any loss in excess of the margin amount. If a Fund has a loss of less than the margin amount, the excess margin is returned to the Fund. If a Fund has a gain, the full margin amount and the amount of the gain is paid to the Fund.

Central clearing is designed to reduce counterparty credit risk compared to uncleared swaps because central clearing interposes the central clearinghouse as the counterparty to each participant’s swap, but it does not eliminate those risks completely. There is also a risk of loss by a Fund of the initial and variation margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of the FCM with which the Fund has an open position in a swap contract. The assets of a Fund may not be fully protected in the event of the bankruptcy of the FCM or central counterparty because the Fund might be limited to recovering only a pro rata share of all available funds and margin segregated on behalf of an FCM’s customers or central counterparty’s clearing members. If the FCM does not provide accurate reporting, a Fund is also subject to the risk that the FCM could use the Fund’s assets, which are held in an omnibus account with assets belonging to the FCM’s other customers, to satisfy its own financial obligations or the payment obligations of another customer to the central counterparty. Certain swaps have begun trading on exchanges called swap execution facilities. Exchange-trading is expected to increase liquidity of swaps trading.

In addition, with respect to cleared swaps, a Fund may not be able to obtain as favorable terms as it would be able to negotiate for an uncleared swap. In addition, an FCM may unilaterally impose position limits or additional margin requirements for certain types of swaps in which a Fund may invest. Central counterparties and FCMs generally can require termination of existing cleared swap transactions at any time and can also require increases in margin above the margin that is required at the initiation of the swap agreement. Margin requirements for cleared swaps vary on a number of factors, and the margin required under the rules of the clearinghouse and FCM may be in excess of the collateral required to be posted by a Fund to support its obligations under a similar uncleared swap. However, regulators are expected to adopt rules imposing certain margin requirements, including minimums, on uncleared swaps in the near future, which could change this comparison.

A Fund is also subject to the risk that, after entering into a cleared swap with an executing broker, no FCM or central counterparty is willing or able to clear the transaction. In such an event, the central counterparty would void the trade. Before a Fund can enter into a new trade, market conditions may become less favorable to the Fund.

Government Regulation of Derivatives. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments, including futures and swap agreements, may limit or prevent a Fund from using such instruments as a part of its investment strategy, and could ultimately prevent the Fund from being able to achieve its investment objective. It is impossible to predict fully the effects of legislation and regulation in this area, but the effects could be substantial and adverse.

The futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations, and margin requirements. The SEC, the CFTC, and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, the implementation or reduction of speculative position limits, the implementation of higher margin requirements, the establishment of daily price limits and the suspension of trading.

The regulation of swaps and futures transactions in the U.S., the European Union and other jurisdictions is a rapidly changing area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial action. There is a possibility of future regulatory changes altering, perhaps to a material extent, the nature of an investment in a Fund or the ability of the Fund to continue to implement its investment strategies.

Under recently adopted rules and regulations, transactions in some types of swaps (including interest rate swaps and credit default swaps on North American and European indices) are required to be centrally cleared, and additional types of swaps may be required to be centrally cleared in the future. In a transaction involving those swaps (“cleared derivatives”), a Fund’s counterparty is a clearing house, rather than a bank or broker. Since a Fund is not a member of any clearing houses and only clearing members can participate directly in the clearing house, the Fund will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at clearing members. In cleared derivatives transactions, the Fund will make payments (including margin payments) to and receive payments from a clearing house through its accounts at clearing members. Clearing members guarantee performance of their clients’ obligations to the clearing house.

In addition, U.S. regulators, the European Union, and certain other jurisdictions have adopted minimum margin and capital requirements for uncleared OTC derivatives transactions. It is expected that these regulations will have a material impact on a Fund’s use of uncleared derivatives. These rules will impose minimum margin requirements on derivatives transactions between a Fund and its swap counterparties and may increase the amount of margin the Fund is required to provide. They will impose regulatory requirements on the timing of transferring margin, which may accelerate a Fund’s current margin process. They will also effectively require changes to typical derivatives margin documentation. It is expected that the Funds will become subject to variation margin requirements under such rules in 2017 and initial margin requirements under such rules in 2020. Such requirements could increase the amount of margin a Fund needs to provide in connection with uncleared derivatives transactions and, therefore, make such transactions more expensive.

Funds investing in derivatives must comply with Rule 18f-4 under the 1940 Act, which provides for the regulation of a registered investment company’s use of derivatives and certain related instruments. Among other things, Rule 18f-4 limits a fund’s derivatives exposure through a value-at-risk test and requires the adoption and implementation of a derivatives risk management program for certain derivatives users. Subject to certain conditions, limited derivatives users (as defined in Rule 18f-4), however, would not be subject to the full requirements of Rule 18f-4. Rule 18f-4 could restrict a Fund’s ability to engage in certain derivatives transactions and/or increase the costs of such derivatives transactions.

Risks of Futures and Options Transactions. Positions in futures contracts and options may be closed out only on an exchange which provides a secondary market. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular futures contract or option at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close a futures or options position. In the event of adverse price movements, a Fund would continue to be required to make daily cash payments to maintain its required margin. In such situations, if a Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell portfolio securities to meet daily margin requirements at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. In addition, a Fund may be required to make delivery of the instruments underlying futures contracts it has sold.

Each Fund will minimize the risk that it will be unable to close out a futures or options contract by only entering into futures and options for which there appears to be a liquid secondary market.

The risk of loss in trading futures contracts or uncovered call options in some strategies (e.g., selling uncovered index futures contracts) is potentially unlimited. Each Fund does not plan to use futures and options contracts, when available, in this manner. The risk of a futures position may still be large, as traditionally measured, due to the low margin deposits required. In many cases, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in immediate and substantial loss or gain to the investor relative to the size of a required margin deposit. Each Fund, however, intends to utilize futures and options contracts in a manner designed to limit its risk exposure to that which is comparable to what it would have incurred through direct investment in securities. There is also the risk of loss by a Fund of margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of a broker with whom the Fund has an open position in the futures contract or option.

Certain financial futures exchanges limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in futures contract prices during a single trading day. The daily limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day’s settlement price at the end of a trading session. Once the daily limit has been reached in a particular type of contract, no trades may be made on that day at a price beyond that limit. The daily limit governs only price movement during a particular trading day and therefore does not limit potential losses,

because the limit may prevent the liquidation of unfavorable positions. Futures contract prices have occasionally moved to the daily limit for several consecutive trading days with little or no trading, thereby preventing prompt liquidation of futures positions and subjecting some futures traders to substantial losses.

Risks of Swap Agreements. Bilateral swap agreements are subject to the risk that the swap counterparty will default on its obligations. If such a default occurs, a Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction, but such remedies may be subject to bankruptcy and insolvency laws which could affect the Fund's rights as a creditor. Some interest rate and credit default swaps are currently subject to central clearing and exchange trading. Although exchange-trading and clearing decreases the counterparty risk involved in bilaterally negotiated contracts and increase market liquidity, exchange-trading and clearing will not make the contracts risk-free.

The use of interest-rate and index swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. The use of a swap requires an understanding not only of the referenced asset, reference rate, or index but also of the swap itself, without the benefit of observing the performance of the swap under all possible market conditions. These transactions generally do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets or principal.

It is possible that developments in the swaps market, including government regulation, could adversely affect a Fund's ability to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

Where swap agreements are two party contracts that may be subject to contractual restrictions on transferability and termination and because they may have terms of greater than seven days, they may be considered to be illiquid and subject to a Fund's limitation on investments in illiquid securities. To the extent that a swap is not liquid, it may not be possible to initiate a transaction or liquidate a position at an advantageous time or price, which may result in significant losses. Like most other investments, swap agreements are subject to the risk that the market value of the instrument will change in a way detrimental to a Fund's interest.

If a Fund uses a swap as a hedge against, or as a substitute for, a portfolio investment, the Fund will be exposed to the risk that the swap will have or will develop imperfect or no correlation with the portfolio investment. This could cause substantial losses for a Fund. While hedging strategies involving swap instruments can reduce the risk of loss, they can also reduce the opportunity for gain or even result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in other Fund investments. Many swaps are complex and often valued subjectively.

Cybersecurity Risk. In connection with the increased use of technologies such as the Internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, each Fund is susceptible to operational, information security, and related risks due to the possibility of cyber-attacks or other incidents. Cyber incidents may result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber-attacks include, but are not limited to, infection by computer viruses or other malicious software code, gaining unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices that are used to service each Fund's operations through hacking or other means for the purpose of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption. Cyber-attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks (which can make a website unavailable) on the Funds' website. In addition, authorized persons could inadvertently or intentionally release confidential or proprietary information stored on a Fund's systems.

Cyber-attacks have the potential to interfere with the processing of authorized participant transactions and shareholder transactions on an Exchange. Furthermore, cybersecurity failures or breaches by a Fund's third-party service providers (including, but not limited to, the adviser, distributor, custodian, transfer agent, and financial intermediaries), or the Advisor, may cause disruptions and impact the service providers' and the Fund's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions, inability to calculate the Fund's NAV, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. A Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result of successful cyber-attacks against, or security breakdowns of, the Fund or its third-party service providers.

A Fund may incur substantial costs to prevent or address cyber incidents in the future. In addition, there is a possibility that certain risks have not been adequately identified or prepared for. Furthermore, a Fund cannot directly control any cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by third party service providers. Cybersecurity risks are also present for issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers and may cause the Fund's investment in such securities to lose value.

Debt Obligations. Each Fund may invest in debt obligations traded in U.S. or foreign markets. Such debt obligations include, among others, bonds, notes, debentures, and variable rate demand notes. In choosing corporate debt securities on behalf of a Fund, the Advisor may consider (i) general economic and financial conditions; and (ii) the specific issuer's (a) business and management, (b) cash flow, (c) earnings coverage of interest and dividends, (d) ability to operate under adverse economic conditions, (e) fair market value of assets, and (f) other considerations deemed appropriate.

Each Fund may invest in debt securities that are rated below investment grade (i.e., "junk bonds") by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations ("NRSROs") or are unrated securities that the Advisor believes are of comparable quality. Junk bonds are considered speculative with respect to their capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. While generally providing greater income and opportunity for gain, non-investment grade debt securities are subject to greater risks than higher-rated securities.

Companies that issue junk bonds are often highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them. During an economic downturn or recession, highly leveraged issuers of high-yield securities may experience financial stress and may not have sufficient revenues to meet their interest payment obligations. Economic downturns tend to disrupt the market for junk bonds, lowering their values and increasing their price volatility. The risk of issuer default is higher with respect to junk bonds because such issues may be subordinated to other creditors of the issuer.

The credit rating from an NRSRO of a junk bond does not necessarily address its market value risk, and ratings may from time to time change to reflect developments regarding the issuer's financial condition. The lower the rating of a junk bond, the more speculative its characteristics.

A Fund may have difficulty selling certain junk bonds because they may have a thin trading market. The lack of a liquid secondary market may have an adverse effect on the market price and a Fund's ability to dispose of particular issues and may also make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain accurate market quotations in valuing these assets. In the event a Fund experiences an unexpected level of net redemptions, the Fund could be forced to sell its junk bonds at an unfavorable price. Prices of junk bonds have been found to be less sensitive to fluctuations in interest rates and more sensitive to adverse economic changes and individual corporate developments than those of higher-rated debt securities.

U.S. Government Obligations. Each Fund may invest in U.S. government obligations. Obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies, and instrumentalities include bills, notes, and bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury, as well as "stripped" or "zero coupon" U.S. Treasury obligations representing future interest or principal payments on U.S. Treasury notes or bonds. Stripped securities are sold at a discount to their "face value," and may exhibit greater price volatility than interest-bearing securities because investors receive no payment until maturity. Obligations of certain agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury; others, such as those of the Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA"), are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; others, such as those of the former Student Loan Marketing Association ("SLMA"), are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agency's obligations; still others, although issued by an instrumentality chartered by the U.S. Government, like the Federal Farm Credit Bureau ("FFCB"), are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality. The U.S. Government may choose not to provide financial support to U.S. Government-sponsored agencies or instrumentalities if it is not legally obligated to do so, in which case, if the issuer were to default, a Fund holding securities of such issuer might not be able to recover their investment from the U.S. Government.

Convertible Securities. Each Fund may invest in convertible securities. Convertible securities include bonds,

debentures, notes, preferred stocks, and other securities that may be converted into a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity securities at a specified price and time. The holder of convertible securities is entitled to receive interest paid or accrued on debt, or dividends paid or accrued on preferred stock, until the security matures or is converted. The value of a convertible security depends on interest rates, the yield of similar nonconvertible securities, the financial strength of the issuer and the seniority of the security in the issuer's capital structure. Convertible securities may be illiquid and may be required to convert at a time and at a price that is unfavorable to a Fund. To the extent that a Fund invests in convertible securities with credit ratings below investment grade, such securities may have a higher likelihood of default, although this may be somewhat offset by the convertibility feature.

Municipal Securities. Each Fund may invest in securities issued by states, municipalities, and other political subdivisions, agencies, authorities and instrumentalities of states and multi-state agencies or authorities. Municipal securities share the attributes of debt/fixed income securities in general, but are generally issued by states, municipalities, and other political subdivisions, agencies, authorities, and instrumentalities of states and multi-state agencies or authorities. The municipal securities which a Fund may purchase include general obligation bonds and limited obligation bonds (or revenue bonds), including industrial development bonds issued pursuant to former federal tax law. General obligation bonds are obligations involving the credit of an issuer possessing taxing power and are payable from such issuer's general revenues and not from any particular source. Limited obligation bonds are payable only from the revenues derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source. Tax-exempt industrial development bonds generally are also revenue bonds and thus are not payable from the issuer's general revenues. The credit and quality of industrial development bonds are usually related to the credit of the corporate user of the facilities. Payment of interest on and repayment of principal of such bonds is the responsibility of the corporate user (and/or any guarantor). In addition, each Fund may invest in lease obligations. Lease obligations may take the form of a lease or an installment purchase contract issued by public authorities to acquire a wide variety of equipment and facilities.

Preferred Stock. Each Fund may invest in preferred stock. Preferred stock, unlike common stock, often offers a stated dividend rate payable from a corporation's earnings. If interest rates rise, the fixed dividend on preferred stocks may be less attractive, causing the price of preferred stocks to decline. Preferred stock may have mandatory sinking fund provisions, as well as call/redemption provisions prior to maturity, a negative feature when interest rates decline. Dividends on some preferred stock may be "cumulative," requiring all or a portion of prior unpaid dividends to be paid before dividends are paid on the issuer's common stock. Preferred stock also generally has a preference over common stock on the distribution of a corporation's assets in the event of liquidation of the corporation, and may be "participating," which means that it may be entitled to a dividend exceeding the stated dividend in certain cases. In some cases, an issuer may offer auction rate preferred stock, which means that the dividend to be paid is set by auction and will often be reset at stated intervals. The rights of preferred stocks on the distribution of a corporation's assets in the event of a liquidation are generally subordinate to the rights associated with a corporation's debt securities.

Bank Instruments. Each Fund may invest in certificates of deposit ("CDs"), time deposits and bankers' acceptances from U.S. banks. A bankers' acceptance is a bill of exchange or time draft drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank. A CD is a negotiable interest-bearing instrument with a specific maturity. CDs are issued by banks and savings and loan institutions in exchange for the deposit of funds and normally can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. A time deposit is a nonnegotiable receipt issued by a bank in exchange for the deposit of funds. Like a CD, it earns a specified rate of interest over a definite period of time; however, it cannot be traded in the secondary market.

Participation Interests. Each Fund may purchase participations in corporate loans. Participation interests generally will be acquired from a commercial bank or other financial institution (a "Lender") or from other holders of a participation interest (a "Participant"). The purchase of a participation interest either from a Lender or a Participant will not result in any direct contractual relationship with the borrowing company (the "Borrower"). A Fund generally will have no right directly to enforce compliance by the Borrower with the terms of the credit agreement. Instead, a Fund will be required to rely on the Lender or the Participant that sold the participation interest, both for the enforcement of the Fund's rights against the Borrower and for the receipt and processing of payments due to the

Fund under the loans. Under the terms of a participation interest, a Fund may be regarded as a member of the Participant, and thus the Fund is subject to the credit risk of both the Borrower and a Participant. Participation interests are generally subject to restrictions on resale. Generally, a Fund considers participation interests to be illiquid and therefore subject to the Fund's percentage limitations for investments in illiquid securities.

Commercial Instruments. Each Fund may invest in commercial interests, including commercial paper and other short-term corporate instruments. Commercial paper consists of short-term promissory notes issued by corporations. Commercial paper may be traded in the secondary market after its issuance.

Variable or Floating Rate Instruments. Each Fund may invest in securities that have variable or floating interest rates which are readjusted on set dates (such as the last day of the month or calendar quarter) in the case of variable rates or whenever a specified interest rate change occurs in the case of a floating rate instrument. Variable or floating interest rates generally reduce changes in the market price of securities from their original purchase price because, upon readjustment, such rates approximate market rates. Accordingly, as interest rates decrease or increase, the potential for capital appreciation or depreciation is less for variable or floating rate securities than for fixed rate obligations. Many securities with variable or floating interest rates purchased by a Fund are subject to payment of principal and accrued interest (usually within seven days) on the Fund's demand. The terms of such demand instruments require payment of principal and accrued interest by the issuer, a guarantor, and/or a liquidity provider. The Advisor will monitor the pricing, quality and liquidity of the variable or floating rate securities held by a Fund.

Zero-Coupon and Pay-in-Kind Securities. Each Fund may invest in zero-coupon or pay-in-kind securities. These securities are debt securities that do not make regular cash interest payments. Zero-coupon securities are sold at a deep discount to their face value. Pay-in-kind securities pay interest through the issuance of additional securities. Because zero-coupon and pay-in-kind securities do not pay current cash income, the price of these securities can be volatile when interest rates fluctuate. While these securities do not pay current cash income, federal tax law requires the holders of zero-coupon and pay-in-kind securities to include in income each year the portion of the original issue discount (or deemed discount) and other non-cash income on such securities accrued during that year. In order to qualify as a "regulated investment company" (a "RIC") under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and to avoid certain excise taxes, a Fund may be required to distribute a portion of such discount and income and may be required to dispose of other portfolio securities, which could occur during periods of adverse market prices, in order to generate sufficient cash to meet these distribution requirements.

Delayed Delivery Transactions. Each Fund may use delayed delivery transactions as an investment technique. Delayed delivery transactions, also referred to as forward commitments, involve commitments by a Fund to dealers or issuers to acquire or sell securities at a specified future date beyond the customary settlement for such securities. These commitments may fix the payment price and interest rate to be received or paid on the investment. A Fund may purchase securities on a delayed delivery basis to the extent that it can anticipate having available cash on the settlement date. Delayed delivery agreements will not be used as a speculative or leverage technique.

Investment in securities on a delayed delivery basis may increase a Fund's exposure to market fluctuations and may increase the possibility that the Fund will incur short-term gains subject to federal taxation or short-term losses if a Fund must engage in portfolio transactions in order to honor a delayed delivery commitment. Until the settlement date, a Fund will segregate liquid assets of a dollar value sufficient at all times to make payment for the delayed delivery transactions. Such segregated liquid assets will be marked-to-market daily, and the amount segregated will be increased if necessary to maintain adequate coverage of the delayed delivery commitments.

The delayed delivery securities, which will not begin to accrue interest or dividends until the settlement date, will be recorded as an asset of a Fund and will be subject to the risk of market fluctuation. The purchase price of the delayed delivery securities is a liability of a Fund until settlement. A Fund may enter into buy/sell back transactions (a form of delayed delivery agreement). In a buy/sell back transaction, a Fund enters a trade to sell securities at one price and simultaneously enters a trade to buy the same securities at another price for settlement at a future date.

When-Issued Securities. Each Fund may purchase when-issued securities. Purchasing securities on a "when issued" basis means that the date for delivery of and payment for the securities is not fixed at the date of purchase but is set after the securities are issued. The payment obligation and, if applicable, the interest rate that will be received

on the securities are fixed at the time the buyer enters into the commitment. A Fund will only make commitments to purchase such securities with the intention of actually acquiring such securities, but the Fund may sell these securities before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

Securities purchased on a when-issued basis and the securities held in a Fund's portfolio are subject to changes in market value based upon the public's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and, if applicable, the changes in the level of interest rates. Therefore, if a Fund is to remain substantially fully invested at the same time that it has purchased securities on a when-issued basis, there will be a possibility that the market value of the Fund's assets will fluctuate to a greater degree. Furthermore, when the time comes for a Fund to meet its obligations under when-issued commitments, the Fund will do so by using then available cash flow, by sale of securities, or although it would not normally expect to do so, by directing the sale of when-issued securities themselves (which may have a market value greater or less than the Fund's payment obligation).

Investment in securities on a when-issued basis may increase a Fund's exposure to market fluctuation and may increase the possibility that the Fund will incur short-term gains subject to federal taxation or short-term losses if the Fund must sell another security in order to honor a when-issued commitment. A Fund will employ techniques designed to reduce such risks.

Rule 144A Securities. Each Fund may invest in Rule 144A securities. Rule 144A securities are securities which, while privately placed, are eligible for purchase and resale pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act. Rule 144A permits certain qualified institutional buyers, such as a Fund, to trade in privately placed securities even though such securities are not registered under the Securities Act. The Advisor, under supervision of the Board, will consider whether securities purchased under Rule 144A are illiquid and thus subject to a Fund's restriction on illiquid securities. Determination of whether a Rule 144A security is liquid or not is a question of fact. In making this determination, the Advisor will consider the trading markets for the specific security taking into account the unregistered nature of a Rule 144A security. In addition, the Sub-Advisor could consider the (i) frequency of trades and quotes; (ii) number of dealers and potential purchasers; (iii) dealer undertakings to make a market; and (iv) nature of the security and of marketplace trades (for example, the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers and the mechanics of transfer). The Advisor will also monitor the liquidity of Rule 144A securities, and if, as a result of changed conditions, the Advisor determines that a Rule 144A security is no longer liquid, the Advisor will review a Fund's holdings of illiquid securities to determine what, if any, action is required to assure that the Fund complies with its restriction on investment of illiquid securities. Investing in Rule 144A securities could increase the amount of a Fund's investments in illiquid securities if qualified institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities.

Tax Risks. As with any investment, you should consider how your investment in Shares of a Fund will be taxed. The tax information in the Prospectus and this Statement is provided as general information. You should consult your own tax professional about the tax consequences of an investment in Shares of a Fund.

#### **CONTINUOUS OFFERING**

The method by which Creation Units of Shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Units of Shares are issued and sold by the Trust on an ongoing basis, at any point a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act, may occur. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act. For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Units after placing an order with the distributor, breaks them down into constituent Shares, and sells such Shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new Shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for Shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter.



Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not “underwriters” but are effecting transactions in Shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of Shares, are generally required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus-delivery obligation with respect to Shares of a Fund are reminded that under Securities Act Rule 153, a prospectus-delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on an Exchange is satisfied by the fact that a Fund’s prospectus is available at the Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

## **MANAGEMENT**

The business of the Trust is managed under the direction of the Board in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and the Trust’s By-laws (the “Governing Documents”), which have been filed with the SEC and are available upon request. The Board consists of 3 individuals, 2 of whom are not “interested persons” (as defined under the 1940 Act) of the Trust or any investment adviser to any series of the Trust (“Independent Trustees”). Pursuant to the Governing Documents, the Trustees shall elect officers including a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Principal Executive Officer and a Principal Accounting Officer. The Board retains the power to conduct, operate and carry on the business of the Trust and has the power to incur and pay any expenses, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary or incidental to carry out any of the Trust’s purposes. The Trustees, officers, employees and agents of the Trust, when acting in such capacities, shall not be subject to any personal liability except for his or her own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Trust is led by David J. Kaufman, who has served as the Chairman of the Board since June 22, 2021. Under certain 1940 Act governance guidelines that apply to the Trust, the Independent Trustees will meet in executive session, at least quarterly. Under the Governing Documents, the Chairman of the Board is responsible for (a) presiding at board meetings, (b) calling special meetings on an as-needed basis, (c) execution and administration of Trust policies including (i) setting the agendas for board meetings and (ii) providing information to board members in advance of each board meeting and between board meetings. The Trust believes that its Chairman, the independent chair of the Audit Committee, and, as an entity, the full Board, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust, its funds and each shareholder.

### **Board Risk Oversight**

The Board has a standing independent Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee, and Valuation Committee, each with a separate chair. The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from its Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial and reporting risk within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information. The primary purposes of the Nominating and Governance Committee are to consider and evaluate the structure, composition and operation of the Board, to evaluate and recommend individuals to serve on the Board, and to consider and make recommendations relating to the compensation of the Trust’s independent trustees. The Nominating and Governance Committee may consider recommendations for candidates to serve on the Board from any source it deems appropriate. The Valuation Committee is responsible for overseeing the valuation designee, who determines, in good faith, the fair value of securities and other assets of the Funds for which market quotations are not readily available, subject to the supervision and oversight of the Board.

### **Trustee Qualifications**

Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits. The Board also has considered the following experience, qualifications, attributes, and/or skills, among others, of its members, as applicable, in reaching its conclusion: (i) such person’s business and professional experience and accomplishments, including prior experience in the financial services and investment management fields or on other boards; (ii) such person’s ability to work effectively with the other members of the Board; (iii) how the individual’s skills, experiences, and attributes would contribute to an appropriate mix of relevant skills and experience on the Board; (iv) such person’s character and integrity; (v) such person’s willingness to serve and willingness and ability to commit the time necessary to perform the duties of a Trustee; and (vi) as to each Trustee his status as an Independent Trustee.

In addition, the following specific experience, qualifications, attributes and/or skills were considered in respect of the listed Trustee.

Mitch Zacks is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Advisor. He is also a Portfolio Manager at the Advisor overseeing the modeling and quantitative process. Mr. Zacks joined the Advisor in 1996 and has been a portfolio manager with the firm since 1999. Mr. Zacks wrote a weekly finance column for the Chicago Sun- Times and has written two books on quantitative investment strategies, which were published in 2003 and 2011. Prior to joining Zacks Investment Management in 1997, Mitch was an investment banking analyst at Lazard Freres in New York. Mitch graduated cum laude from Yale University with distinction in his major of Economics. He received his M.B.A with high honors in his concentration of Analytic Finance and Statistics from the University of Chicago.

David J. Kaufman is a partner and Co-Chair of Thompson Coburn LLP’s Corporate and Securities Practice Group, a national law firm with over 400 lawyers. He has been practicing law for over 32 years. As part of his practice, he frequently provides ongoing SEC compliance and reporting advice as well as providing public company boards of directors, board committees and officers with guidance regarding their fiduciary duties and other obligations. He received his undergraduate degree in honors, with distinction, Master’s in Public Policy and Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Stuart Kaufman has over 22 years of operating, credit and financial advisory experience including the management of distressed corporate turnarounds, balance sheet and operational restructurings, corporate credit assessment and management. Prior to a career in interim management and business advisory, he worked in the telecommunications and natural resources industries and in financial services including structured financing and credit at prominent global financial institutions.

Each Trustee’s ability to perform his duties effectively also has been enhanced by his educational background and professional training. The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee’s qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes them each highly qualified.

The following is a list of the Trustees and executive officers of the Trust and each person’s principal occupation over the last five years. Unless otherwise noted, the address of each Trustee and Officer is 4221 North 203rd Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474.

Name and Year of Birth	Position held with Funds or Trust	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years
<b>Independent Trustees</b>					
David J. Kaufman 1963	Independent Trustee, Chairman	Since 6/2021	Partner, Thompson Coburn, LLP (law firm) (since 2013).	6	None

Name and Year of Birth	Position held with Funds or Trust	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships Held by Trustee During Past 5 Years
Stuart Kaufman 1968	Independent Trustee	Since 6/2021	Senior Managing Director, B Riley Advisory Services (since 2022); Managing Director, Portage Point, LLC (consulting company) (2018-2022); Managing Director, Winter Harbor, LLC (consulting company) (2016-2018).	6	None
<b>Interested Trustee</b>					
Mitch Zacks 1973	Trustee, President, and Principal Executive Officer	Since 6/2021	President and Chief Executive Officer (since 2019) and Portfolio Manager, Zacks Investment Management, Inc. (since 1999).	6	None
<b>Other Officers</b>					
Donald Ralph 1950	Treasurer, Principal Accounting Officer, and Principal Financial Officer	Since 6/2021	CFO, Zacks Investment Management (since December 2010).	n/a	n/a
Bernard Brick 1974	Secretary	Since 6/2023	Vice President and Senior Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since December 2022); Vice President and Senior Counsel, State Street Bank and Trust Company (2011 – December 2022).	n/a	n/a
Chad Bitterman 1972	Chief Compliance Officer	Since 6/2021	Compliance Officer, Northern Lights Compliance Services, LLC (since 2010).	n/a	n/a

### **Board Committees**

#### **Audit Committee**

The Board has an Audit Committee that consists of all the Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Trust within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The Audit Committee’s responsibilities include: (i) recommending to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the Trust’s independent auditors; (ii) reviewing with the independent auditors the scope, performance and anticipated cost of their audit; (iii) discussing with the independent auditors certain matters relating to the Trust’s financial statements, including any adjustment to such financial statements recommended by such independent auditors, or any other results of any audit; (iv) reviewing on a periodic basis a formal written statement from the independent auditors with respect to their independence, discussing with the independent auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the statement that may impact the objectivity and

independence of the Trust's independent auditors and recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response thereto to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto with respect to the quality and adequacy of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and internal controls. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing nominee candidates for consideration as Independent Trustees as is from time to time considered necessary or appropriate. The Audit Committee generally will not consider shareholder nominees. The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing and setting Independent Trustee compensation from time to time when considered necessary or appropriate.

#### **Nominating and Governance Committee**

The Board has a Nominating and Governance Committee that consists of all the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The Committee's responsibilities (which may also be conducted by the Board) include: (i) recommend persons to be nominated or re-nominated as Trustees; (ii) review the Trust's officers, and conduct Chief Compliance Officer searches, as needed, and provide consultation regarding other CCO matters, as requested; (iii) review trustee qualifications, performance, and compensation; (iv) review periodically with the Board the size and composition of the Board as a whole; (v) annually evaluate the operations of the Board and its Committees and assist the Board in conducting its annual self-evaluation; (vi) make recommendations on the requirements for, and means of, Board orientation and training; (vii) periodically review the Board's corporate Governance policies and practices and recommend, as it deems appropriate, any changes to the Board; and (ix) consider any corporate governance issues that arise from time to time, and to develop appropriate recommendations for the Board.

#### **Valuation Committee**

To determine the fair value of any securities or other assets for which market quotations are not readily available at a Valuation Time, the Board has approved the Valuation Designee's use of a fair valuation pricing committee (the "Valuation Committee"), to assist in making fair value determinations. Such determinations are reported to the Board. The Valuation Committee consists of the Trust's Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer, a representative of the Advisor and a member of the Board. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer also attends the Valuation Committee meetings. The Valuation Committee meets as necessary when a price for a portfolio security is not readily available.

#### **Compensation**

Each Independent Trustee will receive an annual fee of \$5,000 plus \$2,500 per series after the initial series to be paid by the Trust in quarterly installments within 10 days of the commencement of each calendar quarter for his service as a Trustee of the Board and for serving in his respective capacity as Chair of the Audit Committee, Nomination and Governance Committee and Valuation Committee, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred for attending regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings.

Additionally, in the event that a meeting of the Board other than its regularly scheduled meetings (a "Special Meeting") is required, each Independent Trustee will receive a fee of \$500 per Special Meeting, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred, to be paid by the Trust or the relevant series of the Trust or its investment adviser depending on the circumstances necessitating the Special Meeting. The Independent Trustees at their sole discretion shall determine when a particular meeting constitutes a Special Meeting for the purpose of the additional fee.

None of the interested Trustees or executive officers receive compensation from the Trust.

The table below details the amount of compensation the Trustees received from the Trust during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2024. Each Independent Trustee is expected to attend all quarterly meetings during the period. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

Name of Trustees	Aggregate Compensation from each Fund <sup>1</sup>	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation from Funds and Fund Complex Paid to Trustees
<b>Independent Trustees</b>				
David J. Kaufman	\$3,287.50	None	None	\$13,625
Stuart Kaufman	\$3,287.50	None	None	\$13,625

<sup>1</sup> The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

**Beneficial Equity Ownership Information.** The table below shows for each Trustee, the amount of Fund equity securities beneficially owned by each Trustee, and the aggregate value of all investments in equity securities of the Fund complex, as of December 31, 2024, and stated as one of the following ranges: A = None; B = \$1-\$10,000; C = \$10,001-\$50,000; D = \$50,001-\$100,000; and E = over \$100,000.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Focus Growth ETF	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Small/Mid Cap ETF	Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies
David J. Kaufman	A	A	A	A
Stuart Kaufman	A	A	A	A
Mitch Zacks	E	B	A	E

**Ownership of Securities of Advisor, Distributor, or Related Entities.** As of December 31, 2024, none of the Independent Trustees or their immediate family members owned beneficially or of record any securities of the Advisor, the Funds' distributor, or any person controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Advisor or the Funds' distributor.

**Control Persons and Principal Holders of Securities.** The Trustees and officers of the Trust collectively owned less than 1% of the Fund's outstanding Shares as of March 1, 2025.

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

Although the Trust generally does not have information concerning the beneficial ownership of shares nominally

held by the Depository Trust Company (“DTC”), the name and percentage ownership of each DTC participant that owned 5% or more of the outstanding Shares of each Fund, as of March 3, 2025 is set forth below:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Fund</b>
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	4,531,604	63.34%
National Financial Services, LLC 499 Washington Blvd Jersey City, NJ 07310	2,051,803	28.68%

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Fund</b>
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	382,790	66.57%
National Financial Services, LLC 499 Washington Blvd Jersey City, NJ 07310	130,137	22.63%
Bank of America 9000 Southside Blvd Jacksonville, FL 32256	38,852	6.76%

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>		
<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Shares</b>	<b>Percentage of Fund</b>
Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, CA 94105	2,163,542	59.28%
National Financial Services, LLC 499 Washington Blvd Jersey City, NJ 07310	1,054,578	28.89%
LPL Financial LLC 4707 Executive Drive San Diego, CA 92121	278,121	7.61%

**Potential Conflicts of Interest.** As a general matter, certain conflicts of interest may arise in connection with a portfolio manager's management of a Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of other accounts for which a portfolio manager is responsible, on the other. For example, it is possible that the various accounts managed could have different investment strategies that, at times, might conflict with one another to the possible detriment of a Fund. Alternatively, to the extent that the same investment opportunities might be desirable for more than one account, possible conflicts could arise in determining how to allocate them. Other potential conflicts might include conflicts created by specific portfolio manager compensation arrangements, and conflicts relating to selection of brokers or dealers to execute a Fund's portfolio trades and/or specific uses of commissions from the Fund's portfolio trades (for example, research, or “soft dollars”, if any). The Advisor has adopted policies and procedures and has structured the portfolio manager's compensation in a manner reasonably designed to safeguard the Funds from being negatively affected as a result of any such potential conflicts.

**Investment Advisor.** Zacks Investment Management, Inc., 10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60606-3830, serves as the Funds' investment adviser. The Advisor is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

Subject to the supervision of the Board, the Advisor is responsible for the overall management of each Fund's investment-related business affairs. Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, the Advisor, subject to the supervision of the Board, and in conformity with the stated policies of each Fund, manages the portfolio investment operations of the Funds. The Advisor has overall supervisory responsibilities for the general management and investment of each Fund's securities portfolio, as detailed below, which are subject to review and approval by the Board. In general, the Advisor's duties include setting the Fund's overall investment strategies and asset allocation. The Advisor had approximately \$12.365 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2024.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Advisor, under the supervision of the Board, agrees to invest the assets of each Fund in accordance with applicable law and the investment objective, policies and restrictions set forth in the Funds' current Prospectus and SAI, and subject to such further limitations as the Trust may from time to time impose by written notice to the Advisor. The Advisor shall act as the investment adviser to the Funds and, as such shall, (i) obtain and evaluate such information relating to the economy, industries, business, securities markets and securities as it may deem necessary or useful in discharging its responsibilities here under, (ii) formulate a continuing program for the investment of the assets of each Fund in a manner consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, and (iii) determine from time to time securities to be purchased, sold, retained or lent by a Fund, and implement those decisions, including the selection of entities with or through which such purchases, sales or loans are to be effected; provided, that the Advisor or its designee, directly, will place orders pursuant to its investment determinations either directly with the issuer or with a broker or dealer, and if with a broker or dealer, (a) will attempt to obtain the best price and execution of its orders, and (b) may nevertheless in its discretion purchase and sell portfolio securities from and to brokers who provide the Advisor with research, analysis, advice and similar services and pay such brokers in return a higher commission or spread than may be charged by other brokers. The Advisor also provides the Funds with all necessary office facilities and personnel for servicing each Fund's investments, compensates all officers, Trustees and employees of the Trust who are officers, directors or employees of the Advisor, and all personnel of the Fund or the Advisor performing services relating to research, statistical and investment activities.

In addition, the Advisor, subject to the supervision of the Board, provides the management and supplemental administrative services necessary for the operation of the Funds. These services include providing assisting in the supervising of relations with custodians, transfer and pricing agents, accountants, underwriters and other persons dealing with a Fund; assisting in the preparing of all general shareholder communications and conducting shareholder relations; assisting in maintaining the Fund's records and the registration of the Fund's Shares under federal securities laws and making necessary filings under state securities laws; assisting in developing management and shareholder services for the Fund; and furnishing reports, evaluations and analyses on a variety of subjects to the Trustees.

Each Fund pays an annual management fee (computed daily and payable monthly) of 0.44% of such Fund's average daily net assets to the Advisor pursuant to the Advisory Agreement.

The Advisor has contractually agreed to reduce its fees and/or absorb expenses of each Fund, until at least April 1, 2026 with respect to the Focus Growth ETF and Small/Mid Cap ETF and May 31, 2026 with respect to the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF, to ensure that total annual fund operating expenses after fee waiver and/or reimbursement (exclusive of any front-end or contingent deferred loads, taxes, brokerage fees and commissions, borrowing costs (such as interest and dividend expense on securities sold short), acquired fund fees and expenses, fees and expenses associated with investments in other collective investment vehicles or derivative instruments (including for example option and swap fees and expenses), or extraordinary expenses such as litigation) will not exceed 0.55% of the Fund's average daily net assets; subject to possible recoupment from the Fund in future years within the three years after

the fees have been waived or reimbursed if such recoupment can be achieved within the lesser of the foregoing expense limits or the expense limits in place at the time of the recoupment. Fee waiver and reimbursement arrangements can decrease the Fund's expenses and boost its performance. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the continuance of the Advisory Agreement with respect to the Zacks Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF is available in the Fund's report filed on Form N-CSR for the period ended May 31, 2024, which is available on the Fund's website and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Advisory Agreement with respect to the Zacks Small/Mid Cap ETF is available in the Fund's report filed on Form N-CSR for the period ended November 30, 2023, which is available on the Fund's website and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Advisory Agreement with respect to the Zacks Focus Growth ETF will be available in the Fund's report filed on Form N-CSR for the period ending May 31, 2025, which will be available on the Fund's website and on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

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

The Advisory Agreement will continue in effect for two (2) years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year provided such continuance is approved at least annually by (a) a vote of the majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval and by (b) the majority vote of either all of the Trustees or the vote of a majority of the outstanding Shares of a Fund. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated without penalty on 60 days written notice by a vote of a majority of the Trustees or by the Advisor, or by holders of a majority of a Fund's outstanding Shares (with respect to the Fund). The Advisory Agreement shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment.

The tables below provide information about the advisory fees earned by the Advisor from each Fund during the periods indicated:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>						
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Management Fee</b>	<b>Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Advisory Fees (Waived) Recaptured</b>	<b>Net Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Expense Reimbursed</b>	<b>Amount Subject to Recoupment</b>
November 30, 2024*	0.44%	\$526,186	\$(135,556)	\$390,630	\$0	\$135,556
January 31, 2024	0.44%	\$242,986	\$(186,188)	\$56,798	\$0	\$186,188



January 31, 2023	0.44%	\$62,822	\$(62,822)	\$0	\$134,002	\$196,824
January 31, 2022*	0.44%	\$10,738	\$(10,738)	\$0	\$72,846	\$83,584

\*Effective February 1, 2024, the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed its fiscal year end to November 30.

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>						
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Management Fee</b>	<b>Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Advisory Fees (Waived) Recaptured</b>	<b>Net Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Expense Reimbursed</b>	<b>Amount Subject to Recoupment</b>
November 30, 2024*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

\*The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>						
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Management Fee</b>	<b>Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Advisory Fees (Waived) Recaptured</b>	<b>Net Fees Earned by the Advisor</b>	<b>Expense Reimbursed</b>	<b>Amount Subject to Recoupment</b>
November 30, 2024	0.44%	\$219,474	\$(159,846)	\$59,628	\$0	\$159,846
November 30, 2023*	0.44%	\$2,287	\$(2,287)	\$0	\$58,427	\$60,714

\*Fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

As of November 30, 2024, the Advisor had \$602,152 and \$220,560 for the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF and Small/Mid Cap ETF, respectively, of waived fees within three years of reimbursement that may be recovered by the following dates:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>				
<b>January 31, 2025</b>	<b>January 31, 2026</b>	<b>January 31, 2027</b>	<b>November 30, 2027</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$83,584	\$196,824	\$186,188	\$135,556	\$602,152

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>		
<b>November 30, 2026</b>	<b>November 30, 2027</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$60,714	\$159,846	\$220,560

#### **Other Accounts Managed by the Portfolio Manager; Compensation of the Portfolio Manager.**

Mitch Zacks has managed each Fund since its respective inception. Information regarding the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager as of November 30, 2024, is set forth below:

Portfolio Manager	Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	
	Number of Accounts	Total Assets	Number of Accounts	Total Assets	Number of Accounts	Total Assets
<b>All Accounts</b>						
Mitch Zacks	3	\$202,922,982	2	\$20,182,306	11,443	\$11,747,349,613
<b>Accounts with Performance-Based Advisory Fee</b>						
Mitch Zacks	0	\$0	2	\$20,182,306	0	\$0

**Compensation.** The portfolio manager’s compensation is determined by the Advisor and varies with the general success of the Advisor. The compensation of Mr. Zacks is based on the Advisor’s assets under management. The portfolio manager’s compensation is not directly linked to a Fund’s performance, although positive performance and growth in managed assets are factors that may contribute to the Advisor’s distributable profits and assets under management.

**Ownership of Fund Shares.** The following table shows the amount of the Fund’s equity securities beneficially owned by each portfolio manager as of November 30, 2024 and stated as one of the following ranges: A = None; B = \$1-\$10,000; C = \$10,001-\$50,000; D = \$50,001-\$100,000; E = \$100,001-\$500,000; F = \$500,001-\$1,000,000; and G = over \$1,000,000.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Focus Growth ETF	Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Small/Mid Cap ETF
Mitch Zacks	E	A	A

**Administrator.** Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, (the "Administrator"), which has its principal office at 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474, and is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds.

Pursuant to an ETF Master Services Agreement (the “ETF MSA”) with the Funds, the Administrator provides administrative services to the Funds, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Administrator may provide persons to serve as officers of the Trust. Such officers may be directors, officers or employees of the Administrator or its affiliates.

The ETF MSA is dated April 26, 2021. The ETF MSA will remain in effect for three years from the effective date of the ETF MSA, and shall automatically renew for successive one-year periods thereafter. ETF MSA is terminable by the Board or the Administrator on ninety days' written notice and may be assigned provided the non-assigning party provides prior written consent. The ETF MSA provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Administrator or reckless disregard of its obligations thereunder, the Administrator shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

Under the ETF MSA, the Administrator provides facilitating administrative services, including: (i) providing services of persons competent to perform such administrative and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Funds; (ii) facilitating the performance of administrative and professional services to the Funds by others, including the Funds’ custodian; (iii) preparing, but not paying for, the periodic updating of the Funds’ Registration Statement, Prospectus and SAI in conjunction with Fund counsel, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, and preparing reports to the Funds’ shareholders and the SEC; (iv) preparing in conjunction with Fund counsel, but not paying for, all filings under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of each Fund and/or its respective Shares

under such laws; (v) preparing notices and agendas for meetings of the Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by the 1940 Act to be acted upon by the Board; and (vi) monitoring daily and periodic compliance with respect to all requirements and restrictions of the 1940 Act, the Code and the Prospectus.

The Administrator also provides each Fund with accounting services, including: (i) daily computation of NAV; (ii) maintenance of security ledgers and books and records as required by the 1940 Act; (iii) production of the Fund's listing of portfolio securities and general ledger reports; (iv) reconciliation of accounting records; (v) calculation of yield and total return for the Fund; (vi) maintenance of certain books and records described in Rule 31a-1 under the 1940 Act, and reconciliation of account information and balances among the Fund's custodian and Advisor; and (vii) monitoring and evaluation of daily income and expense accruals, and sales and redemptions of Shares of the Fund.

For administrative services rendered to the Funds under the ETF MSA, the Fund pays the Administrator the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. For the fund accounting services rendered to each Fund under the ETF MSA, the Fund pays the Administrator the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. Each Fund also pays the Administrator for any out-of-pocket expenses. Each Fund paid the following fees for administrative services for the periods indicated:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	\$85,390
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2024	\$64,040
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2023	\$37,778

\*Effective February 1, 2024, the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed its fiscal year end to November 30.

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	N/A

\*The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024	\$38,645
Fiscal Period Ended November 30, 2023*	\$10,992

\*Fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

**Distributor.** Under the ETF Distribution Agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, and the Distributor (the "Distribution Agreement"), the Distributor serves as the principal distributor and underwriter for the Funds effective October 3, 2023. Prior to October 3, 2023, Foreside Financial Services, LLC served as the principal distributor and underwriter for the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF. The Distributor is located at 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, NE 68022-3474. Shares are continuously offered for sale by a Fund through the Distributor or its agent only in Creation Units, as described in the applicable Prospectus and below in the Creation and Redemption of Creation Units section of this SAI. Fund Shares in amounts less than Creation Units are generally not distributed by the Distributor or its agent. The Distributor or its agent will arrange for the delivery of the applicable Prospectus and, upon request, this SAI to persons purchasing Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it or its agents and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it or its agents. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"), and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). The Distributor is also licensed as a broker-dealer in all 50 U.S. states, as well as in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

The Distribution Agreement for the Funds provides that it may be terminated at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on at least 60 days' prior written notice to the other party following (i) the vote of a majority of the

Independent Trustees, or (ii) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Funds. The Distribution Agreement will terminate automatically in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

The Distributor may also enter into agreements with securities dealers (“Soliciting Dealers”) who will solicit purchases of Creation Units of Fund shares. Such Soliciting Dealers may also be Authorized Participants (as described below), DTC participants and/or investor services organizations. The Advisor or its Affiliates may, from time to time and from their own resources, pay, defray, or absorb costs relating to distribution, including payments out of their own resources to the Distributor, or to otherwise promote the sale of shares.

Payments by the Advisor and its Affiliates. The Advisor and/or its Affiliates (“Advisor Entities”) pay certain broker-dealers, registered investment advisers, banks and other financial intermediaries (“Intermediaries”) for certain activities related to a Fund, other funds or exchange-traded products in general. Advisor Entities make these payments from their own assets and not from the assets of a Fund. Although a portion of Advisor Entities’ revenue comes directly or indirectly in part from fees paid by a Fund, these payments do not increase the price paid by investors for the purchase of shares of, or the cost of owning, the Fund. Advisor Entities make payments for Intermediaries’ participation in activities that are designed to make registered representatives, other professionals, and individual investors more knowledgeable about exchange-traded products, including a Fund, or for other activities, such as participation in marketing activities and presentations, educational training programs, conferences, the development of technology platforms, and reporting systems (“Education Costs”). Advisor Entities also make payments to Intermediaries for certain printing, publishing, and mailing costs associated with a Fund or materials relating to exchange-traded products in general (“Publishing Costs”). In addition, Advisor Entities make payments to Intermediaries that make Shares of a Fund, and certain other funds, available to their clients, develop new products that feature the Fund, or otherwise promote the Fund and other funds. Advisor Entities may also reimburse expenses or make payments from their own assets to Intermediaries or other persons in consideration of services or other activities that the Advisor Entities believe may benefit the Fund’s business or facilitate investment in a Fund. Payments of the type described above are sometimes referred to as revenue-sharing payments.

Payments to an Intermediary may be significant to the Intermediary, and amounts that Intermediaries pay to your salesperson or other investment professional may also be significant for your salesperson or other investment professional. Because an Intermediary may make decisions about which investment options it will recommend or make available to its clients or what services to provide for various products based on payments it receives or is eligible to receive, such payments may create conflicts of interest between the Intermediary and its clients and these financial incentives may cause the Intermediary to recommend a Fund and other funds over other investments. The same conflicts of interest and financial incentives exist with respect to your salesperson or other investment professional if he or she receives similar payments from his or her Intermediary firm.

Any additions, modifications, or deletions to Intermediaries listed above that have occurred since the date noted above are not included in the list. Further, Advisor Entities make Education Costs and Publishing Costs payments to other Intermediaries that are not listed above. Advisor Entities may determine to make such payments based on any number of metrics. For example, Advisor Entities may make payments at year-end or other intervals in a fixed amount, an amount based upon an Intermediary’s services at defined levels or an amount based on the Intermediary’s net sales of a Fund in a year or other period, any of which arrangements may include an agreed-upon minimum or maximum payment, or any combination of the foregoing. As of the date of this SAI, the Advisor anticipates that the payments paid by Advisor Entities in connection with a Fund and exchange-traded products in general will be immaterial to Advisor Entities in the aggregate for the next year. Please contact your salesperson or other investment professional for more information regarding any such payments his or her Intermediary firm may receive. Any payments made by the Advisor Entities to an Intermediary may create the incentive for an Intermediary to encourage customers to buy Shares of a Fund.

A Fund may participate in certain market maker incentive programs of a national securities exchange in which an affiliate of the Fund would pay a fee to the exchange used for incentivizing one or more market makers in the securities of the Fund to enhance the liquidity and quality of the secondary market of securities of the Fund. The fee would then be credited by the exchange to one or more market makers that meet or exceed liquidity and market

quality standards with respect to the securities of a Fund. Each market maker incentive program is subject to approval from the SEC. Any such fee payments made to an exchange will be made by an affiliate of a Fund solely for the benefit of the Fund and will not be paid from any Fund assets. Certain funds managed by the Advisor may also participate in such programs.

**Transfer Agent.** Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (“BBH”), located at 50 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02110, acts as the transfer, dividend disbursing, and shareholder servicing agent for the Funds pursuant to written agreement with the Funds (the “Transfer Agent”). Under the agreement, the Transfer Agent is responsible for administering and performing transfer agent functions, dividend distribution, shareholder administration, and maintaining necessary records in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Each Fund paid the following fees for transfer agency services for the periods indicated:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	\$9,258
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2024	\$11,421
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2023	\$7,734

\*Effective February 1, 2024, the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed its fiscal year end to November 30.

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	N/A

\*The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024	\$9,258
Fiscal Period Ended November 30, 2023*	\$1,940

\*Fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

**Custodian.** BBH, located at 50 Post Office Square, Boston, MA 02110 (the "Custodian"), serves as the custodian of each Fund's assets pursuant to a Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement by and between the Custodian and the Trust on behalf of the Funds. The Custodian's responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling each Fund's cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, and collecting interest and dividends on each Fund's investments. Pursuant to the Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement, the Custodian also maintains original entry documents and books of record and general ledgers; posts cash receipts and disbursements; and records purchases and sales based upon communications from the Advisor. The Funds may employ foreign sub-custodians that are approved by the Board to hold foreign assets.

**Counsel.** Greenberg Traurig LLP is counsel to the Trust.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.** The Trustees have selected the firm of Cohen & Company, Ltd., located at 342 N. Water St., Suite 830, Milwaukee, WI 53202, to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Funds for the current fiscal year and to audit the annual financial statements of the Funds. Cohen & Co Advisory, LLC, an affiliate of Cohen & Company, Ltd., provides tax services as requested. Shareholders will receive annual audited and semi-annual (unaudited) reports when published and written confirmation of all transactions in their account. A copy of the most recent annual report will accompany the SAI whenever a shareholder or a prospective investor requests it.

## ALLOCATION OF BROKERAGE

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

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

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

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

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	\$4,643
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2024	\$2,081
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2023	\$626

\*Effective February 1, 2024, the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed its fiscal year end to November 30.

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	N/A

\*The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024	\$27,436*
Fiscal Period Ended November 30, 2023**	\$183

\*\*The brokerage commissions for the Small/Mid Cap ETF increased during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2024 as compared to the fiscal year ended November 30, 2023 due to an increase in the Small/Mid Cap ETF’s assets and turnover rate, which resulted in increased trading activity.

\*Fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

**Portfolio Turnover.** A Fund may pay transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund Shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in Annual Fund Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect a Fund’s performance. The portfolio turnover rate for each Fund over

the most recent three fiscal years is set forth below:

<b>Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	19%
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2024	18%
Fiscal Year Ended January 31, 2023	14%

\*Effective February 1, 2024, the Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF changed its fiscal year end to November 30.

<b>Focus Growth ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024*	N/A

\*The Focus Growth ETF commenced operations on December 5, 2024.

<b>Small/Mid Cap ETF</b>	
Fiscal Year Ended November 30, 2024	103%*
Fiscal Period Ended November 30, 2023**	\$3

\*\*The portfolio turnover rate for the Small/Mid Cap ETF increased during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2024 as compared to the fiscal year ended November 30, 2023 because the Small/Mid Cap ETF had a full year of monthly portfolio rebalances during the fiscal year ended November 30, 2024, which resulted in an increase in trades as compared to the fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023, during which the Small/Mid Cap ETF's portfolio was only rebalanced once.

\*Fiscal period from October 2, 2023 through November 30, 2023.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TRUST**

**Book Entry Only System.** DTC Acts as Securities Depository for Fund Shares. Shares of a Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

DTC, a limited-purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants (the "DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is owned by a number of its DTC Participants and by the Exchanges and FINRA. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the "Indirect Participants").

Beneficial ownership of Shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants, and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in Shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as "Beneficial Owners") is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase and sale of Shares.

Conveyance of all notices, statements, and other communications to Beneficial Owners is affected as follows. Pursuant to the Depository Agreement between the Trust and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Trust a listing of the Shares of a Fund held by each DTC Participant. The Trust shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding Shares, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such

notice, statement, or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Fund distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all Fund Shares. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall immediately credit DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in Shares of a Fund as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of Shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a "street name," and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants.

The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such Shares, or for maintaining, supervising, or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests, or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants.

DTC may decide to discontinue providing its service with respect to Shares at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost.

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

Information regarding how proxies relating to a Fund's portfolio securities were voted during the 12-month period ended June 30 will be available at no charge upon request by calling 855-813-3507 or by writing to Zacks Trust, c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, 4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474. The Funds' Form N-PX also is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Portfolio Holdings Policy. The Trust has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of information about the Trust's portfolio holdings. Each Fund and its service providers may not receive compensation or any other consideration (which includes any agreement to maintain assets in a Fund or in other investment companies or accounts managed by the Advisor or any affiliated person of the Advisor) in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings information of the Trust. The Trust's policy is implemented and overseen by the chief compliance officer of the Trust, subject to the oversight of the Board. Periodic reports regarding these procedures will be provided to the Board. The Board must approve all material amendments to this policy. Each Fund's complete portfolio holdings are publicly disseminated each day the Fund is open for business through financial reporting and news services, including publicly accessible Internet web sites. In addition, a basket composition file, which includes the security names and share quantities to deliver in exchange for Fund Shares, together with estimates and actual cash components, is publicly disseminated daily prior to the opening of an Exchange via the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC"). The basket represents one Creation Unit of a Fund. The Trust, the Advisor, and the Distributor will not disseminate non-public information concerning the Trust.

Codes of Ethics. Pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act, the Board has adopted a Code of Ethics for the Trust and approved a Code of Ethics adopted by the Advisor (collectively the "Codes"). The Codes are intended to ensure that the interests of shareholders and other clients are placed ahead of any personal interest, that no undue personal benefit is obtained from the person's employment activities and that actual and potential conflicts of interest are avoided.

The Codes apply to the personal investing activities of Trustees and officers of the Trust and the Advisor ("Access Persons"). Rule 17j-1 and the Codes are designed to prevent unlawful practices in connection with the purchase or



sale of securities by Access Persons. Under the Codes, Access Persons are permitted to engage in personal securities transactions, but are required to report their personal securities transactions for monitoring purposes. The Codes permit personnel subject to the Codes to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund, subject to certain limitations. In addition, certain Access Persons are required to obtain approval before investing in initial public offerings or private placements. The Codes are on file with the SEC and are available to the public.

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

### **Calculation of Share Price**

As indicated in the Prospectus under the heading "How Shares Are Priced," the NAV of a Fund's Shares is determined by dividing the total value of the Fund's portfolio investments and other assets, less any liabilities, by the total number of Shares outstanding of the Fund.

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

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

Exchange traded options are valued at the last quoted sales price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on the exchange on which such options are traded. Futures and options on futures are valued at the settlement price determined by the exchange. Other securities for which market quotes are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the valuation designee in accordance with policies and procedures adopted by the Board. Swap agreements and other derivatives are generally valued daily based upon quotations from market makers or by a pricing service in accordance with the valuation procedures approved by the Board.

Under certain circumstances, a Fund may use an independent pricing service to calculate the fair market value of foreign equity securities on a daily basis by applying valuation factors to the last sale price or the mean price as noted above. The fair market values supplied by the independent pricing service will generally reflect market trading that occurs after the close of the applicable foreign markets of comparable securities or the value of other instruments that have a strong correlation to the fair-valued securities. The independent pricing service will also take into account the current relevant currency exchange rate. A security that is fair valued may be valued at a price higher or lower than actual market quotations or the value determined by other funds using their own fair valuation procedures. Because foreign securities may trade on days when Shares are not priced, the value of securities held by a Fund can change on days when Shares cannot be redeemed or purchased. In the event that a foreign security's market

quotations are not readily available or are deemed unreliable (for reasons other than because the foreign exchange on which it trades closed before the Fund's calculation of NAV), the security will be valued at its fair market value as determined in good faith by the Fund's valuation designee in accordance with procedures approved by the Board as discussed below. Without fair valuation, it is possible that short-term traders could take advantage of the arbitrage opportunity and dilute the NAV of long-term investors. Fair valuation of a Fund's portfolio securities can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that it will prevent dilution of the Fund's NAV by short-term traders. In addition, because the Fund may invest in underlying ETFs which hold portfolio securities primarily listed on foreign (non-U.S.) exchanges, and these exchanges may trade on weekends or other days when the underlying ETFs do not price their shares, the value of these portfolio securities may change on days when you may not be able to buy or sell Shares.

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

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

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

### **Creation Units**

Each Fund sells and redeems Shares in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the NAV next determined after receipt of an order in proper form on any Business Day. A "Business Day" is any day on which the NYSE is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, the NYSE observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

A Creation Unit is an aggregation of 25,000 Shares. The Board may declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of a Fund or Trust, and make a corresponding change in the number of Shares in a Creation Unit.

### **Authorized Participants**

Only Authorized Participants may purchase or redeem Creation Units. In order to be an Authorized Participant, a firm must be either a broker-dealer or other participant ("Participating Party") in the Continuous Net Settlement System ("Clearing Process") of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") or a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system ("DTC Participant"), and you must execute an agreement ("Participant Agreement") with the Distributor that governs transactions in a Fund's Creation Units.

Investors who are not Authorized Participants but want to transact in Creation Units may contact the Distributor for the names of Authorized Participants. An Authorized Participant may require investors to enter into a separate agreement to transact through it for Creation Units and may require orders for purchases of shares placed with it to

be in a particular form. Investors transacting through a broker that is not itself an Authorized Participant and therefore must still transact through an Authorized Participant may incur additional charges. There are expected to be a limited number of Authorized Participants at any one time.

Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor. Market disruptions and telephone or other communication failures may impede the transmission of orders.

**Transaction Fees**

A fixed fee payable to the Custodian is imposed on each creation and redemption transaction regardless of the number of Creation Units involved in the transaction (“Fixed Fee”). Purchases and redemptions of Creation Units for cash or involving cash-in-lieu (as defined below) are required to pay an additional variable charge to compensate a Fund and its ongoing shareholders for brokerage and market impact expenses relating to Creation Unit transactions (“Variable Charge,” and together with the Fixed Fee, the “Transaction Fees”). With the approval of the Board, the Advisor may waive or adjust the Transaction Fees, including the Fixed Fee and/or Variable Charge (shown in the table below), from time to time. In such cases, the Authorized Participant will reimburse a Fund for, among other things, any difference between the market value at which the securities and/or financial instruments were purchased by the Fund and the cash-in-lieu amount, applicable registration fees, brokerage commissions and certain taxes. In addition, purchasers of Creation Units are responsible for the costs of transferring the Deposit Securities to the account of the Fund.

Investors who use the services of a broker, or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. The Transaction Fees for the Funds are listed in the table below.

Fee for In-Kind and Cash Purchases	Maximum Additional Variable Charge for Cash Purchases*
\$400	0.40%

\* As a percentage of the amount invested.

**The Clearing Process**

Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a Participating Party using the NSCC system are referred to as transactions “through the Clearing Process.” Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a DTC Participant using the DTC system are referred to as transactions “outside the Clearing Process.” The Clearing Process is an enhanced clearing process that is available only for certain securities and only to DTC participants that are also participants in the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC. In-kind (portions of) purchase orders not subject to the Clearing Process will go through a manual clearing process run by DTC. Portfolio Deposits that include government securities must be delivered through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system (“Federal Reserve System”). Fund Deposits that include cash may be delivered through the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System. In-kind deposits of securities for orders outside the Clearing Process must be delivered through the Federal Reserve System (for government securities) or through DTC (for corporate securities).

**Foreign Securities**

Although each Fund is not expected to invest in foreign securities, if it did, the portfolio securities of the Fund may trade on days that an Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Fund, so shareholders may not be able to redeem their Shares of the Fund, or to purchase or sell Shares of the Fund on an Exchange, on days when the NAV of the Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant foreign markets.

**Purchasing Creation Units**

### Portfolio Deposit

The consideration for a Creation Unit generally consists of the Deposit Securities and a Cash Component. Together, the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Portfolio Deposit." The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Deposit Securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the NAV per Creation Unit of a Fund and (y) the market value of the Deposit Securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will pay the Cash Component to a Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from a Fund.

On each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on an Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the Advisor through the Custodian makes available through NSCC the name and amount of each Deposit Security in the current Portfolio Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for a Fund and the (estimated) Cash Component, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit. The Deposit Securities announced are applicable to purchases of Creation Units until the next announcement of Deposit Securities.

Payment of any stamp duty or the like shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing a Creation Unit. The Authorized Participant must ensure that all Deposit Securities properly denote change in beneficial ownership.

### Custom Orders and Cash-in-Lieu

A Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash ("cash-in-lieu") to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security. A Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a Deposit Security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, a Fund may permit or require cash in lieu of Deposit Securities when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities laws or policies from transacting in one or more Deposit Securities. A Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in accepting Deposit Securities including that the Deposit Securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All orders involving cash-in-lieu are considered to be "Custom Orders."

### Purchase Orders

To order a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order to the Distributor.

### Timing of Submission of Purchase Orders

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order no later than the earlier of (i) 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time or (ii) the closing time of the bond markets and/or the trading session on an Exchange, on any Business Day in order to receive that Business Day's NAV ("Cut-off Time"). The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." An order to create Creation Units is deemed received on a Business Day if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating custom orders and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve Bank wire system, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the "Settlement Date," which is generally the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date ("T+1") for cash and the second Business Day following the Transmittal Date for securities ("T+2").

### Orders Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) orders may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, the Distributor transmits, on behalf of the Authorized Participant, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Portfolio Deposit to a Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System.

#### Orders Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Portfolio Deposits will be made outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the creation of Creation Units will be effected through DTC. The Portfolio Deposit transfer must be ordered by the DTC Participant on the Transmittal Date in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of Deposit Securities (whether standard or custom) through DTC to a Fund account by 11:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. The Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee, must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve System in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive both the Deposit Securities and the cash by the appointed time, the order may be canceled. A canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day but must conform to that Business Day's Portfolio Deposit. Authorized Participants that submit a canceled order will be liable to a Fund for any losses incurred by the Fund in connection therewith.

Orders involving foreign Deposit Securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, upon receipt of an irrevocable purchase order, the Distributor will notify the Advisor and the Custodian of such order. The Custodian, who will have caused the appropriate local sub-custodian(s) of a Fund to maintain an account into which an Authorized Participant may deliver Deposit Securities (or cash -in-lieu), with adjustments determined by the Fund, will then provide information of the order to such local sub-custodian(s). The ordering Authorized Participant will then deliver the Deposit Securities (and any cash-in-lieu) to a Fund's account at the applicable local sub-custodian. The Authorized Participant must also make available on or before the contractual settlement date, by means satisfactory to a Fund, immediately available or same day funds in U.S. dollars estimated by the Fund to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component and Transaction Fee. When a relevant local market is closed due to local market holidays, the local market settlement process will not commence until the end of the local holiday period. Settlement must occur by 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the contractual settlement date.

#### Acceptance of Purchase Order

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by a Fund. A Fund's determination shall be final and binding.

A Fund reserves the absolute right to reject or revoke acceptance of a purchase order transmitted to it by the Distributor if (a) the order is not in proper form; (b) the investor(s), upon obtaining the Shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding Shares of the Fund; (c) the Deposit Securities delivered do not conform to the Deposit Securities for the applicable date; (d) acceptance of the Deposit Securities would have certain adverse tax consequences to the Fund; (e) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (f) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would otherwise, in the discretion of the Trust, Fund or the Advisor, have an adverse effect on the Trust, Fund or the rights of beneficial owners; or (g) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Distributor and the Advisor make it for all practical purposes impossible to process purchase orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems resulting in telephone, teletype or computer failures; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other informational systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, the Advisor, a Fund's Custodian, a sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify an Authorized Participant of its rejection of the order. A Fund, the Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no

duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Portfolio Deposits, and they shall not incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification.

#### Issuance of a Creation Unit

Once a Fund has accepted an order, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such NAV. The Distributor will transmit a confirmation of acceptance to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

Except as provided below, a Creation Unit will not be issued until a Fund obtains good title to the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. The delivery of Creation Units will generally occur no later than T+2.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

With respect to orders involving foreign Deposit Securities, when the applicable local sub-custodian(s) have confirmed to the Custodian that the Deposit Securities (or cash -in-lieu) have been delivered to a Fund's account at the applicable local sub-custodian(s), the Distributor and the Advisor shall be notified of such delivery, and the Fund will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit. While, as stated above, Creation Units are generally delivered on T+2, the Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+2 in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances.

A Fund may issue a Creation Unit prior to receiving good title to the Deposit Securities, under the following circumstances. Pursuant to the applicable Participant Agreement, a Fund may issue a Creation Unit notwithstanding that (certain) Deposit Securities have not been delivered, in reliance on an undertaking by the relevant Authorized Participant to deliver the missing Deposit Securities as soon as possible, which undertaking is secured by such Authorized Participant's delivery to and maintenance with the Custodian of collateral having a value equal to at least 115% of the value of the missing Deposit Securities ("Collateral"), as adjusted by time to time by the Advisor. Such Collateral will have a value greater than the NAV of the Creation Unit on the date the order is placed. Such collateral must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. The only Collateral that is acceptable to a Fund is cash in U.S. Dollars.

While (certain) Deposit Securities remain undelivered, the Collateral shall at all times have a value equal to at least 115% (as adjusted by the Advisor) of the daily marked-to-market value of the missing Deposit Securities. At any time, a Fund may use the Collateral to purchase the missing securities, and the Authorized Participant will be liable to the Fund for any costs incurred thereby or losses resulting therefrom, whether or not they exceed the amount of the Collateral, including any Transaction Fee, any amount by which the purchase price of the missing Deposit Securities exceeds the market value of such securities on the Transmittal Date, brokerage and other transaction costs. The Trust will return any unused Collateral once all of the missing securities have been received by a Fund. More information regarding each Fund's current procedures for collateralization is available from the Distributor.

#### Cash Purchase Method

When cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for a Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases. In the case of a cash purchase, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the Portfolio Deposit. In addition, cash purchases will be subject to Transaction Fees, as described above.

#### Notice to Texas Shareholders

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

Zacks Trust  
c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC  
4221 North 203<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474

### **Redeeming a Creation Unit**

#### **Redemption Basket**

The consideration received in connection with the redemption of a Creation Unit generally consists of an in-kind basket of designated securities ("Redemption Securities") and a Cash Component. Together, the Redemption Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Redemption Basket."

There can be no assurance that there will be sufficient liquidity in Shares in the secondary market to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. In addition, investors may incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a Creation Unit.

The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Redemption Securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the NAV per Creation Unit of a Fund and (y) the market value of the Redemption Securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from a Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will pay the Cash Component to a Fund.

If the Redemption Securities on a Business Day are different from the Deposit Securities, prior to the opening of business on an Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the Advisor through the Custodian makes available through NSCC the name and amount of each Redemption Security in the current Redemption Basket (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for a Fund and the (estimated) Cash Component, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit. If the Redemption Securities on a Business Day are different from the Deposit Securities, all redemption requests that day will be processed outside the Clearing Process.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed: (i) for any period during which the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the NYSE is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the Shares or determination of the ETF's NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstances as permitted by the SEC, including as described below.

#### **Custom Redemptions and Cash-in-lieu**

A Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of cash-in-lieu to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Redemption Security. A Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a Redemption Security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, a Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu of Redemption Securities when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more Redemption Securities. A Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in satisfying redemptions with Redemption Securities, including that the Redemption Securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All redemption requests involving cash-in-lieu are considered to be "Custom Redemptions."

### Redemption Requests

To redeem a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption request to the Distributor.

An Authorized Participant submitting a redemption request is deemed to represent to a Fund that it or, if applicable, the investor on whose behalf it is acting, (i) owns outright or has full legal authority and legal beneficial right to tender for redemption the Creation Unit to be redeemed and can receive the entire proceeds of the redemption, and (ii) all of the Shares that are in the Creation Unit to be redeemed have not been borrowed, loaned or pledged to another party nor are they the subject of a repurchase agreement, securities lending agreement or such other arrangement that would preclude the delivery of such Shares to the Fund. A Fund reserves the absolute right, in its sole discretion, to verify these representations, but will typically require verification in connection with higher levels of redemption activity and/or short interest in the Fund. If the Authorized Participant, upon receipt of a verification request, does not provide sufficient verification of the requested representations, the redemption request will not be considered to be in proper form and may be rejected by a Fund.

### Timing of Submission of Redemption Requests

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption order no later than the Cut-off Time. The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." A redemption request is deemed received if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating Custom Redemptions and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve System, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the Settlement Date, as defined above.

### Requests Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) redemption requests may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, the Distributor transmits on behalf of the Authorized Participant, such trade instructions as are necessary to affect the redemption. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Creation Unit(s) to a Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System, as described above.

### Requests Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Redemption Baskets will be delivered outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the redemption will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant must transfer or cause to be transferred the Creation Unit(s) of Shares being redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be delivered through DTC to the Custodian by 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on received T+1. In addition, the Cash Component must be received by the Custodian by 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive the Creation Unit(s) and Cash Component by the appointed times on T+1, the redemption will be rejected, except in the circumstances described below. A rejected redemption request may be resubmitted the following Business Day.

Orders involving foreign Redemption Securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, upon receipt of an irrevocable redemption request, the Distributor will notify the Advisor and the Custodian. The Custodian will then provide information of the redemption to a Fund's local sub-custodian(s). The redeeming Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf is acting, will have established appropriate arrangements with a broker-dealer, bank or other custody provider in each jurisdiction in which the Redemption Securities are



customarily traded and to which such Redemption Securities (and any cash-in-lieu) can be delivered from a Fund's accounts at the applicable local sub-custodian(s).

#### Acceptance of Redemption Requests

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust. The Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

#### Delivery of Redemption Basket

Once a Fund has accepted a redemption request, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Redemption Basket, against receipt of the Creation Unit(s) at such NAV, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. A Creation Unit tendered for redemption and the payment of the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf it is acting, will be recorded on the book-entry system of DTC.

The Redemption Basket will generally be delivered to the redeeming Authorized Participant within T+2. Except under the circumstances described below, however, a Redemption Basket generally will not be issued until the Creation Unit(s) are delivered to a Fund, along with the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

With respect to orders involving foreign Redemption Securities, a Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+2 in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances. When a relevant local market is closed due to local market holidays, the local market settlement process will not commence until the end of the local holiday period.

#### Cash Redemption Method

When cash redemptions of Creation Units are available or specified for a Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions. In the case of a cash redemption, the investor will receive the cash equivalent of the Redemption Basket minus any Transaction Fees, as described above.

### **TAXES**

The following discussion is applicable to the Funds. Each Fund intends to qualify for and has elected or intends to elect to be treated as a separate regulated investment company (a "RIC") under Subchapter M of the Code. As a RIC, a Fund will not be subject to U.S. Federal income tax on the portion of its taxable investment income and capital gains that it distributes to its shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a RIC, a company must annually distribute at least 90% of its net investment company taxable income (which includes dividends, interest and net short-term capital gains) and meet several other requirements relating to the nature of its income and the diversification of its assets. If a Fund fails to qualify for any taxable year as a RIC, all of its taxable income will be subject to tax at regular corporate income tax rates without any deduction for distributions to shareholders, and such distributions generally will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary dividends to the extent of the relevant Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits.

Each Fund is treated as a separate corporation for federal income tax purposes. Each Fund therefore is considered to be a separate entity in determining its treatment under the rules for RICs described herein and in the Prospectus.

Each Fund will be subject to a 4% excise tax on certain undistributed income if it does not distribute to its

shareholders in each calendar year at least 98.2% of its ordinary income (taking into account certain deferrals and elections) for the calendar year plus 98.2% of its net capital gains for twelve months ended October 31 of such year. Each Fund intends to declare and distribute dividends and distributions in the amounts and at the times necessary to avoid the application of this 4% excise tax.

As a result of tax requirements, the Trust on behalf of a Fund has the right to reject an order to purchase Shares if the purchaser (or group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the Shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding Shares of such Fund and if, pursuant to Section 351 of the Code, that Fund would have a basis in the Deposit Securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. The Trust also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial Share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination.

A Fund may make investments that are subject to special federal income tax rules, such as investments in repurchase agreements, money market instruments, convertible securities, and structured notes. Those special tax rules can, among other things, affect the timing of income or gain, the treatment of income as capital or ordinary and the treatment of capital gain or loss as long-term or short-term. The application of these special rules would therefore also affect the character of distributions made by a Fund. A Fund may need to borrow money or dispose of some of its investments earlier than anticipated in order to meet its distribution requirements.

Certain of a Fund's investments may be subject to special U.S. federal income tax provisions that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower-taxed long-term capital gain into higher-taxed 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) adversely affect when a purchase or sale of stock or securities is deemed to occur, (v) adversely alter the intended characterization of certain complex financial transactions (vi) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, and (vii) produce non-qualifying income for purposes of the income test required to be satisfied by a RIC. The application of these rules could cause a Fund to be subject to U.S. federal income tax or the nondeductible 4% excise tax and, under certain circumstances, could affect the Fund's status as a RIC. A Fund will monitor its investments and may make certain tax elections in order to mitigate the effect of these provisions.

At November 30, 2024, each Fund had a capital loss carryforward for federal income tax purposes available to offset future capital gains as follows:

Fund	Non-Expiring Short-Term	Non-Expiring Long-Term	Total	CLCF Utilized
Earnings Consistent Portfolio ETF	\$2,144,789	\$1,052,594	\$3,197,383	\$-
Small/Mid Cap ETF	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$3,593

A Fund may invest a portion of its net assets in below investment grade instruments. Investments in these types of instruments may present special tax issues for the Fund. U.S. federal income tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when a Fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount (OID) or market discount, when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless instruments, how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and income, and whether exchanges of debt obligations in a bankruptcy or workout context are taxable. These and other issues will be addressed by a Fund to the extent necessary in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income that it does not become subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

Under Section 988 of the Code, special rules are provided for certain transactions in a foreign currency other than the taxpayer's functional currency (i.e., unless certain special rules apply, currencies other than the U.S. dollar). In general, foreign currency gains or losses from forward contracts, from futures contracts that are not "regulated futures contracts," and from unlisted options will be treated as ordinary income or loss under Section 988 of the Code. Also, certain foreign exchange gains or losses derived with respect to foreign fixed income securities are also subject to Section 988 treatment. In general, therefore, Section 988 gains or losses will increase or decrease the amount of a Fund's investment company taxable income available to be distributed to shareholders as ordinary

income, rather than increasing or decreasing the amount of the Fund's net capital gain.

Income received by a Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of the value of a Fund's total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of stock or securities of foreign corporations, or if at least 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets at the close of each quarter of its taxable year is represented by interests in other RICs, the Fund may elect to "pass through" to its shareholders the amount of foreign taxes paid or deemed paid by the Fund. If this election is made, a shareholder generally subject to tax will be required to include in gross income (in addition to taxable dividends actually received) its pro rata share of the foreign taxes paid by a Fund, and may be entitled either to deduct (as an itemized deduction) his or her pro rata share of foreign taxes in computing his taxable income or to use it (subject to limitations) as a foreign tax credit against his or her U.S. federal income tax liability. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. Each shareholder will be notified after the close of a Fund's taxable year whether the foreign taxes paid by the Fund will "pass-through" for that year. Various other limitations, including a minimum holding period requirement, apply to limit the credit and/or deduction for foreign taxes for purposes of regular federal tax and/or alternative minimum tax.

A Fund may gain commodity exposure through investment in ETFs that are treated as RICs or "qualified publicly traded partnerships" or grantor trusts for U.S. federal income tax purposes. An ETF that seeks to qualify as a RIC may gain commodity exposure through investment in commodity-linked notes and in subsidiaries that invest in commodity-linked instruments. Although the IRS has issued numerous favorable private letter rulings to certain RICs that gain commodity exposure in this manner, such rulings can be relied on only by the taxpayers to whom they are issued. Moreover, the IRS currently is reconsidering whether and how a RIC should be permitted to gain commodity exposure. Future IRS guidance (or possibly legislation, other regulatory guidance or court decisions) could limit the ability of an ETF that qualifies as a RIC to gain commodity exposure regardless of whether that ETF previously received a favorable IRS private letter ruling with respect to such investment activity. Investments by a Fund in "qualified publicly traded partnerships" and grantor trusts that engage in commodity trading must be monitored and limited to enable the Fund to satisfy certain asset diversification and qualifying income tests for qualification as a RIC. Failure to satisfy either test would jeopardize the Fund's status as a RIC. Loss of such status could materially adversely affect the Fund.

A Fund or some of the REITs in which the Fund may invest may be permitted to hold residual interests in real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"). Under Treasury Regulations not yet issued, but that may apply retroactively, a portion of a 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 expected to provide that excess inclusion income of a RIC, such as a Fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the RIC in proportion to the dividends received by shareholders, with the same consequences as if shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest directly.

In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income 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 that 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 non-U.S. shareholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax.

If at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (as defined in the Code) is a record holder of a share in a RIC, then the RIC 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. It is not expected that a substantial portion of a Fund's assets will be residual interests in REMICs. Additionally, each Fund does not intend to invest in REITs in which a substantial portion of the assets will consist of residual interests in REMICs.

Distributions from a Fund's net investment income, including net short-term capital gains, if any, and distributions

of income from securities lending, are taxable as ordinary income. Distributions reinvested in additional Shares of a Fund through the means of a dividend reinvestment service will be taxable dividends to Shareholders acquiring such additional Shares to the same extent as if such dividends had been received in cash. Distributions of net long-term capital gains, if any, in excess of net short-term capital losses are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long shareholders have held the Shares.

Dividends declared by a Fund in October, November, or December and paid to shareholders of record of such months during the following January may be treated as having been received by such shareholders in the year the distributions were declared.

Long-term capital gains tax of non-corporate taxpayers are generally taxed at a maximum rate of either 15% or 20%, depending on whether the taxpayer's income exceeds certain threshold amounts. In addition, some ordinary dividends declared and paid by a Fund to non-corporate shareholders may qualify for taxation at the lower reduced tax rates applicable to long-term capital gains, provided that holding period and other requirements are met by a Fund and the shareholder. A Fund will report to shareholders annually the amounts of dividends received from ordinary income, the amount of distributions received from capital gains and the portion of dividends which may qualify for the dividends received deduction. In addition, a Fund will report the amount of dividends to non-corporate shareholders eligible for taxation at the lower reduced tax rates applicable to long-term capital gains.

An additional 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on certain net investment income (including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from a Fund and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares) of U.S. individuals, estates, and trusts to the extent that such person's "modified adjusted gross income" (in the case of an individual) or "adjusted gross income" (in the case of an estate or trust) exceeds certain threshold amounts.

The sale, exchange, or redemption of Shares may give rise to a gain or loss. In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of Shares will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year. Otherwise, the gain or loss on the taxable disposition of Shares will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. A loss realized on a sale or exchange of Shares of a Fund may be disallowed if other substantially identical Shares are acquired (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a sixty-one (61) day period beginning thirty (30) days before and ending thirty (30) days after the date on which the Shares are disposed. In such a case, the basis of the Shares acquired must be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss upon the sale or exchange of Shares held for six (6) months or less is treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received by the shareholders (including undistributed capital gain included in income). Distribution of ordinary income and capital gains may also be subject to state and local taxes.

Legislation passed by Congress requires reporting to you and the IRS annually on Form 1099-B not only the gross proceeds of Fund Shares you sell or redeem but also their cost basis. Shareholders should contact their intermediaries with respect to reporting of cost basis and available elections with respect to their accounts.

If, for any calendar year, the total distributions made exceed a Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will, for federal income tax purposes, be treated as a tax-free return of capital to each shareholder up to the amount of the shareholder's basis in his or her Shares, and thereafter as gain from the sale of Shares. The amount treated as a tax-free return of capital will reduce the shareholder's adjusted basis in his or her Shares, thereby increasing his or her potential gain or reducing his or her potential loss on the subsequent sale of his or her Shares.

Distributions of ordinary income paid to shareholders who are nonresident aliens or foreign entities ("Foreign Shareholders") that are not effectively connected to the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. will generally be subject to a 30% U.S. withholding tax unless a reduced rate of withholding or a withholding exemption is provided under applicable treaty law. However, Foreign Shareholders will generally not be subject to U.S. withholding or income tax on gains realized on the sale of Shares or on dividends from capital gains unless (i) such gain or capital gain dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S., or (ii) in the case of a non-corporate shareholder, the shareholder is present in the U.S. for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the year of the sale or capital gain dividend and certain other conditions are met. Gains on the sale of Shares and dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the U.S. will

generally be subject to U.S. federal net income taxation at regular income tax rates.

Under an exemption recently made permanent by Congress, a Fund is not required to withhold any amounts with respect to distributions to foreign shareholders that are properly designated by the Fund as “interest-related dividends” or “short-term capital gain dividends,” provided that the income would not be subject to federal income tax if earned directly by the foreign shareholder. However, a Fund may withhold tax on these amounts regardless of the fact that it is not required to do so. Nonresident shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the applicability of the U.S. withholding tax.

Under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (“FIRPTA”), a Foreign Shareholder is subject to withholding tax in respect of a disposition of a U.S. real property interest and any gain from such disposition is subject to U.S. federal income tax as if such person were a U.S. person. Such gain is sometimes referred to as “FIRPTA gain.” If a Fund is a “U.S. real property holding corporation” and is not domestically controlled, any gain realized on the sale or exchange of Fund Shares by a Foreign Shareholder that owns at any time during the five-year period ending on the date of disposition more than 5% of a class of Fund Shares would be FIRPTA gain. A Fund will be a “U.S. real property holding corporation” if, in general, 50% or more of the fair market value of its assets consists of U.S. real property interests, including stock of certain U.S. REITs.

The Code provides a look-through rule for distributions of FIRPTA gain by a RIC if all of the following requirements are met: (i) the RIC is classified as a “qualified investment entity” (which includes a RIC if, in general more than 50% of the RIC’s assets consists of interest in REITs and U.S. real property holding corporations); and (ii) you are a Foreign Shareholder that owns more than 5% of a Fund’s Shares at any time during the one-year period ending on the date of the distribution. If these conditions are met, Fund distributions to you to the extent derived from gain from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest, may also be treated as FIRPTA gain and therefore subject to U.S. federal income tax, and requiring that you file a nonresident U.S. income tax return. Also, such gain may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax in the hands of a Foreign Shareholder that is a corporation. Even if a Foreign Shareholder does not own more than 5% of a Fund’s Shares, Fund distributions that are attributable to gain from the sale or disposition of a U.S. real property interest will be taxable as ordinary dividends subject to withholding at a 30% or lower treaty rate.

Withholding is required (at a 30% rate) with respect to payments of taxable dividends and (effective January 1, 2021) redemption proceeds and certain capital gain dividends made to certain non-U.S. entities that fail to comply (or be deemed compliant) with extensive new reporting and withholding requirements designed to inform the U.S. Department of the Treasury of U.S.-owned foreign investment accounts. Shareholders may be requested to provide additional information to a Fund to enable the applicable withholding agent to determine whether withholding is required.

Non-U.S. Shareholders may also be subject to U.S. estate tax with respect to their Shares of a Fund.

Some shareholders may be subject to a withholding tax on distributions of ordinary income, capital gains and any cash received on redemption of Creation Units (“backup withholding”). Generally, shareholders subject to backup withholding will be those for whom no certified taxpayer identification number is on file with a Fund or who, to the Fund’s knowledge, have furnished an incorrect number. When establishing an account, an investor must certify under penalty of perjury that such number is correct and that such investor is not otherwise subject to backup withholding.

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 advisors as to the tax consequences of investing in such Shares, including under federal, state, local, and other tax laws. Finally, the foregoing discussion is based on applicable provisions of the Code, regulations, judicial authority, and administrative interpretations in effect on the date hereof. Changes in applicable authority could materially affect the conclusions discussed above, possibly retroactively.

Each Fund is required for federal income tax purposes to mark to market and recognize as income for each taxable year its net unrealized gains and losses on certain futures contracts as of the end of the year as well as those actually realized during the year. Gain or loss from futures and options contracts on broad-based indexes required to be

marked to market will be 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. Application of this rule may alter the timing and character of distributions to shareholders. A Fund may be required to defer the recognition of losses on futures contracts, options contracts and swaps to the extent of any unrecognized gains on offsetting positions held by the Fund.

In order for a Fund to continue to qualify for federal income tax treatment as a RIC, at least 90% of its gross income for a taxable year must be derived from qualifying income, i.e., dividends, interest, income derived from loans or securities, gains from the sale of securities or of foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to the Fund's business of investing in securities (including net income derived from an interest in certain "qualified publicly traded partnerships"). It is anticipated that any net gain realized from the closing out of futures or options contracts will be considered gain from the sale of securities or derived with respect to a Fund's business of investing in securities and therefore will be qualifying income for purposes of the 90% gross income requirement.

#### **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

General Policies. Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid on an annual basis for the Fund. Distributions of net realized securities gains, if any, generally are declared and paid once a year, but the Trust may make distributions on a more frequent basis. The Trust reserves the right to declare special distributions if, in its reasonable discretion, such action is necessary or advisable to preserve the status of the Fund as a RIC or to avoid imposition of income or excise taxes on undistributed income.

Dividends and other distributions on Fund Shares are distributed, as described below, on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such Shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from the relevant Fund.

Dividend Reinvestment Service. No reinvestment service is provided by the Trust. Broker-dealers may make available the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service for use by Beneficial Owners of the Fund for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Beneficial Owners should contact their broker to determine the availability and costs of the service and the details of participation therein. Brokers may require Beneficial Owners to adhere to specific procedures and timetables.

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements and report of the independent registered public accounting firm required to be included in this SAI are hereby incorporated by reference to the [Annual Financial Statements](#) for the Funds for the fiscal period ended November 30, 2024. You can obtain copies of the Semi-Annual Report without charge by calling the Fund at 855-813-3507.

## APPENDIX A

### Zacks Investment Management, Inc. Proxy Voting Policy and Procedures

#### I. Overview

Zacks Investment Management, Inc. (“ZIM”) votes proxies for all of its discretionary client accounts except for separately managed accounts with FolioFN and “RIA” clients where a sub-advisory agreement is in place. For Folio and sub-advisory accounts, the client will reserve and retain the right to vote by proxy securities held in the Account unless Zacks and the client agree in writing that Zacks will have authority to vote proxies for securities held in the Account. Client agreements, which were in effect when Rule 206(4)-6 was adopted by the SEC, either provided that ZIM would vote proxies for the specific clients or were silent on proxy voting responsibilities. Thus, ZIM’s fiduciary duty to its clients encompasses voting of client proxies for discretionary client accounts.

#### II. Regulatory Background

##### A. Rule 206(4)-6 and Key SEC Staff Guidance Summary

Rule 206(4)-6, makes it a fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative act, practice, or course of business within the meaning of Section 206(4) of the Advisers Act, for an investment adviser to exercise voting authority with respect to client securities, unless the adviser:

- Adopt and implement written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that the adviser votes client securities in the best interest of clients, which procedures must include how the adviser addresses material conflicts that may arise between the adviser’s interests and those of the adviser’s clients;
- Discloses to clients how they may obtain information from the adviser about how the adviser voted with respect to their securities; and
- Describes to clients the adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnishes a copy of the policies and procedures to the requesting client.

Rule 206(4)-6 is supplemented by:

- Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5325 (September 10, 2019) (“Release No. 5325”), which contains guidance regarding the proxy voting responsibilities of investment advisers under the Advisers Act. Among other subjects, Release No. 5325 addresses the oversight of proxy advisory firms by investment advisers; and
- Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5547 (July 22, 2020), which contains supplementary guidance addressing: the risk of voting a proxy before an issuer files additional soliciting materials with the SEC; and associated client disclosures in this regard.

##### B. Record-Keeping Requirements under Rule 204-2

Investment advisers that vote proxies on behalf of clients are required to maintain the following books and records:

- Copies of the adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures;
- A copy of each proxy statement that the adviser receives regarding client securities. Alternatively, the adviser could rely upon obtaining a copy of a proxy statement from the SEC’s EDGAR system.
- A record of each vote cast by the adviser on behalf of a client.
- A copy of any document created by the adviser that was material to making a decision on how to

vote proxies on behalf of clients or that memorializes the bases for that decision. For example, some advisers adopt general policies on how they will vote on certain issues.

- A copy of each written client request for information on how the adviser voted proxies on behalf of the client, and a copy of any written response by the adviser to any written or oral request for information regarding how the adviser vote proxies on behalf of the requesting client.

### **III. Proxy Voting Requirements – ERISA Accounts**

The Department of Labor (“DOL”) has taken the position that an investment adviser managing pension plan assets generally has the responsibility to vote shares held by the plan and subject to the investment adviser’s management, unless this responsibility is specifically allocated to some other person pursuant to the governing plan documents. The following principles apply to voting responsibilities of an investment adviser with respect to shares held on behalf of an ERISA pension plan:

- Responsibility for voting should be clearly delineated between ZIM and the trustee or other plan fiduciary that appointed ZIM.
- An adviser with voting authority must take reasonable steps to ensure that it has received all proxies for which it has voting authority and must implement appropriate reconciliation procedures. In voting, an investment adviser must act prudently and solely in the interests of pension plan participants and beneficiaries. An investment adviser must consider factors that would affect the value of the plan’s investments and may not subordinate the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries in their retirement income to unrelated objectives, such as social considerations. (However, other DOL pronouncements in the context of investment decisions indicate that social considerations may be used in making investment decisions to select among investments of equal risk and return). The plan administrator is required to periodically monitor ZIM’s voting activities, and both the client’s monitoring activities and ZIM’s voting activities (including the votes cast in each particular case) must be documented.

### **IV. Proxy Voting Requirements for Private Funds**

ZIM serves as the investment adviser for an investment limited partnership (the “Private Fund”), for which its parent company, Zacks Investment Research serves as the general partner.

Unless the general partner has retained another company to vote proxies for the Private Fund, either the general partner or the investment adviser is required to vote proxies for the Private Fund – since no one else is in a position to do so. Securities are held in the name of the Private Fund and notices of any proxy votes would be received by the general partner or the investment adviser. If the investment management agreement between ZIM and the general partner, on behalf of the Private Fund, does not *exclude* proxy voting from ZIM’s responsibilities under the agreement, the SEC takes the position that ZIM has the obligation to vote the Private Fund’s proxies.

### **V. Proxy Voting Compliance Procedures**

#### **A. Advisers Act**

- ZIM currently votes proxies for all discretionary client accounts except for separately managed accounts with FOLIOfn and “RIA” clients where a sub- advisory agreement is in place. Clients custodied at FOLIOfn are provided electronic access through a FOLIOfn website that allows clients to view and vote proxies. For sub-advisory accounts, the adviser retains discretion to vote proxies.
- Proxy voting is supervised by the CCO, who directs the ZIM Employees who handle proxy voting how each proxy should be voted.
- ZIM utilizes Broadridge to carry out proxy voting for most clients; ZIM’s proxy voting guideline is to generally vote in accordance with management. ZIM places priority on investment returns over corporate governance correctness. Accordingly, when economic considerations or extraordinary



circumstances warrant, ZIM may make exceptions to voting with management, or as ZIM deems to be in the best interests of clients, intentionally refrain from voting a proxy or sell the security.

- ZIM utilizes Glass-Lewis recommendations for Taft-Hartley clients that have requested ZIM to vote proxies according to AFL-CIO guidelines. As applicable in the Private Funds, ZIM splits up proxy voting guidelines according to the percentage of ownership held by Taft Hartley investors and all other investors. For example, if Taft-Hartley investors make up 20% of a Private Fund, ZIM anticipates voting 20% of proxies according to AFL-CIO guidelines, and the remaining 80% of proxies according to the Adviser's guidelines in the Proxy Policy. The CCO is responsible for overseeing the services provided by Glass-Lewis in accordance with Appendix 17 (Review of Third-Party Service Providers) and the guidance set out in Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5325 (September 10, 2019). Further, ZIM may seek to delay voting a proxy pursuant to Glass-Lewis recommendation (but not so as to miss a voting deadline) in order to address any risk that Glass-Lewis may change a recommendation on the basis of additional soliciting materials filed by an issuer with the SEC in accordance with the guidance set out in Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5547 (July 22, 2020).
- Broadridge is generally utilized to maintain clients' proxy voting records.
- ZIM generally votes all client proxies in the same manner unless a client specifically instructs ZIM in writing to vote such client's securities otherwise. Exceptions may include, but are not limited to, ERISA and Taft-Hartley accounts that have pre-determined guidelines.
- A brief record of how a proxy was voted in the manner in which it was voted should be maintained in the Proxy Voting File. In the event that a client inquires about how a particular record was voted, this record should be consulted to respond to the client's request.
- Copies of actual proxies are not always maintained but are available from the EDGAR database on the SEC's Web site.
- ZIM's personal or proprietary account proxies are voted in the same manner that client proxies are voted, subject to our conflicts of interest procedures.
- ZIM Employees are not permitted to sit on public company boards of directors to further avoid conflicts of interest.
- ZIM's Form ADV Part 2A, Item 17, includes disclosure about how clients can obtain information on ZIM's proxy voting policies and procedures.
- In the event that a client requests a copy of ZIM's proxy voting policies, a copy of this Appendix to ZIM's Compliance Manual should be provided.

## **B. ERISA**

- ZIM's investment management agreements for ERISA accounts must specifically address the issue of who is responsible for voting client proxies. Unless the ERISA plan administrator retains proxy voting authority, ZIM is required to vote ERISA client proxies.
- In future ERISA relationships, ZIM may wish to work with ERISA plan administrators so that the administrators will specifically retain proxy voting authority.
- In future instances where ZIM does not have voting responsibility, ZIM must immediately forward all proxy materials received by ZIM to the client or to such other third party designated by the plan administrator.
- In all instances where ZIM has voting responsibility on behalf of an ERISA client, ZIM will vote proxies in compliance with Rule 206(4)-6, following the compliance procedures set out above.

## **C. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

An attempt will be made to identify potential conflicts of interest that exist between the interests of ZIM and its Clients. ZIM personnel should be aware of the potential for conflicts when considering proxy voting. If a potential

conflict is perceived, the CCO should be consulted. In the unlikely event that a potential conflict arises between the interests of ZIM or its personnel and its clients, ZIM implements the following procedures:

- If the potential conflict of interest involves the President/Senior Portfolio Manager personally, the CCO or his designee will determine how to vote the proxy in the best of interest of clients.
- If the potential conflict of interest involves ZIM, the CCO determines whether the conflict is material. If it is determined that the conflict is material, ZIM will have no further input on the particular proxy vote (unless it is for an ERISA or Taft-Hartley account which has pre-determined proxy voting guidelines). In this case, a competent third party will be engaged, at ZIM's expense, to determine the vote that will maximize shareholder value. As an added protection, the third party's decision is binding.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of potential conflicts of interest that could influence the proxy voting process:

- **Conflict:** ZIM retains an institutional client or is in the process of retaining an institutional client that is affiliated with an issuer that is held in ZIM's client portfolios. For example, ZIM may be retained to manage Company A's pension fund. Company A is a public company and ZIM client accounts hold shares of Company A. This type of relationship may influence ZIM to vote with management on proxies to gain favor with management. Such favor may influence Company A's decision to continue its advisory relationship with ZIM.
- **Conflict:** ZIM retains a client, or is in the process of retaining a client that is an officer or director of an issuer that is held in ZIM's client portfolios. The similar conflicts of interest exist in this relationship as discussed above.
- **Conflict:** ZIM's Employees maintain a personal and/or business relationship (not an advisory relationship) with issuers or individuals that serve as officers or directors of issuers. For example, the spouse of an Employee may be a high-level executive of an issuer that is held in ZIM's client portfolios. The spouse could attempt to influence ZIM to vote in favor of management.
- **Conflict:** ZIM or an Employee(s) personally owns a significant number of an issuer's securities that are also held in ZIM's client portfolios. For any number of reasons, ZIM or an Employee(s) may seek to vote proxies in a different direction for personal holdings than would otherwise be warranted by the proxy voting policy. For example, an Employee(s) could oppose voting the proxies according to the policy and successfully influence ZIM to vote proxies in contradiction to the policy.

## **VI. Class Actions**

If "Class Action" documents are received by ZIM for a private client, i.e. separate managed account, ZIM will gather any requisite information it has and forward to the client, to enable the client to file the "Class Action" at the client's discretion. The decision of whether to participate in the recovery or opt-out may be a legal one that ZIM is not qualified to make for the client. Therefore, ZIM will not file "Class Actions" on behalf of any client.

If "Class Action" documents are received by ZIM on behalf of its Private Funds, ZIM will ensure that the Funds either participate in, or opt out of, any class action settlements received. ZIM will determine if it is in the best interest of the Private Funds to recover monies from a class action. The Portfolio Manager covering the company will determine the action to be taken when receiving class action notices. In the event ZIM opts out of a class action settlement, ZIM will maintain documentation of any cost/benefit analysis to support its decision.