

# NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund (formerly, NexPoint Credit Strategies Fund)

Prospectus dated April 20, 2018

## Common Shares Subscription Rights

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NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund (formerly, NexPoint Credit Strategies Fund) is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company that commenced operations on June 29, 2006, following its initial public offering. Throughout this prospectus, NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund is referred to as the “Trust.”

The Trust’s investment objectives are to provide both current income and capital appreciation. The Trust seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing primarily in the following categories of securities and instruments of corporations and other business entities: (i) secured and unsecured floating and fixed rate loans; (ii) bonds and other debt obligations; (iii) debt obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers; (iv) structured products, including but not limited to, mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations; (v) equities; (vi) other investment companies, including business development companies; and (vii) real estate investment trusts (“REITs”). The Trust may also invest in derivative instruments that have economic characteristics similar to instruments in investment categories (i) - (vii). Subject to these general guidelines, NexPoint Advisors, L.P. (the “Investment Adviser”) has broad discretion to allocate the Trust’s assets among these investment categories and other investments and to change allocations as conditions warrant.

Additionally, the Trust has a fundamental policy to concentrate its investments in the real estate industry, and, under normal market conditions, the Trust invests at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry. Within the categories of obligations and securities in which the Trust invests, the Investment Adviser employs various trading strategies, including capital structure arbitrage, pair trades and shorting. Capital structure arbitrage is a strategy in which the Trust seeks opportunities created by mispricing in different markets of various instruments issued by one corporation. Pair trades involve matching a long position with a short position in two stocks of different issuers in the same sector, betting that the “spread” between the two will eventually converge. Short selling (also known as shorting or going short) is a strategy in which the Trust sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. See “Portfolio Composition” for further description of these strategies. The Trust may also invest in these categories of obligations and securities through the use of derivatives. The Trust is not limited in the amount it may invest in derivatives, and it may use derivatives to hedge various investments for risk management and for speculative purposes. There is no limitation on the amount of securities and other instruments rated below investment grade, which are commonly referred to as “junk securities,” that the Trust may purchase, and under normal circumstances substantially all of the Trust’s investment portfolio is expected to consist of such securities and instruments or securities and other instruments which, if unrated, are considered to be of similar quality. The Trust may invest a significant portion of its assets in issuers that are in default or that present a high risk of default. Junk securities are subject to greater risk of loss of principal and interest and may be less liquid than investment grade securities. The Trust may invest up to 15% of its net assets in entities that are excluded from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”) by virtue of section 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act (such as private equity funds or hedge funds). This limitation does not apply to any collateralized loan obligations (“CLOs”), certain of which may rely on Section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act. The Trust’s investment objectives may be changed without shareholder approval. There can be no assurance that the Trust’s investment objectives will be achieved. See “Investment Objectives and Policies.”

The Trust's currently outstanding common shares are, and the common shares offered in this prospectus will be (subject to notice of issuance) listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the ticker symbol "NHF." The net asset value of the Trust's common shares on April 19, 2018 was \$26.12 per common share, and the last sale price of the common shares on the NYSE on such date was \$23.11.

The Trust may offer, on an immediate, continuous or delayed basis, in one or more offerings, up to \$600,000,000 of the Trust's common shares or subscription rights, which we refer to, collectively, as the "securities." The subscription rights offered by means of this prospectus may be convertible into common shares. The Trust may offer its securities in amounts, at prices and on terms set forth in a prospectus supplement to this prospectus. In the event we offer common shares hereunder, the price per share at which common shares are sold, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, must equal or exceed the net asset value per share of our common shares at the time we make the offering, except (i) in connection with a rights offering to our existing shareholders, (ii) with the consent of the majority of our common shareholders, or (iii) under such circumstances as the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") may permit. This prospectus and the related prospectus supplement will together constitute the prospectus for an offering of the Trust's securities. You should read this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement carefully before you decide to invest in any of the securities.

The Trust may offer the common shares directly to one or more purchasers, through agents that the Trust or the purchasers designate from time to time, or to or through underwriters or dealers (including agents, underwriters or dealers affiliated with the Trust's investment adviser). The prospectus supplement relating to the particular offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of the common shares, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between the Trust and such agents or underwriters or among the underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. For more information about the manner in which the Trust may offer the common shares, see "Plan of Distribution." The common shares may not be sold through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement, which contains important information about the Trust, before deciding whether to invest, and retain it for future reference. A Statement of Additional Information, dated April 20, 2018, containing additional information about the Trust has been filed with the Commission and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this prospectus. You can review the table of contents of the Statement of Additional Information on page 141 of this prospectus. You may request a free copy of the Statement of Additional Information, request the Trust's most recent annual and semi-annual reports, request information about the Trust and make shareholder inquiries by calling 1-866-351-4440 or by writing to the Trust at 200 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201. You may also obtain a copy of the Statement of Additional Information (and other information regarding the Trust) from the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. by calling 1-202-551-8090. The Commission charges a fee for copies. The Trust's most recent annual and semi-annual reports are available, free of charge, on the Trust's website at [www.nexpointadvisors.com](http://www.nexpointadvisors.com). You can obtain the same information, free of charge, from the Commission's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

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**Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk and may be considered speculative. Before investing in the Trust's securities, you should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in the Trust, including the risks of leverage, in "Principal Risks of the Trust" beginning on page 84.**

**Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined that this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

The Trust's securities do not represent a deposit or obligation of, and are not guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other government agency.

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**You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. The Trust has not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. The Trust is not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. The information in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements is accurate only as of the date of this prospectus or such prospectus supplement, as applicable, and under no circumstances should the delivery of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement or the sale of any securities imply that the information in this prospectus or such accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of any later date or that the affairs of the Trust have not changed since the date hereof or thereof. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since then. We will update the information in these documents to reflect material changes only as required by law.**

## Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This prospectus and the Statement of Additional Information contain “forward-looking statements.” Forward-looking statements relate to future events or the Trust’s future financial performance. Forward-looking statements can generally be identified by terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “expects,” “plans,” “anticipates,” “could,” “intends,” “target,” “projects,” “contemplates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “predicts,” “potential” or “continue” or the negative of these terms or other similar words. Important assumptions in forward-looking statements include the Trust’s ability to acquire or originate new investments and to achieve certain margins and levels of profitability. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement should not be regarded as a representation by the Trust that its plans or objectives will be achieved.

There are a number of important risks and uncertainties that could cause the Trust’s actual results to differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements. These risks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Investment risk;
- Changes in interest rates;
- Risks associated with investing in high yield securities (also known as “junk securities”), senior loans and other debt and equity securities;
- Risks of investing in obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers;
- Risks associated with the Trust’s use of leverage;
- Risk associated with investments in REITs;
- Derivatives and structured finance securities risk; and
- Market risk generally.

For a discussion of these and additional risks as well as other factors that could cause the Trust’s actual results to differ from forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and in the Statement of Additional Information, please see the discussion under “Principal Risks of the Trust.” You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements made in this prospectus and in the Statement of Additional Information relate only to events as of the date on which the statements are made. The Trust undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, except as required by federal securities laws.

The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the forward looking statements contained in our periodic reports are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

## About this Prospectus

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Commission using the “shelf” registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, up to \$600,000,000 of our common shares or subscription rights, on the terms to be determined at the time of the offering. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement

that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please carefully read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, together with any exhibits, any material terms of which will be summarized in the prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, and the additional information described under the headings “Principal Risks of the Trust” and “Where You Can Find Additional Information” before you make an investment decision.

## Prospectus Summary

*The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. This summary may not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the Trust. You should review the more detailed information contained in this prospectus and in the Statement of Additional Information, especially the information set forth under the heading “Principal Risks of the Trust.”*

**The Trust** ..... The Trust is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Trust commenced operations on June 29, 2006, following its initial public offering.

**Offerings** ..... The Trust may offer, on an immediate, continuous or delayed basis, in one or more offerings (each, an “Offering” and together, the “Offerings”), up to \$600,000,000 of the Trust’s common shares or rights to purchase common shares (sometimes referred to as subscription rights), which we refer to collectively as the “securities,” on terms to be determined at the time of the Offerings. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more prospectus supplements to this prospectus, unless otherwise required by the Commission or its staff. Offerings of the securities will be subject to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”), which generally require that the price at which a closed-end investment company sells its common shares (exclusive of distribution commissions and discounts) must equal or exceed the net asset value per share of a company’s common shares (calculated within 48 hours of pricing), except (i) in connection with a rights offering to our existing shareholders, (ii) with the consent of the majority of our common shareholders, or (iii) under such circumstances as the Commission may permit. See “Description of Capital Structure — Common Shares.” Any offering of securities by a closed-end investment company that requires shareholder approval must occur, if at all, within one year after receiving such shareholder approval. You should read this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement carefully before you decide to invest in any of the securities.

The Trust may offer the securities directly to one or more purchasers, through agents that the Trust or the purchasers designate from time to time, or to or through underwriters or dealers (including agents, underwriters or dealers affiliated with the Trust’s investment adviser). The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will identify any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of the securities, and will set forth any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement between the Trust and such agents or underwriters or among underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See “Plan of Distribution.” The securities may not be sold through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the Offering. The Trust (and thus, indirectly, the Trust’s common shareholders) will bear all of the expenses of any such offering.

**Investment Adviser and Administrator** .....

NexPoint Advisors, L.P. (the “Investment Adviser”) is the investment adviser and administrator of the Trust. As of January 31, 2018, the Investment Adviser, together with its affiliates, managed approximately \$13.8 billion in assets on behalf of investors around the world. In return for its advisory services, the Investment Adviser receives an annual fee, payable monthly, in an amount equal to 1.00% of the average weekly value of the Trust’s Managed Assets. In return for its administrative services, the Investment Adviser receives an annual fee, payable monthly, in an amount equal to 0.20% of the average weekly value of the Trust’s Managed Assets. “Managed Assets” means the total assets of the Trust, including assets attributable to any form of investment leverage, minus all accrued expenses incurred in the normal course of operations, but not excluding any liabilities or obligations attributable to investment leverage obtained through (i) indebtedness of any type (including, without limitation, borrowing through a credit facility or the issuance of debt securities), (ii) the issuance of preferred shares or other similar preference securities, (iii) the reinvestment of collateral received for securities loaned in accordance with the Trust’s investment objectives and policies, and/or (iv) any other means. The Investment Adviser, at its own expense, has the authority to engage both a sub-adviser and a sub-administrator, each of which may be an affiliate of the Investment Adviser. See “Management of the Trust — Investment Adviser” and “Management of the Trust — Administrator/Sub-Administrator.”

*Potential Conflicts of Interest.* As a result of the Trust’s arrangements with Highland Capital Management, L.P. (“Highland”), there may be times when Highland, the Investment Adviser or their affiliates have interests that differ from those of the Trust’s shareholders, giving rise to a conflict of interest. Highland and the Investment Adviser are under common ownership, and the Trust’s officers serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or a related line of business as the Trust does, or of investment funds managed by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates. Similarly, the Investment Adviser or its affiliates may have other clients with similar, different or competing investment objectives. In serving in these multiple capacities, they may have obligations to other clients or investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which may not be in the best interests of the Trust or its shareholders. For example, the Trust’s officers have, and will continue to have, management responsibilities for other investment funds, accounts or other investment vehicles managed or sponsored by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates.

The Trust’s investment objective may overlap, in part or in whole, with the investment objective of such affiliated investment funds, accounts or other investment vehicles. As a result, those individuals may face conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities among the Trust and other investment funds or accounts advised by or

affiliated with the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to allocate investment opportunities among eligible accounts in a manner that is fair and equitable over time and consistent with its allocation policy. However, the Trust can offer no assurance that such opportunities will be allocated to it fairly or equitably in the short-term or over time.

Currently, a substantial portion of the Trust's net assets are invested in REITs, asset-backed securities and/or collateralized loan obligations sponsored, organized and/or managed by Highland and its affiliates. The Investment Adviser will monitor for conflicts of interest in accordance with its fiduciary duties and will provide the independent trustees of the Trust with an opportunity to periodically review the Trust's investments in such REITs, asset-backed securities and/or CLOs and assure themselves that continued investment in such securities remains in the best interests of the Trust and its shareholders. Please see "Risk Factors—Potential Conflicts of Interest" for a description of risks associated with conflicts of interest. See "Management of the Trust — Investment Adviser."

**Custodian and Transfer Agent . . . . .** The custodian of the assets of the Trust is State Street Bank and Trust Company (One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111). The custodian performs custodial services for the Trust. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC (6201 15th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219; telephone (718) 921-8200) serves as the Trust's transfer agent with respect to its securities.

**Closed-End Structure . . . . .** Closed-end funds differ from open-end management investment companies (commonly referred to as mutual funds) in that closed-end funds generally list their shares for trading on a securities exchange and do not redeem their shares at the option of the shareholder. By comparison, mutual funds issue securities redeemable at net asset value at the option of the shareholder and typically engage in a continuous offering of their shares. Mutual funds are subject to continuous asset in-flows and out-flows that can complicate portfolio management, whereas closed-end funds generally can stay more fully invested in securities consistent with the closed-end fund's investment objective and policies. In addition, in comparison to open-end funds, closed-end funds have greater flexibility in their ability to make certain types of investments, including investments in illiquid securities.

Shares of closed-end investment companies listed for trading on a securities exchange frequently trade at a discount from net asset value, but in some cases trade at a premium. The market price may be affected by net asset value, dividend or distribution levels (which are dependent, in part, on expenses), supply of and demand for the shares, stability of dividends or distributions, trading volume of the shares, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the closed-end fund. The foregoing factors may result in

the market price of the common shares of the Trust being greater than, less than or equal to, net asset value. The Board of Trustees of the Trust (the “Board”) has reviewed the structure of the Trust in light of its investment objective and policies and has determined that the closed-end structure is appropriate. As described in this prospectus, however, the Board may review periodically the trading range and activity of the Trust’s common shares with respect to their net asset value and may take certain actions to seek to reduce or eliminate any such discount. Such actions may include open market repurchases or tender offers for the common shares at net asset value or the possible conversion of the Trust to an open-end investment company. There can be no assurance that the Board will decide to undertake any of these actions or that, if undertaken, such actions would result in the common shares trading at a price equal to or close to net asset value per Share. In addition, as noted above, the Board determined in connection with the initial offering of common shares of the Trust that the closed-end structure is desirable, given the Trust’s investment objective and policies. Investors should assume, therefore, that it is highly unlikely that the Board would vote to convert the Trust to an open-end investment company. See “Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust; Closed-End Fund Structure; Repurchase of Common Shares; Discount.”

**Listing** . . . . . The Trust’s outstanding common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol “NHF,” as will be the common shares offered in this prospectus, subject to notice of issuance.

**Use of Proceeds** . . . . . Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the Trust will use the net proceeds of the sale of securities to invest in accordance with the Trust’s investment objectives and policies as stated below, or use such proceeds for other general corporate purposes. See “Use of Proceeds.”

**Investment Objectives and Policies** . . . The Trust’s investment objectives are to provide both current income and capital appreciation. The Trust seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing primarily in the following categories of securities and instruments of corporations and other business entities: (i) secured and unsecured floating and fixed rate loans; (ii) bonds and other debt obligations; (iii) debt obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers; (iv) structured products, including but not limited to, mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities and collateralized debt obligations; (v) equities; (vi) other investment companies, including business development companies; and (vii) REITs. The Trust may also invest in other securities and instruments, including derivative instruments. Subject to these general guidelines, the Investment Adviser has broad discretion to allocate the Trust’s assets among these investment categories and other investments and to change allocations as conditions warrant.

The Trust has a fundamental policy to concentrate its investments in the real estate industry, and, under normal market conditions, the Trust invests at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry. Within the categories of obligations and securities in which the Trust invests, the Investment Adviser employs various trading strategies, including capital structure arbitrage, pair trades and shorting. Capital structure arbitrage is a strategy in which the Trust seeks opportunities created by mispricing in different markets of various instruments issued by one corporation. Pair trades involve matching a long position with a short position in two stocks of different issuers in the same sector, betting that the “spread” between the two will eventually converge. Short selling (also known as shorting or going short) is a strategy in which the Trust sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. See “Portfolio Composition” for further description of these strategies. The Trust may also invest in these categories of obligations and securities through the use of derivatives. The Trust is not limited in the amount it may invest in derivatives, and it may use derivatives for speculative purposes. There is no limitation on the amount of securities and other instruments rated below investment grade, which are commonly referred to as “junk securities,” that the Trust may purchase, and under normal circumstances substantially all of the Trust’s investment portfolio is expected to consist of such securities and instruments or securities and other instruments which, if unrated, are considered to be of similar quality. The Trust may invest a significant portion of its assets in issuers that are in default or that present a high risk of default. Junk securities are subject to greater risk of loss of principal and interest and may be less liquid than investment grade securities. The Trust may invest up to 15% of its net assets in entities that are excluded from registration under the Investment Company Act by virtue of section 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act (such as private equity funds or hedge funds). This limitation does not apply to any CLOs, certain of which may rely on Section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act. The Trust’s investment objectives may be changed without shareholder approval. There can be no assurance that the Trust’s investment objectives will be achieved. See “Investment Objectives and Policies.”

**Investment Strategies** . . . . . Under normal market conditions, the Trust invests across various markets in which the Investment Adviser holds significant investment experience: primarily the leveraged loan, high yield, other credit investments, structured products, real estate, communications, natural resources, stressed and distressed markets and equity markets. The Investment Adviser makes investment decisions based on quantitative analysis, which employs sophisticated, data-intensive models to drive the investment process. The Investment Adviser has full discretion regarding the capital markets from which it can access investment opportunities in accordance with the investment limitations set forth in this prospectus.

The Investment Adviser uses trading strategies to seek to exploit pricing inefficiencies across the credit markets, or debt markets, and within an individual issuer's capital structure. The Investment Adviser varies the Trust's investments by strategy, industry, security type and credit market, but reserves the right to re-position the Trust's investment portfolio among these criteria depending on market dynamics, and thus the Trust may experience high portfolio turnover. The Investment Adviser manages interest rate, default, currency and systemic risks through a variety of trading methods and market tools, including derivative hedging instruments, as it deems appropriate.

This multi-strategy investment program allows the Investment Adviser to assess what it considers to be the best opportunities across multiple markets and to adjust quickly the Trust's trading strategies and market focus to changing conditions. The Investment Adviser focuses primarily on the U.S. marketplace, but may pursue opportunities in the non-U.S. credit or securities markets by investing in credit or securities market investments that are either issued by entities domiciled outside of the U.S., or denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, or both ("Non-U.S. Securities").

The Trust invests and trades in listed and unlisted, public and private, rated and unrated, debt and equity instruments and other obligations, including structured debt and equity instruments and financial derivatives. Investments may include investments in stressed and distressed positions, which may include publicly-traded debt and equity securities (including securities of REITs, business development companies ("BDCs") and master limited partnerships ("MLPs")), obligations which were privately placed with banks, insurance companies and other lending institutions, trade claims, accounts receivable and any other form of obligation recognized as a claim in a bankruptcy or workout process.

As part of its investment program, the Trust may invest, from time to time, in securities or other instruments that are sold in private placements and that are neither listed on an exchange, nor traded over the counter. The Trust may also receive equity or equity-related securities in connection with a workout transaction or may invest directly in equity securities.

The Trust may employ currency hedges (either in the forward or options markets) in certain circumstances to reduce currency risk and may engage in other derivative transactions for hedging purposes or to enhance total return. The Trust may also lend securities and engage in short sales of securities. In addition, the Trust may invest in the securities of companies whose capital structures are highly leveraged.

From time to time, the Investment Adviser may also invest a portion of the Trust's assets in short-term U.S. government obligations, certificates of deposit, commercial paper and other money market

instruments, including repurchase agreements with respect to such obligations and pooled investment vehicles (for example, money market funds) that invest in these obligations, to enable the Trust to make investments quickly, to serve as collateral with respect to certain of its investments, and for other cash management purposes. A greater percentage of Trust assets may be invested in such obligations if the Investment Adviser believes that a defensive position is appropriate because of the outlook for security prices or in order to respond to adverse market, economic, business or political conditions. See “Investment Objectives and Policies — Investment Strategies.”

**Use of Leverage** ..... As provided in the Investment Company Act and subject to certain exceptions, the Trust may issue debt or preferred shares with the condition that immediately after issuance the value of its total assets, less ordinary course liabilities, exceeds 300% of the amount of the debt outstanding and exceeds 200% of the sum of the amount of debt and preferred shares outstanding.

Thus, the Trust may use leverage in the form of borrowings in an amount up to 33 1/3% of the Trust’s total assets (including the proceeds of such leverage) and may use leverage in the form of preferred shares in an amount up to 50% of the Trust’s total assets (including the proceeds of such leverage). The total leverage of the Trust is generally expected to range between 25% and 30% of the Trust’s total assets. The Trust seeks a leverage ratio, based on a variety of factors including market conditions and the Investment Adviser’s market outlook, where the rate of return, net of applicable Trust expenses, on the Trust’s portfolio investments purchased with leverage exceeds the costs associated with such leverage.

The Trust, as of March 15, 2018, was leveraged through borrowings from a committed facility with BNP Paribas Prime Brokerage, Inc. (“BNP”) with a total commitment of \$135,000,000. As of March 15, 2018, the Trust had drawn \$117,283,257 on the committed facility. In addition, the Trust intends to leverage its portfolio through a master repurchase agreement entered into with BNP Paribas Securities Corp. (“BNP Securities”) on November 16, 2017, as amended, that allows the Trust to enter into reverse repurchase transactions from time to time pursuant to the terms of the master repurchase agreement. On February 16, 2018, the Trust, and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, NexPoint Real Estate Capital, LLC (“NREC”) and NexPoint Real Estate Opportunities, LLC (“NREO”), entered into a \$36.5 million bridge credit agreement with KeyBank National Association. As of March 15, 2018, The Trust had drawn \$20,000,000 on the bridge facility. The Trust’s asset coverage ratio as of March 15, 2018 was 485% See “Principal Risks of the Trust — Leverage Risk” for a brief description of the Trust’s committed facility, master repurchase agreement and bridge credit agreement.

Following the completion of an Offering, the Trust may increase the amount of leverage outstanding. The Trust may engage in additional borrowings, issue notes, or issue preferred shares in order to maintain the Trust's desired leverage ratio. While the Trust has no present intention to issue preferred shares within the next twelve months, if an attractive preferred shares financing opportunity were to come to the Trust's attention during that period, the Trust may consider that opportunity. Leverage creates a greater risk of loss, as well as a potential for more gain, for the common shares than if leverage were not used. Interest on borrowings (or dividends on preferred shares) may be at a fixed or floating rate and generally will be based on short-term rates. The costs associated with the Trust's use of leverage, including the issuance of such leverage and the payment of dividends or interest on such leverage, will be borne entirely by the holders of common shares. As long as the rate of return, net of applicable Trust expenses, on the Trust's portfolio investments purchased with leverage exceeds the costs associated with such leverage, the Trust will generate more return or income than will be needed to pay such costs. In this event, the excess will be available to pay higher dividends to holders of common shares. Conversely, if the Trust's return on such assets is less than the cost of leverage and other Trust expenses, the return to the holders of the common shares will diminish. To the extent that the Trust uses leverage, the net asset value and market price of the common shares and the yield to holders of common shares will be more volatile. The Trust's leveraging strategy may not be successful. See "Principal Risks of the Trust—Leverage Risk."

**Distributions** ..... The Trust plans to pay distributions monthly and capital gain distributions annually to common shareholders. (See "Distributions.")

**Principal Risks of the Trust** ..... The following is a summary of the principal risks associated with an investment in the Trust's securities. Investors should also refer to "Principal Risks of the Trust" in this prospectus for a more detailed explanation of the risks associated with investing in the Trust's securities. Given the risks described below, an investment in the securities of the Trust may not be appropriate for all investors.

You should carefully consider your ability to assume these risks before making an investment in securities of the Trust.

*Investment and Market Discount Risk.* An investment in the Trust's securities is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire amount that you invest. As with any stock, the price of the Trust's common shares fluctuates with market conditions and other factors. If common shares are sold, the price received may be more or less than the original investment. Common shares are designed for long-term investors and should not be treated as trading vehicles. Shares of closed-end management investment companies frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value.

*REIT-Specific Risk.* REITs may be affected by changes in the real estate markets generally as well as changes in the values of the properties owned by the REIT or securing the mortgages owned by the REIT (which changes in value could be influenced by market conditions for real estate in general or fluctuations in the value of rights to natural resources appurtenant to the property held by the REIT). REITs are dependent upon management skill and are not diversified. REITs are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the possibility of failing to qualify for special tax treatment under the Code and to maintain an exemption under the Investment Company Act. For example, because a REIT may acquire debt securities of issuers primarily engaged in or related to the real estate industry, it also could conceivably own real estate directly as a result of a default on such securities. Any rental income or income from the disposition of such real estate could adversely affect its ability to retain its tax status, which would have adverse tax consequences on its shareholders. Finally, certain REITs may be self-liquidating at the end of a specified term, and run the risk of liquidating at an economically inopportune time.

The Trust seeks to gain exposure to the real estate markets, in whole or in part, through investing in certain REIT subsidiaries of the Trust. The Trust invests in NREO, organized under the laws of Delaware on September 17, 2012 and NREC, organized under the laws of Delaware on March 31, 2014 (each, a “Subsidiary”). Each Subsidiary has elected to be taxed as a REIT. Each Subsidiary is generally subject to the same investment policies and restrictions of the Trust. As of December 31, 2017, NREO and NREC accounted for approximately 14.1% and 13.2%, respectively, of the Trust’s Managed Assets, and approximately 13.3% and 14.0%, respectively, of the Trust’s total (gross) assets. The Investment Adviser does not charge an additional fee on assets held in each Subsidiary. The Trust intends to limit its investments in each Subsidiary and related entities to the extent necessary to qualify as a RIC for tax purposes. In general, and subject to certain exceptions not applicable here, a RIC is not permitted to invest, including through corporations in which the RIC owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, more than 25% of its total assets in any one issuer, or in any two or more issuers which the taxpayer controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses.

In 2015, the Trust completed its spin-off of NexPoint Residential Trust, Inc. (“NXRT”) pursuant to an exemptive order obtained from the Commission. No assurance can be given that the Trust would be able to obtain another exemptive order in the event that it should again believe a spin-off of a REIT subsidiary to be in the best interests of the Trust’s shareholders. As a result, the Trust may not be able to dispose of its interests in a REIT subsidiary in the manner the Investment Adviser believes would be most efficient.

*Interest Rate Risk.* Interest rate risk is the risk that debt securities, and the Trust's net assets, may decline in value because of changes in interest rates. Generally, fixed rate debt securities will decrease in value when interest rates rise and increase in value when interest rates decline. This means that the net asset value of the common shares will fluctuate with interest rate changes and the corresponding changes in the value of the Trust's debt security holdings. To the extent the Trust invests in fixed rate debt securities with longer duration, the Trust is subject to greater interest rate risk than funds investing solely in shorter-term fixed rate debt securities. In addition, in a period of rising interest rates, the higher cost of any leverage employed by the Trust and/or increasing defaults by issuers of high-yield securities would likely exacerbate any decline in the Trust's net asset value ("NAV").

*Prepayment Risk.* If interest rates fall, the principal on bonds and loans held by the Trust may be paid earlier than expected. If this happens, the proceeds from a prepaid security may be reinvested by the Trust in securities bearing lower interest rates, resulting in a possible decline in the Trust's income and distributions to shareholders. The Trust may invest in pools of mortgages or other assets issued or guaranteed by private issuers or U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities. Mortgage-related securities are especially sensitive to prepayment risk because borrowers often refinance their mortgages when interest rates decline.

*Risks of Investing in High-Yield Securities, also Known as "Junk Securities."* A substantial portion of the Trust's investments will consist of investments that may generally be characterized as "high-yield securities" or "junk securities," and the Trust may invest without limit in such securities. Such securities are typically rated below investment grade by one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations or are unrated but of comparable credit quality to obligations rated below investment grade, and have greater credit and liquidity risk than more highly rated obligations. High-yield securities are generally unsecured and may be subordinate to other obligations of the obligor. The lower rating of high-yield securities reflects a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions (including, for example, a substantial period of rising interest rates or declining earnings) or both may impair the ability of the issuer to make payment of principal and interest. Many issuers of high-yield securities are highly leveraged, and their relatively high debt to equity ratios create increased risks that their operations might not generate sufficient cash flow to service their obligations. Overall declines in the high-yield bond and other markets may adversely affect such issuers by inhibiting their ability to refinance their obligations at maturity.

High-yield securities are often issued in connection with leveraged acquisitions or recapitalizations in which the issuers incur a substantially higher amount of indebtedness than the level at which they had previously operated. High-yield securities that are debt

instruments have historically experienced greater default rates than has been the case for investment grade securities. The Trust may also invest in equity securities issued by entities whose obligations are unrated or are rated below investment grade.

The Trust is authorized to invest in obligations of issuers that are generally trading at significantly higher yields than had been historically typical of the applicable issuer's obligations. Such investments may include debt obligations that have a heightened probability of being in covenant or payment default in the future. Such investments generally are considered highly speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result in only partial recovery of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted security for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or highly speculative.

High-yield securities purchased by the Trust are subject to certain additional risks to the extent that such obligations may be unsecured and subordinated to substantial amounts of senior indebtedness, all or a significant portion of which may be secured. Moreover, such obligations purchased by the Trust may not be protected by financial covenants or limitations upon additional indebtedness and are unlikely to be secured by collateral.

*Illiquidity of Investments.* The investments made by the Trust may be very illiquid, and consequently, the Trust may not be able to sell such investments at prices that reflect the Investment Adviser's assessment of their fair value or the amount paid for such investments by the Trust or to sell such investments in a timely fashion. An inability to sell a portfolio position can adversely affect the Trust's value or prevent the Trust from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities. Illiquidity may result from the absence of an established market for the investments as well as legal, contractual or other restrictions on their resale by the Trust and other factors. Furthermore, the nature of the Trust's investments, especially those in financially stressed and distressed companies, may require a long holding period prior to being able to determine whether the investment will be profitable or not. There is no limit on the amount of the Trust's investment portfolio that can be invested in illiquid securities.

*Risks of Investing in Senior Loans.* Senior loans, such as bank loans, are typically at the most senior level of the capital structure, and are sometimes secured by specific collateral, including, but not limited to, trademarks, patents, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment, buildings, real estate, franchises and common and preferred stock of

the obligor or its affiliates. A portion of the Trust's investments may consist of loans and participations therein originated by banks and other financial institutions, typically referred to as "bank loans." The Trust's investments may include loans of a type generally incurred by borrowers in connection with highly leveraged transactions, often to finance internal growth, acquisitions, mergers or stock purchases, or for other reasons. As a result of the additional debt incurred by the borrower in the course of the transaction, the borrower's creditworthiness is often judged by the rating agencies to be below investment grade. Such loans are typically private corporate loans negotiated by one or more commercial banks or financial institutions and syndicated among a group of commercial banks and financial institutions. In order to induce the lenders to extend credit and to offer a favorable interest rate, the borrower often provides the lenders with extensive information about its business that is not generally available to the public. To the extent the Trust receives material non-public information, it may be prohibited from trading in certain securities, even when it might otherwise be beneficial to do so.

Bank loans often, but not always, contain restrictive covenants designed to limit the activities of the borrower in an effort to protect the right of lenders to receive timely payments of principal and interest. Such covenants may include restrictions on distribution payments, specific mandatory minimum financial ratios, limits on total debt and other financial tests. Bank loans usually have shorter terms than subordinated obligations and may require mandatory prepayments from excess cash flow, asset dispositions and offerings of debt and/or equity securities. The bank loans and other debt obligations to be acquired by the Trust are likely to be below investment grade.

The Trust may acquire interests in bank loans and other debt obligations either directly (by way of sale or assignment) or indirectly (by way of participation). The purchaser of an assignment typically succeeds to all the rights and obligations of the assigning institution and becomes a lender under the credit agreement with respect to the debt obligation; however, its rights can be more restricted than those of the assigning institution, and, in any event, the Trust may not be able unilaterally to enforce all rights and remedies under the loan and any associated collateral. A participation interest in a portion of a debt obligation typically results in a contractual relationship only with the institution participating out the interest, not with the borrower. In purchasing participations, the Trust generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the loan agreement or any rights of setoff against the borrower, and the Trust may not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the debt obligation in which it has purchased the participation. As a result, the Trust will be exposed to the credit risk of both the borrower and the institution selling the participation.

Loans may not be considered 'securities' for purposes of the anti-fraud provisions under the federal securities laws and, as a result, as a purchaser of these instruments, the Trust may not be entitled to the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws.

Purchasers of bank loans are predominantly commercial banks, investment funds and investment banks. As secondary market trading volumes increase, new bank loans frequently adopt standardized documentation to facilitate loan trading, which the Investment Adviser believes should improve market liquidity. However, no active trading market may exist for certain senior loans, which may impair the ability of the Trust to realize full value in the event of the need to liquidate such assets. Adverse market conditions may impair the liquidity of some actively traded senior loans. In addition, future levels of supply and demand in bank loan trading may not provide an adequate degree of liquidity and the current level of liquidity may not continue. Because of the provision to holders of such loans of confidential information relating to the borrower, the unique and customized nature of the loan agreement, the limited universe of eligible purchasers and the private syndication of the loan, bank loans are not as easily purchased or sold as a publicly-traded security.

As with any debt instrument, senior loans are generally subject to the risk of price declines and to increases in interest rates, particularly long-term rates. Senior loans are also subject to the risk that, as interest rates rise, the cost of borrowing increases, which may increase the risk of default. In addition, the interest rates of floating rate loans typically only adjust to changes in short-term interest rates; long-term interest rates can vary dramatically from short-term interest rates. Therefore, senior loans may not mitigate price declines in a rising long-term interest rate environment. Declines in interest rates may increase prepayments of debt obligations and require the Trust to invest assets at lower yields.

*Legislation Risk.* To the extent that legislation or state or federal regulators impose additional requirements or restrictions with respect to the ability of financial institutions to make loans in connection with highly leveraged transactions, the availability of senior loan interests for investment by the Trust may be adversely affected. In addition, such requirements or restrictions may reduce or eliminate sources of financing for affected borrowers. Further, to the extent that legislation or federal or state regulators require such institutions to dispose of senior loan interests relating to highly leveraged transactions or subject such senior loan interests to increased regulatory scrutiny, such financial institutions may determine to sell senior loan interests in a manner that results in a price that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, is not indicative of fair value. Were the Trust to attempt to sell a senior loan interest at a time when a financial institution was engaging in such a sale with respect to the senior loan interest, the price at which the Trust could consummate such a sale might be adversely affected.

*Second Lien Loans Risk.* Second lien loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans and non-investment grade securities. However, second lien loans are second in right of payment to senior loans and therefore are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior secured obligations of the borrower. Second lien loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in second lien loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

*Other Secured Loans Risk.* Secured loans other than senior loans and second lien loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans and non-investment grade securities. However, such loans may rank lower in right of payment than any outstanding senior loans and second lien loans of the borrower and therefore are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the higher-ranking secured obligations of the borrower. Lower-ranking secured loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and second lien loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in lower-ranking secured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

*Unsecured Loans Risk.* Unsecured loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans, other secured loans and non-investment grade securities. However, because unsecured loans have lower priority in right of payment to any higher ranking obligations of the borrower and are not backed by a security interest in any specific collateral, they are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and available assets may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to any higher ranking obligations of the borrower. Unsecured loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans, second lien loans and other secured loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in unsecured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

Loans other than senior loans may not be acceptable collateral under any future credit facilities, or may require a higher collateral-to-loan ratio, and therefore to the extent the Trust invests in such loans its ability to borrow may be reduced.

*Risks of Investing in Obligations of Stressed, Distressed and Bankrupt Issuers.* The Trust is authorized to invest in the securities and other obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers, including debt obligations that are in covenant or payment default. There is no limit

on the amount of the Trust's investment portfolio that can be invested in stressed, distressed or bankrupt issuers, and the Trust may invest for purposes of control. Such investments generally trade significantly below par and are considered highly speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result in only partial recoveries, which may be in the form of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted obligation for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or highly speculative. It is also possible that there could be limited or no recovery for creditors in a bankruptcy or workout.

There are a number of significant risks inherent in the bankruptcy process, including, without limitation, those set forth in this paragraph. First, many events in a bankruptcy are the product of contested matters and adversary proceedings and are beyond the control of the creditors. While creditors are generally given an opportunity to object to significant actions, a bankruptcy court in the exercise of its broad powers may approve actions that are contrary to the interests of the Trust. Second, a bankruptcy filing by an issuer may adversely and permanently affect the issuer. The issuer may lose its market position and key employees and otherwise become incapable of restoring itself as a viable entity. If for this or any other reason the proceeding is converted to a liquidation, the value of the issuer may not equal the liquidation value that was believed to exist at the time of the investment. Third, the duration of a bankruptcy proceeding is difficult to predict. A creditor's return on investment can be adversely affected by delays while the plan of reorganization is being negotiated, approved by the creditors and confirmed by the bankruptcy court and until it ultimately becomes effective. Fourth, the administrative costs in connection with a bankruptcy proceeding are frequently high and would be paid out of the debtor's estate prior to any return to creditors. For example, if a proceeding involves protracted or difficult litigation, or turns into a liquidation, substantial assets may be devoted to administrative costs. Fifth, bankruptcy law permits the classification of "substantially similar" claims in determining the classification of claims in a reorganization. Because the standard for classification is vague, there exists the risk that the Trust's influence with respect to the class of securities or other obligations it owns can be lost by increases in the number and amount of claims in that class or by different classification and treatment. Sixth, in the early stages of the bankruptcy process it is often difficult to estimate the extent of, or even to identify, any contingent claims that might be made. Seventh, especially in the case of investments made prior to the commencement of bankruptcy proceedings, creditors can lose their ranking and priority if they exercise "domination and control" over a debtor and other creditors can

demonstrate that they have been harmed by such actions. Eighth, certain claims that have priority by law (for example, claims for taxes) may be substantial.

In any investment involving stressed and distressed debt obligations, there exists the risk that the transaction involving such debt obligations will be unsuccessful, take considerable time or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security or obligation in exchange for the stressed and distressed debt obligations, the value of which may be less than the Trust's purchase price of such debt obligations. Furthermore, if an anticipated transaction does not occur, the Trust may be required to sell its investment at a loss. Given the substantial uncertainties concerning transactions involving stressed and distressed debt obligations in which the Trust invests, there is a potential risk of loss by the Trust of its entire investment in any particular investment.

Investments in companies operating in workout modes or under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code are also, in certain circumstances, subject to certain additional liabilities, which may exceed the value of the Trust's original investment in a company. For example, under certain circumstances, creditors who have inappropriately exercised control over the management and policies of a debtor may have their claims subordinated or disallowed or may be found liable for damages suffered by parties as a result of such actions. The Investment Adviser's active management style may present a greater risk in this area than would a more passive approach. In addition, under certain circumstances, payments to the Trust and distributions by the Trust or payments on the debt may be reclaimed if any such payment is later determined to have been a fraudulent conveyance or a preferential payment.

The Investment Adviser on behalf of the Trust (and its other clients) may participate on committees formed by creditors to negotiate with the management of financially troubled companies that may or may not be in bankruptcy or may negotiate directly with debtors with respect to restructuring issues. If the Trust does choose to join a committee, the Trust would likely be only one of many participants, all of whom would be interested in obtaining an outcome that is in their individual best interests. The Trust may not be successful in obtaining results most favorable to it in such proceedings, although the Trust may incur significant legal and other expenses in attempting to do so. As a result of participation by the Trust on such committees, the Trust may be deemed to have duties to other creditors represented by the committees, which might thereby expose the Trust to liability to such other creditors who disagree with the Trust's actions. Participation by the Trust on such committees may cause the Trust to be subject to certain restrictions on its ability to trade in a particular investment and may also make the Trust an "insider" or an "underwriter" for purposes of the federal securities laws. Either

circumstance will restrict the Trust's ability to trade in or acquire additional positions in a particular investment when it might otherwise desire to do so.

Distressed debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present special tax issues for the Trust because the U.S. federal income tax rules relating to those obligations are currently unclear. For instance, tax rules are not entirely clear as to whether and to what extent the Trust should recognize "market discount" on a distressed debt obligation and when the Trust may cease to accrue interest, "original issue discount" or market discount on those obligations; and when and to what extent the Trust may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how the Trust should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by the Trust when, as and if it invests in such obligations, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its eligibility for treatment as a regulated investment company ("RIC") under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and that it does not become subject to Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

*Insolvency Considerations with Respect to Issuers of Debt Obligations.* Various laws enacted for the protection of creditors may apply to the debt obligations held by the Trust. The information in this paragraph is applicable with respect to U.S. issuers subject to U.S. bankruptcy laws. Insolvency considerations may differ with respect to other issuers. If a court in a lawsuit brought by an unpaid creditor or representative of creditors of an issuer of a debt obligation, such as a trustee in bankruptcy or a creditors' committee, were to find that the issuer did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for incurring the indebtedness constituting the debt obligation and, after giving effect to such indebtedness, the issuer (i) was insolvent, (ii) was engaged in a business for which the remaining assets of such issuer constituted unreasonably small capital, or (iii) intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they mature, such court could determine to invalidate, in whole or in part, such indebtedness as a fraudulent conveyance, to subordinate such indebtedness to existing or future creditors of such issuer, or to recover amounts previously paid by such issuer in satisfaction of such indebtedness.

The measure of insolvency for purposes of the foregoing will vary. Generally, an issuer would be considered insolvent at a particular time if the sum of its debts were then greater than all of its property at a fair valuation, or if the present fair saleable value of its assets was then less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liabilities on its existing debts as they became absolute and matured. There can be no assurance as to what standard a court would apply in order to determine whether the issuer was "insolvent" after giving

effect to the incurrence of the indebtedness constituting the debt obligation or that, regardless of the method of valuation, a court would not determine that the issuer was “insolvent” upon giving effect to such incurrence. In addition, in the event of the insolvency of an issuer of a debt obligation, payments made on such debt obligation could be subject to avoidance as a “preference” if made within a certain period of time (which may be as long as one year) before insolvency. Similarly, a court might apply the doctrine of equitable subordination to subordinate the claim of a lending institution against an issuer, to claims of other creditors of the borrower, when the lending institution, another investor, or any of their transferees, is found to have engaged in unfair, inequitable, or fraudulent conduct. In general, if payments on a debt obligation are avoidable, whether as fraudulent conveyances or preferences, such payments can be recaptured either from the initial recipient (such as the Trust) or from subsequent transferees of such payments (such as the investors in the Trust). To the extent that any such payments are recaptured from the Trust the resulting loss will be borne by the investors. However, a court in a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding would be able to direct the recapture of any such payment from such a recipient or transferee only to the extent that such court has jurisdiction over such recipient or transferee or its assets. Moreover, it is likely that avoidable payments could not be recaptured directly from any such recipient or transferee that has given value in exchange for its note, in good faith and without knowledge that the payments were avoidable. Although the Investment Adviser will seek to avoid conduct that would form the basis for a successful cause of action based upon fraudulent conveyance, preference or equitable subordination, these determinations are made in hindsight and a court could disagree with the Trust’s position, and, in any event, there can be no assurance as to whether any lending institution or other investor from which the Trust acquired the debt obligations engaged in any such conduct (or any other conduct that would subject the debt obligations and the issuer to insolvency laws) and, if it did, as to whether such creditor claims could be asserted in a U.S. court (or in the courts of any other country) against the Trust.

*Litigation Risk.* The Trust is sometimes subject to legal proceedings and claims based on the securities and instruments in which the Trust invests. Litigation may result in substantial costs and may seriously harm the Trust’s investments and overall financial condition. In addition, legal claims that have not yet been asserted against the Trust may be asserted in the future.

*Leverage Risk.* When deemed appropriate by the Investment Adviser and subject to applicable regulations, the Trust may use leverage in its investment program, including the use of borrowed funds and investments in certain types of options, such as puts, calls and warrants. While such strategies and techniques increase the opportunity to achieve higher returns on the amounts invested, they

also increase the risk of loss. To the extent the Trust purchases securities with borrowed funds, its net assets will tend to increase or decrease at a greater rate than if borrowed funds are not used. The level of interest rates generally, and the rates at which such funds may be borrowed in particular, could affect the operating results of the Trust. If the interest expense on borrowings were to exceed the net return on the portfolio securities purchased with borrowed funds, the Trust's use of leverage would result in a lower rate of return than if the Trust were not leveraged.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the Commission, the Trust may be required to earmark liquid assets in an amount equal to the Trust's daily marked-to-market value of its transactions in futures and options. To maintain this required margin, the Trust may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times because it may not be possible to liquidate a position at a reasonable price. In addition, the earmarking of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Trust's ability otherwise to invest those assets.

The Trust has the ability to use leverage through the issuance of preferred shares, borrowings from a credit facility, issuing notes or other debt securities, or any combination of the three. The Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility and through a master repurchase agreement. The use of leverage, which can be described as exposure to changes in price at a ratio greater than the amount of equity invested, either through the issuance of preferred shares, borrowings or other forms of market exposure, magnifies both the favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in the investments made by the Trust. Insofar as the Trust continues to employ leverage in its investment operations, the Trust will be subject to substantial risks of loss.

Therefore, if the market value of the Trust's investment portfolio declines, any leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to common shareholders than if the Trust were not leveraged. Such greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common shares. Further, if at any time while the Trust has leverage outstanding it does not meet applicable asset coverage requirements (as discussed below), it may be required to suspend distributions to common shareholders until the requisite asset coverage is restored. Any such suspension might impair the ability of the Trust to meet the RIC distribution requirements and to avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

As noted above, the Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility, a master repurchase agreement and a bridge facility. The Trust entered into a committed facility with BNP on May 16, 2013 (as amended from time to time) to borrow up to \$135,000,000 (as amended, the "Committed Facility"). The

Committed Facility has a rolling 90-day term (referred to as a “90-day evergreen”). BNP has a termination right if BNP’s long-term credit rating declines three or more notches below its highest rating by any of Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, Moody’s Investor Service, Inc. or Fitch Ratings, Ltd., during the period commencing on and including October 28, 2014 and ending on the date of such long-term credit rating decline. Upon any such termination, BNP shall pay the Trust a fee equal to 0.10% of the maximum amount of financing available on the termination date. The Trust pays interest on borrowed amounts under the Committed Facility at an annual rate of the one month London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) plus 0.60% to 1.30%, depending on the asset class of the underlying collateral. The Committed Facility agreement contains customary covenant and default provisions. When borrowings are made under the Committed Facility, collateral must be posted to an account with the Trust’s custodian, State Street held for the benefit of BNP. Such borrowings constitute financial leverage.

The Trust has entered into an agreement with BNP Securities under which it may from time to time enter into reverse repurchase transactions pursuant to the terms of a master repurchase agreement and related annexes, dated as of November 16, 2017 (collectively the “Repurchase Agreement”). A reverse repurchase transaction is a repurchase transaction in which the Trust is the seller of securities or other assets and agrees to repurchase them at a date certain or on demand. Pursuant to the Repurchase Agreement, the Trust may agree to sell securities or other assets to BNP Securities for an agreed-upon price (the “Purchase Price”), with a simultaneous agreement to repurchase such securities or other assets from BNP Securities for the Purchase Price plus a price differential that is economically similar to interest. The price differential is negotiated for each transaction.

On February 16, 2018, the Trust, and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, NREC and NREO (collectively, the “Borrowers”), entered into a \$36.5 million bridge credit agreement (the “Bridge Facility”) with KeyBank National Association. The Bridge Facility has an initial term of six months, with two 3-month extension options subject to certain conditions. Proceeds of the Bridge Facility are available for the Borrowers to finance the purchase of certain securities and the Bridge Facility is secured by certain collateral.

*Other Investment Companies.* The Trust may invest in the securities of other investment companies, which can include open-end funds, closed-end funds, unit investment trusts and business development companies. Investment companies combine shareholders’ funds for investment in a variety of instruments, including equity securities, debt securities, and money market instruments and may invest primarily in a particular type of security, a particular industry or a mix of securities and industries. An investment company is not taxed on income distributed to shareholders if, among other things, it

distributes to its shareholders substantially all of its taxable income for each taxable year. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Trust, and therefore its shareholders, will bear a proportionate share of the expenses of such other investment companies, including management fees, administration fees and custodial fees, in addition to the expenses of the Trust. Under one provision of the Investment Company Act, the Trust may not acquire the securities of other investment companies if, as a result, (i) more than 10% of the Trust's total assets would be invested in securities of other investment companies, (ii) such purchase would result in more than 3% of the total outstanding voting securities of any one investment company being held by the Trust or (iii) more than 5% of the Trust's total assets would be invested in any one investment company. Other provisions of the Investment Company Act are less restrictive, provided that the Trust is able to meet certain conditions. These limitations do not apply to the acquisition of shares of any investment company in connection with a merger, consolidation, reorganization or acquisition of substantially all of the assets of another investment company.

*Preferred Share Risk.* Preferred share risk is the risk associated with the issuance of preferred shares to leverage the common shares. If preferred shares are issued, the net asset value and market value of the common shares will be more volatile, and the yield to the holders of common shares will tend to fluctuate with changes in the shorter-term dividend rates on the preferred shares. The Trust will pay (and the holders of common shares will bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of the preferred shares, including higher advisory fees. Accordingly, the issuance of preferred shares may not result in a higher yield or return to the holders of the common shares. If the dividend rate and other costs of the preferred shares approach the net rate of return on the Trust's investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to the holders of the common shares would be reduced. If the dividend rate and other costs of the preferred shares exceed the net rate of return on the Trust's investment portfolio, the leverage will result in a lower rate of return to the holders of common shares than if the Trust had not issued preferred shares.

Similarly, any decline in the net asset value of the Trust's investments will be borne entirely by the holders of common shares. Therefore, if the market value of the Trust's investment portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of common shares than if the Trust were not leveraged. This greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common shares. The Trust might be in danger of failing to maintain the required asset coverage of the preferred shares or of losing its ratings on the preferred shares or, in an extreme case, the Trust's current investment income might not be sufficient to meet the dividend requirements on the preferred shares. In order to counteract such an event, the Trust might need to liquidate

investments in order to fund a redemption of some or all of the preferred shares. Liquidation at times of low prices may result in capital loss and may reduce returns to the holders of common shares.

If preferred shares are issued, holders of preferred shares may have differing interests than holders of common shares and holders of preferred shares may at times have disproportionate influence over the Trust's affairs. If preferred shares are issued, holders of preferred shares, voting separately as a single class, would have the right to elect two members of the Board at all times. The remaining members of the Board would be elected by holders of common shares and preferred shares, voting as a single class. The Investment Company Act requires that, in addition to any approval by shareholders that might otherwise be required, the approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding preferred shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (i) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the preferred shares and (ii) take any action requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the Investment Company Act, including, among other things, changes in the Trust's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment restrictions.

If the Trust issues preferred shares, the Trust would likely seek a credit rating on the preferred shares from one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The Trust expects that, at any time when preferred shares were outstanding, the composition of its investment portfolio would reflect guidelines established by any rating agencies, including, for example, asset coverage requirements that are more restrictive than those under the Investment Company Act, restrictions on certain portfolio investments and investment practices, requirements that the Trust maintain a portion of its assets in higher rated debt securities and certain mandatory redemption requirements relating to the preferred shares. No assurance can be given that the guidelines actually imposed with respect to preferred shares by rating agencies would be more or less restrictive than these examples. These restrictions may require the Trust to alter its investment strategy and invest in different types of assets, some of which may be lower yielding or result in fewer opportunities for capital appreciation. No minimum rating is required for the issuance of preferred shares by the Trust.

*Common Stock Risk.* The Trust may invest in common stock. Although investments in common stock have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed income securities over the long-term, investments in common stock also have historically experienced significantly more volatility in those returns. Therefore, the Trust's investments in common stock could result in worse performance than would be the case had the Trust been invested solely in debt securities. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular investment in

common stock held by the Trust. Also, the price of common stock is sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of a common stock to which the Trust has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or when political or economic events affecting an issuer occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

*Dividend Risk.* Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of an issuer's board of directors. There is no guarantee that the issuers of the common stocks in which the Trust invests will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, the dividends will remain at current levels or increase over time.

*Small and Mid-Cap Securities Risk.* The Trust may invest in companies with small or medium-sized capitalizations. Securities issued by small and medium-sized companies can be more volatile than, and perform differently from, larger company securities. There may be less trading in a small or medium-sized company's securities, which means that buy and sell transactions in those securities could have a larger impact on the security's price than is the case with larger company securities. Small or medium-sized companies may have fewer business lines; changes in any one line of business, therefore, may have a greater impact on a small or medium-sized company's security price than is the case for a larger company. In addition, small or medium-sized company securities may not be well known to the investing public.

*Non-U.S. Securities Risk.* The Trust may invest without limit in Non-U.S. Securities. The Trust may invest in Non-U.S. Securities of so-called emerging market issuers. The Trust currently does not expect to invest more than 15%, but may invest up to 20%, of its assets in emerging market issuers. Investing in Non-U.S. Securities involves certain risks not involved in domestic investments, including, but not limited to: (i) fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; (ii) future foreign economic, financial, political and social developments; (iii) different legal systems; (iv) the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions; (v) lower trading volume; (vi) much greater price volatility and illiquidity of certain non-U.S. securities markets; (vii) different trading and settlement practices; (viii) less governmental supervision; (ix) changes in currency exchange rates; (x) high and volatile rates of inflation; (xi) fluctuating interest rates; (xii) less publicly available information; and (xiii) different accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping standards and requirements. In addition, certain investments in Non-U.S. Securities may be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains or

other income. Those taxes will reduce the Trust's yield on any such securities.

Certain countries in which the Trust may invest, especially emerging market countries, historically have experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations, large amounts of external debt, balance of payments and trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment. Many of these countries are also characterized by political uncertainty and instability. These risks are especially evident in the Middle East and Africa. The cost of servicing external debt will generally be adversely affected by rising international interest rates because many external debt obligations bear interest at rates which are adjusted based upon international interest rates. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is a risk of: (i) the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets; (ii) confiscatory taxation; (iii) difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment; (iv) economic, political or social instability; and (v) diplomatic developments that could affect investments in those countries. In addition, individual foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as: (i) growth of gross domestic product; (ii) rates of inflation; (iii) capital reinvestment; (iv) resources; (v) self-sufficiency; and (vi) balance of payments position.

As a result of these potential risks, the Investment Adviser may determine that, notwithstanding otherwise favorable investment criteria, it may not be practicable or appropriate to invest in a particular country. The Trust may invest in countries in which foreign investors, including the Investment Adviser, have had no or limited prior experience.

*Emerging Markets Risk.* The Trust currently does not expect to invest more than 15%, but may invest up to 20% of its total assets in securities of issuers based in emerging markets. An emerging market country is any country having an economy and market that are (or would be) considered by the World Bank to be emerging or developing or is listed in the Morgan Stanley Capital International Emerging Markets Index. Emerging market countries are located in regions such as Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe (including the former republics of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc) and Africa. Investing in securities of issuers based in emerging markets entails all of the risks of investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers, but to a heightened degree. These heightened risks include: (i) greater risks of expropriation, confiscatory taxation, nationalization, and less social, political and economic stability; (ii) the smaller size of the markets for such securities and a lower volume of trading, resulting in lack of liquidity and in price volatility; and (iii) certain national policies which may restrict the Trust's investment opportunities including restrictions on

investing in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests.

*Foreign Currency Risk.* Because the Trust may invest in securities denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may affect the value of securities owned by the Trust, the unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments and gains on and income from investments. Currencies of certain countries may be volatile and therefore may affect the value of securities denominated in such currencies, which means that the Trust's net asset value could decline as a result of changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. These risks often are heightened for investments in smaller or emerging capital markets. In addition, the Trust may enter into foreign currency transactions in an attempt to enhance total return, which may further expose the Trust to the risks of foreign currency movements and other risks. The use of foreign currency transactions can result in the Trust incurring losses as a result of the imposition of exchange controls, suspension of settlements or the inability of the Trust to deliver or receive a specified currency.

*Investments in Unseasoned Companies.* The Trust may invest in the securities of less seasoned companies. These investments may present greater opportunities for growth, but also involve greater risks than customarily are associated with investments in securities of more established companies. Some of the companies in which the Trust may invest will be start-up companies that may have insubstantial operational or earnings history or may have limited products, markets, financial resources or management depth. Some may also be emerging companies at the research and development stage with no products or technologies to market or approved for marketing. Securities of emerging companies may lack an active secondary market and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than securities of larger, more established companies or stock market averages in general. Competitors of certain companies may have substantially greater financial resources than many of the companies in which the Trust may invest.

*Initial Public Offerings Risk.* The Trust may invest in shares of companies through initial public offerings ("IPOs"). IPOs and companies that have recently gone public have the potential to produce substantial gains for the Trust. However, the Trust may not have access to or invest in IPOs that are ultimately profitable for investors. The investment performance of the Trust during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in IPOs may be lower than during periods when the Trust is able to do so. Securities issued in IPOs are subject to many of the same risks as investing in companies with smaller market capitalizations. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies

may be available for limited periods of time. In addition, the prices of securities sold in IPOs may be highly volatile or may decline shortly after the IPO.

*Securities Lending Risk.* Under the Trust's current securities lending agreement, the Trust may lend its portfolio securities (up to a maximum of one-third of its total assets) to financial institutions on an approved list of borrowers. Securities lending is subject to the risk that loaned securities may not be available to the Trust on a timely basis and the Trust may, therefore, lose the opportunity to sell the securities at a desirable price. Any loss in the market price of securities loaned by the Trust that occurs during the term of the loan would be borne by the Trust and would adversely affect the Trust's performance. Also, there may be delays in recovery, or no recovery, of securities loaned should the borrower of the securities fail financially while the loan is outstanding. In addition, voting rights with respect to loaned securities generally pass to the borrower. The Trust, as the lender, retains the right to recall the loans and obtain the return of the securities loaned in order to vote the loaned securities. However, in many circumstances the Trust may be unable to recall the securities in time to vote or may determine that the benefits to the Trust of voting are outweighed by the indirect or direct costs of such a recall. In these circumstances, loaned securities may be voted or not voted in a manner adverse to the best interests of the Trust. All of the aforementioned risks may be greater for Non-U.S. Securities.

These lending transactions must be fully collateralized at all times, but involve some credit risk to the Trust if the borrower or the party (if any) guaranteeing the loan should default on its obligation and the Trust is delayed in or prevented from recovering the collateral. In addition, any income or gains and losses from investing and reinvesting any cash collateral delivered by a borrower pursuant to a loan are generally at the Trust's risk, and to the extent any such losses reduce the amount of cash below the amount required to be returned to the borrower upon the termination of any loan, the Trust may be required to pay or cause to be paid to such borrower or another entity an amount equal to such shortfall in cash. The Trust generally accepts cash (U.S. and foreign currency), securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, or sovereign debt as collateral for these lending transactions, although in the future may accept other types of collateral.

*Risks Associated with Options on Securities.* There are several risks associated with transactions in options on securities, such as exchange-listed, over-the-counter and index options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. A decision as to whether, when and how to use options involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even a well-conceived transaction

may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected events.

As the writer of a covered call option, the Trust forgoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the security covering the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the call, but has retained the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security decline. As the Trust writes covered calls over more of its portfolio, its ability to benefit from capital appreciation becomes more limited. The writer of an option has no control over the time when it may be required to fulfill its obligation as a writer of the option. Once an option writer has received an exercise notice, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option and must deliver the underlying security at the exercise price.

When the Trust writes covered put options, it bears the risk of loss if the value of the underlying stock declines below the exercise price minus the put premium. If the option is exercised, the Trust could incur a loss if it is required to purchase the stock underlying the put option at a price greater than the market price of the stock at the time of exercise plus the put premium the Trust received when it wrote the option. While the Trust's potential gain in writing a covered put option is limited to distributions earned on the liquid assets securing the put option plus the premium received from the purchaser of the put option, the Trust risks a loss equal to the entire exercise price of the option minus the put premium.

*Exchange-Listed Option Risks.* A liquid market may not exist when the Trust seeks to close out an option position on an options exchange. Reasons for the absence of a liquid secondary market on an exchange include the following: (i) there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; (ii) restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; (iii) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options; (iv) unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; (v) the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume; or (vi) one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options). If trading were discontinued, the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist. However, outstanding options on that exchange that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms. If the Trust were unable to close out a covered call option that it had written on a security, it would not be able to sell the underlying security unless the option expired without exercise.

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

*Over-the-Counter Option Risk.* The Trust may purchase and write (sell) unlisted ("OTC" or "over-the-counter") options. Options written by the Trust with respect to Non-U.S. Securities, indices or sectors generally will be OTC options. OTC options differ from exchange-listed options in that they are two-party contracts, with exercise price, premium and other terms negotiated between buyer and seller, and generally do not have as much market liquidity as exchange-listed options. The counterparties to these transactions typically will be major international banks, broker-dealers and financial institutions. The Trust may be required to treat as illiquid those securities being used to cover certain written OTC options. The OTC options written by the Trust will not be issued, guaranteed or cleared by the Options Clearing Corporation. In addition, the Trust's ability to terminate the OTC options may be more limited than with exchange-traded options. Banks, broker-dealers or other financial institutions participating in such transactions may fail to settle a transaction in accordance with the terms of the option as written. In the event of default or insolvency of the counterparty, the Trust may be unable to liquidate an OTC option position.

*Index Option Risk.* The Trust may purchase and sell index put and call options from time to time. The purchaser of an index put option has the right to any depreciation in the value of the index below the exercise price of the option on or before the expiration date. The purchaser of an index call option has the right to any appreciation in the value of the index over the exercise price of the option on or before the expiration date. Because the exercise of an index option is settled in cash, sellers of index call options, such as the Trust, cannot provide in advance for their potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying securities. The Trust will lose money if it is required to pay the purchaser of an index option the difference between the cash value of the index on which the option

was written and the exercise price and such difference is greater than the premium received by the Trust for writing the option. The value of index options written by the Trust, which will be priced daily, will be affected by changes in the value and dividend rates of the underlying common stocks in the respective index, changes in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market and the remaining time to the options' expiration. The value of the index options also may be adversely affected if the market for the index options becomes less liquid or smaller. Distributions paid by the Trust on its common shares may be derived in part from the net index option premiums it receives from selling index put and call options, less the cost of paying settlement amounts to purchasers of the options that exercise their options. Net index option premiums can vary widely over the short term and long term.

*Asset-Backed Securities Risk.* Payment of interest and repayment of principal on asset-backed securities is largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other credit enhancements. Asset-backed security values may also be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool, the originator of the loans or receivables and any entities providing the credit enhancement. In addition, the underlying assets are subject to prepayments that shorten the securities' weighted average maturity and may lower their return.

*Mortgage-Backed Securities Risk.* A mortgage-backed security, which represents an interest in a pool of assets such as mortgage loans, will mature once all the mortgages in the pool mature or are prepaid. Therefore, mortgage-backed securities do not have a fixed maturity, and their expected maturities may vary when interest rates rise or fall.

When interest rates fall, homeowners are more likely to prepay their mortgage loans. An increased rate of prepayments on the Trust's mortgage-backed securities will result in an unforeseen loss of interest income to the Trust, as the Trust may be required to reinvest assets at a lower interest rate. Because prepayments increase when interest rates fall, the price of mortgage-backed securities does not increase as much as that of other fixed income securities when interest rates fall.

When interest rates rise, homeowners are less likely to prepay their mortgage loans. A decreased rate of prepayments lengthens the expected maturity of a mortgage-backed security. Therefore, the prices of mortgage-backed securities may decrease more than prices of other fixed income securities when interest rates rise.

Timely payment of interest and principal of mortgage-backed securities may be supported by various forms of private insurance or guarantees,

including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance purchased or held by the issuer. Private insurers may not, however, be able to meet their obligations under the policies. An unexpectedly high rate of defaults on the mortgages held by a mortgage pool may adversely affect the value of a mortgage-backed security and could result in losses to the Trust. The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage pools that include sub-prime mortgages (which are typically granted to individuals with poor credit histories who, as a result of their deficient credit ratings, would not be able to qualify for conventional mortgages), “Alt-A” mortgages (typically characterized by borrowers with less than full documentation, lower credit scores or higher loan-to-value ratios), “interest only” mortgages (which permit interest-only payments for a specified period before payment of principal is required) and/or “option ARM” mortgages (which are typically 30-year adjustable rate mortgages that initially offer a borrower four monthly payment options: a specified minimum payment, an interest-only payment, a 15-year fully amortizing payment and a 30-year fully amortizing payment). Some of these types of mortgages may be subject to “negative amortization,” which occurs whenever the loan payment for any period is less than the interest charged over that period so that the outstanding principal balance of the loan increases. The types of mortgages discussed above are made to borrowers with weakened credit histories or with a lower capacity to make timely payments on their mortgages, and are subject to a greater risk of default than “prime” mortgages. Market factors adversely affecting mortgage loan repayments may include a general economic downturn, high unemployment, a general slowdown in the real estate market, a drop in the market prices of real estate, or an increase in interest rates resulting in higher mortgage payments by holders of adjustable rate mortgages. To the extent the Trust invests in securities directly or indirectly backed by these types of mortgages, it will be subject to greater risks.

Credit ratings on mortgage-backed securities are subject to the same limitations that apply to credit ratings generally. See “Limitations of Credit Ratings.”

The market for mortgage-backed securities (and other asset-backed securities) has in recent years experienced high volatility and a lack of liquidity. As a result, the value of many of these securities has significantly declined. There can be no assurance that these markets will become more liquid or less volatile, and it is possible that the value of these securities could decline further.

*Risks of Investing in Royalty Securities.* The Trust may invest in debt and/or equity royalty securities. The risks of investing in these securities will include the risks of investing in the underlying industry. In addition, royalty securities are currently not widely recognized or understood and the Trust may not be able to sell the securities when it wants to do so. Under certain market conditions, these securities may also become highly illiquid. Each security will

include different risk factors specific to that transaction. Risk factors of royalty securities generally include risks relating to the products associated with the royalty stream, risks relating to the license agreement, risks relating to the structure of the financing and risks relating to bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings.

*Repurchase Agreement Risk.* The Trust may enter into reverse repurchase transactions with BNP Securities or other banks and securities dealers. A reverse repurchase transaction is a repurchase transaction in which the Trust is the seller of, rather than the investor in, securities or other assets and agrees to repurchase them at a date certain or on demand. Use of a reverse repurchase transaction may be preferable to a regular sale and later repurchase of securities or other assets because it avoids certain market risks and transaction costs. Reverse repurchase transactions involve the risk that the market value of securities and/or other assets purchased by the Trust with the proceeds received by the Trust in connection with such reverse repurchase transactions may decline below the market value of the securities the Trust is obligated to repurchase under such reverse repurchase transactions. They also involve the risk that the counterparty liquidates the securities delivered to it by the Trust under the reverse repurchase agreement following the occurrence of an event of default under the reverse repurchase agreement by the Trust. At the time when the Trust enters into a reverse repurchase transactions, liquid securities (cash, U.S. Government securities or other “high grade” debt obligations) of the Trust having a value at least as great as the Purchase Price of the securities to be purchased will be segregated on the books of the Trust throughout the period of the obligation. The use of these investment strategies may increase net asset value fluctuation.

*Derivatives Risk.* Derivative transactions in which the Trust may engage for hedging and speculative purposes or to enhance total return, including engaging in transactions such as options, futures, swaps, foreign currency transactions, forward foreign currency contracts, currency swaps or options on currency futures and other derivatives transactions (collectively, “Derivative Transactions”), involve certain risks and special considerations. Derivative Transactions have risks, including the imperfect correlation between the value of such instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the other party to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative instruments. Furthermore, the ability to successfully use Derivative Transactions depends on the Investment Adviser’s ability to predict pertinent market movements. Because many derivatives are “leveraged,” and thus provide significantly more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into, a relatively small adverse market movement may not only result in the loss of the entire investment, but may also expose the Trust to the possibility of a loss exceeding the original amount invested. Thus, the use of Derivative Transactions may result in losses greater than if

they had not been used, may require the Trust to sell or purchase portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, may limit the amount of appreciation the Trust can realize on an investment or may cause the Trust to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. The use of foreign currency transactions can result in the Trust incurring losses as a result of the imposition of exchange controls, the suspension of settlements or the inability of the Trust to deliver or receive a specified currency. Additionally, amounts paid by the Trust as premiums and cash or other assets held in margin accounts with respect to Derivative Transactions are not otherwise available to the Trust for investment purposes. In addition, the Trust's Derivative Transactions are generally subject to numerous special and complex tax rules. Because the tax rules applicable to such transactions may be uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") guidance with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether the Trust has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements, to maintain its qualification and eligibility for treatment as a RIC and avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Therefore, the Trust's investments in derivative instruments may be limited by these or other U.S. federal income tax considerations.

If a put or call option purchased by the Trust is not sold when it has remaining value, and if the market price of the underlying security remains equal to or greater than the exercise price (in the case of a put), or remains less than or equal to the exercise price (in the case of a call), the Trust will lose its entire investment in the option.

Also, where a put or call option on a particular security is purchased to hedge against price movements in a related security, the price of the put or call option may move more or less than the price of the related security. If restrictions on exercise were imposed, the Trust might be unable to exercise an option it had purchased. If the Trust were unable to close out an option that it had purchased on a security, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit or the option may expire worthless.

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. In a transaction involving those swaps ("cleared derivatives"), the Trust's counterparty is a clearing house, rather than a bank or broker. Since the Trust is not a member of any clearing houses and only members of a clearing house (a "clearing member") can participate directly in the clearing house, the Trust will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at a clearing member. In cleared derivatives positions, the Trust will make payments (including margin payments) to and receive payments from a clearing house through its accounts at a clearing member. A clearing member guarantees performance of its clients' obligations to the clearing house.

In many ways, cleared derivative arrangements are less favorable to mutual funds than bilateral arrangements. For example, the Trust may be required to provide more margin for cleared derivatives positions than for bilateral derivatives positions. Also, in contrast to a bilateral derivatives position, following a period of notice to the Trust, a clearing member generally can require termination of an existing cleared derivatives position at any time or an increase in margin requirements above the margin that the clearing member required at the beginning of a transaction. Clearing houses also have broad rights to increase margin requirements for existing positions or to terminate those positions at any time. Any increase in margin requirements or termination of existing cleared derivatives positions by the clearing member or the clearing house could interfere with the ability of the Trust to pursue its investment strategy. Further, any increase in margin requirements by a clearing member could expose the Trust to greater credit risk to its clearing member because margin for cleared derivatives positions in excess of a clearing house's margin requirements typically is held by the clearing member. Also, The Trust is subject to risk if it enters into a derivatives transaction that is required to be cleared (or that the Investment Adviser expects to be cleared), and no clearing member is willing or able to clear the transaction on the Trust's behalf. While the documentation in place between the Trust and its clearing member generally provides that the clearing member will accept for clearing all cleared derivatives transactions that are within credit limits (specified in advance) for the Trust, the Trust is still subject to the risk that no clearing member will be willing or able to clear a transaction. In those cases, the position might have to be terminated, and the Trust could lose some or all of the benefit of the position, including loss of an increase in the value of the position and/or loss of hedging protection. In addition, the documentation governing the relationship between the Trust and its clearing member is drafted by the clearing member and generally is less favorable to the Trust than typical bilateral derivatives documentation. For example, documentation relating to cleared derivatives generally includes a one-way indemnity by the Trust in favor of the clearing member for losses the clearing member incurs as the Trust's clearing member and typically does not provide the Trust any remedies if the clearing member defaults or becomes insolvent. While futures contracts entail similar risks, the risks likely are more pronounced for cleared swaps due to their more limited liquidity and market history.

Some types of cleared derivatives are required to be executed on an exchange or on a swap execution facility. A swap execution facility is a trading platform where multiple market participants can execute derivatives by accepting bids and offers made by multiple other participants in the platform. While this execution requirement is designed to increase transparency and liquidity in the cleared derivatives market, trading on a swap execution facility can create additional costs and risks for the Trust. For example, swap execution

facilities typically charge fees, and if the Trust executes derivatives on a swap execution facility through a broker intermediary, the intermediary may impose fees as well. Also, the Trust may indemnify a swap execution facility, or a broker intermediary who executes cleared derivatives on a swap execution facility on the Trust's behalf, against any losses or costs that may be incurred as a result of the Trust's transactions on the swap execution facility.

These and other new rules and regulations could, among other things, further restrict the Trust's ability to engage in, or increase the cost to the Trust of, derivatives transactions, for example, by making some types of derivatives no longer available to the Trust, increasing margin or capital requirements, or otherwise limiting liquidity or increasing transaction costs. These regulations are new and evolving, so their potential impact on the Trust and the financial system are not yet known. While the new regulations and central clearing of some derivatives transactions are designed to reduce systemic risk (i.e., the risk that the interdependence of large derivatives dealers could cause them to suffer liquidity, solvency or other challenges simultaneously), there is no assurance that the new clearing mechanisms will achieve that result, and in the meantime, as noted above, central clearing and related requirements exposes the Trust to new kinds of risks and costs.

*Derivatives; Future Developments.* The above discussion relates to the Trust's proposed use of certain types of derivatives currently available. However, the Trust is not limited to the transactions described above. In addition, the relevant markets and related regulations are constantly changing and, in the future, the Trust may use derivatives not currently available or widely in use.

*Regulatory Risk.* Legal, tax and regulatory changes could occur and may adversely affect the Trust and its ability to pursue its investment strategies and/or increase the costs of implementing such strategies. New (or revised) laws or regulations may be imposed by the Commission, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC"), the IRS, the U.S. Federal Reserve or other banking regulators, other governmental regulatory authorities or self-regulatory organizations that supervise the financial markets that could adversely affect the Trust. In particular, these agencies are empowered to promulgate a variety of new rules pursuant to financial reform legislation in the United States. The Trust also may be adversely affected by changes in the enforcement or interpretation of existing statutes and rules by these governmental regulatory authorities or self regulatory organizations.

To the extent that legislation or state or federal regulators impose additional requirements or restrictions with respect to the ability of financial institutions to make loans in connection with highly leveraged transactions, the availability of senior loan interests for

investment by the Trust may be adversely affected. To the extent that legislation or state or federal regulators impose additional requirements or restrictions with respect to the ability of the Trust to invest in the assets of distressed companies, the availability of distressed company interests for investment by the Trust may be adversely affected. In addition, such requirements or restrictions may reduce or eliminate sources of financing for affected borrowers. Further, to the extent that legislation or federal or state regulators require such institutions to dispose of senior loan interests relating to highly leveraged transactions or subject such senior loan interests to increased regulatory scrutiny, such financial institutions may determine to sell senior loan interests in a manner that results in a price that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, is not indicative of fair value. Were the Trust to attempt to sell a senior loan interest at a time when a financial institution was engaging in such a sale with respect to the senior loan interest, the price at which the Trust could consummate such a sale might be adversely affected.

*Regulatory Risk – Commodity Pool Operator.* The Trust is operated by a person who has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act (“CEA”) pursuant to Rule 4.5 under the CEA; therefore, the Investment Adviser (with respect to the Trust) is not subject to registration or regulation as a “commodity pool operator” under the CEA. To remain eligible for the exclusion, the Trust will be limited in its ability to use certain derivatives instruments regulated under the CEA (“commodity interests”), including futures, most swaps and options on futures. In the event that the Trust’s investments in commodity interests exceed a certain threshold, the Investment Adviser may be required to register as a “commodity pool operator” and/or “commodity trading advisor” with the CFTC with respect to the Trust. The Investment Adviser’s eligibility to claim the exclusion with respect to the Trust will be based upon the level and scope of the Trust’s investment in commodity interests, the purposes of such investments and the manner in which the Trust holds out its use of commodity interests. For example, CFTC Rule 4.5 requires a fund with respect to which the operator is claiming the exclusion to, among other things, satisfy one of the two following trading thresholds: (i) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish positions in commodity interests cannot exceed 5% of the liquidation value of a fund’s portfolio, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses; or (ii) the aggregate net notional value of commodity interests not used solely for “bona fide hedging purposes,” determined at the time the most recent position was established, cannot generally exceed 100% of the liquidation value of a fund’s portfolio, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions it has entered into. The Trust currently intends to operate in a manner that would permit the Investment Adviser to continue to claim the exclusion under Rule 4.5, which may adversely affect the Investment Adviser’s ability to

manage the Trust under certain market conditions and may adversely affect the Trust's total return. In the event the Investment Adviser becomes unable to rely on the exclusion in Rule 4.5 and is required to register with the CFTC as a commodity pool operator, the Trust's expenses may increase, adversely affecting the Trust's total return.

*Counterparty Risk.* The Trust will be subject to credit risk with respect to the counterparties to the derivative contracts purchased or sold by the Trust. Recently, several broker-dealers and other financial institutions have experienced extreme financial difficulty, sometimes resulting in bankruptcy of the institution. Although the Investment Adviser monitors the creditworthiness of the Trust's counterparties, there can be no assurance that the Trust's counterparties will not experience similar difficulties, possibly resulting in losses to the Trust. If a counterparty becomes bankrupt, or otherwise fails to perform its obligations under a derivative contract due to financial difficulties, the Trust may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery under the derivative contract in a bankruptcy or other reorganization proceeding. The Trust may obtain only a limited recovery or may obtain no recovery in such circumstances. Material exposure to a single or small group of counterparties increases the Trust's counterparty risk.

*Credit Default Swaps Risk.* The Trust may enter into credit default swap agreements, which may have as reference obligations one or more debt securities or an index of such securities. In a credit default swap, one party (the "protection buyer") is obligated to pay the other party (the "protection seller") a stream of payments over the term of the contract, provided that no credit event, such as a default or, in some instances, a downgrade in credit rating, occurs on the reference obligation. If a credit event occurs, the protection seller must generally pay the protection buyer the "par value" (the agreed-upon notional value) of the referenced debt obligation in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable reference obligations.

The Trust may be either the protection buyer or protection seller in a credit default swap. If the Trust is a protection buyer, the Trust would pay the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract and would not recover any of those payments if no credit event were to occur. However, if a credit event occurs, the Trust as a protection buyer has the right to deliver the referenced debt obligations or a specified amount of cash, depending upon the terms of the swap, and receive the par value of such debt obligations from the counterparty protection seller. As a protection seller, the Trust would receive fixed payments throughout the term of the contract if no credit event occurs. If a credit event occurs, however, the value of the obligation received by the Trust (e.g., bonds which defaulted), plus the periodic payments previously received, may be less than the par value of the obligation, or cash received, resulting in a loss to the protection seller. Furthermore, the Trust as a protection seller would

effectively add leverage to its portfolio because it will have investment exposure to the notional amount of the swap.

Credit default swap agreements are subject to greater risk than a direct investment in the reference obligation. Like all swap agreements, credit default swaps are subject to liquidity, credit and counterparty risks. In addition, collateral posting requirements are individually negotiated and there is no regulatory requirement that a counterparty post collateral to secure its obligations under a credit default swap. Furthermore, there is no requirement that a party be informed in advance when a credit default swap agreement is sold. Accordingly, the Trust may have difficulty identifying the party responsible for payment of its claims. The notional value of credit default swaps with respect to a particular investment is often larger than the total par value of such investment outstanding and, in event of a default, there may be difficulties in making the required deliveries of the reference investments, possibly delaying payments.

In the past, the market for credit default swaps has become more volatile as the creditworthiness of certain counterparties has been questioned and/or downgraded. If a counterparty's credit becomes significantly impaired, multiple requests for collateral posting in a short period of time could increase the risk that the Trust may not receive adequate collateral. Credit default swaps are not currently traded on any securities exchange. The Trust generally may exit its obligations under a credit default swap only by terminating the contract and paying applicable breakage fees, or by entering into an offsetting credit default swap position, which may cause the Trust to incur more losses.

In addition, the Trust may invest in publicly or privately issued interests in investment pools whose underlying assets are credit default, credit-linked, interest rate, currency exchange, equity-linked or other types of swap contracts and related underlying securities or securities loan agreements. The pools' investment results may be designed to correspond generally to the performance of a specified securities index or "basket" of securities, sometimes a single security. These types of pools are often used to gain exposure to multiple securities with a smaller investment than would be required to invest directly in the individual securities. They may also be used to gain exposure to foreign securities markets without investing in the foreign securities themselves or the relevant foreign market. To the extent that the Trust invests in pools of swaps and related underlying securities or securities loan agreements whose return corresponds to the performance of a foreign securities index or one or more foreign securities, investing in such pools will involve risks similar to the risks of investing in foreign securities. See "Foreign Securities" below. In addition to the risks associated with investing in swaps generally, the Trust bears the risks and costs generally associated with investing in pooled investment vehicles, such as paying the fees and

expenses of the pool and the risk that the pool or the operator of the pool may default on its obligations to the holder of interests in the pool, such as the Trust. Interests in privately offered investment pools of swaps may be considered illiquid or deemed liquid, subject to the Trust's restrictions on investments in illiquid securities.

*Market Risk Generally.* The profitability of a significant portion of the Trust's investment program depends to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of the price movements of securities and other investments and the movements of interest rates. The Investment Adviser may not be able to predict accurately these price and interest rate movements. With respect to certain investment strategies the Trust utilizes, there is a high degree of market risk.

*Reinvestment Risk.* The Trust reinvests the cash flows received from a security. The additional income from such reinvestment, sometimes called interest-on-interest, is reliant on the prevailing interest rate levels at the time of reinvestment. There is a risk that the interest rate at which interim cash flows can be reinvested will fall. Reinvestment risk is greater for longer holding periods and for securities with large, early cash flows such as high-coupon bonds. Reinvestment risk also applies generally to the reinvestment of the proceeds the Trust receives upon the maturity or sale of a portfolio security.

*Timing Risk.* Many agency, corporate and municipal bonds, and most mortgage-backed securities, contain a provision that allows the issuer to "call" all or part of the issue before the bond's maturity date — often after five or ten years. The issuer usually retains the right to refinance the bond in the future if market interest rates decline below the coupon rate. There are three disadvantages to the call provision. First, the cash flow pattern of a callable bond is not known with certainty. Second, because an issuer is more likely to call the bonds when interest rates have dropped, the Trust is exposed to reinvestment risk, i.e., the Trust may have to reinvest at lower interest rates the proceeds received when the bond is called. Finally, the capital appreciation potential of a bond will be reduced because the price of a callable bond may not rise much above the price at which the issuer may call the bond.

*Inflation Risk.* Inflation risk results from the variation in the value of cash flows from a security due to inflation, as measured in terms of purchasing power. For example, if the Trust purchases a bond in which it can realize a coupon rate of 5%, but the rate of inflation increases from 2% to 6%, then the purchasing power of the cash flow has declined. For all but adjustable bonds or floating rate bonds, the Trust is exposed to inflation risk because the interest rate the issuer promises to make is fixed for the life of the security. To the extent that interest rates reflect the expected inflation rate, floating rate bonds have a lower level of inflation risk. In addition, during any periods of rising inflation, dividend rates of any variable rate

preferred stock issued by the Trust would likely increase, which would tend to further reduce returns to common shareholders.

*Arbitrage Risks.* The Trust engages in capital structure arbitrage and other arbitrage strategies. Arbitrage strategies entail various risks, including the risk that external events, regulatory approvals and other factors will impact the consummation of announced corporate events and/or the prices of certain positions. In addition, hedging is an important feature of capital structure arbitrage. There is no guarantee that the Investment Adviser will be able to hedge the Trust's investment portfolio in the manner necessary to employ successfully the Trust's strategy.

*Short Sales Risk.* Short selling involves selling securities that may or may not be owned and borrowing the same securities for delivery to the purchaser, with an obligation to replace the borrowed securities at a later date. Short selling allows the Trust to profit from declines in market prices to the extent such decline exceeds the transaction costs and the costs of borrowing the securities. However, because the borrowed securities must be replaced by purchases at market prices in order to close out the short position, any appreciation in the price of the borrowed securities would result in a loss. The securities necessary to cover a short position may not be available for purchase. Purchasing securities to close out the short position can itself cause the price of the securities to rise further, thereby exacerbating the loss. The Trust may mitigate such losses by replacing the securities sold short before the market price has increased significantly. Under adverse market conditions, the Trust might have difficulty purchasing securities to meet its short sale delivery obligations, and might have to sell portfolio securities to raise the capital necessary to meet its short sale obligations at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales. Short sales by the Trust that are not made "against the box" theoretically involve unlimited loss potential, since the market price of securities sold short may continuously increase.

*REIT Tax Risk for REIT Subsidiaries.* In addition to NREO and NREC, we may form one or more subsidiaries that will elect to be taxed as REITs beginning with the first year in which they commence material operations. In order for each subsidiary to qualify and maintain its qualification as a REIT, it must satisfy certain requirements set forth in the Code and Treasury Regulations that depend on various factual matters and circumstances. The Trust and the Investment Adviser intend to structure each REIT subsidiary and its activities in a manner designed to satisfy all of these requirements. However, the application of such requirements is not entirely clear, and it is possible that the IRS may interpret or apply those requirements in a manner that jeopardizes the ability of such REIT subsidiary to satisfy all of the requirements for qualification as a REIT.

If a REIT subsidiary fails to qualify as a REIT for any taxable year and it does not qualify for certain statutory relief provisions, it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at corporate rates. In addition, it will generally be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year of losing its REIT status. Losing its REIT status will reduce its net earnings available for investment or distribution to stockholders because of the additional tax liability. In addition, distributions to stockholders will no longer qualify for the dividends paid deduction, and the REIT subsidiary will no longer be required to make distributions. If this occurs, such REIT subsidiary might be required to borrow funds or liquidate some investments in order to pay the applicable tax.

To obtain the favorable tax treatment afforded to REITs under the Code, among other things each REIT subsidiary generally will be required each year to distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of its REIT taxable income determined without regard to the dividends-paid deduction and excluding net capital gain. To the extent that it does not distribute all of its net capital gains, or distributes at least 90%, but less than 100%, of its REIT taxable income, as adjusted, it will have to pay a corporate level tax on amounts retained. Furthermore, if it fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of its ordinary income for that year, (b) 95% of its capital gain net income for that year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, it would have to pay a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the amounts required to be distributed over the sum of (a) the amounts that it actually distributed and (b) the amounts it retained and upon which it paid income tax at the corporate level. These requirements could cause it to distribute amounts that otherwise would be spent on investments in real estate assets, and it is possible that the REIT subsidiary might be required to borrow funds, possibly at unfavorable rates, or sell assets to fund the required distributions.

*MLP Risk.* The Trust may invest in master limited partnership (“MLP”) securities. MLPs typically are characterized as “publicly traded partnerships” that qualify to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and are principally engaged in one or more aspects of the exploration, production, processing, transmission, marketing, storage or delivery of energy-related commodities, such as natural gas, natural gas liquids, coal, crude oil or refined petroleum products (collectively, the energy industry). As a result, holders of MLP securities will be subject to risks related to the energy industry, including: (i) fluctuations in commodity prices; (ii) reduced volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; (iii) slowdowns in new construction and acquisitions; (iv) reduced demand for commodities such as crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products; (v) depletion of natural gas reserves or other commodities; (vi) extreme weather and environmental hazards; (vii) stricter laws, regulations or

enforcement policies; and (viii) dangers inherent to the energy industry, such as leaks, fires, explosions, damage to facilities and equipment resulting from natural disasters, inadvertent damage to facilities and equipment and terrorist acts.

Generally, an MLP is operated under the supervision of one or more managing general partners. Limited partners (like the Trust when it invests in an MLP) are not involved in the day-to-day management of the partnership. The Trust also may invest in companies who serve (or whose affiliates serve) as the general partner of an MLP. These investments may not be taxed as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Conflicts of interest may exist among unit holders, subordinated unit holders and the general partner of an MLP, including those arising from incentive distribution payments. General Partners typically have limited fiduciary duties to an MLP, which could allow a general partner to favor its own interests over the MLP's interests. Additionally, general partners of MLPs often have limited call rights that may require MLP unit holders to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price.

Holders of MLP securities have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership. Holders of securities issued by an MLP are exposed to a remote possibility of liability for all of the obligations of that MLP in the event that a court determines that the rights of the holders of MLP securities to vote to remove or replace the general partner of that MLP, to approve amendments to that MLP's partnership agreement, or to take other action under the partnership agreement of that MLP would constitute "control" of the business of that MLP, or a court or governmental agency determines that the MLP is conducting business in a state without complying with the partnership statute of that state. Holders of MLP securities are also exposed to the risk that they will be required to repay amounts to the MLP that are wrongfully distributed to them.

In addition, MLPs are subject to the risk that they will fail to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If an MLP does not meet current legal requirements to maintain its partnership status, or if it is unable to do so because of tax or other law changes, it would be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In that case, the MLP would be obligated to pay U.S. federal income tax (as well as state and local taxes) at the entity level on its taxable income and distributions received by the Trust would be taxable to the Trust as dividend income to the extent of the MLP's current and accumulated earnings and profits for federal tax purposes. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes could have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and the value of the Trust's investment in any such MLP. As a result, the value of the Trust's shares and the cash available for distribution to Trust shareholders could be materially reduced.

The Trust intends to limit its investments in MLPs and related entities to the extent necessary to qualify as a RIC for tax purposes. In general, a RIC is not permitted to invest, including through corporations in which the RIC owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, more than 25% of its total assets in qualified publicly-traded partnerships.

*BDC Risk.* Business Development Companies (“BDCs”) generally invest in less mature private companies or thinly traded U.S. public companies which involve greater risk than well-established publicly-traded companies. The Trust will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management and other operating expenses and of any performance-based or incentive fees charged by the BDCs in which it invests, in addition to the expenses paid by the Trust. The Investment Company Act imposes certain constraints upon the operations of a BDC. Generally, little public information exists for private and thinly traded companies in which a BDC may invest and there is a risk that investors may not be able to make a fully informed evaluation of a BDC and its portfolio of investments. In addition, to qualify and remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders, the BDCs in which the Trust invests must meet certain source-of-income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. If a BDC in which the Trust invests fails to qualify as a RIC, such BDC would be liable for federal, and possibly state, corporate taxes on its taxable income and gains. Such failure by a BDC could substantially reduce the BDC’s net assets and the amount of income available for distribution to the Trust, which would in turn decrease the total return of the Trust in respect of such investment.

*Risks of Investing in Structured Finance Securities.* A portion of the Trust’s investments may consist of equipment trust certificates, collateralized mortgage obligations, collateralized bond obligations, CLOs or similar instruments. Such structured finance securities are generally backed by an asset or a pool of assets, which serve as collateral. Depending on the type of security, the collateral may take the form of a portfolio of mortgage loans or bonds or other assets. The Trust and other investors in structured finance securities ultimately bear the credit risk of the underlying collateral. In some instances, the structured finance securities are issued in multiple tranches, offering investors various maturity and credit risk characteristics, often categorized as senior, mezzanine and subordinated/equity according to their degree of risk. If there are defaults or the relevant collateral otherwise underperforms, scheduled payments to senior tranches of such securities take precedence over those of mezzanine tranches, and scheduled payments to mezzanine tranches take precedence over those to subordinated/equity tranches. In light of the above considerations, structured finance securities may present risks similar to those of the other types of debt obligations in which the Trust may invest and, in fact, such risks may be of greater significance in the case of structured finance securities. Moreover,

investing in structured finance securities may entail a variety of unique risks. In addition to the risks noted above and other risks, structured finance securities may be subject to prepayment risk. In addition, the performance of a structured finance security will be affected by a variety of factors, including the security's priority in the capital structure of the issuer thereof, the availability of any credit enhancement, the level and timing of payments and recoveries on and the characteristics of the underlying receivables, loans or other assets that are being securitized, remoteness of those assets from the originator or transferor, the adequacy of and ability to realize upon any related collateral and the capability of the servicer of the securitized assets. In addition, the complex structure of the security may produce unexpected investment results, especially during times of market stress or volatility. Investments in structured finance securities may also be subject to illiquidity risk. Collateralized mortgage obligations may have risks similar to those of mortgage-backed securities. See "Mortgage-Backed Securities Risk" for more information.

*Risks of Investing in Preferred Securities.* There are special risks associated with investing in preferred securities, including:

- *Deferral.* Preferred securities may include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If the Trust owns a preferred security that is deferring the payment of its distributions, the Trust may be required to report income for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of any such deferred distribution even though the Trust has not yet received such income. In order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid U.S. federal income or excise taxes at the Trust level, the Trust may be required to distribute this reported income to shareholders in the tax year in which the income is reported (without a corresponding receipt of cash). Therefore, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution in any such tax year an amount greater than the total amount of income the Trust actually received, and, among other things, to sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for these income distributions.
- *Subordination.* Preferred securities are subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company's capital structure in terms of priority to corporate income and liquidation payments, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than more senior debt instruments.
- *Liquidity.* Preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stock or U.S. government securities.
- *Limited Voting Rights.* Generally, preferred security holders have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company unless

preferred dividends have been in arrears for a specified number of periods, at which time the preferred security holders may elect a number of directors to the issuer's board. Generally, once all the arrearages have been paid, the preferred security holders no longer have voting rights.

*Risks of Investing in Swaps.* Investments in swaps involve the exchange by the Trust with another party of their respective commitments. Use of swaps subjects the Trust to risk of default by the counterparty. If there is a default by the counterparty to such a transaction, there may be contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction although contractual remedies may not be sufficient in the event the counterparty is insolvent. The Trust may enter into credit default swaps, currency swaps or other swaps which may be surrogates for other instruments such as currency forwards or options. Swap agreements are sophisticated financial instruments that typically involve a small investment of cash relative to the magnitude of risks assumed. Swaps can be highly volatile and may have a considerable impact on the Trust's performance, as the potential gain or loss on any swap transaction is not necessarily subject to any fixed limit.

Recently, several broker-dealers and other financial institutions have experienced extreme financial difficulty, sometimes resulting in bankruptcy of the institution. Although the Investment Adviser monitors the creditworthiness of the Trust's counterparties, the Trust's counterparties could experience similar difficulties, possibly resulting in losses to the Trust.

*Risks of Investing in Synthetic Securities.* In addition to credit risks associated with holding non-investment grade loans and high-yield debt securities, with respect to synthetic securities the Trust will usually have a contractual relationship only with the counterparty of such synthetic securities, and not the issuer (the "Reference Obligor") of the debt security or other obligation upon which the synthetic security is based (the "Reference Obligation"). The Trust generally will have no right to enforce directly compliance by the Reference Obligor with the terms of the Reference Obligation nor any rights of setoff against the Reference Obligor, nor have any voting rights with respect to the Reference Obligation. The Trust will not benefit directly from any collateral supporting the Reference Obligation or have the benefit of the remedies on default that would normally be available to a holder of such Reference Obligation. In addition, in the event of insolvency of its counterparty, the Trust will be treated as a general creditor of such counterparty and will not have any claim with respect to the credit risk of the counterparty as well as that of the Reference Obligor. As a result, investments in synthetic securities are subject to an additional degree of risk because they are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty as well as that of the Reference Obligor. The Investment Adviser may not perform independent credit analyses of any particular counterparty, or any entity guaranteeing the

obligations of such counterparty. See “Prospectus Summary – Principal Risks of the Trust – Counterparty Risk.”

The Trust currently does not expect to invest more than 10% of its assets in synthetic securities as measured on a mark-to-market basis. However, the Trust’s investments in synthetic securities may exceed this amount from time to time.

*Valuation Risk.* Fair value is defined as the amount for which assets could be sold in an orderly disposition over a reasonable period of time, taking into account the nature of the asset. Fair value pricing, however, involves judgments that are inherently subjective and inexact, since fair valuation procedures are used only when it is not possible to be sure what value should be attributed to a particular asset or when an event will affect the market price of an asset and to what extent. As a result, fair value pricing may not reflect actual market value, and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security will be materially different from the value that actually could be or is realized upon the sale of that asset.

*Risks of Non-Diversification and Other Focused Strategies.* While the Investment Adviser invests in a number of fixed-income and equity instruments issued by different issuers and employs multiple investment strategies with respect to the Trust’s investment portfolio, it is possible that a significant amount of the Trust’s investments could be invested in the instruments of only a few companies or other issuers or that at any particular point in time one investment strategy could be more heavily weighted than the others. The focus of the Trust’s investment portfolio in any one issuer would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk with respect to defaults by such issuer or other adverse events affecting that issuer, and the focus of the portfolio in any one industry or group of industries would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk with respect to economic downturns relating to such industry or industries. The focus of the Trust’s investment portfolio in any one investment strategy would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk than if the Trust’s investment portfolio were varied in its investments with respect to several investment strategies.

*Risks Related to Current Market Conditions.* Recently, debt markets have experienced a period of high volatility, which has negatively impacted market liquidity conditions and prices. Initially, the concerns on the part of market participants were focused on the subprime segment of the mortgage-backed securities market. These concerns expanded to include derivatives, securitized assets and a broad range of other debt securities, including those rated investment grade, the U.S. and international credit and interbank money markets generally, and a wide range of financial institutions and markets, asset classes, and sectors. As a result, debt instruments have experienced, and may in the future experience, liquidity issues, increased price

volatility, credit downgrades, and increased likelihood of default. Debt securities may be difficult to value during such periods. These market conditions may have an adverse effect on the Trust's investments and hamper the Trust's ability to sell the debt securities in which it invests or to find and purchase suitable debt instruments. Because the Trust invests heavily in fixed income securities and related investments, it may underperform during periods of rising interest rates. Market conditions may also make it more difficult or impossible for the Trust to use leverage to the degree required, or make any such leverage more expensive (for example, by increasing interest expense). In addition, these conditions may directly and adversely affect the setting of dividend rates on the common shares.

In recent periods, governmental financial regulators, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, have taken steps to maintain historically low interest rates by purchasing bonds. The ending of those programs, and withdrawal of other measures of government support, along with any increase to base interest rates, could result in the effects described above or otherwise adversely affect the value of the Trust's investments, and could have a material adverse effect on prices for debt securities and on the management of the Trust.

The recent market conditions have also caused domestic and international issuers to seek capital infusions to strengthen their financial positions or to remain financially viable. These capital infusions have taken a variety of forms, including the public or private issuance of additional debt securities, equity securities or both, which have been purchased by, among others, public and private investors, government agencies, and sovereign wealth funds. If the Trust owns shares of an issuer that sells additional equity securities and the Trust cannot or chooses not to purchase shares in the offering, the Trust's interest in the issuing company will be diluted.

*Risks of Investing in a Trust with Anti-Takeover Provisions.* The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust includes provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Trust or convert the Trust to open-end status. These provisions could deprive the holders of common shares of opportunities to sell their common shares at a premium over the then current market price of the common shares or at net asset value.

*Key Adviser Personnel Risk.* The Trust's ability to identify and invest in attractive opportunities is dependent upon the Investment Adviser. If one or more key individuals leaves the Investment Adviser, the Investment Adviser may not be able to hire qualified replacements or may require an extended time to do so. This situation could prevent the Trust from achieving its investment objectives.

*Risks Relating to Dilution of Shareholders' Interests.* Shareholders' interests in the Trust may be diluted if they do not fully exercise their

subscription rights in any rights offering. In addition, if the subscription price is less than our net asset value per share, then there will be an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of our shares. In the event we issue subscription rights, shareholders who do not fully exercise their rights should expect that they will, at the completion of a rights offering pursuant to this prospectus, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case if they fully exercised their rights. Such dilution is not currently determinable because it is not known what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. Any such dilution will disproportionately affect non-exercising shareholders. This dilution could be substantial. The amount of any decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price and net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of the rights offering or what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering.

*Risks Relating to Trust's Tax Status.* To remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code, the Trust must meet certain source of income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. If the Trust were to fail to comply with the income, diversification or distribution requirements, the Trust could in some cases cure such failure, including by paying a Trust-level tax, paying interest, making additional distributions, or disposing of certain assets. If the Trust were ineligible to or otherwise did not cure such failure for any year, or were to otherwise fail to qualify as a RIC accorded special tax treatment, all of its taxable income regardless of whether timely distributed to shareholders would be subject to corporate-level tax and all of its distributions from earnings and profits (including from net long-term capital gains) would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In any such event, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce the Trust's net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of its distributions. Any such failure would have a material adverse effect on the Trust and its shareholders. In addition, in some cases, the Trust could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions in order to re-qualify as a RIC.

*RIC-Related Risks of Investments Generating Non-Cash Taxable Income.* Certain of the Trust's investments will require the Trust to recognize taxable income in a taxable year in excess of the cash generated on those investments during that year. In particular, the Trust expects that a substantial portion of its investments in loans and other debt obligations will be treated as having "market discount" and/or "original issue discount" for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which, in some cases, could be significant. Because the Trust may be required to recognize income in respect of these investments before or without receiving cash representing such income, the Trust may have difficulty satisfying the annual distribution requirements applicable to

RICs and avoiding Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Accordingly, the Trust may be required to sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, raise additional debt or equity capital, or reduce new investments, to obtain the cash needed to make these income distributions. If the Trust liquidates portfolio securities to raise cash, the Trust may realize gain or loss on such liquidations; in the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

*Limitations of Credit Ratings.* Credit ratings represent only the opinion of the rating agency with respect to the ability of the issuer to make principal and interest payments on the securities. In determining a credit rating, rating agencies do not evaluate the risks of fluctuations in market value. Further, there may be limits on the effectiveness of the rating agencies' financial models. For these and other reasons, a credit rating may not fully reflect the risks inherent in the relevant security. Further, a rating organization may have a conflict of interest with respect to a security for which it assigns a particular rating. For example, if the issuer or sponsor of a security pays a rating agency for the analysis of the security, an inherent conflict of interest may exist that could affect the reliability of the rating. In addition, credit rating agencies may or may not make timely changes in a rating to reflect changes in the economy or in the conditions of the issuer that affect the market value of the security. In other words, a security or an issuer may maintain a certain credit rating even though conditions have deteriorated since the rating was issued. Consequently, credit ratings should not necessarily be relied upon as an indicator of investment quality. If a rating organization changes the rating assigned to one or more of the Trust's portfolio securities, the Trust is not required to sell the relevant securities.

*Certain Affiliations.* Certain broker-dealers may be considered to be affiliated persons of the Trust or the Investment Adviser. Absent an exemption from the SEC or other regulatory relief, the Trust is generally precluded from effecting certain principal transactions with affiliated brokers, and its ability to purchase securities being underwritten by an affiliated broker or a syndicate including an affiliated broker, or to utilize affiliated brokers for agency transactions, is subject to restrictions. This could limit the Trust's ability to engage in securities transactions and take advantage of market opportunities. In addition, unless and until the underwriting syndicate is broken in connection with the initial public offering of the securities, the Trust will be precluded from effecting principal transactions with brokers who are members of the syndicate.

*Operational and Technology Risk.* Cyberattacks, disruptions, or failures that affect the Trust's service providers, counterparties, market participants, or issuers of securities held by the Trust may

adversely affect the Trust and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the Trust or impairing Trust operations.

*Concentration Risk.* The Trust is required to invest at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry. Under this policy, the Trust may be subject to greater market fluctuations than a fund that does not concentrate its investments in a particular industry. Financial, economic, business, and other developments affecting issuers in the real estate industry will have a greater effect on the Trust, and if securities of the real estate industry fall out of favor, the Trust could underperform, or its net asset value may be more volatile than, funds that have greater industry diversification.

*Real Estate Industry Risk.* Issuers principally engaged in real estate industry, including real estate investment trusts, may be subject to risks similar to the risks associated with the direct ownership of real estate, including: (i) changes in general economic and market conditions; (ii) changes in the value of real estate properties; (iii) risks related to local economic conditions, overbuilding and increased competition; (iv) increases in property taxes and operating expenses; (v) changes in zoning laws; (vi) casualty and condemnation losses; (vii) variations in rental income, neighborhood values or the appeal of property to tenants; (viii) the availability of financing and (ix) changes in interest rates and leverage.

*Communications Industry Risk.* The market for communications products and services is characterized by rapidly changing technology, rapid product obsolescence, cyclical market patterns, evolving industry standards and frequent new product introductions. The success of the communications industry issuers depends in substantial part on the timely and successful introduction of new products and services. An unexpected change in in the market for products or services based on a particular technology could have a material adverse affect on an issuer's operating results. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that communications industry issuers will be able to respond in a timely manner to compete in the rapidly developing marketplace. Many communications companies rely on a combination of patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secret laws to establish and protect their intellectual property. There can be no assurance that the steps taken to protect intellectual property will be adequate to prevent misappropriation or that competitors will not independently develop products or services that are substantially equivalent or superior to such issuers' products or services.

*Given the risks described above, an investment in the securities may not be appropriate for all investors. You should carefully consider your ability to assume these risks before making an investment in the Trust.*

Our common shares are registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") and we are required to file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. The

materials we file are available at the Commission’s public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information about the operation of the Commission’s public reference room by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. In addition, the Commission maintains an Internet website, at <http://www.sec.gov>, that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers, including us, that file documents electronically with the Commission.

### Summary of Trust Fees and Expenses

#### Shareholder Transaction Expenses

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price) . . . . .	—%
Offering expenses borne by holders of common shares (as a percentage of offering price) . . . . .	0.04% <sup>(1)</sup>
Dividend reinvestment and cash purchase plan fees . . . . .	None <sup>(2)</sup>

**Percentage of Net Assets  
Attributable to Common Shares  
(Gives Effect to Leverage  
Through Borrowings<sup>(3)</sup>)**

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#### Annual Expenses

Management fees . . . . .	1.50% <sup>(4)</sup>
Other expenses . . . . .	1.25% <sup>(5)</sup>
Interest payments on borrowed funds . . . . .	0.76% <sup>(6)</sup>
Remainder of other expenses . . . . .	<u>0.49%</u>
Total annual expenses . . . . .	<u>2.75%</u>

The purpose of this table is to assist the investor in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in the Trust will bear directly or indirectly.

#### EXAMPLE

The following example illustrates the projected expenses that you would pay on a \$1,000 investment in common shares of the Trust (including the estimated costs of this offering borne by the Trust of \$250,000), assuming (1) that the Trust’s current net assets do not increase or decrease, (2) that the Trust maintains a leverage ratio of 20% from all sources of leverage, (3) that the Trust incurs total annual expenses of 2.75% of net assets attributable to common shares through year 10, and (4) a 5% annual return. The following example also assumes all dividends and distributions are reinvested at net asset value. **The example should not be considered a representation of future expenses, and actual expenses (including leverage and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.**

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
Total expenses incurred . . . . .	\$28	\$86	\$146	\$309

- (1) The fees and expenses of the Offer will be borne by the Trust and indirectly by all of its common shareholders, including those who do not exercise their Rights.
- (2) Common shareholders will be charged a \$2.50 service charge and pay a brokerage commission of \$0.05 per share sold if they direct the Plan Agent (as defined in the accompanying Prospectus) to sell common shares held in a dividend reinvestment account. See “Dividend Reinvestment Plan” in the accompanying Prospectus.

- (3) Assumes leverage in the amount of 20% of net assets. As of March, 15, 2018, the Trust employed leverage in an amount equal to 20.6% of net assets. The Trust may use leverage through borrowings and/or preferred shares. The Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility and through a master repurchase agreement. See “Principal Risks of the Trust — Leverage Risk” in the accompanying Prospectus for a brief description of the Trust’s Committed Facility with BNP, the Repurchase Agreement with BNP Securities and the Bridge Facility with KeyBank National Association.
- (4) Management fees are the investment advisory and administrative services fees paid to the Investment Adviser, which are computed based on Managed Assets. See “Management of the Trust — Investment Adviser” and “Management of the Trust — Administrator/Sub-Administrator” in the accompanying Prospectus. Such fees have been converted to net assets for purposes of the fee table presentation as follows: management fees, assuming no leverage, divided by (one minus the Trust’s assumed leverage of 20% of the Trust’s total assets). Because the base management fees of 1.20% (including an administrative fee of 0.20%) are based on the Trust’s gross assets, when the Trust uses leverage, the base management fees as a percentage of net assets attributable to common shares will increase because the Trust’s common shareholders bear all of the fees and expenses of the Trust.
- (5) “Other Expenses,” which is based on the Trust’s estimated current expenses, includes costs associated with the Trust’s short sales on securities, including dividend and interest expenses associated with securities sold short. When a cash dividend is declared or interest is payable on a security for which the Trust holds a short position, the Trust incurs the obligation to pay an amount equal to that dividend or interest to the lender of the shorted security. Thus, the estimate for dividend and interest expenses paid is also based on the dividend yields or interest payments of securities that would be sold short as part of anticipated trading practices (which may involve avoiding dividend or interest expenses with respect to certain short sale transactions by closing out the position prior to the underlying issuer’s ex-dividend or ex-interest date). “Other Expenses” also includes the dividend and interest expense that the Trust is expected to incur during the current fiscal year.
- (6) Assumes the use of leverage in the form of borrowings representing 20% of the Trust’s total assets (including assets obtained through such borrowing) at an effective annual interest rate cost to the Trust of 3.05%. This variable rate is based on current interest rates under the Trust’s borrowing facilities and is subject to change. The interest rate will increase in rising interest rate environments and, therefore, the actual interest expense borne by Trust shareholders will increase over time in a rising interest rate environment. The Margin Facility has a rolling 90-day term. There is no guarantee that the Trust will be able to renew its credit facility on these or other favorable terms in the future. While the Trust has no present intention to issue preferred shares within the next twelve months, if an attractive preferred shares financing opportunity were to come to the Trust’s attention during that period, the Trust may consider that opportunity.

## Financial Highlights

The following Financial Highlights table is intended to help you understand the Trust's financial performance since inception. The information in the table was audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm. Financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 and the Report of the Independent Registered Accounting Firm thereon appear in the Trust's Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017 are incorporated by reference into the Statement of Additional Information and available from the Trust upon request. The Trust's performance has been enhanced by the existence of contractual waivers of fees and expenses, which may not continue into the future.

### NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund (formerly known as NexPoint Credit Strategies Fund)

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period is as follows:

	For the Years Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015*	2014	2013
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b> .....	\$ 25.89	\$ 22.92	\$ 53.92	\$ 11.34	\$ 7.46
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income <sup>(a)</sup> .....	0.93	4.08	8.75 <sup>(b)</sup>	0.82	0.63
Net realized and unrealized gain/(loss) .....	2.88	1.69	(16.08)	2.02	3.80
Total from investment operations .....	3.81	5.77	(7.33)	2.84	4.43
<b>Less Distributions Declared to Common Shareholders:</b>					
From net investment income .....	(2.39)	(2.80)	(2.88)	(0.70)	(0.55)
From return of capital .....	(0.01)	—	—	—	—
From spin-off <sup>(i)</sup> .....	—	—	(20.79)	—	—
Total distributions declared to common shareholders .....	(2.40)	(2.80)	(23.67)	(0.70)	(0.55)
<b>Issuance of Common Shares<sup>(d)</sup>:</b>					
Shares Issued: .....	(1.28)	—	—	—	—
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b> .....	\$ 26.02	\$ 25.89	\$ 22.92	\$ 13.48	\$ 11.34
<b>Market Value, End of Period</b> .....	\$ 25.29	\$ 22.77	\$ 20.44	\$ 11.23	\$ 9.42
Market Value Total Return <sup>(c)</sup> .....	27.31%	27.69%	(18.09)%	26.77%	52.03%
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets/ Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's) .....	\$592,309	\$414,800	\$366,078	\$860,877	\$724,485
<b>Common Shares Information at End of Period:</b>					
<b>Ratios based on average net assets of common shares:</b>					
Gross operating expenses <sup>(e)</sup> .....	2.58%	3.12%	3.43%	2.48%	2.82%
Net investment income/(loss) .....	3.69%	17.34%	24.23% <sup>(f)</sup>	6.45%	7.01%
<b>Common and Preferred Shares Information at End of Period:</b>					
<b>Ratios based on average managed assets of common shares:</b>					
Gross operating expenses <sup>(e)</sup> .....	2.21%	2.17%	2.23%	1.68%	1.98%
Net investment income/(loss) .....	3.16%	12.05%	15.79% <sup>(g)</sup>	4.38%	4.91%
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(j)</sup> .....	36%	41%	31%	59%	74%
Average commission rate paid <sup>(k)</sup> .....	0.0286	0.0294	0.0223	0.0266	0.0208

\* Per share data prior to October 6, 2015 has been adjusted to give effect to a 4 to 1 reverse stock split.

- (a) Net investment income per share was calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.
- (b) Includes non-recurring dividend from Freedom REIT.
- (c) Based on market value per share. Distributions, if any, are assumed for purposes of this calculation to be reinvested at prices obtained under the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
- (d) Shares issued at a discount to NAV. The per share impact was derived by computing (A) the number of shares issued times (B) the difference between the net proceeds per share and NAV divided by (C) the total shares outstanding following the share issuance.
- (e) Supplemental expense ratios are shown below:

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Ratios based on average net assets of common shares:</b>					
Net operating expenses (net of waiver/reimbursement, if applicable) .....	2.58%	3.12%	3.43%	2.48%	2.82%
Interest expense and commitment fees .....	0.69%	0.93%	0.71%	0.50%	0.60%
Dividends and fees on securities sold short .....	— <sup>(i)</sup>	0.07%	0.24%	0.07%	0.05%

	<b>For the Years Ended December 31,</b>				
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Ratios based on Managed Assets of common shares:</b>					
Net operating expenses (net of waiver/reimbursement, if applicable) .....	2.21%	2.17%	2.23%	1.68%	1.98%
Interest expense and commitment fees .....	0.59%	0.65%	0.46%	0.34%	0.42%
Dividends and fees on securities sold short .....	— <sup>(i)</sup>	0.05%	0.15%	0.04%	0.03%

- (f) Net investment income (excluding non-recurring dividend from Freedom REIT) was 9.76%.
- (g) Net investment income (excluding non-recurring dividend from Freedom REIT) was 6.36%.
- (h) Excludes in-kind activity.
- (i) Less than 0.005%.
- (j) On April 1, 2015, the Fund completed a spinoff transaction whereby shares of NexPoint Residential Trust, Inc. were distributed to shareholders in a pro-rata taxable distribution.
- (k) Represents the total dollar amount of commissions paid on portfolio transactions divided by total number of portfolio shares purchased and sold for which commissions were charged.

The following table sets forth additional information regarding the Trust's credit facility since inception:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>Asset Coverage per \$1,000 of Indebtedness</u>
2007 .....	248,000,000	\$ 3,504
2008 .....	141,000,000	\$ 3,562
2009 .....	112,000,000	\$ 5,096
2010 .....	120,000,000	\$ 5,106
2011 .....	173,000,000	\$ 3,561
2012 .....	225,000,000	\$ 3,117
2013 .....	318,500,000	\$ 3,275
2014 .....	385,336,455	\$ 3,230
2015 .....	186,625,315 <sup>1</sup>	\$ 2,962 <sup>1,2</sup>
2016 .....	124,983,081	\$ 4,319
2017 .....	31,933,494	\$19,548

1 Excludes borrowings of \$29,300,000 deemed to be temporary in accordance with Section 18 of the Investment Company Act.

2 The Trust closes its net asset value daily, and using asset prices available at the time of the December 31, 2015 NAV close, the Trust calculated asset coverage of greater than 300%. The Trust received updated prices for certain instruments in January that were used for financial reporting purposes. These updated prices pushed the percentage of asset coverage down to 296.2%. As of February 4, 2016, the date that the Trust declared the February monthly dividend, the percentage of asset coverage was over 300%.

## Plan of Distribution

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more Offerings, up to \$600,000,000 of our common shares or subscription rights (either transferable or non-transferable), separately or as units comprising any combination of the foregoing, on the terms to be determined at the time of such Offering. Transferable subscription rights offered by means of this prospectus, including any related over-subscription privilege, may be convertible or exchangeable into common shares at a ratio not to exceed one share of common shares received for every three rights converted, exercised or exchanged on an aggregate basis such that the exercise of all rights in any transferable subscription rights offering will not cumulatively result in more than 33 1/3% increase in the Trust's common shares outstanding. Non-transferable subscription rights and any related over-subscription privilege are not subject to the foregoing limitation. We may sell the securities through underwriters or dealers, directly to one or more purchasers, through agents or through a combination of any such methods of sale (including agents, underwriters or dealers affiliated with the Investment Adviser). Purchasers may include existing shareholders in a rights offering (or investors who acquire transferable rights from shareholders) and the Investment Adviser's Shareholder Loyalty Program on behalf of its participants. See "Shareholder Loyalty Program." In the case of a rights offering, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the number of our common shares issuable upon the exercise of each right and the other terms of such rights offering. Any underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices, or at negotiated prices; *provided, however*, that the price per share at which our common shares are sold, less any underwriting commissions or discounts, must equal or exceed the net asset value per share of our common shares at the time of the offering except (i) in connection with a rights offering to our existing shareholders, (ii) with the consent of the majority of our common shareholders, or (iii) under such circumstances as the Commission may permit.

In connection with the sale of the securities, underwriters or agents may receive compensation from us or from purchasers of the securities, for whom they may act as agents, in the form of discounts, concessions, commissions, structuring fees, distribution assistance payments or other compensation. Underwriters may sell the securities to or through dealers and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and any discounts, commissions or other compensation they receive from us and any profit realized by them on the resale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Any such underwriter or agent will be identified and any such compensation received from us will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The maximum commission or discount to be received by any member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") or independent broker-dealer will not be greater than 9% for the sale of any securities being registered.

We may sell the securities through agents from time to time. The prospectus supplement will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities and any commissions we pay to them. Generally, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Any securities sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement may be traded on the NYSE, or another exchange on which the securities are traded.

Under agreements that we may enter, underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in the distribution of shares of our securities may be entitled to indemnification by us against certain liabilities, including liabilities

under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may sell our shares at a price that is greater than, equal to or less than our net asset value per share so long as we sell our shares in accordance with the Investment Company Act.

We may enter into derivative transactions with third parties, or sell securities not covered by this prospectus to third parties in privately negotiated transactions. If the applicable prospectus supplement indicates, in connection with those derivatives, the third parties may sell securities covered by this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including in short sale transactions. If so, the third party may use securities pledged by us or borrowed from us or others to settle those sales or to close out any related open borrowings of shares, and may use securities received from us in settlement of those derivatives to close out any related open borrowings of shares. The third parties in such sale transactions will be underwriters and, if not identified in this prospectus, will be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, our securities offered hereby will be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers.

The Trust's common shareholders will indirectly bear all of the various expenses incurred in connection with the distribution activities described herein.

#### **Use of Proceeds**

The Trust will invest the net proceeds of the Offer in accordance with the Trust's investment objectives and policies as stated in the accompanying Prospectus Supplement, including a portion of such proceeds (approximately \$20 million) will be used to pay down a portion of the Bridge Facility with KeyBank National Association. Assuming current market conditions, the Trust estimates that investment of the net proceeds of an Offering will be substantially complete within one to three months of the completion of such Offering. Pending such investment, it is anticipated that the proceeds of the Offering may be invested in cash and/or short-term debt securities. These temporary investments are expected to provide a lower net return than we hope to achieve from our targeted investments. Following the completion of the Offering, the Trust may increase the amount of leverage outstanding. See "Use of Leverage."

#### **The Trust**

The Trust is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Trust was organized as a Delaware statutory trust on March 10, 2006, pursuant to an Agreement and Declaration of Trust governed by the laws of the State of Delaware. The Trust commenced operations on June 29, 2006, following its initial public offering. The Trust's principal office is located at 200 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201 and its telephone number is 1-866-351-4440.

#### **Investment Objectives and Policies**

The Trust's investment objectives are to provide both current income and capital appreciation. The Trust seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing primarily in the following categories of securities and instruments of corporations and other business entities: (i) secured and unsecured floating and fixed rate loans; (ii) bonds and other debt obligations; (iii) debt obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers; (iv) structured products, including but not limited to, mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities and

collateralized debt obligations; (v) equities; (vi) other investment companies, including business development companies; and (vii) REITs. The Trust may also invest in other securities and instruments, including derivative instruments. Subject to these general guidelines, the Investment Adviser has broad discretion to allocate the Trust's assets among these investment categories and other investments and to change allocations as conditions warrant. In order to pursue most effectively its opportunistic investment strategy, the Trust will not maintain fixed duration, maturity or credit quality policies. The Trust may invest in debt obligations of any credit quality. The Trust may invest in securities and obligations of domestic issuers and in credit or securities market investments that are either issued by entities domiciled outside of the U.S., or denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, or both ("Non-U.S. Securities").

Additionally, the Trust has a fundamental policy to concentrate its investments in the real estate industry, and, under normal market conditions, the Trust invests at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry. Within the categories of obligations and securities in which the Trust invests, the Investment Adviser employs various trading strategies, including capital structure arbitrage, pair trades and shorting. Capital structure arbitrage is a strategy in which the Trust seeks opportunities created by mispricing in different markets of various instruments issued by one corporation. Pair trades involve matching a long position with a short position in two stocks of different issuers in the same sector, betting that the "spread" between the two will eventually converge. Short selling (also known as shorting or going short) is a strategy in which the Trust sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. See "Portfolio Composition" for further description of these strategies. The Trust may also invest in these categories of obligations and securities through the use of derivatives. The Trust is not limited in the amount it may invest in derivatives, and it may use derivatives for speculative purposes. There is no limitation on the amount of securities and other instruments rated below investment grade, which are commonly referred to as "junk securities," that the Trust may purchase, and under normal circumstances substantially all of the Trust's investment portfolio is expected to consist of such securities and instruments or securities and other instruments which, if unrated, are considered to be of similar quality. The Trust may invest a significant portion of its assets in issuers that are in default or that present a high risk of default. Junk securities are subject to greater risk of loss of principal and interest and may be less liquid than investment grade securities. The Trust may invest up to 15% of its net assets in entities that are excluded from registration under the Investment Company Act by virtue of section 3(c)(1) and 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act (such as private equity funds or hedge funds). This limitation does not apply to any CLOs, certain of which may rely on Section 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the Investment Company Act.

The Trust's investment objectives may be changed without shareholder approval. There can be no assurance that the Trust's investment objectives will be achieved.

### **Investment Strategies**

Under normal market conditions, the Trust invests across various markets in which the Investment Adviser holds significant investment experience: primarily the leveraged loan, high yield, structured products, real estate, communications, natural resources and stressed and distressed markets. The Investment Adviser makes investment decisions based on quantitative analysis, which employs sophisticated, data-intensive models to drive the investment process. The Trust has a fundamental policy to concentrate its investments in the real estate industry, and, under normal market conditions, the Trust invests at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry and the Investment Adviser has full discretion regarding the capital markets from which it can access investment opportunities in accordance with the investment limitations set forth in this prospectus.

The Investment Adviser uses trading strategies to seek to exploit pricing inefficiencies across the credit markets, or debt markets, and within an individual issuer's capital structure. The Investment Adviser varies its

investments by strategy, industry, security type and credit market, but reserves the right to re-position its portfolio among these criteria depending on market dynamics, and thus the Trust may experience high portfolio turnover. The Investment Adviser manages interest rate, default, currency and systemic risks through a variety of trading methods and market tools, including derivative hedging instruments, as it deems appropriate. This multi-strategy investment program allows the Investment Adviser to assess what it considers to be the best opportunities across multiple markets and to adjust quickly the Trust's trading strategies and market focus to changing conditions. The Investment Adviser focuses primarily on the U.S. marketplace, but may pursue opportunities in the non-U.S. credit or securities markets by investing the Trust's assets in Non-U.S. Securities.

The Investment Adviser may select investments from a wide range of trading strategies and credit markets in order to vary the Trust's investments and to optimize the risk-reward parameters of the Trust. The Investment Adviser does not intend to invest the Trust's assets according to pre-determined allocations. The investment team and other personnel of the Investment Adviser use a wide range of resources to identify attractive individual investments and promising investment strategies for consideration in connection with investments by the Trust. The following is a description of the general types of securities in which the Trust may invest. This description is merely a summary, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to cause the Trust to invest in other types of securities and to follow other investment criteria and guidelines as described herein.

The Trust invests and trades in listed and unlisted, public and private, rated and unrated, debt and equity instruments and other obligations, including structured debt and equity instruments and financial derivatives. Investments may include investments in stressed and distressed positions, which may include publicly-traded debt and equity securities (including securities of REITs, BDCs and MLPs), obligations which were privately placed with banks, insurance companies and other lending institutions, trade claims, accounts receivable and any other form of obligation recognized as a claim in a bankruptcy or workout process. The Trust may invest in securities traded in foreign countries and denominated in foreign currencies.

As part of its investment program, the Trust may invest, from time to time, in securities or other instruments that are sold in private placements and that are neither listed on an exchange, nor traded over the counter. The Trust may also receive equity or equity-related securities in connection with a workout transaction or may invest directly in equity securities.

The Trust may employ currency hedges (either in the forward or options markets) in certain circumstances to reduce currency risk and may engage in other derivative transactions for hedging purposes or to enhance total return. The Trust may also lend securities and engage in short sales of securities. The Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility, through a master repurchase agreement and through a bridge credit agreement. Additionally, the Trust may continue to use leverage in the future through borrowings or the issuance of preferred shares. However, the Trust has no present intention to issue preferred shares within the next twelve months. However, it is possible that an attractive preferred shares financing opportunity may arise, which the Trust may consider. In addition, the Trust may invest in the securities of companies whose capital structures are highly leveraged.

From time to time, the Investment Adviser may also invest a portion of the Trust's assets in short-term U.S. government obligations, certificates of deposit, commercial paper and other money market instruments, including repurchase agreements with respect to such obligations and pooled investment vehicles (for example, money market funds) that invest in these obligations, to enable the Trust to make investments quickly, to serve as collateral with respect to certain of its investments, and for other cash management purposes. A greater percentage of Trust assets may be invested in such obligations if the Investment Adviser believes that a defensive position is appropriate because of the outlook for security prices or in order to respond to adverse market, economic, business or political conditions.

As of December 31, 2017, 8% of the Trust's investment portfolio consisted of unrated securities, 15% of the Trust's investment portfolio consisted of securities rated below investment grade, also known as "junk securities," 1% of the Trust's investment portfolio consisted of securities of issuers that are in default, 0% of the Trust's investment portfolio consisted of securities rated investment grade, and 17% of the Trust's investment portfolio consisted of equities (excluding investments considered to be debt obligations). All of the unrated securities referenced in the prior sentence have credit characteristics substantially equivalent to below investment grade securities, which are also known as "junk securities."

For a more complete discussion of the Trust's investment portfolio composition, see "Portfolio Composition" below.

### **Portfolio Composition**

The Trust's investment portfolio will be composed principally of the following investments. Additional information relating to the Trust's investment policies and restrictions and the Trust's portfolio investments is contained in the Statement of Additional Information.

*Senior Loans.* Senior loans hold the most senior position in the capital structure of a business entity, are typically secured with specific collateral and have a claim on the general assets of the borrower that is senior to that held by subordinated debtholders and stockholders of the borrower. The proceeds of senior loans primarily are used to finance leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, mergers, acquisitions, stock repurchases, and, to a lesser extent, to finance internal growth and for other corporate purposes. Senior loans typically have rates of interest which are redetermined either daily, monthly, quarterly or semi-annually by reference to a base lending rate, plus a premium. These base lending rates generally are the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"), the prime rate offered by one or more major U.S. banks ("Prime Rate") or the certificate of deposit ("CD") rate or other base lending rates used by commercial lenders.

Senior loans will generally be supported by liens in the Trust's favor on all or a portion of the assets of the portfolio company or on assets of affiliates of the portfolio company. Although the Trust may seek to dispose of such collateral in the event of default, it may be delayed in exercising such rights or its rights may be contested by others. In addition, the value of the collateral may deteriorate so that the collateral is insufficient for the Trust to recover its investment in the event of default.

The Trust also may invest in unsecured loans, other floating rate debt securities such as notes, bonds and asset-backed securities (such as securities issued by special purchase funds investing in bank loans), investment grade and below-investment grade fixed income debt obligations and money market instruments, such as commercial paper. The Trust also may purchase obligations issued in connection with a restructuring pursuant to Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Loans and other corporate debt obligations are subject to the risk of non-payment of scheduled interest or principal. Such non-payment would result in a reduction of income to the Trust, a reduction in the value of the investment and a potential decrease in the net asset value of the Trust. Liquidation of any collateral securing a senior loan may not satisfy a borrower's obligation in the event of non-payment of scheduled interest or principal payments, or that such collateral could be readily liquidated. In the event of bankruptcy of a borrower, the Trust could experience delays or limitations with respect to its ability to realize the benefits of the collateral securing a senior loan. To the extent that a senior loan is collateralized by stock in the borrower or its subsidiaries, such stock may lose all or substantially all of its value in the event of the bankruptcy of a borrower. Some senior loans are subject to the risk that a court, pursuant to fraudulent conveyance or other similar laws, could subordinate senior loans to presently existing or future indebtedness of the borrower or take other action detrimental to the holders of senior loans including, in certain circumstances, invalidating such senior loans or causing interest

previously paid to be refunded to the borrower. If interest were required to be refunded, it could negatively affect the Trust's performance. To the extent a senior loan is subordinated in the capital structure, it will have characteristics similar to other subordinated debtholders, including a greater risk of nonpayment of interest or principal.

Many loans in which the Investment Adviser anticipates the Trust will invest, and the issuers of such loans, may not be rated by a rating agency, will not be registered with the Commission or any state securities commission and will not be listed on any national securities exchange. The amount of public information available with respect to issuers of senior loans will generally be less extensive than that available for issuers of registered or exchange listed securities. In evaluating the creditworthiness of borrowers, the Investment Adviser will consider, and may rely in part, on analyses performed by others. The Investment Adviser does not view ratings as the determinative factor in its investment decisions and relies more upon its credit analysis abilities than upon ratings. Borrowers may have outstanding debt obligations that are rated below investment grade by a rating agency. A high percentage of senior loans held by the Trust may be rated, if at all, below investment grade by independent rating agencies. In the event senior loans are not rated, they are likely to be the equivalent of below investment grade quality. Debt securities which are unsecured and rated below investment grade (*i.e.*, Ba and below by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or BB and below by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. ("S&P")) and comparable unrated bonds, are viewed by the rating agencies as having speculative characteristics and are commonly known as "junk bonds." A description of the ratings of corporate bonds by Moody's and S&P is included as Appendix A to the Statement of Additional Information. Because senior loans are senior in a borrower's capital structure and are often secured by specific collateral, the Investment Adviser believes that senior loans have more favorable loss recovery rates as compared to most other types of below investment grade debt obligations. However, the Trust's actual loss recovery experience may not be consistent with the Investment Adviser's prior experience and the Trust's senior loans may not achieve any specific loss recovery rates.

No active trading market may exist for many senior loans, and some senior loans may be subject to restrictions on resale. The Trust is not limited in the percentage of its assets that may be invested in senior loans and other securities deemed to be illiquid. A secondary market may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods, which may impair the ability to realize full value on the disposition of an illiquid senior loan, and cause a material decline in the Trust's net asset value.

Senior loans generally are arranged through private negotiations between a borrower and a group of financial institutions initially represented by an agent who is usually one of the originating lenders. In larger transactions, it is common to have several agents. Generally, however, only one such agent has primary responsibility for ongoing administration of a senior loan. Agents are typically paid fees by the borrower for their services. The agent is primarily responsible for negotiating the credit agreement which establishes the terms and conditions of the senior loan and the rights of the borrower and the lenders. The agent is also responsible for monitoring collateral and for exercising remedies available to the lenders such as foreclosure upon collateral.

Credit agreements may provide for the termination of the agent's status in the event that it fails to act as required under the relevant credit agreement, becomes insolvent, enters FDIC receivership or, if not FDIC insured, enters into bankruptcy. Should such an agent, lender or assignor with respect to an assignment interpositioned between the Trust and the borrower become insolvent or enter FDIC receivership or bankruptcy, any interest in the senior loan of such person and any loan payment held by such person for the benefit of the Trust should not be included in such person's or entity's bankruptcy estate. If, however, any such amount were included in such person's or entity's bankruptcy estate, the Trust would incur certain costs and delays in realizing payment or could suffer a loss of principal or interest. In this event, the Trust could experience a decrease in net asset value.

The Trust's investments in senior loans may take one of several forms, including acting as one of the group of lenders originating a senior loan, purchasing an assignment of a portion of a senior loan from a third party or acquiring a participation in a senior loan. When the Trust is a member of the originating syndicate for a senior loan, it may share in a fee paid to the syndicate. When the Trust acquires a participation in, or an assignment of, a senior loan, it may pay a fee to, or forego a portion of interest payments from, the lender selling the participation or assignment. The Trust will act as lender, or purchase an assignment or participation, with respect to a senior loan only if the agent is determined by the Investment Adviser to be creditworthy.

When the Trust is one of the original lenders, it will have a direct contractual relationship with the borrower and can enforce compliance by the borrower with terms of the credit agreement. It also may have negotiated rights with respect to any funds acquired by other lenders through setoff. Original lenders also negotiate voting and consent rights under the credit agreement. Actions subject to lender vote or consent generally require the vote or consent of the majority of the holders of some specified percentage of the outstanding principal amount of the senior loan. Certain decisions, such as reducing the interest rate, or extending the maturity of a senior loan, or releasing collateral securing a senior loan, among others, frequently require the unanimous vote or consent of all lenders affected.

When the Trust is a purchaser of an assignment, it typically succeeds to all the rights and obligations under the credit agreement of the assigning lender and becomes a lender under the credit agreement with the same rights and obligations as the assigning lender. Assignments are, however, arranged through private negotiations between potential assignees and potential assignors, and the rights and obligations acquired by the purchaser of an assignment may be more limited than those held by the assigning lender.

The Trust may also invest in participations in senior loans. The rights of the Trust when it acquires a participation are likely to be more limited than the rights of an original lender or an investor who acquired an assignment. Participation by the Trust in a lender's portion of a senior loan typically means that the Trust has only a contractual relationship with the lender, not with the borrower. This means that the Trust has the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the lender selling the participation and only upon receipt by the lender of payments from the borrower.

With a participation, the Trust will have no rights to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the credit agreement or any rights with respect to any funds acquired by other lenders through setoff against the borrower. In addition, the Trust may not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the senior loan because it may be treated as a general creditor of the lender instead of a senior secured creditor of the borrower. As a result, the Trust may be subject to delays, expenses and risks that are greater than those that exist when the Trust is the original lender or holds an assignment. This means the Trust must assume the credit risk of both the borrower and the lender selling the participation. The Trust will consider a purchase of participations only in those situations where the Investment Adviser considers the participating lender to be creditworthy.

In the event of a bankruptcy or insolvency of a borrower, the obligation of the borrower to repay the senior loan may be subject to certain defenses that can be asserted by such borrower against the Trust as a result of improper conduct of the lender selling the participation. A participation in a senior loan will be deemed to be a senior loan for the purposes of the Trust's investment objectives and policies.

The Trust may have difficulty disposing of assignments and participations. Because there is no liquid market for such securities, the Trust anticipates that such securities could be sold only to a limited number of institutional investors. The lack of a liquid secondary market will have an adverse impact on the value of such securities and on the Trust's ability to dispose of particular assignments or participations when necessary to meet the Trust's liquidity needs or in response to a specific economic event, such as a deterioration in the

creditworthiness of the borrower. The lack of a liquid secondary market for assignments and participations also may make it more difficult for the Trust to assign a value to those securities for purposes of valuing the Trust's investment portfolio and calculating its net asset value.

Investing in senior loans involves investment risk. Some borrowers default on their senior loan payments. The Trust attempts to manage this credit risk through multiple different investments within the portfolio and ongoing analysis and monitoring of borrowers. The Trust also is subject to market, liquidity, interest rate and other risks. See "Principal Risks of the Trust."

Loans other than senior loans may not be acceptable collateral under the Trust's current credit facility or under any future credit facilities, or may require a higher collateral-to-loan ratio, and therefore to the extent the Trust invests in such loans its ability to borrow may be reduced.

*Second Lien Loans.* Second lien loans are loans made by public and private corporations and other non-governmental entities and issuers for a variety of purposes. Second lien loans are second in right of payment to one or more senior loans of the related borrower. Second lien loans typically are secured by a second priority security interest or lien to or on specified collateral securing the borrower's obligation under the loan and typically have similar protections and rights as senior loans. Second lien loans are not (and by their terms cannot) become subordinate in right of payment to any obligation of the related borrower other than senior loans of such borrower. Second lien loans, like senior loans, typically have adjustable floating rate interest payments. Because second lien loans are second to senior loans, they present a greater degree of investment risk but often pay interest at higher rates reflecting this additional risk. Such investments generally are of below investment grade quality. Other than their subordinated status, second lien loans have many characteristics and risks similar to senior loans discussed above. In addition, second lien loans of below investment grade quality share many of the risk characteristics of non-investment grade securities. As in the case of senior loans, the Trust may purchase interests in second lien loans through assignments or participations.

Second lien loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans and non-investment grade securities. Because second lien loans are second in right of payment to one or more senior loans of the related borrower, they therefore are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior secured obligations of the borrower. Second lien loans are also expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in second lien loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

The risks associated with second lien loans are higher than the risks of loans with first priority over the collateral. In the event of default on a second lien loan, the first priority lien holder has first claim to the underlying collateral of the loan. It is possible that no collateral value would remain for the second priority lien holder, resulting in a loss to the Trust.

*Other Secured Loans.* Secured loans other than senior loans and second lien loans are made by public and private corporations and other non-governmental entities and issuers for a variety of purposes. Such secured loans may rank lower in right of payment to one or more senior loans and second lien loans of the borrower. Such secured loans typically are secured by a lower priority security interest or lien to or on specified collateral securing the borrower's obligation under the loan, and typically have more subordinated protections and rights than senior loans and second lien loans. Secured loans may become subordinated in right of payment to more senior obligations of the borrower issued in the future. Such secured loans may have fixed or adjustable floating rate interest payments. Because such secured loans may rank lower as to right of payment than senior loans and second lien loans of the borrower, they may present a greater degree of investment risk than senior loans and second lien loans but often pay interest at higher rates reflecting this additional risk. Such investments generally

are of below investment grade quality. Other than their more subordinated status, such investments have many characteristics and risks similar to senior loans and second lien loans discussed above. In addition, secured loans of below investment grade quality share many of the risk characteristics of non-investment grade securities. As in the case of senior loans and second lien loans, the Trust may purchase interests in other secured loans through assignments or participations. Other secured loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans and non-investment grade securities. Because such loans, however, may rank lower in right of payment to senior loans and second lien loans of the borrower, they may be subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to repay the scheduled payments after giving effect to more senior secured obligations of the borrower. Such secured loans are also expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and second lien loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in other secured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

*Unsecured Loans.* Unsecured loans are loans made by public and private corporations and other non-governmental entities and issuers for a variety of purposes. Unsecured loans generally have lower priority in right of payment compared to holders of secured debt of the borrower. Unsecured loans are not secured by a security interest or lien to or on specified collateral securing the borrower's obligation under the loan. Unsecured loans by their terms may be or may become subordinate in right of payment to other obligations of the borrower, including senior loans, second lien loans and other secured loans. Unsecured loans may have fixed or adjustable floating rate interest payments. Because unsecured loans are subordinate to the secured debt of the borrower, they present a greater degree of investment risk but often pay interest at higher rates reflecting this additional risk. Such investments generally are of non-investment grade quality. Other than their subordinated and unsecured status, such investments have many characteristics and risks similar to senior loans, second lien loans and other secured loans discussed above. In addition, unsecured loans of non-investment grade quality share many of the risk characteristics of non-investment grade securities. As in the case of secured loans, the Trust may purchase interests in unsecured loans through assignments or participations.

Unsecured loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans, other secured loans and non-investment grade securities. However, because unsecured loans rank lower in right of payment to any secured obligations of the borrower, they may be subject to the additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and available assets may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the secured obligations of the borrower. Unsecured loans are also expected to have greater price volatility than secured loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that loan originators will not be able to sell participations in unsecured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

*Mezzanine Debt.* The Trust's assets may include mezzanine loans. Structurally, mezzanine loans usually rank subordinate in priority of payment to senior debt, such as senior bank debt, and are often unsecured. However, mezzanine loans rank senior to common and preferred equity in a borrower's capital structure. Mezzanine debt is often used in leveraged buyout and real estate finance transactions. Typically, mezzanine loans have elements of both debt and equity instruments, offering the fixed returns in the form of interest payments associated with senior debt, while providing lenders an opportunity to participate in the capital appreciation of a borrower, if any, through an equity interest. This equity interest typically takes the form of warrants. Due to their higher risk profile and often less restrictive covenants as compared to senior loans, mezzanine loans generally earn a higher return than senior secured loans. The warrants associated with mezzanine loans are typically detachable, which allows lenders to receive repayment of their principal on an agreed amortization schedule while retaining their equity interest in the borrower. Mezzanine loans also may include a "put" feature, which permits the holder to sell its equity interest back to the borrower at a price determined through an agreed-upon formula. The Trust believes that mezzanine loans offer an alternative investment opportunity based upon their historical returns and resilience during economic downturns.

*Investment Grade Securities.* The Trust may invest in a wide variety of bonds that are rated or determined by the Investment Adviser to be of investment grade quality of varying maturities issued by U.S. corporations and other business entities. Bonds are fixed or variable rate debt obligations, including bills, notes, debentures, money market instruments and similar instruments and securities. Bonds generally are used by corporations and other issuers to borrow money from investors for a variety of business purposes. The issuer pays the investor a fixed or variable rate of interest and normally must repay the amount borrowed on or before maturity. Certain bonds are “perpetual” in that they have no maturity date. Some investment grade securities, such as zero coupon bonds, do not pay current interest, but are sold at a discount from their face values. Although more creditworthy and generally less risky than non-investment grade securities, investment grade securities are still subject to market and credit risk. Market risk relates to changes in a security’s value as a result of interest rate changes generally. Investment grade securities have varying levels of sensitivity to changes in interest rates and varying degrees of credit quality. In general, bond prices rise when interest rates fall, and fall when interest rates rise. Longer-term bonds and zero coupon bonds are generally more sensitive to interest rate changes. Credit risk relates to the ability of the issuer to make payments of principal and interest. The values of investment grade securities like those of other debt securities may be affected by changes in the credit rating or financial condition of an issuer. Investment grade securities are generally considered medium- and high-quality securities. Some, however, may possess speculative characteristics, and may be more sensitive to economic changes and to changes in the financial condition of issuers. The market prices of investment grade securities in the lowest investment grade categories may fluctuate more than higher-quality securities and may decline significantly in periods of general or regional economic difficulty. Like non-investment grade securities, such investment grade securities in the lowest investment grade categories may be thinly traded, making them difficult to sell promptly at an acceptable price.

*Other Fixed Income Securities.* The Trust also may purchase unsecured loans, other floating rate or fixed rate debt securities such as notes, bonds and asset-backed securities (such as securities issued by special purpose funds investing in bank loans), investment grade and below investment grade fixed income debt obligations and money market instruments, such as commercial paper. The high yield securities in which the Trust invests are rated Ba or lower by Moody’s or BB or lower by S&P or are unrated but determined by the Investment Adviser to be of comparable quality. Debt securities rated below investment grade are commonly referred to as “junk securities” and are considered speculative with respect to the issuer’s capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Below investment grade debt securities involve greater risk of loss, are subject to greater price volatility and are less liquid, especially during periods of economic uncertainty or change, than higher rated debt securities. The Trust’s fixed-income securities may have fixed or variable principal payments and all types of interest rate and dividend payment and reset terms, including fixed rate, adjustable rate, zero coupon, contingent, deferred, payment in kind and auction rate features. The Trust may invest in fixed-income securities with a broad range of maturities.

The Trust may invest in zero coupon bonds, deferred interest bonds and bonds or preferred stock on which the interest is payable-in-kind (PIK bonds). To the extent the Trust invests in such instruments, they will not contribute to the Trust’s goal of current income. Zero coupon and deferred interest bonds are debt obligations which are issued at a significant discount from face value. While zero coupon bonds do not require the periodic payment of interest, deferred interest bonds provide for a period of delay before the regular payment of interest begins. PIK bonds are debt obligations that provide that the issuer thereof may, at its option, pay interest on such bonds in cash or in the form of additional debt obligations. Such investments may experience greater volatility in market value due to changes in interest rates. The Trust may be required to recognize income on these investments for U.S. federal income tax purposes even though the Trust receives no corresponding interest payment in cash on the investments. As a result, in order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid any U.S. federal income or excise taxes at the Trust level, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount greater than the total amount of interest and other income the Trust actually received. The Trust may be required to, among other things, sell

securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for income distributions, and may realize gain or loss from such liquidations. In the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

*Non-Investment Grade Securities.* The Trust may invest a significant portion of its assets in securities rated below investment grade, such as those rated Ba or lower by Moody's and BB or lower by S&P or securities comparably rated by other rating agencies or in unrated securities determined by the Investment Adviser to be of comparable quality. Securities rated Ba by Moody's are judged to have speculative elements, their future cannot be considered as well assured and often the protection of interest and principal payments may be very moderate. Securities rated BB by S&P are regarded as having predominantly speculative characteristics and, while such obligations have less near-term vulnerability to default than other speculative grade debt, they face major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial or economic conditions which could lead to inadequate capacity to meet timely interest and principal payments. Securities rated C are regarded as having extremely poor prospects of ever attaining any real investment standing. Securities rated D are in default and the payment of interest and/or repayment of principal is in arrears. The Trust may purchase securities rated as low as D. When the Investment Adviser believes it to be in the best interests of the Trust's shareholders, the Trust will reduce its investment in lower grade securities.

Lower grade securities, though generally high-yielding, are characterized by high risk. They may be subject to certain risks with respect to the issuing entity and to greater market fluctuations than certain lower yielding, higher rated securities. The secondary market for lower grade securities may be less liquid than that of higher rated securities. Adverse conditions could make it difficult at times for the Trust to sell certain securities or could result in lower prices than those used in calculating the Trust's net asset value.

The prices of debt securities generally are inversely related to interest rate changes; however, the price volatility caused by fluctuating interest rates of securities also is inversely related to the coupon of such securities. Accordingly, below investment grade securities may be relatively less sensitive to interest rate changes than higher quality securities of comparable maturity, because of their higher coupon. This higher coupon is what the investor receives in return for bearing greater credit risk. The higher credit risk associated with below investment grade securities potentially can have a greater effect on the value of such securities than may be the case with higher quality issues of comparable maturity, and may cause the value of the Trust's securities to fluctuate. Distressed debt securities often are priced based on estimated recovery value and are less sensitive to interest rate movement.

Lower grade securities may be particularly susceptible to economic downturns. It is likely that an economic recession could severely disrupt the market for such securities and may have an adverse impact on the value of such securities. In addition, it is likely that any such economic downturn could adversely affect the ability of the issuers of such securities to repay principal and pay interest thereon and increase the incidence of default for such securities.

The ratings of Moody's, S&P and any other rating agencies represent their opinions as to the quality of the obligations which they undertake to rate. Ratings are relative and subjective and, although ratings may be useful in evaluating the safety of interest and principal payments, they do not evaluate the market value risk of such obligations. Although these ratings may be an initial criterion for selection of portfolio investments, the Investment Adviser also will independently evaluate these securities and the ability of the issuers of such securities to pay interest and principal. To the extent that the Trust invests in lower grade securities that have not been rated by a rating agency, the Trust's ability to achieve its investment objectives will be more dependent on the Investment Adviser's credit analysis than would be the case when the Trust invests in rated securities.

*Asset-Backed Securities.* The Trust may invest a portion of its assets in asset-backed securities. Asset-backed securities are generally issued as pass-through certificates, which represent undivided fractional ownership interests in an underlying pool of assets, or as debt instruments, which are also known as collateralized obligations, and are generally issued as the debt of a special purpose entity organized solely for the purpose of owning such assets and issuing such debt. Asset-backed securities are often backed by a pool of assets representing the obligations of a number of different parties. Credit card receivables are generally unsecured, and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws which give debtors the right to setoff certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. Most issuers of automobile receivables permit the servicers to retain possession of the underlying obligations. If the servicer were to sell these obligations to another party, there is a risk that the purchaser would acquire an interest superior to that of the holders of the related automobile receivables. In addition, because of the large number of vehicles involved in a typical issuance and technical requirements under state laws, the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have an effective security interest in all of the obligations backing such receivables. Therefore, there is a possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be able to support payments on these securities.

*Royalty Securitizations.* Companies holding rights to intellectual property may create bankruptcy remote special purpose entities whose underlying assets are royalty license agreements and intellectual property rights related to a product. A significant portion of the Trust's investments will be related to pharmaceutical royalties that are secured by rights related to one or more drugs. The Trust may, however, invest in royalty streams related to other industries.

Royalty securities may include bonds, loans and equity issued by the special purpose entity. The Investment Adviser believes that the terms of royalty securities that are bonds may be favorable as compared to the broader debt universe, and that the returns are not highly correlated with general credit market events.

In a typical structure in the pharmaceutical industry, a small pharmaceutical company that develops a compound may license the commercial opportunity to a large-cap pharmaceutical company in exchange for payments upon completion of certain milestones (for example, Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") approval) and a percentage of future product sales. Upon securing the right to receive royalties on product sales, the small pharmaceutical company finances a loan or bond secured by the royalty stream, which is typically non-recourse to either of the pharmaceutical companies.

In addition, a company, the sponsor, may create a wholly owned subsidiary, the issuer, that issues the royalty securities. The sponsor sells, assigns and contributes to the issuer rights under one or more license agreements, including the right to receive royalties and certain other payments from sales of the pharmaceutical or other products. The sponsor also pledges the equity ownership interests in the issuer to the trustee under the indenture related to the notes. In return, the sponsor receives the proceeds of the securities from the issuer. The issuer of the securities grants a security interest in its assets to the trustee and is responsible for the debt service on the notes. An interest reserve account may be established to provide a source for payments should there be a cash flow shortfall for one or more periods. Many structures include a 100% cash flow sweep, which means that the principal is paid down by all cash flows received. Although the notes may have a legal maturity date of up to five to sixteen years from issuance, the expected weighted average maturity of the notes may be significantly shorter because of expected required principal repayments if funds are available.

If the issuer of the loan or bond defaults, any recourse will be limited to the issuer (which is formed for the limited purpose of purchasing and holding the license agreement or related intellectual property) and the collateral. The pharmaceutical or other company sponsoring the special purpose entity will generally not have the obligation to contribute additional equity to the issuer. If the sponsor of the issuer were to become a debtor in a bankruptcy case, a creditor, debtor in possession or trustee could request that the bankruptcy court substantively

consolidate the issuer of the royalty security with the sponsor and/or recharacterize the transaction pursuant to which the royalty stream was transferred to the issuer and/or take other actions challenging the transaction. To the extent that these efforts are successful, these actions may adversely impact the securities and the Trust.

*Collateralized Loan Obligations and Bond Obligations.* The Trust may invest in certain asset-backed securities that are securitizing certain financial assets by issuing securities in the form of negotiable paper that are issued by a financing company (generally called a Special Purpose Vehicle or “SPV”). These securitized assets are, as a rule, corporate financial assets brought into a pool according to specific diversification rules. The SPV is a company founded solely for the purpose of securitizing these claims and its only asset is the diversified asset pool. On this basis, marketable securities are issued which, due to the diversification of the underlying risk, are generally considered to represent a lower level of risk than the original assets taken separately. The redemption of the securities issued by the SPV takes place at maturity out of the cash flow generated by the collected claims.

A collateralized loan obligation (“CLO”) is a structured security issued by an SPV that was created to reapportion the risk and return characteristics of a pool of assets. The assets, typically senior loans, are used as collateral supporting the various debt and equity tranches issued by the SPV. The key feature of the CLO structure is the prioritization of the cash flows from a pool of debt (and, to a lesser degree, equity) securities among the several classes of securities issued by a CLO. The Trust may invest in both equity and debt tranches issued by the SPV.

The Trust may also invest in collateralized bond obligations (“CBOs”), which are structured securities backed by a diversified pool of high-yield, public or private fixed income securities. These may be fixed pools or may be “market value” (or managed) pools of collateral. The CBO issues debt securities that are typically separated into tranches representing different degrees of credit quality. The top tranche of securities has the greatest collateralization and pays the lowest interest rate. Lower CBO tranches have a lesser degree of collateralization quality and pay higher interest rates intended to compensate for the attendant risks. The bottom tranche specifically receives the residual interest payments (*i.e.*, money that is left over after the higher tranches have been paid) rather than a fixed interest rate. The return on the lower tranches of CBOs/CLOs is especially sensitive to the rate of defaults in the collateral pool and lower tranches of CBOs/CLOs typically present the highest risk of loss of entire investment and are required to bear losses before the higher tranches. Under normal market conditions, the Trust expects to invest in the lower tranches of CBOs/CLOs, including equity tranches.

*Distressed Debt.* The Trust is authorized to invest in the securities and other obligations of distressed and bankrupt issuers, including debt obligations that are in covenant or payment default. Such investments generally trade significantly below par and are considered speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result in only partial recovery of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted obligation for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or speculative. The Trust may invest in securities of a company for purposes of gaining control.

*Stressed Debt.* The Trust is authorized to invest in securities and other obligations of stressed issuers. Stressed issuers are issuers that are not yet deemed distressed or bankrupt and whose debt securities are trading at a discount to par, but not yet at distressed levels. An example would be an issuer that is in technical default of its credit agreement, or undergoing strategic or operational changes, which results in market pricing uncertainty.

*Credit Derivatives.* The Trust may engage in credit derivative transactions for hedging or capital appreciation purposes. There are two broad categories of credit derivatives: default price risk derivatives and market spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Market spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in market factors, such as credit spreads, can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan or index.

There are currently three basic transactional forms for credit derivatives: swaps, options and structured instruments. The use of credit derivatives is a highly specialized activity which involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If the Investment Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Trust would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. Moreover, even if the Investment Adviser is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that a credit derivative position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being purchased. There is no limit on the amount of credit derivative transactions that may be entered into by the Trust. The Trust's risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if the Trust purchases a default option on a security, and if no default occurs with respect to the security, the Trust's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, the Trust's loss will include both the premium that it paid for the option and the decline in value of the underlying security that the default option protects.

The sections entitled "Derivative Transactions and Risk Management" and "Additional Characteristics and Risks of Derivative Transactions" in the Trust's Statement of Additional Information contain further information about the characteristics, risks and possible benefits of Derivative Transactions and the Trust's other policies and limitations (which are not fundamental policies) relating to investment in futures contracts and options. The principal risks relating to the use of futures contracts and other Derivative Transactions are: (i) less than perfect correlation between the prices of the instrument and the market value of the securities in the Trust's investment portfolio; (ii) possible lack of a liquid secondary market for closing out a position in such instruments; (iii) losses resulting from interest rate or other market movements not anticipated by the Investment Adviser; and (iv) the obligation to meet additional variation margin or other payment requirements, all of which could result in the Trust being in a worse position than if such techniques had not been used.

*Credit Default Swaps.* The Trust may enter into credit default swap agreements for hedging or capital appreciation purposes. The "buyer" in a credit default contract is obligated to pay the "seller" a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract provided that no event of default on an underlying reference obligation has occurred. If an event of default occurs, the seller must pay the buyer the "par value" (full notional value) of the reference obligation in exchange for the reference obligation. The Trust may be either the buyer or seller in the transaction. If the Trust is a buyer and no event of default occurs, the Trust loses its investment and recovers nothing. However, if an event of default occurs, the buyer receives full notional value for a reference obligation that may have little or no value. As a seller, the Trust receives income throughout the term of the contract, which typically is between six months and three years, provided that there is no default event.

Credit default swaps involve greater risks than if the Trust had invested in the reference obligation directly. In addition to general market risks, credit default swaps are subject to illiquidity risk, counterparty risk and credit risks. The Trust will enter into swap agreements only with counterparties that are judged by the Investment Adviser to present acceptable credit risk to the Trust. A buyer also will lose its investment and recover nothing should no event of default occur. If an event of default were to occur, the value of the reference obligation received by the seller, coupled with the periodic payments previously received, may be less than the full notional value it pays to the buyer, resulting in a loss of value to the seller. Credit default swaps also involve the risk of imperfect correlation between the value of such instruments and the underlying assets and may involve commissions or other costs. When buying protection under a swap, the risk of loss with respect to swaps generally is limited to the net amount of payments that the Trust is contractually obligated to make. When selling protection under a swap, however, the risk of loss is often the notional value of the underlying asset, which can result in a loss substantially greater than the amount invested in the swap itself. In addition, collateral posting requirements are individually negotiated and there is no regulatory requirement that a counterparty post collateral to secure its obligations or a specified amount of cash, depending upon the terms of the swap, under a credit default swap. Furthermore, there is no requirement that a party be informed in advance when a credit default

swap agreement is transferred. Accordingly, the Trust may have difficulty identifying the party responsible for payment of its claims. The notional value of credit default swaps with respect to a particular investment is often larger than the total par value of such investment outstanding and, in event of a default, there may be difficulties in making the required deliveries of the reference investments, possibly delaying payments. The market for credit default swaps has become more volatile recently as the creditworthiness of certain counterparties has been questioned and/or downgraded. If a counterparty's credit becomes significantly impaired, multiple requests for collateral posting in a short period of time could increase the risk that the Trust may not receive adequate collateral. There is no readily available market for trading credit default swaps. The Trust generally may exit its obligations under a credit default swap only by terminating the contract and paying applicable breakage fees, or by entering into an offsetting credit default swap position, which may cause the Trust to incur more losses. When the Trust acts as a seller of a credit default swap agreement it is exposed to many of the same risks of leverage described under "Principal Risks of the Trust — Leverage Risk" in this prospectus. If the Trust uses credit default swaps to leverage its portfolio, the Trust will be exposed to additional risks, including the risk that the Trust's use of leverage will magnify the effect of any losses the Trust incurs since if an event of default occurs the seller must pay the buyer the full notional value of the reference obligation. The Trust will at all times segregate liquid securities or cash in an amount at least equal to the notional amount of the credit default swap due to the buyer if the credit event occurs. Such segregation will ensure that the Trust has assets available to satisfy its obligations and will limit any potential leveraging of the Trust's portfolio with respect to the transaction. Such segregation will not limit the Trust's exposure to loss.

The Trust is generally not limited in the amount it may invest in credit default swaps and all other derivatives. The Trust may use derivatives for speculative purposes.

*Senior Loan Based Derivatives.* The Trust may obtain exposure to senior loans and baskets of senior loans through the use of derivative instruments. The Investment Adviser reserves the right to utilize these instruments and similar instruments that may be available in the future. For example, the Trust may invest in a derivative instrument known as the Loan-Only Credit Default Swap Index ("LCDX"), a tradeable index with 100 equally-weighted underlying single-name long-only credit default swaps ("LCDS"). Each underlying LCDS references an issuer whose loans trade in the secondary leveraged loan market. The Trust can either buy the Index (take on credit exposure) or sell the Index (pass credit exposure to a counterparty). In either case, the Trust is in essence taking a macro view of the market as a whole rather than on a particular issuer. To compensate investors for the change in the value of the Index over time, an upfront payment is made at the time of a trade to account for the change in the present value of the Index since inception. The payment is the difference between par (or 100) and the amount of the purchase price, plus or minus (depending on whether the Trust is a buyer or seller of the Index) accrued interest. Each version of the Index launches with a fixed coupon which the seller of the Index pays quarterly (and the buyer of the Index receives quarterly). The amount of payments received or paid is the coupon times the notional amount. While investing in these types of derivatives will increase the universe of debt securities to which the Trust is exposed, such investments entail risks that are not typically associated with investments in other debt securities. The liquidity of the market for these types of instruments will be subject to liquidity in the secured loan and derivatives markets. The Trust may also be subject to the risk that the counterparty in a derivative transaction will default on its obligations. These transactions generally involve the risk of loss due to unanticipated adverse changes in securities prices, interest rates, the inability to close out a position, imperfect correlation between a position and the desired hedge, uncertainty regarding the tax rules applicable to these transactions and portfolio management constraints on securities subject to such transactions. The potential loss on derivative instruments may be substantially greater than the initial investment therein.

Investments in the Index may involve greater risks than if the Trust had invested in the reference obligation directly. The Trust will not engage in these transactions for speculative purposes and will use them only as a means to hedge or manage the risks associated with assets held in, or anticipated to be purchased for, the investment portfolio or obligations incurred by the Trust.

*Credit-Linked Notes.* The Trust may invest in credit-linked notes (“CLNs”) for risk management purposes and to vary its portfolio. A CLN is a derivative instrument. It is a synthetic obligation between two or more parties where the payment of principal and/or interest is based on the performance of some obligation (a reference obligation). In addition to credit risk of the reference obligations and interest rate risk, the buyer/seller of the CLN is subject to counterparty risk.

*Common Stocks.* The Trust may acquire an interest in common stocks in various ways, including upon the default of a senior loan secured by such common stock, in a workout or restructuring or by acquiring common stock for investment. The Trust may also acquire warrants or other rights to purchase a borrower’s common stock in connection with the making of a senior loan. Common stocks of a corporation or other entity entitle the holder to a pro rata share of the profits, if any, of the corporation without preference over any other shareholder or class of shareholders, including holders of such entity’s preferred stocks and other senior equity securities. Common stock usually carries with it the right to vote and frequently an exclusive right to do so.

*Preferred Stocks.* The Trust may invest in preferred stocks. Preferred stocks are equity securities, but they have many characteristics of fixed income securities, such as a fixed dividend payment rate and/or a liquidity preference over the issuer’s common shares. However, because preferred stocks are equity securities, they may be more susceptible to risks traditionally associated with equity investments than the Trust’s fixed income securities.

The market value of preferred stocks may be affected by favorable and unfavorable changes impacting companies in the utilities and financial services sectors, which are prominent issuers of preferred stocks, and by actual and anticipated changes in tax laws, such as changes in U.S. federal corporate income tax rates or the dividends-received deduction. Because the claim on an issuer’s earnings represented by traditional preferred stocks may become onerous when interest rates fall below the rate payable on such stocks, the issuer may redeem the stocks. Thus, in declining interest rate environments in particular, the Trust’s holdings of higher rate-paying fixed rate preferred stocks may be reduced and the Trust would be unable to acquire securities of comparable credit quality paying comparable rates with the redemption proceeds.

Fixed rate preferred stocks have fixed dividend rates. They can be perpetual, with no mandatory redemption date, or issued with a fixed mandatory redemption date. Certain issues of preferred stock are convertible into other equity securities. Perpetual preferred stocks provide a fixed dividend throughout the life of the issue, with no mandatory retirement provisions, but may be callable. Sinking fund preferred stocks provide for the redemption of a portion of the issue on a regularly scheduled basis with, in most cases, the entire issue being retired at a future date. The value of fixed rate preferred stocks can be expected to vary inversely with interest rates.

Adjustable rate preferred stocks have a variable dividend rate which is determined periodically, typically quarterly, according to a formula based on a specified premium or discount to the yield on particular U.S. Treasury securities, typically the highest base-rate yield of one of three U.S. Treasury securities: the 90-day Treasury bill; the 10-year Treasury note; and either the 20-year or 30-year Treasury bond or other index. The premium or discount to be added to or subtracted from this base-rate yield is fixed at the time of issuance and cannot be changed without the approval of the holders of the adjustable rate preferred stock. Some adjustable rate preferred stocks have a maximum and a minimum rate and in some cases are convertible into common stocks.

Auction rate preferred stocks pay dividends that adjust based on periodic auctions. Such preferred stocks are similar to short-term corporate money market instruments in that an auction rate preferred stockholder has the opportunity to sell the preferred stock at par in an auction, normally conducted at least every 49 days, through which buyers set the dividend rate in a bidding process for the next period. The dividend rate set in the auction depends on market conditions and the credit quality of the particular issuer. Typically, the auction rate preferred

stock's dividend rate is limited to a specified maximum percentage of an external commercial paper index as of the auction date. Further, the terms of the auction rate preferred stocks generally provide that they are redeemable by the issuer at certain times or under certain conditions. In early 2008, auction rate preferred stocks became subject to numerous "failed" auctions, causing securities previously thought to be liquid to become illiquid. It is not known when, if ever, these auction markets will begin to function again. Special tax considerations may apply to the Trust's investments in preferred stock. See "Tax Matters" below.

*Convertible Securities.* The Trust's investment in fixed income securities may include convertible securities. A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other equity security of the same or a different issuer within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt or the dividend paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities have characteristics similar to nonconvertible income securities in that they ordinarily provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of common stocks of the same or similar issuers, but lower yields than comparable nonconvertible securities.

The value of a convertible security is influenced by changes in interest rates, with investment value declining as interest rates increase and increasing as interest rates decline. The credit standing of the issuer and other factors also may have an effect on the convertible security's investment value. Convertible securities rank senior to common stock in a corporation's capital structure but are usually subordinated to comparable nonconvertible securities. Convertible securities may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the convertible security's governing instrument.

Depending on the relationship of the conversion price to the market value of the underlying securities, convertible securities may trade more like equity securities than debt instruments.

*Money Market Instruments.* The Trust may invest in money market instruments, which include short-term U.S. government securities, U.S. dollar-denominated, high quality commercial paper (unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations to finance their short-term credit needs), certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and repurchase agreements relating to any of the foregoing, and pooled investment vehicles (for example, money market funds) that invest in these obligations. U.S. government securities include Treasury notes, bonds and bills, which are direct obligations of the U.S. government backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. and securities issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government, which may be guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, may be supported by the issuer's right to borrow from the U.S. Treasury or may be backed only by the credit of the federal agency or instrumentality itself.

*U.S. Government Securities.* U.S. government securities in which the Trust invests include debt obligations of varying maturities issued by the U.S. Treasury or issued or guaranteed by an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. government, including the Federal Housing Administration, Federal Financing Bank, Farmers Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Small Business Administration, Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), General Services Administration, Central Bank for Cooperatives, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC), Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Maritime Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, District of Columbia Armory Board and various institutions that previously were or currently are part of the Farm Credit System (which has been undergoing reorganization since 1987). Some U.S. government securities, such as U.S. Treasury bills, Treasury notes and Treasury bonds, which differ only in their interest rates, maturities and times of issuance, are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Others are supported by (i) the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, such as securities of the Federal Home Loan Banks; (ii) the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency's obligations; or (iii) only the credit of the

issuer. The U.S. government may not in the future continue to provide financial support to U.S. government agencies, authorities or instrumentalities that are not supported by the full faith and credit of the United States. To the extent the Trust invests in U.S. Government securities that are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury, such investments may involve a greater risk of loss of principal and interest since the Trust must look principally or solely to the issuing or guaranteeing agency or instrumentality for repayment.

Securities guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities include (i) securities for which the payment of principal and interest is backed by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the U.S. government or any of its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities; and (ii) participations in loans made to non-U.S. governments or other entities that are so guaranteed. The secondary market for certain of these participations is limited and therefore may be regarded as illiquid.

In September 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department placed FNMA and FHLMC into conservatorship. The companies remain in conservatorship, and the effect that this conservatorship will have on the companies' debt and equity securities is unclear. Although the U.S. government has recently provided financial support to FNMA and FHLMC, there can be no assurance that it will support these or other government-sponsored enterprises in the future. In addition, any such government support may benefit the holders of only certain classes of an issuer's securities.

*Other Investment Companies.* The Trust may invest in the securities of other investment companies, which can include open-end funds, closed-end funds, unit investment trusts and business development companies. Investment companies combine shareholders' funds for investment in a variety of instruments, including equity securities, debt securities, and money market instruments and may invest primarily in a particular type of security, a particular industry or a mix of securities and industries. An investment company is not taxed on income distributed to shareholders if, among other things, it distributes to its shareholders substantially all of its taxable income for each taxable year. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Trust, and therefore its shareholders, will bear a proportionate share of the expenses of such other investment companies, including management fees, administration fees and custodial fees, in addition to the expenses of the Trust. Under one provision of the Investment Company Act, the Trust may not acquire the securities of other investment companies if, as a result, (i) more than 10% of the Trust's total assets would be invested in securities of other investment companies, (ii) such purchase would result in more than 3% of the total outstanding voting securities of any one investment company being held by the Trust or (iii) more than 5% of the Trust's total assets would be invested in any one investment company. Other provisions of the Investment Company Act are less restrictive, provided that the Trust is able to meet certain conditions. These limitations do not apply to the acquisition of shares of any investment company in connection with a merger, consolidation, reorganization or acquisition of substantially all of the assets of another investment company.

The Trust, as a holder of the securities of other investment companies, will bear its pro rata portion of the other investment companies' expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses will be in addition to the direct expenses incurred by the Trust.

*Exchange Traded Funds.* Although not a principal investment strategy of the Trust, subject to the limitations on investment in other investment companies, the Trust may invest in exchange traded funds ("ETFs"). ETFs, such as SPDRs, NASDAQ 100 Index Trading Stock (QQQs), iShares and various country index funds, are funds whose shares are traded on a national securities exchange or the National Association of Securities Dealers' Automatic Quotation System (NASDAQ). ETFs may be based on underlying equity or fixed income securities. SPDRs, for example, seek to provide investment results that generally correspond to the performance of the component common stocks of the S&P 500. ETFs do not sell individual shares directly to investors and only issue their shares in large blocks known as "creation units." The investor purchasing a creation unit may sell the individual shares on a secondary market. Therefore, the liquidity of ETFs depends on the adequacy of the

secondary market. An ETF's investment objective may not be achieved. ETFs based on an index may not replicate and maintain exactly the composition and relative weightings of securities in the index and for these and other reasons the returns of an ETF may diverge significantly from the index which it is designated to track. ETFs are subject to the risks of investing in the underlying securities. The Trust, as a holder of the securities of the ETF, will bear its pro rata portion of the ETF's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses are in addition to the direct expenses of the Trust's own operations.

*Master Limited Partnerships.* The Trust may invest in MLPs. MLPs typically are characterized as "publicly traded partnerships" that qualify to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and are principally engaged in one or more aspects of the exploration, production, processing, transmission, marketing, storage or delivery of energy-related commodities, such as natural gas, natural gas liquids, coal, crude oil or refined petroleum products. The Trust's MLP investments include investments that offer economic exposure to public MLPs in the form of common or subordinated units issued by MLPs, securities of entities holding primarily general partner or managing member interests in MLPs, debt securities of MLPs, and securities that are derivatives of interests in MLPs, including I-Shares, and derivative instruments in which the Trust may invest that have economic characteristics of MLP securities. The Trust intends to limit its investments in MLPs and related entities to the extent necessary to qualify as a RIC for tax purposes. In general, a RIC is not permitted to invest, including through corporations in which the RIC owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, more than 25% of its total assets in qualified publicly-traded partnerships.

*Real Estate Investment Trusts.* The Trust may invest in real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in income-producing real estate or real estate-related loans or interests. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with the applicable requirements of the Code. The Trust will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management and other expenses paid by REITs in which it invests in addition to the expenses paid by the Trust. Debt securities issued by REITs are, for the most part, general and unsecured obligations and are subject to risks associated with REITs.

The Trust seeks to gain exposure to the real estate markets, in whole or in part, through investment in each Subsidiary. Each Subsidiary has elected to be taxed as a REIT. Each Subsidiary is generally subject to the same investment policies and restrictions of the Trust. As of December 31, 2017, NREO and NREC accounted for approximately 13.3% and 13.2%, respectively, of the Trust's Managed Assets. The Investment Adviser does not charge an additional fee on assets held in each Subsidiary. The Trust intends to limit its investments in each Subsidiary and related entities to the extent necessary to qualify as a RIC for tax purposes. In general, and subject to certain exceptions not applicable here, a RIC is not permitted to invest, including through corporations in which the RIC owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, more than 25% of its total assets in any one issuer, or in any two or more issuers which the RIC controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses.

*Structured Investments.* The Trust may invest a portion of its assets in interests in entities organized and operated solely for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of securities. This type of restructuring involves the deposit with or purchase by an entity, such as a corporation or a trust, of specified instruments and the issuance by that entity of one or more classes of securities ("Structured Investments") backed by, or representing interests in the underlying instruments. The cash flow on the underlying instruments may be apportioned among the newly issued Structured Investments to create securities with different investment characteristics such as varying maturities, payment priorities and interest rate provisions, and the extent of the

payments made with respect to Structured Investments is dependent on the extent of the cash flow on the underlying instruments. Because Structured Investments of the type in which the Trust anticipates it will invest typically involve no credit enhancement, their credit risk generally will be equivalent to that of the underlying instruments.

The Trust is permitted to invest in a class of Structured Investments that is either subordinated or not subordinated to the right of payment of another class. Subordinated Structured Investments typically have higher yields and present greater risks than unsubordinated Structured Investments.

Certain issuers of Structured Investments may be deemed to be “investment companies” as defined in the Investment Company Act. As a result, the Trust’s investment in these Structured Investments may be limited by the restrictions contained in the Investment Company Act. Structured Investments are typically sold in private placement transaction, and there currently is no active trading market for Structured Investments.

*Zero Coupon Securities.* The securities in which the Trust invests may include zero coupon securities, which are debt obligations that are issued or purchased at a significant discount from face value. The discount approximates the total amount of interest the security will accrue and compound over the period until maturity or the particular interest payment date at a rate of interest reflecting the market rate of the security at the time of issuance. Zero coupon securities do not require the periodic payment of interest. These investments benefit the issuer by mitigating its need for cash to meet debt service, but generally require a higher rate of return to attract investors who are willing to defer receipt of cash. These investments may experience greater volatility in market value than securities that make regular payments of interest. The Trust is generally required to recognize income on these investments for U.S. federal income tax purposes even though the Trust receives no corresponding interest payment in cash on the investments. As a result, in order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid any U.S. federal income or excise taxes at the Trust level, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount greater than the total amount of interest or other income the Trust actually received. The Trust may be required to, among other things, sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for these income distributions, and may realize gain or loss from such liquidations. In the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

*Deferred Payment Obligations.* Deferred payment securities are securities that remain zero coupon securities until a predetermined date, at which time the stated coupon rate becomes effective and interest becomes payable at regular intervals. Deferred payment securities are subject to greater fluctuations in value and may have lesser liquidity in the event of adverse market conditions than comparably rated securities paying cash interest at regular interest payment periods. Because, during the period before interest payments begin on deferred payment securities, the Trust will not receive cash payments on a current basis in respect of income it is required to recognize on these securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount greater than the total amount of interest and other income the Trust actually received, in order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid any U.S. federal income or excise taxes at the Trust level. The Trust may be required to, among other things, sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for these income distributions, and may realize gain or loss from such liquidations. In the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

*Derivative Transactions.* In addition to the credit and senior loan based derivatives discussed above the Trust may, but is not required to, use various Derivative Transactions described below to earn income, facilitate

portfolio management and mitigate risks. Such Derivative Transactions are generally accepted under modern portfolio management theory and are regularly used by many mutual funds and other institutional investors. Although the Investment Adviser seeks to use the practices to further the Trust's investment objectives, no assurance can be given that these practices will achieve this result. With changes in the market or the Investment Adviser's strategy, it is possible that these instruments may be a more significant part of the Trust's investment approach in the future.

The Trust may purchase and sell derivative instruments such as exchange-listed and over-the-counter put and call options on securities, financial futures, equity, fixed-income and interest rate indices, and other financial instruments, purchase and sell financial futures contracts and options thereon, enter into various interest rate transactions such as swaps, caps, floors or collars and enter into various currency transactions such as currency forward contracts, currency futures contracts, currency swaps or options on currency or currency futures or credit transactions and credit default swaps. The Trust also may purchase derivative instruments that combine features of these instruments. The Trust generally seeks to use Derivative Transactions as a portfolio management or hedging technique to seek to protect against possible adverse changes in the market value of senior loans or other securities held in or to be purchased for the Trust's investment portfolio, protect the value of the Trust's investment portfolio, facilitate the sale of certain securities for investment purposes, manage the effective interest rate exposure of the Trust, protect against changes in currency exchange rates, manage the effective maturity or duration of the Trust's investment portfolio, or establish positions in the derivatives markets as a temporary substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities.

Derivative Transactions have risks, including the imperfect correlation between the value of such instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the other party to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative instruments. Furthermore, the ability to use Derivative Transactions successfully depends on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements, which cannot be assured. Thus, the use of Derivative Transactions may result in losses greater than if they had not been used, may require the Trust to sell or purchase portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, may limit the amount of appreciation the Trust can realize on an investment, or may cause the Trust to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. The use of currency transactions can result in the Trust incurring losses as a result of the imposition of exchange controls, suspension of settlements or the inability of the Trust to deliver or receive a specified currency. Additionally, amounts paid by the Trust as premiums and cash or other assets held in margin accounts with respect to Derivative Transactions are not otherwise available to the Trust for investment purposes. In addition, the Trust's Derivative Transactions are generally subject to numerous special and complex tax rules. Because the tax rules applicable to such transactions may be uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future IRS guidance with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether the Trust has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements, to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Therefore, the Trust's investments in derivative instruments may be limited by these or other U.S. federal income tax considerations.

Recently enacted legislation provides for new regulation of certain portions of the derivatives market, including clearing, margin, reporting, recordkeeping, and registration requirements. Because the legislation leaves much to rule making, its ultimate impact remains unclear. New regulations could, among other things, restrict the Trust's ability to engage in derivatives transactions (for example, by making certain types of derivatives transactions no longer available to the Trust) and/or increase the costs of such derivatives transactions (for example, by increasing margin or capital requirements), and the Trust may be unable to execute its investment strategy as a result.

A more complete discussion of Derivative Transactions and their risks is contained in the Statement of Additional Information.

*Other Derivatives; Future Developments.* The above discussion relates to the Trust's proposed use of certain types of derivatives currently available. However, the Trust is not limited to the transactions described above. In addition, the relevant markets and related regulations are constantly changing and, in the future, the Trust may use derivatives not currently available or widely in use.

*Swaps.* Swap contracts may be purchased or sold to obtain investment exposure and/or to hedge against fluctuations in securities prices, currencies, interest rates or market conditions, to change the duration of the overall portfolio or to mitigate default risk. In a standard "swap" transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) on different currencies, securities, baskets of currencies or securities, indices or other instruments, which returns are calculated with respect to a "notional value," *i.e.*, the designated reference amount of exposure to the underlying instruments. The Trust intends to enter into swaps primarily on a net basis, *i.e.*, the two payment streams are netted out, with the Trust receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. If the other party to a swap contract entered into on net basis defaults, the Trust's risk of loss will consist of the net amount of payments that the Trust is contractually entitled to receive. The net amount of the excess, if any, of the Trust's obligations over its entitlements will be maintained in a segregated account by the Trust's custodian. The Trust will not enter into a swap agreement unless the claims-paying ability of the other party thereto is considered to be an acceptable credit risk to the Trust by the Investment Adviser. If there is a default by the other party to such a transaction, the Trust will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. Swap instruments are not exchange-listed securities and may be traded only in the over-the-counter market.

*Interest Rate Swaps.* Interest rate swaps involve the exchange by the Trust with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (*e.g.*, an exchange of fixed rate payments for floating rate payments). The Trust may use interest rate swaps for risk management purposes and as a speculative investment.

*Total Return Swaps.* Total return swaps are contracts in which one party agrees to make payments of the total return from the designated underlying asset(s), which may include securities, baskets of securities, or securities indices, during the specified period, in return for receiving payments equal to a fixed or floating rate of interest or the total return from the other designated underlying asset(s). The Trust may use total return swaps for risk management purposes and as a speculative investment.

*Currency Swaps.* Currency swaps involve the exchange of the two parties' respective commitments to pay or receive fluctuations with respect to a notional amount of two different currencies (*e.g.*, an exchange of payments with respect to fluctuations in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the Japanese yen). The Trust may enter into currency swap contracts and baskets thereof for risk management purposes and as a speculative investment.

*Short Sales.* The Trust may attempt to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of its portfolio securities through short sales of securities that the Investment Adviser believes possess volatility characteristics similar to those being hedged. In addition, the Trust intends to use short sales for non-hedging purposes to pursue its investment objectives. Subject to the requirements of the Investment Company Act and the Code, the Trust will not make a short sale if, after giving effect to such sale, the market value of all securities sold short by the Trust exceeds 25% of the value of its total assets. The Trust may make short sales "against the box" (as described below) without respect to such limitations.

A short sale is a transaction in which the Trust sells a security it does not own in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. When the Trust makes a short sale, it must borrow the security sold short from a broker-dealer and deliver it to the buyer upon conclusion of the sale. The Trust may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and is often obligated to pay over any payments received on such borrowed securities.

The Trust's obligation to replace the borrowed security will be secured by collateral deposited with the broker-dealer, usually cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities. The Trust will also be required to designate on its books and records similar collateral with its custodian to the extent, if any, necessary so that the aggregate collateral value is at all times at least equal to the current market value of the security sold short. Depending on arrangements made with the broker-dealer from which it borrowed the security regarding payment over of any payments received by the Trust on such security, the Trust may not receive any payments (including interest) on its collateral deposited with such broker-dealer.

If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Trust replaces the borrowed security, the Trust will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Trust will realize a gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. Although the Trust's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is unlimited.

The Trust may also sell a security short if it owns at least an equal amount of the security sold short or another security convertible or exchangeable for an equal amount of the security sold short without payment of further compensation (a short sale against the box). In a short sale against the box, the short seller is exposed to the risk of being forced to deliver stocks that it holds to close the position if the borrowed stock is called in by the lender, which would cause gain or loss to be recognized on the delivered stock. The Trust expects normally to close its short sales against the box by delivering newly acquired stock.

Purchasing securities to close out the short position can itself cause the price of the securities to rise further, thereby exacerbating the loss. Short-selling exposes the Trust to unlimited risk with respect to that security due to the lack of an upper limit on the price to which an instrument can rise. Although the Trust reserves the right to utilize short sales, and currently intends to utilize short sales, the Investment Adviser is under no obligation to utilize short sales at all. Special tax considerations will apply to the Trust's short sales. See "Tax Matters" below.

*Capital Structure Arbitrage.* Capital structure arbitrage typically involves establishing long and short positions in securities (or their derivatives) at different tiers within an issuer's capital structure in ratios designed to maintain a generally neutral overall exposure to the issuer while exploiting a pricing inefficiency. Some issuers may also have more than one class of shares or an equivalent vehicle that trades in a different market (e.g., European equities and their American Depositary Receipt counterparts). This strategy seeks to profit from the disparity in prices between the various related securities in anticipation that over time all tiers and classes will become more efficiently priced relative to one another.

*Pair Trades.* Pair trades involve the establishment of a long position in one security and a short position in another security at the same time. A pair trade attempts to minimize the effect of larger market trends and emphasizes the performance of one security relative to another.

*Repurchase Agreements.* The Trust may invest up to 33 1/3% of its assets in repurchase agreements. It may enter into repurchase agreements with broker-dealers, member banks of the Federal Reserve System and other financial institutions. Repurchase agreements are loans or arrangements under which the Trust purchases securities and the seller agrees to repurchase the securities within a specific time and at a specific price. The repurchase price is generally higher than the Trust's purchase price, with the difference being income to the Trust. Under the direction of the Board, the Investment Adviser reviews and monitors the creditworthiness of any institution which enters into a repurchase agreement with the Trust. The counterparty's obligations under the repurchase agreement are collateralized with U.S. Treasury and/or agency obligations with a market value of not less than 100% of the obligations, valued daily. Collateral is held by the Trust's custodian in a segregated, safekeeping account for the benefit of the Trust. Repurchase agreements afford the Trust an opportunity to earn income on temporarily available cash at relatively low risk. In the event of commencement of bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings with respect to the seller of the security before repurchase of the security under a

repurchase agreement, the Trust may encounter delay and incur costs before being able to sell the security. Such a delay may involve loss of interest or a decline in price of the security. If the court characterizes the transaction as a loan and the Trust has not perfected a security interest in the security, the Trust may be required to return the security to the seller's estate and be treated as an unsecured creditor of the seller. As an unsecured creditor, the Trust would be at risk of losing some or all of the principal and interest involved in the transaction.

*Reverse Repurchase Agreements.* A reverse repurchase agreement is an investment technique under which the Trust sells an underlying debt security and simultaneously obtains the commitment of the purchaser (generally, a commercial bank or a broker or dealer) to sell the security back to the Trust at an agreed upon price on an agreed upon date. The repurchase price is generally higher than the Trust's sale price. Reverse repurchase agreements could involve certain risks in the event of default or insolvency of the other party, including possible delays or restrictions upon the Trust's ability to dispose of the underlying securities. An additional risk is that the market value of securities sold by the Trust under a reverse repurchase agreement could decline below the price at which the Trust is obligated to repurchase them. Reverse repurchase agreements will be considered borrowings by the Trust and as such would be subject to any restrictions on borrowing.

Reverse repurchase agreements are also generally subject to earmarking and coverage requirements, with the result that the Trust will designate on its books and records on an ongoing basis cash, U.S. government securities, or other liquid securities in an amount at least equal to the Trust's obligations under the reverse repurchase agreement.

*Restricted and Illiquid Securities.* Certain of the Trust's investments may be illiquid. Illiquid securities are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on disposition or lack an established secondary trading market. The sale of restricted and illiquid securities often requires more time and results in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses than does the sale of securities eligible for trading on national securities exchanges or in the over-the-counter markets. Restricted securities may sell at a price lower than similar securities that are not subject to restrictions on resale.

*Pay-in-kind (PIK) Securities.* PIK securities are securities which pay interest through the issuance of additional debt or equity securities. Similar to zero coupon obligations, PIK securities also carry additional risk as holders of these types of securities realize no cash until the cash payment date unless a portion of such securities is sold. If the issuer defaults, the Trust may obtain no return at all on its investment. The market price of PIK securities is affected by interest rate changes to a greater extent, and therefore tends to be more volatile, than that of securities which pay interest in cash. Additionally, the Trust may be required to recognize income on certain PIK securities for U.S. federal income tax purposes even though the Trust receives no corresponding interest payment in cash on the investments. As a result, in order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid any U.S. federal income or excise taxes at the Trust level, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount greater than the total amount of interest or other income the Trust actually received. The Trust may be required to, among other things, sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for these income distributions, and may realize gain or loss from such liquidations. In the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

*When-Issued, Delayed-Delivery and Forward Commitment Purchases.* The Trust may purchase securities on a "when-issued" basis and may purchase or sell securities on a "forward commitment" basis in order to acquire the security or to offset against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices. When such transactions are negotiated, the price, which is generally expressed in yield terms, is fixed at the time the commitment is made, but delivery and payment for the securities take place at a later date. When-issued securities and forward commitments may be sold prior to the settlement date, but the Trust will enter into when-issued and forward

commitments only with the intention of actually receiving or delivering the securities, as the case may be. If the Trust disposes of the right to acquire a when-issued security prior to its acquisition or disposes of its right to deliver or receive against a forward commitment, it might incur a gain or loss. At the time the Trust enters into a transaction on a when-issued or forward commitment basis, it will designate on its books and records cash or liquid securities equal to at least the value of the when-issued or forward commitment securities. The value of these assets will be monitored daily to ensure that their marked to market value will at all times equal or exceed the corresponding obligations of the Trust. There is always a risk that the securities may not be delivered and that the Trust may incur a loss. Settlements in the ordinary course, which may take substantially more than five business days, are not treated by the Trust as when-issued or forward commitment transactions and accordingly are not subject to the foregoing restrictions.

*Lending of Assets.* Under the Trust's current securities lending agreement, the Trust may lend up to 33 1/3% of its portfolio securities to financial institutions on an approved list of borrowers. The agreement requires that the loans be secured continuously by collateral maintained on a current basis at an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. The Trust generally accepts cash (U.S. and foreign currency), securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, or sovereign debt as collateral for these lending transactions, although in the future, it may accept other types of collateral. The Trust continues to receive the equivalent of the interest or dividends paid by the issuer on the securities loaned as well as the benefit of an increase and the detriment of any decrease in the market value of the securities loaned and would also receive compensation based on investment of the collateral. The Trust would not, however, have the right to vote any securities having voting rights during the existence of the loan, but would have the right to call the loan in anticipation of an important vote to be taken among holders of the securities or of the giving or withholding of consent on a material matter affecting the investment (although it may not always be able to call the loan in time to vote or consent, or may choose not to for various reasons).

As with other extensions of credit, there are risks of delay in recovery or even loss of rights in the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. In addition, any income or gains and losses from investing and reinvesting any cash collateral delivered by a borrower pursuant to a loan are generally at the Trust's risk, and to the extent any such losses reduce the amount of cash below the amount required to be returned to the borrower upon the termination of any loan, the Trust may be required to pay or cause to be paid to such borrower or another entity an amount equal to such shortfall in cash.

*Non-U.S. Securities.* The Trust may invest without limit in Non-U.S. Securities, which may include securities denominated in U.S. dollars or in non-U.S. currencies or multinational currency units. The Trust may invest in Non-U.S. Securities of so-called emerging market issuers. The Trust does not currently expect to invest more than 15%, but may invest up to 20%, of its assets in emerging market issuers. For purposes of the Trust, a company is deemed to be a non-U.S. company if it meets any of the following tests: (i) such company was not organized in the United States; (ii) such company's primary business office is not in the United States; (iii) the principal trading market for such company's securities is not located in the United States; (iv) less than 50% of such company's assets are located in the United States; or (v) 50% or more of such issuer's revenues are derived from outside the United States. Non-U.S. securities markets generally are not as developed or efficient as those in the United States. Securities of some non-U.S. issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Similarly, volume and liquidity in most non-U.S. securities markets are less than in the United States and, at times, volatility of price can be greater than in the United States. In addition, certain investments in Non-U.S. Securities may be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains or other income. Those taxes will reduce the Trust's yield on any such securities. See "Tax Matters" below.

Because evidences of ownership of such securities usually are held outside the United States, the Trust would be subject to additional risks if it invested in Non-U.S. Securities, which include possible adverse political

and economic developments, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits and adoption of governmental restrictions which might adversely affect or restrict the payment of principal and interest on the Non-U.S. Securities to investors located outside the country of the issuer, whether from currency blockage or otherwise.

Since Non-U.S. Securities may be purchased with and payable in foreign currencies, the value of these assets as measured in U.S. dollars may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency rates and exchange control regulations.

*Options.* An option on a security is a contract that gives the holder of the option, in return for a premium, the right to buy from (in the case of a call) or sell to (in the case of a put) the writer of the option the security underlying the option at a specified exercise or “strike” price. The writer of an option on a security has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the underlying security upon payment of the exercise price or to pay the exercise price upon delivery of the underlying security. Certain options, known as “American style” options, may be exercised at any time during the term of the option. Other options, known as “European style” options, may be exercised only on the expiration date of the option.

If an option written by the Trust expires unexercised, the Trust realizes on the expiration date a capital gain equal to the premium received by the Trust at the time the option was written. If an option purchased by the Trust expires unexercised, the Trust realizes a capital loss equal to the premium paid. Prior to the earlier of exercise or expiration, an exchange-traded option may be closed out by an offsetting purchase or sale of an option of the same series (type, underlying security, exercise price and expiration). There can be no assurance, however, that a closing purchase or sale transaction can be effected when or at the price the Trust desires. The Trust may sell put or call options it has previously purchased, which could result in a net gain or loss depending on whether the amount realized on the sale is more or less than the premium and other transaction costs paid on the put or call option when purchased. The Trust will realize a capital gain from a closing purchase transaction if the cost of the closing option is less than the premium received from writing the option, or, if it is more, the Trust will realize a capital loss. If the premium received from a closing sale transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option, the Trust will realize a capital gain or, if it is less, the Trust will realize a capital loss.

*Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.* The sale of a futures contract creates an obligation by the Trust, as seller, to deliver the specific type of financial instrument called for in the contract at a specified future time for a specified price. Options on futures contracts are similar to options on securities except that an option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right in return for the premium paid to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put).

At the time a futures contract is purchased or sold, the Trust must allocate cash or securities as a deposit payment (“initial margin”). It is expected that the initial margin that the Trust will pay may range from approximately 1% to approximately 5% of the value of the securities or commodities underlying the contract. In certain circumstances, however, such as periods of high volatility, the Trust may be required by an exchange to increase the level of its initial margin payment. Additionally, initial margin requirements may be increased generally in the future by regulatory action. An outstanding futures contract is valued daily and the payment in case of “variation margin” may be required, a process known as “marking to the market.” Transactions in listed options and futures are usually settled by entering into an offsetting transaction, and are subject to the risk that the position may not be able to be closed if no offsetting transaction can be arranged.

*Forward Foreign Currency Contracts.* The Trust may enter into forward currency contracts to purchase or sell foreign currencies for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars or another foreign currency. A forward currency contract involves an obligation to purchase or sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the forward currency contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time the forward currency contract is entered into. Forward currency contracts are traded directly between currency traders (usually large commercial banks) and their customers.

*Short-Term Debt Securities; Temporary Defensive Position; Invest-Up Period.* During the period in which the net proceeds of this offering of common shares are being invested, during periods of adverse market conditions, during periods in which the Investment Adviser determines that it is temporarily unable to follow the Trust's investment strategy or that it would not be in the best interest of the Trust to do so or pending reinvestment of proceeds received in connection with the sale of a portfolio security or the issuance of additional securities or borrowing money by the Trust, all or any portion of the Trust's assets may be invested in cash or cash equivalents. The Investment Adviser's determination that it is temporarily unable to follow the Trust's investment strategy or that it is impractical to do so will generally occur only in situations in which a market disruption event has occurred and where trading in the securities selected through application of the Trust's investment strategy is extremely limited or absent. In such a case, the market price of the Trust's securities may be adversely affected, and the Trust may not pursue or achieve its investment objectives.

### **Use of Leverage**

As provided in the Investment Company Act and subject to certain exceptions, the Trust may issue debt or preferred shares with the condition that immediately after issuance the value of its total assets, less certain ordinary course liabilities, exceed 300% of the amount of the debt outstanding and exceed 200% of the sum of the amount of debt and preferred shares outstanding.

Thus, the Trust may use leverage in the form of borrowings in an amount up to 33 1/3% of the Trust's total assets (including the proceeds of such leverage) and may use leverage in the form of preferred shares in an amount up to 50% of the Trust's total assets (including the proceeds of such leverage). The total leverage of the Trust is currently expected to range between 25% and 30% of the Trust's total assets. The Trust seeks a leverage ratio, based on a variety of factors including market conditions and the Investment Adviser's market outlook, for which the rate of return, net of applicable Trust expenses, on the Trust's portfolio investments purchased with leverage exceeds the costs associated with such leverage.

The Trust, as of March 15, 2018, was leveraged through borrowings from a committed facility with BNP with a total commitment of \$135,000,000. As of March 15, 2018, the Trust had drawn \$117,283,257 on the committed facility. In addition, the Trust intends to leverage its portfolio through a master repurchase agreement entered into with BNP Securities on November 16, 2017, as amended, that allows the Trust to enter into reverse repurchase transactions from time to time pursuant to the terms of the master repurchase agreement. On February 16, 2018, the Trust, and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, NREC and NREO, entered into a \$36.5 million bridge credit agreement with KeyBank National Association. As of March 15, 2018, The Trust had drawn \$20,000,000 on the bridge facility. The Trust's asset coverage ratio as of March 15, 2018 was 485%. See "Principal Risks of the Trust — Leverage Risk" for a brief description of the Trust's committed facility, master repurchase agreement and bridge credit agreement.

Following the completion of an Offering, the Trust may increase the amount of leverage outstanding. The Trust may engage in additional borrowings, issue notes, or issue preferred shares in order to maintain the Trust's desired leverage ratio. While the Trust has no present intention to issue preferred shares within the next twelve months, if an attractive preferred shares financing opportunity were to come to the Trust's attention during that period, the Trust may consider that opportunity. Leverage creates a greater risk of loss, as well as a potential for more gain, for the common shares than if leverage were not used. Interest on borrowings (or dividends on preferred shares) may be at a fixed or floating rate and generally will be based on short-term rates. The costs associated with the Trust's use of leverage, including the issuance of such leverage and the payment of dividends or interest on such leverage, will be borne entirely by the holders of common shares. As long as the rate of return, net of applicable Trust expenses, on the Trust's portfolio investments purchased with leverage exceeds the costs associated with such leverage, the Trust will generate more return or income than will be needed to pay such

costs. In this event, the excess will be available to pay higher dividends to holders of common shares. Conversely, if the Trust's return on such assets is less than the cost of leverage and other Trust expenses, the return to the holders of the common shares will diminish. To the extent that the Trust uses leverage, the net asset value and market price of the common shares and the yield to holders of common shares will be more volatile. The Trust's leveraging strategy may not be successful. See "Principal Risks of the Trust—Leverage Risk."

Assuming the utilization of leverage in the amount of 20% of the Trust's total assets and an annual interest rate of 3.05% payable on such leverage based on market rates as of March 15, 2018, the additional income that the Trust must earn (net of expenses) in order to cover such leverage is 0.76% of NAV. Actual costs of leverage may be higher or lower than that assumed in the previous example.

The following table is designed to illustrate the effect on the return to a holder of the Trust's common shares of leverage in the amount of approximately 25% of the Trust's total assets, assuming hypothetical annual returns of the Trust's investment portfolio of minus 10% to plus 10%. As the table shows, leverage generally increases the return to holders of common shares when portfolio return is positive and greater than the cost of leverage and decreases the return when the portfolio return is negative or less than the cost of leverage. The figures appearing in the table are hypothetical and actual returns may be greater or less than those appearing in the table.

<b>Assumed return on portfolio (net of expenses)</b> . . . . .	-10%	-5%	0%	5%	10%
<b>Corresponding return to common stockholder</b> . . . . .	-13.3%	-7.0%	-0.8%	5.5%	11.7%

## **Principal Risks of the Trust**

The following is a description of the principal risks associated with an investment in the Trust's common shares specifically, as well as those risks generally associated with investment in a company with investment objectives, investment policies, capital structure or trading markets similar to the Trust. Given the risks described below, an investment in the common shares of the Trust may not be appropriate for all investors. You should carefully consider your ability to assume these risks before making an investment in common shares of the Trust.

### **INVESTMENT AND MARKET DISCOUNT RISK**

An investment in the Trust's common shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire amount that you invest. As with any stock, the price of the Trust's shares fluctuates with market conditions and other factors. If common shares are sold, the price received may be more or less than the original investment. Shares of closed-end management investment companies frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. The Trust's common shares may trade at a price that is less than the offering price. This risk may be greater for investors who sell their shares in a relatively short period of time after completion of an Offering. Common shares are designed for long-term investors and should not be treated as trading vehicles.

### **REIT-SPECIFIC RISK**

REITs may be affected by changes in the real estate markets generally as well as changes in the values of the properties owned by the REIT or securing the mortgages owned by the REIT (which changes in value could be influenced by market conditions for real estate in general or fluctuations in the value of rights to natural resources appurtenant to the property held by the REIT). REITs are dependent upon management skill and are not diversified. REITs are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the possibility of failing to qualify for special tax treatment under the Code and to maintain an exemption under the Investment Company Act. For example, because a REIT may acquire debt securities of issuers primarily engaged in or related to the real estate industry, it also could conceivably own real estate directly as a result of a default on such securities. Any rental income or income from the disposition of such real estate could adversely affect its ability to retain its tax status, which would have adverse tax consequences on its shareholders. Finally, certain REITs may be self-liquidating at the end of a specified term, and run the risk of liquidating at an economically inopportune time.

We intend to form one or more subsidiaries that will elect to be taxed as REITs beginning with the first year in which they commence material operations. In order for each subsidiary to qualify and maintain its qualification as a REIT, it must satisfy certain requirements set forth in the Code and Treasury Regulations that depend on various factual matters and circumstances. The Trust and the Investment Adviser intend to structure each REIT subsidiary and its activities in a manner designed to satisfy all of these requirements. However, the application of such requirements is not entirely clear, and it is possible that the IRS may interpret or apply those requirements in a manner that jeopardizes the ability of such REIT subsidiary to satisfy all of the requirements for qualification as a REIT.

If a REIT subsidiary fails to qualify as a REIT for any taxable year and it does not qualify for certain statutory relief provisions, it will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income at corporate rates. In addition, it will generally be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year of losing its REIT status. Losing its REIT status will reduce its net earnings available for investment or distribution to stockholders because of the additional tax liability. In addition, distributions to stockholders will no longer qualify for the dividends paid deduction, and the REIT subsidiary will no longer be required to make distributions. If this occurs, such REIT subsidiary might be required to borrow funds or liquidate some investments in order to pay the applicable tax.

To obtain the favorable tax treatment afforded to REITs under the Code, each REIT subsidiary generally will be required each year to distribute to its stockholders at least 90% of its REIT taxable income determined

without regard to the dividends-paid deduction and excluding net capital gain. To the extent that it does not distribute all of its net capital gains, or distributes at least 90%, but less than 100%, of its REIT taxable income, as adjusted, it will have to pay tax on amounts retained at regular ordinary and capital gains corporate tax rates. Furthermore, if it fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of its ordinary income for that year, (b) 95% of its capital gain net income for that year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, it would have to pay a 4% nondeductible excise tax on the excess of the amounts required to be distributed over the sum of (a) the amounts that it actually distributed and (b) the amounts it retained and upon which it paid income tax at the corporate level. These requirements could cause it to distribute amounts that otherwise would be spent on investments in real estate assets, and it is possible that the REIT subsidiary might be required to borrow funds, possibly at unfavorable rates, or sell assets to fund the required distributions.

## **INTEREST RATE RISK**

Interest rate risk is the risk that debt securities, and the Trust's net assets, may decline in value because of changes in interest rates. Generally, debt securities will decrease in value when interest rates rise and increase in value when interest rates decline. This means that the net asset value of the common shares will fluctuate with interest rate changes and the corresponding changes in the value of the Trust's debt security holdings. To the extent the Trust invests in longer duration fixed rate debt securities, the Trust is subject to greater interest rate risk than funds investing solely in shorter-term fixed-rate debt securities. Interest rate risk may be heightened when interest rates are below or significantly below historical averages. As of the date of this prospectus, interest rates in the U.S. are at or near historically low levels, increasing the exposure of debt securities to the risks associated with rising interest rates. Rising market interest rates could have unpredictable effects on the markets and may expose fixed-income and related markets to heightened volatility. Recent and potential future changes in government policy may affect interest rates. In addition, in a period of rising interest rates, the higher cost of any leverage employed by the Trust and/or increasing defaults by issuers of high yield securities would likely exacerbate any decline in the Trust's NAV.

Duration is a measure used to determine the sensitivity of a security's price to changes in interest rates that incorporates a security's yield, coupon, final maturity and call features, among other characteristics. Duration is useful primarily as a measure of the sensitivity of a fixed income security's market price to interest rate (i.e. yield) movements. All other things remaining equal, for each one percentage point increase in interest rates, the value of a portfolio of fixed income investments would generally be expected to decline by one percent for every year of the portfolio's average duration above zero. For example, the value of a portfolio of fixed income securities with an average duration of three years would generally be expected to decline by approximately 3% if interest rates rose by one percentage point.

## **PREPAYMENT RISK**

If interest rates fall, the principal on bonds and loans held by the Trust may be paid earlier than expected. If this happens, the proceeds from a prepaid security may be reinvested by the Trust in securities bearing lower interest rates, resulting in a possible decline in the Trust's income and distributions to shareholders. The Trust may invest in pools of mortgages or other assets issued or guaranteed by private issuers or U.S. government agencies and instrumentalities. Mortgage-related securities are especially sensitive to prepayment risk because borrowers often refinance their mortgages when interest rates decline.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN HIGH-YIELD SECURITIES**

A substantial portion of the Trust's investments will consist of investments that may generally be characterized as "high-yield securities" or "junk securities," and the Trust may invest without limit in such securities. Such securities are typically rated below investment grade by one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations or are unrated but of comparable credit quality to obligations rated below investment grade, and have greater credit and liquidity risk than more highly rated obligations. High-yield securities are generally unsecured and may be subordinate to other obligations of the obligor. The lower rating of

high-yield securities reflects a greater possibility that adverse changes in the financial condition of the issuer or in general economic conditions (including, for example, a substantial period of rising interest rates or declining earnings) or both may impair the ability of the issuer to make payment of principal and interest. Many issuers of high-yield securities are highly leveraged, and their relatively high debt to equity ratios create increased risks that their operations might not generate sufficient cash flow to service their obligations. Overall declines in the high-yield bond and other markets may adversely affect such issuers by inhibiting their ability to refinance their obligations at maturity.

High-yield securities are often issued in connection with leveraged acquisitions or recapitalizations in which the issuers incur a substantially higher amount of indebtedness than the level at which they had previously operated. High-yield securities that are debt instruments have historically experienced greater default rates than has been the case for investment grade securities. The Trust may also invest in equity securities issued by entities whose obligations are unrated or are rated below investment grade.

The Trust is authorized to invest in obligations of issuers that are generally trading at significantly higher yields than had been historically typical of the applicable issuer's obligations. Such investments may include debt obligations that have a heightened probability of being in covenant or payment default in the future. Such investments generally are considered highly speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result in only partial recovery of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted security for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or highly speculative.

High-yield securities purchased by the Trust are subject to certain additional risks to the extent that such obligations may be unsecured and subordinated to substantial amounts of senior indebtedness, all or a significant portion of which may be secured. Moreover, such obligations purchased by the Trust may not be protected by financial covenants or limitations upon additional indebtedness and are unlikely to be secured by collateral.

## **ILLIQUIDITY OF INVESTMENTS**

The investments made by the Trust may be very illiquid, and consequently, the Trust may not be able to sell such investments at prices that reflect the Investment Adviser's assessment of their fair value or the amount paid for such investments by the Trust. An inability to sell a portfolio position can adversely affect the Trust's value or prevent the Trust from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities. Illiquidity may result from the absence of an established market for the investments as well as legal, contractual or other restrictions on their resale by the Trust and other factors. Furthermore, the nature of the Trust's investments, especially those in financially stressed and distressed companies, may require a long holding period prior to being able to determine whether the investment will be profitable or not. There is no limit on the amount of the Trust's investment portfolio that can be invested in illiquid securities.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN SENIOR LOANS**

Senior loans, such as bank loans, are typically at the most senior level of the capital structure, and are sometimes secured by specific collateral, including, but not limited to, trademarks, patents, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment, buildings, real estate, franchises and common and preferred stock of the obligor or its affiliates. A portion of the Trust's investments may consist of loans and participations therein originated by banks and other financial institutions, typically referred to as "bank loans." The Trust's investments may include loans of a type generally incurred by borrowers in connection with highly leveraged transactions, often to finance internal growth, acquisitions, mergers or stock purchases, or for other reasons. As a result of the additional debt incurred by the borrower in the course of the transaction, the borrower's creditworthiness is often judged by the rating agencies to be below investment grade. Such loans are typically private corporate loans negotiated by one or more commercial banks or financial institutions and syndicated among a group of commercial banks and

financial institutions. In order to induce the lenders to extend credit and to offer a favorable interest rate, the borrower often provides the lenders with extensive information about its business that is not generally available to the public. To the extent the Trust receives material non-public information, it may be prohibited from trading in certain securities, even when it might otherwise be beneficial to do so.

Bank loans often, but not always, contain restrictive covenants designed to limit the activities of the borrower in an effort to protect the right of lenders to receive timely payments of principal and interest. Such covenants may include restrictions on distribution payments, specific mandatory minimum financial ratios, limits on total debt and other financial tests. Bank loans usually have shorter terms than subordinated obligations and may require mandatory prepayments from excess cash flow, asset dispositions and offerings of debt and/or equity securities. The bank loans and other debt obligations to be acquired by the Trust are likely to be below investment grade.

The Trust may acquire interests in bank loans and other debt obligations either directly (by way of sale or assignment) or indirectly (by way of participation). The purchaser of an assignment typically succeeds to all the rights and obligations of the assigning institution and becomes a lender under the credit agreement with respect to the debt obligation; however, its rights can be more restricted than those of the assigning institution, and, in any event, the Trust may not be able unilaterally to enforce all rights and remedies under the loan and any associated collateral. A participation interest in a portion of a debt obligation typically results in a contractual relationship only with the institution participating out the interest, not with the borrower. In purchasing participations, the Trust generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the loan agreement or any rights of setoff against the borrower, and the Trust may not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the debt obligation in which it has purchased the participation. As a result, the Trust will be exposed to the credit risk of both the borrower and the institution selling the participation.

Purchasers of bank loans are predominantly commercial banks, investment funds and investment banks. As secondary market trading volumes increase, new bank loans frequently adopt standardized documentation to facilitate loan trading, which the Investment Adviser believes should improve market liquidity. However, no active trading market may exist for certain senior loans, which may impair the ability of the Trust to realize full value in the event of the need to liquidate such assets. Adverse market conditions may impair the liquidity of some actively traded senior loans. In addition, future levels of supply and demand in bank loan trading may not provide an adequate degree of liquidity and the current level of liquidity may not continue. Because of the provision to holders of such loans of confidential information relating to the borrower, the unique and customized nature of the loan agreement, the limited universe of eligible purchasers and the private syndication of the loan, bank loans are not as easily purchased or sold as a publicly-traded security.

As with any debt instrument, senior loans are generally subject to the risk of price declines and to increases in interest rates, particularly long-term rates. Senior loans are also subject to the risk that, as interest rates rise, the cost of borrowing increases, which may increase the risk of default. In addition, the interest rates of floating rate loans typically only adjust to changes in short-term interest rates; long-term interest rates can vary dramatically from short-term interest rates. Therefore, senior loans may not mitigate price declines in a rising long-term interest rate environment. Declines in interest rates may increase prepayments of debt obligations and require the Trust to invest assets at lower yields.

## **LEGISLATION RISK**

To the extent that legislation or state or federal regulators impose additional requirements or restrictions with respect to the ability of financial institutions to make loans in connection with highly leveraged transactions, the availability of senior loan interests for investment by the Trust may be adversely affected. In addition, such requirements or restrictions may reduce or eliminate sources of financing for affected borrowers. Further, to the extent that legislation or federal or state regulators require such institutions to dispose of senior loan interests relating to highly leveraged transactions or subject such senior loan interests to increased regulatory scrutiny,

such financial institutions may determine to sell senior loan interests in a manner that results in a price that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, is not indicative of fair value. Were the Trust to attempt to sell a senior loan interest at a time when a financial institution was engaging in such a sale with respect to the senior loan interest, the price at which the Trust could consummate such a sale might be adversely affected.

## **SECOND LIEN LOANS RISK**

Second lien loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans and non-investment grade securities. However, second lien loans are second in right of payment to senior loans and therefore are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior secured obligations of the borrower. Second lien loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in second lien loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

## **OTHER SECURED LOANS RISK**

Secured loans other than senior loans and second lien loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans and non-investment grade securities. However, such loans may rank lower in right of payment than any outstanding senior loans and second lien loans of the borrower and therefore are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and any property securing the loan may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the higher-ranking secured obligations of the borrower. Lower-ranking secured loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans and second lien loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in lower-ranking secured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

## **UNSECURED LOANS RISK**

Unsecured loans are subject to the same risks associated with investment in senior loans, second lien loans, other secured loans and non-investment grade securities. However, because unsecured loans have lower priority in right of payment to any higher ranking obligations of the borrower and are not backed by a security interest in any specific collateral, they are subject to additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and available assets may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to any higher ranking obligations of the borrower. Unsecured loans are expected to have greater price volatility than senior loans, second lien loans and other secured loans and may be less liquid. There is also a possibility that originators will not be able to sell participations in unsecured loans, which would create greater credit risk exposure.

Loans other than senior loans may not be acceptable collateral under the Trust's current credit facility or under any future credit facilities, or may require a higher collateral-to-loan ratio, and therefore to the extent the Trust invests in such loans its ability to borrow may be reduced.

## **CYBER SECURITY RISK**

With the increased use of technologies such as the Internet and the dependence on computer systems to perform necessary business functions, the Trust is susceptible to operational and information security risks. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber attacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems for purposes 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 on websites. Cyber security failures or breaches of the Trust's third party service providers (including, but not limited to the administrator and transfer agent) or the issuers of securities in which the Trust invests, have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Trust

shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cyber incidents in the future. The Trust and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result. While the Trust's service providers may have established business continuity plans and systems designed to prevent such cyber attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified. Furthermore, the Trust cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by issuers in which the Trust invests.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN OBLIGATIONS OF STRESSED, DISTRESSED AND BANKRUPT ISSUERS**

The Trust is authorized to invest in the securities and other obligations of stressed, distressed and bankrupt issuers, including debt obligations that are in covenant or payment default. There is no limit on the amount of the Trust's investment portfolio that can be invested in stressed, distressed or bankrupt issuers, and the Trust may invest for purposes of control. Such investments generally trade significantly below par and are considered highly speculative. The repayment of defaulted obligations is subject to significant uncertainties. Defaulted obligations might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Typically such workout or bankruptcy proceedings result in only partial recoveries, which may be in the form of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted obligation for other debt or equity securities of the issuer or its affiliates, which may in turn be illiquid or highly speculative. It is also possible that there could be limited or no recovery for creditors in a bankruptcy or workout.

There are a number of significant risks inherent in the bankruptcy process, including, without limitation, those set forth in this paragraph. First, many events in a bankruptcy are the product of contested matters and adversary proceedings and are beyond the control of the creditors. While creditors are generally given an opportunity to object to significant actions, a bankruptcy court in the exercise of its broad equitable powers may approve actions that are contrary to the interests of the Trust. Second, a bankruptcy filing by an issuer may adversely and permanently affect the issuer. The issuer may lose its market position and key employees and otherwise become incapable of restoring itself as a viable entity. If for this or any other reason the proceeding is converted to a liquidation, the value of the issuer may not equal the liquidation value that was believed to exist at the time of the investment. Third, the duration of a bankruptcy proceeding is difficult to predict. A creditor's return on investment can be adversely affected by delays while the plan of reorganization is being negotiated (or, in some cases, litigated), approved by the creditors and confirmed by the bankruptcy court and until it ultimately becomes effective. Fourth, the administrative costs in connection with a bankruptcy proceeding are frequently high and would be paid out of the debtor's estate prior to any return to creditors. For example, if a proceeding involves protracted or difficult litigation, or turns into a liquidation, substantial assets may be devoted to administrative costs. Fifth, bankruptcy law permits the classification of "substantially similar" claims in determining the classification of claims in a reorganization. Because the standard for classification is vague, there exists the risk that the Trust's influence with respect to the class of securities or other obligations it owns can be lost by increases in the number and amount of claims in that class or by different classification and treatment. Sixth, in certain circumstances in which the Trust acquires claims against the issuer to obtain a control position with respect to a class or classes of claims, the Trust's influence with respect to all of the class or classes of securities or other obligations it owns can be lost if the bankruptcy court designates the Trust's vote or votes on the Chapter 11 plan as a result of the Trust's claim purchases. Seventh, in the early stages of the bankruptcy process it is often difficult to estimate the extent of, or even to identify, any contingent claims that might be made. Eighth, especially in the case of investments made prior to the commencement of bankruptcy proceedings, creditors can lose their ranking and priority if they exercise "domination and control" over a debtor and other creditors can demonstrate that they have been harmed by such actions. Ninth, certain claims that have priority by law (for example, claims for taxes) may be substantial.

In any investment involving stressed and distressed debt obligations, there exists the risk that the transaction involving such debt obligations will be unsuccessful, take considerable time or will result in a distribution of cash or a new security or obligation in exchange for the stressed and distressed debt obligations, the value of which

may be less than the Trust's purchase price of such debt obligations. Furthermore, if an anticipated transaction does not occur, the Trust may be required to sell its investment at a loss. Given the substantial uncertainties concerning transactions involving stressed and distressed debt obligations in which the Trust invests, there is a potential risk of loss by the Trust of its entire investment in any particular investment.

Investments in companies operating in workout modes or under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code are also, in certain circumstances, subject to certain additional liabilities, which may exceed the value of the Trust's original investment in a company. For example, under certain circumstances, creditors who have inappropriately exercised control over the management and policies of a debtor may have their claims subordinated or disallowed or may be found liable for damages suffered by parties as a result of such actions. The Investment Adviser's active management style may present a greater risk in this area than would a more passive approach. In addition, under certain circumstances, payments to the Trust and distributions by the Trust or payments on the debt may be reclaimed if any such payment is later determined to have been a fraudulent conveyance or a preferential payment.

The Investment Adviser on behalf of the Trust (and its other clients) may participate on committees formed by creditors to negotiate with the management of financially troubled companies that may or may not be in bankruptcy or may negotiate directly with debtors with respect to restructuring issues. If the Trust does choose to join a committee, the Trust would likely be only one of many participants, all of whom would be interested in obtaining an outcome that is in their individual best interests. The Trust may not be successful in obtaining results most favorable to it in such proceedings, although the Trust may incur significant legal and other expenses in attempting to do so. As a result of participation by the Trust on such committees, the Trust may be deemed to have duties to other creditors represented by the committees, which might thereby expose the Trust to liability to such other creditors who disagree with the Trust's actions. Participation by the Trust on such committees may cause the Trust to be subject to certain restrictions on its ability to trade in a particular investment and may also make the Trust an "insider" or an "underwriter" for purposes of the federal securities laws. Either circumstance will restrict the Trust's ability to trade in or acquire additional positions in a particular investment when it might otherwise desire to do so.

Investments in distressed debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present special tax issues for the Trust. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether and to what extent the Trust should recognize "market discount" on certain distressed debt obligations; when the Trust may cease to accrue interest, "original issue discount" or market discount; when and to what extent the Trust may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how the Trust should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by the Trust when, as and if it invests in such obligations, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to maintain its eligibility for treatment as a RIC under the Code and that it does not become subject to Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

## **INSOLVENCY CONSIDERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ISSUERS OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS**

Various laws enacted for the protection of creditors may apply to the debt obligations held by the Trust. The information in this paragraph is applicable with respect to U.S. issuers subject to U.S. bankruptcy laws. Insolvency considerations may differ with respect to other issuers. If a court in a lawsuit brought by an unpaid creditor or representative of creditors of an issuer of a debt obligation, such as a trustee in bankruptcy or a creditors' committee, were to find that the issuer did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for incurring the indebtedness constituting the debt obligation and, after giving effect to such indebtedness, the issuer (i) was insolvent, (ii) was engaged in a business for which the remaining assets of such issuer constituted unreasonably small capital, or (iii) intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond its ability to pay such debts as they mature, such court could determine to invalidate, in whole or in part, such indebtedness as a fraudulent conveyance, to subordinate such indebtedness to existing or future creditors of such issuer, or to recover amounts previously paid by such issuer in satisfaction of such indebtedness.

The measure of insolvency for purposes of the foregoing will vary. Generally, an issuer would be considered insolvent at a particular time if the sum of its debts were then greater than all of its property at a fair valuation, or if the present fair saleable value of its assets was then less than the amount that would be required to pay its probable liabilities on its existing debts as they became absolute and matured. There can be no assurance as to what standard a court would apply in order to determine whether the issuer was “insolvent” after giving effect to the incurrence of the indebtedness constituting the debt obligation or that, regardless of the method of valuation, a court would not determine that the issuer was “insolvent” upon giving effect to such incurrence. In addition, in the event of the insolvency of an issuer of a debt obligation, payments made on such debt obligation could be subject to avoidance as a “preference” if made within a certain period of time (which may be as long as one year) before insolvency. Similarly, a court might apply the doctrine of equitable subordination to subordinate the claim of a lending institution against an issuer, to claims of other creditors of the borrower, when the lending institution, another investor, or any of their transferees, is found to have engaged in unfair, inequitable, or fraudulent conduct. In general, if payments on a debt obligation are avoidable, whether as fraudulent conveyances or preferences, such payments can be recaptured either from the initial recipient (such as the Trust) or from subsequent transferees of such payments (such as the investors in the Trust). To the extent that any such payments are recaptured from the Trust the resulting loss will be borne by the investors. However, a court in a bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding would be able to direct the recapture of any such payment from such a recipient or transferee only to the extent that such court has jurisdiction over such recipient or transferee or its assets. Moreover, it is likely that avoidable payments could not be recaptured directly from any such recipient or transferee that has given value in exchange for its note, in good faith and without knowledge that the payments were avoidable. Although the Investment Adviser will seek to avoid conduct that would form the basis for a successful cause of action based upon fraudulent conveyance, preference or equitable subordination, these determinations are made in hindsight and a court could disagree with the Trust’s position, and, in any event, there can be no assurance as to whether any lending institution or other investor from which the Trust acquired the debt obligations engaged in any such conduct (or any other conduct that would subject the debt obligations and the issuer to insolvency laws) and, if it did, as to whether such creditor claims could be asserted in a U.S. court (or in the courts of any other country) against the Trust.

## **LITIGATION RISK**

The Trust is sometimes subject to legal proceedings and claims based on the securities and instruments in which the Trust invests. Litigation may result in substantial costs and may seriously harm the Trust’s investments and overall financial condition. In addition, legal claims that have not yet been asserted against the Trust may be asserted in the future.

## **LEVERAGE RISK**

When deemed appropriate by the Investment Adviser and subject to applicable regulations, the Trust may use leverage in its investment program, including the use of borrowed funds and investments in certain types of options, such as puts, calls and warrants. While such strategies and techniques increase the opportunity to achieve higher returns on the amounts invested, they also increase the risk of loss. To the extent the Trust purchases securities with borrowed funds, its net assets will tend to increase or decrease at a greater rate than if borrowed funds are not used. The level of interest rates generally, and the rates at which such funds may be borrowed in particular, could affect the operating results of the Trust. If the interest expense on borrowings were to exceed the net return on the portfolio securities purchased with borrowed funds, the Trust’s use of leverage would result in a lower rate of return than if the Trust were not leveraged.

Pursuant to regulations and/or published positions of the Commission, the Trust may be required to earmark liquid assets in an amount equal to the Trust’s daily marked-to-market value of its transactions in futures and options. To maintain this required margin, the Trust may have to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices or times because it may not be possible to liquidate a position at a reasonable price. In addition, the earmarking of such assets will have the effect of limiting the Trust’s ability otherwise to invest those assets.

The Trust also has the ability to use leverage through the issuance of preferred shares, borrowings from a credit facility, issuance of secured notes or other debt securities, or any combination of the three. The Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility, through a master repurchase agreement and through a bridge credit agreement. The use of leverage, which can be described as exposure to changes in price at a ratio greater than the amount of equity invested, either through the issuance of preferred shares, borrowings or other forms of market exposure, magnifies both the favorable and unfavorable effects of price movements in the investments made by the Trust. Insofar as the Trust continues to employ leverage in its investment operations, the Trust will be subject to substantial risks of loss.

Therefore, if the market value of the Trust's investment portfolio declines, any leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to common shareholders than if the Trust were not leveraged. Such greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common shares. Further, if at any time while the Trust has leverage outstanding it does not meet applicable asset coverage requirements (as discussed below), it may be required to suspend distributions to common shareholders until the requisite asset coverage is restored. Any such suspension might impair the ability of the Trust to meet the RIC distribution requirements and to avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

As noted above, the Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility, through a master repurchase agreement and through a bridge credit agreement. The Trust had previously entered into a secured Credit Facility with State Street. Such borrowings constitute financial leverage.

Indebtedness incurred under the Committed Facility is not convertible into any other securities of the Trust. Outstanding amounts would be payable at maturity or such earlier times as required by the Committed Facility agreement. The Trust may be required to prepay outstanding amounts under the Committed Facility or incur a penalty rate of interest in the event of the occurrence of certain events of default. The Committed Facility agreement obligates the Trust to provide certain indemnities to the agent and the lenders and their affiliates. The Trust is required to pay ongoing commitment fees on the undrawn amount under the terms of the Committed Facility agreement. With the use of borrowings, there is a risk that the interest rates paid by the Trust on the amount it borrows will be higher than the return on the Trust's investments. The Committed Facility may in the future be replaced or refinanced by one or more credit facilities having substantially different terms or by the issuance of preferred shares, or the Trust may be unable to renew or replace its Committed Facility upon the termination of the current facilities, possibly requiring it to sell portfolio securities at times or prices that are disadvantageous. Any of these situations could adversely impact income or total return to shareholders.

The Trust must comply with investment quality, diversification and other guidelines established by the Committed Facility agreement. The Trust does not anticipate that such guidelines will have a material adverse effect on the Trust's common shareholders or its ability to achieve its investment objectives.

Successful use of a leveraging strategy may depend on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict correctly interest rates and market movements, and there is no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed.

## **PREFERRED SHARE RISK**

Preferred share risk is the risk associated with the issuance of preferred shares to leverage the common shares. If preferred shares are issued, the net asset value and market value of the common shares will be more volatile, and the yield to the holders of common shares will tend to fluctuate with changes in the shorter-term dividend rates on the preferred shares. The Trust will pay (and the holders of common shares will bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of the preferred shares, including higher advisory fees. Accordingly, the issuance of preferred shares may not result in a higher yield or return to the holders of the common shares. If the dividend rate and other costs of the preferred shares approach the net rate of return on the Trust's investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to the holders of the common shares would be reduced. If the

dividend rate and other costs of the preferred shares exceed the net rate of return on the Trust's investment portfolio, the leverage will result in a lower rate of return to the holders of common shares than if the Trust had not issued preferred shares.

Similarly, any decline in the net asset value of the Trust's investments will be borne entirely by the holders of common shares. Therefore, if the market value of the Trust's investment portfolio declines, the leverage will result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of common shares than if the Trust were not leveraged. This greater net asset value decrease will also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for the common shares. The Trust might be in danger of failing to maintain the required asset coverage of the preferred shares or of losing its ratings on the preferred shares or, in an extreme case, the Trust's current investment income might not be sufficient to meet the dividend requirements on the preferred shares. In order to counteract such an event, the Trust might need to liquidate investments in order to fund a redemption of some or all of the preferred shares. Liquidation at times of low prices may result in capital loss and may reduce returns to the holders of common shares.

If preferred shares are issued, holders of preferred shares may have differing interests than holders of common shares and holders of preferred shares may at times have disproportionate influence over the Trust's affairs. If preferred shares are issued, holders of preferred shares, voting separately as a single class, would have the right to elect two members of the Board at all times. The remaining members of the Board would be elected by holders of common shares and preferred shares, voting as a single class. The Investment Company Act requires that, in addition to any approval by shareholders that might otherwise be required, the approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding preferred shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (i) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the preferred shares and (ii) take any action requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the Investment Company Act, including, among other things, changes in the Trust's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment restrictions.

If the Trust issues preferred shares, the Trust would likely seek a credit rating on the preferred shares from one or more nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The Trust expects that, at anytime when preferred shares were outstanding, the composition of its investment portfolio would reflect guidelines established by any rating agencies, including for example, asset coverage requirements that are more restrictive than those under the Investment Company Act, restrictions on certain portfolio investments and investment practices, requirements that the Trust maintain a portion of its assets in higher rated debt securities and certain mandatory redemption requirements relating to the preferred shares. No assurance can be given that the guidelines actually imposed with respect to preferred shares by rating agencies would be more or less restrictive than these examples. These restrictions may require the Trust to alter its investment strategy and invest in different types of assets some of which may be lower yielding or result in less opportunities for capital appreciation. No minimum rating is required for the issuance of preferred shares by the Trust.

## **COMMON STOCK RISK**

The Trust may invest in common stock. Although investments in common stock have historically generated higher average total returns than fixed income securities over the long-term, investments in common stock also have historically experienced significantly more volatility in those returns. Therefore, the Trust's investments in common stock could result in worse performance than would be the case had the Trust been invested solely in debt securities. An adverse event, such as an unfavorable earnings report, may depress the value of a particular investment in common stock held by the Trust. Also, the price of common stock is sensitive to general movements in the stock market and a drop in the stock market may depress the price of common stock to which the Trust has exposure. Common stock prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, or when political or economic events affecting an issuer occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

## **DIVIDEND RISK**

Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of an issuer's board of directors. There is no guarantee that the issuers of the common stock in which the Trust invests will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, the dividends will remain at current levels or increase over time.

## **SMALL AND MID-CAP SECURITIES RISK**

The Trust may invest in companies with small or medium-sized capitalizations. Securities issued by small and medium-sized companies can be more volatile than, and perform differently from, larger company securities. There may be less trading in a small or medium-sized company's securities, which means that buy and sell transactions in those securities could have a larger impact on the security's price than is the case with larger company securities. Small or medium-sized companies may have fewer business lines; changes in any one line of business, therefore, may have a greater impact on a small or medium-sized company's security price than is the case for a larger company. In addition, small or medium-sized company securities may not be well known to the investing public.

## **NON-U.S. SECURITIES RISK**

The Trust may invest without limit in Non-U.S. Securities. Investing in Non-U.S. Securities involves certain risks not involved in domestic investments, including, but not limited to: (i) fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; (ii) future foreign economic, financial, political and social developments; (iii) different legal systems; (iv) the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions; (v) lower trading volume; (vi) much greater price volatility and illiquidity of certain non-U.S. securities markets; (vii) different trading and settlement practices; (viii) less governmental supervision; (ix) changes in currency exchange rates; (x) high and volatile rates of inflation; (xi) fluctuating interest rates; (xii) less publicly available information; and (xiii) different accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping standards and requirements. In addition, certain investments in Non-U.S. Securities may be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes on interest, dividends, capital gains or other income. Those taxes will reduce the Trust's yield on any such securities. See "Tax Matters" below.

Certain countries in which the Trust may invest, especially emerging market countries, historically have experienced, and may continue to experience, high rates of inflation, high interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations, large amounts of external debt, balance of payments and trade difficulties and extreme poverty and unemployment. Many of these countries are also characterized by political uncertainty and instability. These risks are especially evident in the Middle East and Africa. The cost of servicing external debt will generally be adversely affected by rising international interest rates because many external debt obligations bear interest at rates which are adjusted based upon international interest rates. In addition, with respect to certain foreign countries, there is a risk of: (i) the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets; (ii) confiscatory taxation; (iii) difficulty in obtaining or enforcing a court judgment; (iv) economic, political or social instability; and (v) diplomatic developments that could affect investments in those countries. In addition, individual foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as: (i) growth of gross domestic product; (ii) rates of inflation; (iii) capital reinvestment; (iv) resources; (v) self-sufficiency; and (vi) balance of payments position.

As a result of these potential risks, the Investment Adviser may determine that, notwithstanding otherwise favorable investment criteria, it may not be practicable or appropriate to invest in a particular country. The Trust may invest in countries in which foreign investors, including the Investment Adviser, have had no or limited prior experience.

## **EMERGING MARKETS RISK**

The Trust currently does not expect to invest more than 15%, but may invest up to 20% of its total assets in securities of issuers based in emerging markets. An emerging market country is any country having an economy

and market that are (or would be) considered by the World Bank to be emerging or developing or is listed in the Morgan Stanley Capital International Emerging Markets Index. Emerging market countries are located in regions such as Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southern Europe, Eastern Europe (including the former republics of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc) and Africa. Investing in securities of issuers based in emerging markets entails all of the risks of investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers, but to a heightened degree. These heightened risks include: (i) greater risks of expropriation, confiscatory taxation, nationalization, and less social, political and economic stability; (ii) the smaller size of the markets for such securities and a lower volume of trading, resulting in lack of liquidity and in price volatility; and (iii) certain national policies which may restrict the Trust's investment opportunities including restrictions on investing in issuers or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests.

### **FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK**

Because the Trust may invest in securities denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may affect the value of securities owned by the Trust, the unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments and gains on and income from investments. Currencies of certain countries may be volatile and therefore may affect the value of securities denominated in such currencies, which means that the Trust's net asset value could decline as a result of changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. These risks often are heightened for investments in smaller or emerging capital markets. In addition, the Trust may enter into foreign currency transactions in an attempt to enhance total return, which may further expose the Trust to the risks of foreign currency movements and other risks. The use of foreign currency transactions can result in the Trust incurring losses as a result of the imposition of exchange controls, suspension of settlements or the inability of the Trust to deliver or receive a specified currency.

### **INVESTMENTS IN UNSEASONED COMPANIES**

The Trust may invest in the securities of less seasoned companies. These investments may present greater opportunities for growth, but also involve greater risks than customarily are associated with investments in securities of more established companies. Some of the companies in which the Trust may invest will be start-up companies that may have insubstantial operational or earnings history or may have limited products, markets, financial resources or management depth. Some may also be emerging companies at the research and development stage with no products or technologies to market or approved for marketing. Securities of emerging companies may lack an active secondary market and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than securities of larger, more established companies or stock market averages in general. Competitors of certain companies may have substantially greater financial resources than many of the companies in which the Trust may invest.

### **INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS RISK**

The Trust may invest in shares of companies through initial public offerings ("IPOs"). IPOs and companies that have recently gone public have the potential to produce substantial gains for the Trust. However, the Trust may not have access to or invest in IPOs that are ultimately profitable for investors. The investment performance of the Trust during periods when it is unable to invest significantly or at all in IPOs may be lower than during periods when the Trust is able to do so. Securities issued in IPOs are subject to many of the same risks as investing in companies with smaller market capitalizations. Securities issued in IPOs have no trading history, and information about the companies may be available for limited periods of time. In addition, the prices of securities sold in IPOs may be highly volatile or may decline shortly after the IPO.

### **SECURITIES LENDING RISK**

Under the Trust's current securities lending agreement, the Trust may lend its portfolio securities (up to a maximum of one-third of its total assets) to financial institutions on an approved list of borrowers. Securities

lending is subject to the risk that loaned securities may not be available to the Trust on a timely basis and the Trust may, therefore, lose the opportunity to sell the securities at a desirable price. Any loss in the market price of securities loaned by the Trust that occurs during the term of the loan would be borne by the Trust and would adversely affect the Trust's performance. Also, there may be delays in recovery, or no recovery, of securities loaned should the borrower of the securities fail financially while the loan is outstanding. In addition, voting rights with respect to loaned securities generally pass to the borrower. The Trust, as the lender, retains the right to recall the loans and obtain the return of the securities loaned in order to vote the loaned securities. However, in many circumstances the Trust may be unable to recall the securities in time to vote or may determine that the benefits to the Trust of voting are outweighed by the indirect or direct costs of such a recall. In these circumstances, loaned securities may be voted or not voted in a manner adverse to the best interests of the Trust. All of the aforementioned risks may be greater for Non-U.S. Securities.

These lending transactions must be fully collateralized at all times, but involve some credit risk to the Trust if the borrower or the party (if any) guaranteeing the loan should default on its obligation and the Trust is delayed in or prevented from recovering the collateral. In addition, any income or gains and losses from investing and reinvesting any cash collateral delivered by a borrower pursuant to a loan are generally at the Trust's risk, and to the extent any such losses reduce the amount of cash below the amount required to be returned to the borrower upon the termination of any loan, the Trust may be required to pay or cause to be paid to such borrower or another entity an amount equal to such shortfall in cash. The Trust generally accepts cash (U.S. and foreign currency), securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities, or sovereign debt as collateral for these lending transactions, although in the future, it may accept other types of collateral.

## **RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH OPTIONS ON SECURITIES**

There are several risks associated with transactions in options on securities, such as exchange-listed, over-the-counter and index options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. A decision as to whether, when and how to use options involves the exercise of skill and judgment, and even a well-conceived transaction may be unsuccessful to some degree because of market behavior or unexpected events.

As the writer of a covered call option, the Trust forgoes, during the option's life, the opportunity to profit from increases in the market value of the security covering the call option above the sum of the premium and the strike price of the call, but has retained the risk of loss should the price of the underlying security decline. As the Trust writes covered calls over more of its portfolio, its ability to benefit from capital appreciation becomes more limited. The writer of an option has no control over the time when it may be required to fulfill its obligation as a writer of the option. Once an option writer has received an exercise notice, it cannot effect a closing purchase transaction in order to terminate its obligation under the option and must deliver the underlying security at the exercise price.

When the Trust writes covered put options, it bears the risk of loss if the value of the underlying stock declines below the exercise price minus the put premium. If the option is exercised, the Trust could incur a loss if it is required to purchase the stock underlying the put option at a price greater than the market price of the stock at the time of exercise plus the put premium the Trust received when it wrote the option. While the Trust's potential gain in writing a covered put option is limited to distributions earned on the liquid assets securing the put option plus the premium received from the purchaser of the put option, the Trust risks a loss equal to the entire exercise price of the option minus the put premium.

## **EXCHANGE-LISTED OPTION RISKS**

A liquid market may not exist when the Trust seeks to close out an option position on an options exchange. Reasons for the absence of a liquid secondary market on an exchange include the following: (i) there may be

insufficient trading interest in certain options; (ii) restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; (iii) trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options; (iv) unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; (v) the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading volume; or (vi) one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options). If trading were discontinued, the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist. However, outstanding options on that exchange that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms. If the Trust were unable to close out a covered call option that it had written on a security, it would not be able to sell the underlying security unless the option expired without exercise.

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

#### **OVER-THE-COUNTER OPTION RISK**

The Trust may purchase or sell/write unlisted ("OTC" or "over-the-counter") options. Options entered into by the Trust with respect to Non-U.S. Securities, indices or sectors generally will be OTC options. OTC options differ from exchange-listed options in that they are two-party contracts, with exercise price, premium and other terms negotiated between buyer and seller, and generally do not have as much market liquidity as exchange-listed options. The counterparties to these transactions typically will be major international banks, broker-dealers and financial institutions. The Trust may be required to treat as illiquid those securities being used to cover certain written OTC options. The OTC options written by the Trust will not be issued, guaranteed or cleared by the Options Clearing Corporation. In addition, the Trust's ability to terminate the OTC options may be more limited than with exchange-traded options. Banks, broker-dealers or other financial institutions participating in such transactions may fail to settle a transaction in accordance with the terms of the option as written. In the event of default or insolvency of the counterparty, the Trust may be unable to liquidate an OTC option position.

#### **INDEX OPTION RISK**

The Trust may purchase or sell/write index put and call options from time to time. The purchaser of an index put option has the right to any depreciation in the value of the index below the exercise price of the option on or before the expiration date. The purchaser of an index call option has the right to any appreciation in the value of the index over the exercise price of the option on or before the expiration date. Because the exercise of an index option is settled in cash, sellers of index call options, such as the Trust, cannot provide in advance for their potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying securities. The Trust will lose money if it is required to pay the purchaser of an index option the difference between the cash value of the index on which the option was written and the exercise price and such difference is greater than the premium received by the Trust for writing the option. The value of index options written by the Trust, which will be priced daily, will be affected by changes in the value and dividend rates of the underlying common shares in the respective index, changes in the actual or perceived volatility of the stock market and the remaining time to the options' expiration. The value of the index options also may be adversely affected if the market for the index options becomes less liquid or smaller. Distributions paid by the Trust on its common shares may be derived in part from

the net index option premiums it receives from selling index put and call options, less the cost of paying settlement amounts to purchasers of the options that exercise their options. Net index option premiums can vary widely over the short term and long term.

### **ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES RISK**

Payment of interest and repayment of principal on asset-backed securities is largely dependent upon the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities and, in certain cases, supported by letters of credit, surety bonds or other credit enhancements. Asset-backed security values may also be affected by the creditworthiness of the servicing agent for the pool, the originator of the loans or receivables and any entities providing the credit enhancement. In addition, the underlying assets are subject to prepayments that shorten the securities' weighted average maturity and may lower their return.

### **MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES RISK**

A mortgage-backed security, which represents an interest in a pool of assets such as mortgage loans, will mature once all the mortgages in the pool mature or are prepaid. Therefore, mortgage-backed securities do not have a fixed maturity, and their expected maturities may vary when interest rates rise or fall.

When interest rates fall, homeowners are more likely to prepay their mortgage loans. An increased rate of prepayments on the Trust's mortgage-backed securities will result in an unforeseen loss of interest income to the Trust, as the Trust may be required to reinvest assets at a lower interest rate. Because prepayments increase when interest rates fall, the price of mortgage-backed securities does not increase as much as that of other fixed income securities when interest rates fall.

When interest rates rise, homeowners are less likely to prepay their mortgage loans. A decreased rate of prepayments lengthens the expected maturity of a mortgage-backed security. Therefore, the prices of mortgage-backed securities may decrease more than prices of other fixed income securities when interest rates rise.

Timely payment of interest and principal of mortgage-backed securities may be supported by various forms of private insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance purchased or held by the issuer. Private insurers may not, however, be able to meet their obligations under the policies. An unexpectedly high rate of defaults on the mortgages held by a mortgage pool may adversely affect the value of a mortgage-backed security and could result in losses to the Trust. The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage pools that include sub-prime mortgages (which are typically granted to individuals with poor credit histories who, as a result of their deficient credit ratings, would not be able to qualify for conventional mortgages), "Alt-A" mortgages (typically characterized by borrowers with less than full documentation, lower credit scores or higher loan-to-value ratios), "interest only" mortgages (which permit interest-only payments for a specified period before payment of principal is required) and/or "option ARM" mortgages (which are typically 30-year adjustable rate mortgages that initially offer a borrower four monthly payment options: a specified minimum payment, an interest-only payment, a 15-year fully amortizing payment and a 30-year fully amortizing payment). Some of these types of mortgages may be subject to "negative amortization," which occurs whenever the loan payment for any period is less than the interest charged over that period so that the outstanding principal balance of the loan increases. The types of mortgages discussed above are made to borrowers with weakened credit histories or with a lower capacity to make timely payments on their mortgages, and are subject to a greater risk of default than "prime" mortgages. Market factors adversely affecting mortgage loan repayments may include a general economic downturn, high unemployment, a general slowdown in the real estate market, a drop in the market prices of real estate, or an increase in interest rates resulting in higher mortgage payments by holders of adjustable rate mortgages. To the extent the Trust invests in securities directly or indirectly backed by these types of mortgages, it will be subject to greater risks.

Credit ratings on mortgage-backed securities are subject to the same limitations that apply to credit ratings generally. See "Limitations of Credit Ratings" on page 113 of this prospectus. In the past, the market for

mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities has experienced high volatility and a lack of liquidity. As a result, the value of many of these securities has significantly declined. These markets may not become more liquid or less volatile, and it is possible that the value of these securities could decline further.

Mortgage-backed securities may not be readily marketable. To the extent any of these securities are not readily marketable in the judgment of the Investment Adviser, the Trust's restrictions on investments in illiquid instruments will apply.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN ROYALTY SECURITIES**

The Trust may invest in debt and/or equity royalty securities. The risks of investing in these securities will include the risks of investing in the underlying industry. In addition, royalty securities are currently not widely recognized or understood and the Trust may not be able to sell the securities when it wants to do so. Under certain market conditions, these securities may also become highly illiquid. Each security will include different risk factors specific to that transaction. Risk factors of royalty securities generally include risks relating to the products associated with the royalty stream, risks relating to the license agreement, risks relating to the structure of the financing and risks relating to bankruptcy or reorganization proceedings.

## **REPURCHASE AGREEMENT RISK**

The Trust may enter into repurchase agreements up to a maximum of 33 1/3% of its total assets. Repurchase agreements may be considered loans to the seller, collateralized by the underlying securities. If the seller does not pay the Trust the agreed-upon sum on the repurchase date, the Trust is entitled to sell the underlying collateral. If the value of the collateral declines after the agreement is entered into, and if the seller defaults under a repurchase agreement when the value of the underlying collateral is less than the repurchase price, the Trust could incur a loss of both principal and interest. If the seller were to be subject to a federal bankruptcy proceeding, the ability of the Trust to liquidate the collateral could be delayed or impaired because of certain provisions of the bankruptcy laws.

## **DERIVATIVES RISK**

The Trust may engage in derivative transactions for hedging and speculative purposes or to enhance total return, including engaging in transactions such as options, futures, swaps, foreign currency transactions, forward foreign currency contracts, currency swaps or options on currency futures and other derivatives transactions (collectively, "Derivative Transactions"). The Trust may use any or all types of Derivative Transactions which it is authorized to use at any time; no particular strategy will dictate the use of one type of Derivative Transaction rather than another, as use of any authorized Derivative Transaction will be a function of numerous variables, including market conditions. Derivative Transactions involve certain risks and special considerations. Risks of Derivative Transactions include the imperfect correlation between the value of such instruments and the underlying assets, the possible default of the other party to the transaction or illiquidity of the derivative instruments. Furthermore, the ability to successfully use Derivative Transactions depends on the Investment Adviser's ability to predict pertinent market movements. Because many derivatives are "leveraged," and thus provide significantly more market exposure than the money paid or deposited when the transaction is entered into, a relatively small adverse market movement may not only result in the loss of the entire investment, but may also expose the Trust to the possibility of a loss exceeding the original amount invested. Thus, the use of Derivative Transactions may result in losses greater than if they had not been used, may require the Trust to sell or purchase portfolio securities at inopportune times or for prices other than current market values, may limit the amount of appreciation the Trust can realize on an investment or may cause the Trust to hold a security that it might otherwise sell. The use of foreign currency transactions can result in the Trust incurring losses as a result of the imposition of exchange controls, the suspension of settlements or the inability of the Trust to deliver or receive a specified currency. Additionally, amounts paid by the Trust as premiums and cash or other assets held in margin accounts with respect to Derivative Transactions are not otherwise available to the Trust for investment purposes.

If a put or call option purchased by the Trust is not sold when it has remaining value, and if the market price of the underlying security remains equal to or greater than the exercise price (in the case of a put), or remains less than or equal to the exercise price (in the case of a call), the Trust will lose its entire investment in the option.

Also, where a put or call option on a particular security is purchased to hedge against price movements in a related security, the price of the put or call option may move more or less than the price of the related security. If restrictions on exercise were imposed, the Trust might be unable to exercise an option it had purchased. If the Trust were unable to close out an option that it had purchased on a security, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit or the option may expire worthless.

The Trust's Derivative Transactions are generally subject to numerous special and complex tax rules. Because the tax rules applicable to such transactions may be uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future IRS guidance with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether the Trust has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements, to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. See "Risks Relating to the Trust's Tax Status" below for more information about the risks of a failure to qualify as a RIC. The Trust's investments in derivative instruments may be limited by the RIC qualification requirements or other U.S. federal income tax considerations.

In addition, the Commission recently proposed a rule under the Investment Company Act regulating the use by registered investment companies of derivatives and many related instruments. That rule, if adopted as proposed, would, among other things, restrict the Trust's ability to engage in derivatives transactions, and may so increase the cost of derivatives transactions that the Trust would be unable to implement its investment strategy.

#### **ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS IN CLEARED DERIVATIVES TRANSACTIONS**

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. In a transaction involving those swaps ("cleared derivatives"), the Trust's counterparty is a clearing house, rather than a bank or broker. Since the Trust is not a member of a clearing house and only members of a clearing house (a "clearing member") can participate directly in the clearing house, the Trust will hold cleared derivatives through accounts at a clearing member. In cleared derivatives positions, the Trust will make payments (including margin payments) to and receive payments from a clearing house through its accounts at a clearing member. A clearing member guarantees performance of its clients' obligations to the clearing house.

In many ways, cleared derivative arrangements are less favorable to mutual funds than bilateral arrangements. For example, the Trust may be required to provide more margin for cleared derivatives positions than for bilateral derivatives positions. Also, in contrast to a bilateral derivatives position, following a period of notice to the Trust, a clearing member generally can require termination of an existing cleared derivatives position at any time or an increase in margin requirements above the margin that the clearing member required at the beginning of a transaction. Clearing houses also have broad rights to increase margin requirements for existing positions or to terminate those positions at any time. Any increase in margin requirements or termination of existing cleared derivatives positions by the clearing member or the clearing house could interfere with the ability of the Trust to pursue its investment strategy. Further, any increase in margin requirements by a clearing member could expose the Trust to greater credit risk to its clearing member because margin for cleared derivatives positions in excess of a clearing house's margin requirements typically is held by the clearing member. Also, the Trust is subject to risk if it enters into a derivatives transaction that is required to be cleared (or that the Investment Adviser expects to be cleared), and no clearing member is willing or able to clear the transaction on the Trust's behalf. While the documentation in place between the Trust and its clearing member generally provides that the clearing member will accept for clearing all cleared derivatives transactions that are within credit limits (specified in advance) for the Trust, the Trust is still subject to the risk that no clearing member will be willing or able to clear a transaction. In those cases, the position might have to be terminated,

and the Trust could lose some or all of the benefit of the position, including loss of an increase in the value of the position and/or loss of hedging protection. In addition, the documentation governing the relationship between the Trust and a clearing member is drafted by the clearing member and generally is less favorable to the Trust than typical bilateral derivatives documentation. For example, documentation relating to cleared derivatives generally includes a one-way indemnity by the Trust in favor of the clearing member for losses the clearing member incurs as the Trust's clearing member and typically does not provide the Trust any remedies if the clearing member defaults or becomes insolvent. While futures contracts entail similar risks, the risks likely are more pronounced for cleared swaps due to their more limited liquidity and market history.

Some types of cleared derivatives are required to be executed on an exchange or on a swap execution facility. A swap execution facility is a trading platform where multiple market participants can execute derivatives by accepting bids and offers made by multiple other participants in the platform. While this execution requirement is designed to increase transparency and liquidity in the cleared derivatives market, trading on a swap execution facility can create additional costs and risks for the Trust. For example, swap execution facilities typically charge fees, and if the Trust executes derivatives on a swap execution facility through a broker intermediary, the intermediary may impose fees as well. Also, the Trust may indemnify a swap execution facility, or a broker intermediary who executes cleared derivatives on a swap execution facility on the Trust's behalf, against any losses or costs that may be incurred as a result of the Trust's transactions on the swap execution facility.

These and other new rules and regulations could, among other things, further restrict the Trust's ability to engage in, or increase the cost to the Trust of, derivatives transactions, for example, by making some types of derivatives no longer available to the Trust, increasing margin or capital requirements, or otherwise limiting liquidity or increasing transaction costs. These regulations are new and evolving, so their potential impact on the Trust and the financial system are not yet known. While the new regulations and central clearing of some derivatives transactions are designed to reduce systemic risk (i.e., the risk that the interdependence of large derivatives dealers could cause them to suffer liquidity, solvency or other challenges simultaneously), there is no assurance that the new clearing mechanisms will achieve that result, and in the meantime, as noted above, central clearing and related requirements expose the Trust to new kinds of risks and costs.

The above discussion and under "Derivatives Risks" relates to the Trust's proposed use of certain types of derivatives currently available. However, the Trust is not limited to the transactions described above. In addition, the relevant markets and related regulations are constantly changing and, in the future, the Trust may use derivatives not currently available or widely in use.

## **REGULATORY RISK – COMMODITY POOL OPERATOR**

The Trust is sponsored by a person who has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" under the CEA pursuant to Rule 4.5 under the CEA; therefore, the Investment Adviser (with respect to the Trust) is not subject to registration or regulation as a "commodity pool operator" under the CEA. To remain eligible for the exclusion, the Trust will be limited in its ability to use certain derivatives instruments regulated under the CEA ("commodity interests"), including futures, swaps and options on futures. In the event that the Trust's investments in commodity interests exceed a certain threshold, the Investment Adviser may be required to register as a "commodity pool operator" and/or "commodity trading advisor" with the CFTC with respect to the Trust. The Investment Adviser's eligibility to claim the exclusion with respect to the Trust will be based upon the level and scope of the Trust's investment in commodity interests, the purposes of such investments and the manner in which the Trust holds out its use of commodity interests. For example, CFTC Rule 4.5 requires a fund with respect to which the sponsor is claiming the exclusion to, among other things, satisfy one of the two following trading thresholds: (i) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish positions in commodity interests cannot exceed 5% of the liquidation value of a fund's portfolio, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses; or (ii) the aggregate net notional value of commodity interests not used solely for "bona fide hedging purposes," determined at the time the most

recent position was established, cannot generally exceed 100% of the liquidation value of a fund's portfolio, after taking into account unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions it has entered into. The Trust currently intends to operate in a manner that would permit the Investment Adviser to continue to claim the exclusion under Rule 4.5, which may adversely affect the Investment Adviser's ability to manage the Trust under certain market conditions and may adversely affect the Trust's total return. In the event the Investment Adviser becomes unable to rely on the exclusion in Rule 4.5 and is required to register with the CFTC as a commodity pool operator, the Trust's expenses may increase, adversely affecting the Trust's total return.

## **COUNTERPARTY RISK**

The Trust will be subject to credit risk with respect to the counterparties to the derivative contracts purchased or sold by the Trust. Recently, several broker-dealers and other financial institutions have experienced extreme financial difficulty, sometimes resulting in bankruptcy of the institution. Although the Investment Adviser monitors the creditworthiness of the Trust's counterparties, there can be no assurance that the Trust's counterparties will not experience similar difficulties, possibly resulting in losses to the Trust. If a counterparty becomes bankrupt, or otherwise fails to perform its obligations under a derivative contract due to financial difficulties, the Trust may experience significant delays in obtaining any recovery under the derivative contract in a bankruptcy or other reorganization proceeding. The Trust may obtain only a limited recovery or may obtain no recovery in such circumstances. Material exposure to a single or small group of counterparties increases the Trust's counterparty risk.

## **CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS RISK**

The Trust may enter into credit default swap agreements, which may have as reference obligations one or more debt securities or an index of such securities. In a credit default swap, one party (the "protection buyer") is obligated to pay the other party (the "protection seller") a stream of payments over the term of the contract, provided that no credit event, such as a default or, in some instances, a downgrade in credit rating, occurs on the reference obligation. If a credit event occurs, the protection seller must generally pay the protection buyer the "par value" (the agreed-upon notional value) of the referenced debt obligation in exchange for an equal face amount of deliverable reference obligations.

The Trust may be either the protection buyer or protection seller in a credit default swap. If the Trust is a protection buyer, the Trust would pay the counterparty a periodic stream of payments over the term of the contract and would not recover any of those payments if no credit event were to occur. However, if a credit event occurs, the Trust as a protection buyer has the right to deliver the referenced debt obligations or a specified amount of cash, depending upon the terms of the swap, and receive the par value of such debt obligations from the counterparty protection seller. As a protection seller, the Trust would receive fixed payments throughout the term of the contract if no credit event occurs. If a credit event occurs, however, the value of the obligation received by the Trust (e.g., bonds which defaulted), plus the periodic payments previously received, may be less than the par value of the obligation, or cash received, resulting in a loss to the protection seller. Furthermore, the Trust as a protection seller would effectively add leverage to its portfolio because it will have investment exposure to the notional amount of the swap.

Credit default swap agreements are subject to greater risk than a direct investment in the reference obligation. Like all swap agreements, credit default swaps are subject to liquidity, credit and counterparty risks. In addition, collateral posting requirements are individually negotiated and there is no regulatory requirement that a counterparty post collateral to secure its obligations under a credit default swap. Furthermore, there is no requirement that a party be informed in advance when a credit default swap agreement is sold. Accordingly, the Trust may have difficulty identifying the party responsible for payment of its claims. The notional value of credit default swaps with respect to a particular investment is often larger than the total par value of such investment outstanding and, in event of a default, there may be difficulties in making the required deliveries of the reference investments, possibly delaying payments.

In the past, the market for credit default swaps has become more volatile as the creditworthiness of certain counterparties has been questioned and/or downgraded. If a counterparty's credit becomes significantly impaired, multiple requests for collateral posting in a short period of time could increase the risk that the Trust may not receive adequate collateral. There is no readily available market for trading credit default swaps. The Trust generally may exit its obligations under a credit default swap only by terminating the contract and paying applicable breakage fees, or by entering into an offsetting credit default swap position, which may cause the Trust to incur more losses.

In addition, the Trust may invest in publicly or privately issued interests in investment pools whose underlying assets are credit default, credit-linked, interest rate, currency exchange, equity-linked or other types of swap contracts and related underlying securities or securities loan agreements. The pools' investment results may be designed to correspond generally to the performance of a specified securities index or "basket" of securities, sometimes a single security.

These types of pools are often used to gain exposure to multiple securities with a smaller investment than would be required to invest directly in the individual securities. They may also be used to gain exposure to foreign securities markets without investing in the foreign securities themselves or the relevant foreign market. To the extent that the Trust invests in pools of swaps and related underlying securities or securities loan agreements whose return corresponds to the performance of a foreign securities index or one or more foreign securities, investing in such pools will involve risks similar to the risks of investing in foreign securities. See "Foreign Securities" below. In addition to the risks associated with investing in swaps generally, the Trust bears the risks and costs generally associated with investing in pooled investment vehicles, such as paying the fees and expenses of the pool and the risk that the pool or the operator of the pool may default on its obligations to the holder of interests in the pool, such as the Trust. Interests in privately offered investment pools of swaps may be considered illiquid or deemed liquid, subject to the Trust's restrictions on investments in illiquid securities.

## **MARKET RISK GENERALLY**

The profitability of a significant portion of the Trust's investment program depends to a great extent upon correctly assessing the future course of the price movements of securities and other investments and the movements of interest rates. The Investment Adviser may not be able to predict accurately these price and interest rate movements. With respect to certain investment strategies the Trust utilizes, there is a high degree of market risk.

## **REINVESTMENT RISK**

The Trust reinvests the cash flows received from a security. The additional income from such reinvestment, sometimes called interest-on-interest, is reliant on the prevailing interest rate levels at the time of reinvestment. There is a risk that the interest rate at which interim cash flows can be reinvested will fall. Reinvestment risk is greater for longer holding periods and for securities with large, early cash flows such as high-coupon bonds. Reinvestment risk also applies generally to the reinvestment of the proceeds the Trust receives upon the maturity or sale of a portfolio security.

## **TIMING RISK**

Many agency, corporate and municipal bonds, and most mortgage-backed securities, contain a provision that allows the issuer to "call" all or part of the issue before the bond's maturity date — often after 5 or 10 years. The issuer usually retains the right to refinance the bond in the future if market interest rates decline below the coupon rate. There are three disadvantages to the call provision. First, the cash flow pattern of a callable bond is not known with certainty. Second, because an issuer is more likely to call the bonds when interest rates have dropped, the Trust is exposed to reinvestment risk, *i.e.*, the Trust may have to reinvest at lower interest rates the proceeds received when the bond is called. Finally, the capital appreciation potential of a bond will be reduced because the price of a callable bond may not rise much above the price at which the issuer may call the bond.

## **INFLATION RISK**

Inflation risk results from the variation in the value of cash flows from a security due to inflation, as measured in terms of purchasing power. For example, if the Trust purchases a bond in which it can realize a coupon rate of 5%, but the rate of inflation increases from 2% to 6%, then the purchasing power of the cash flow has declined. For all but adjustable bonds or floating rate bonds, the Trust is exposed to inflation risk because the interest rate the issuer promises to make is fixed for the life of the security. To the extent that interest rates reflect the expected inflation rate, floating rate bonds have a lower level of inflation risk. In addition, during any periods of rising inflation, dividend rates of any variable rate preferred share issued by the Trust would likely increase, which would tend to further reduce returns to common shareholders.

## **ARBITRAGE RISKS**

The Trust engages in capital structure arbitrage and other arbitrage strategies. Arbitrage strategies entail various risks, including the risk that external events, regulatory approvals and other factors will impact the consummation of announced corporate events and/or the prices of certain positions. In addition, hedging is an important feature of capital structure arbitrage. There is no guarantee that the Investment Adviser will be able to hedge the Trust's investment portfolio in the manner necessary to employ successfully the Trust's strategy.

## **SHORT SALES RISK**

Short selling involves selling securities that may or may not be owned and borrowing the same securities for delivery to the purchaser, with an obligation to replace the borrowed securities at a later date. Short selling allows the Trust to profit from declines in market prices to the extent such decline exceeds the transaction costs and the costs of borrowing the securities. However, because the borrowed securities must be replaced by purchases at market prices in order to close out the short position, any appreciation in the price of the borrowed securities would result in a loss. The securities necessary to cover a short position may not be available for purchase. Purchasing securities to close out the short position can itself cause the price of the securities to rise further, thereby exacerbating the loss. The Trust may mitigate such losses by replacing the securities sold short before the market price has increased significantly. Under adverse market conditions, the Trust might have difficulty purchasing securities to meet its short sale delivery obligations, and might have to sell portfolio securities to raise the capital necessary to meet its short sale obligations at a time when fundamental investment considerations would not favor such sales. Short sales by the Trust that are not made "against the box" theoretically involve unlimited loss potential, since the market price of securities sold short may continuously increase.

## **MLP RISK**

The Trust may invest in MLP securities. MLPs typically are characterized as "publicly traded partnerships" that qualify to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes and are principally engaged in one or more aspects of the exploration, production, processing, transmission, marketing, storage or delivery of energy-related commodities, such as natural gas, natural gas liquids, coal, crude oil or refined petroleum products (collectively, the energy industry). As a result, holders of MLP securities will be subject to risks related to the energy industry, including: (i) fluctuations in commodity prices; (ii) reduced volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; (iii) slowdowns in new construction and acquisitions; (iv) reduced demand for commodities such as crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products; (v) depletion of natural gas reserves or other commodities; (vi) extreme weather and environmental hazards; (vii) stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies; and (viii) dangers inherent to the energy industry, such as leaks, fires, explosions, damage to facilities and equipment resulting from natural disasters, inadvertent damage to facilities and equipment and terrorist acts.

Generally, an MLP is operated under the supervision of one or more managing general partners. Limited partners (like the Trust when it invests in an MLP) are not involved in the day-to-day management of the

partnership. The Trust also may invest in companies who serve (or whose affiliates serve) as the general partner of an MLP. These investments may not be taxed as partnerships for U.S. Federal income tax purposes. Conflicts of interest may exist among unit holders, subordinated unit holders and the general partner of an MLP, including those arising from incentive distribution payments. General Partners typically have limited fiduciary duties to an MLP, which could allow a general partner to favor its own interests over the MLP's interests. Additionally, general partners of MLPs often have limited call rights that may require MLP unit holders to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price.

Holders of MLP securities have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership. Holders of securities issued by an MLP are exposed to a remote possibility of liability for all of the obligations of that MLP in the event that a court determines that the rights of the holders of MLP securities to vote to remove or replace the general partner of that MLP, to approve amendments to that MLP's partnership agreement, or to take other action under the partnership agreement of that MLP would constitute "control" of the business of that MLP, or a court or governmental agency determines that the MLP is conducting business in a state without complying with the partnership statute of that state. Holders of MLP securities are also exposed to the risk that they will be required to repay amounts to the MLP that are wrongfully distributed to them.

In addition, MLPs are subject to the risk that they will fail to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If an MLP does not meet current legal requirements to maintain its partnership status, or if it is unable to do so because of tax or other law changes, it would be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In that case, the MLP would be obligated to pay U.S. federal income tax (as well as state and local taxes) at the entity level on its taxable income and distributions received by the Trust would be taxable to the Trust as dividend income to the extent of the MLP's current and accumulated earnings and profits for federal tax purposes. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes could have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and the value of the Trust's investment in any such MLP. As a result, the value of the Trust's shares and the cash available for distribution to Trust shareholders could be materially reduced.

The Trust intends to limit its investments in MLPs and related entities to the extent necessary to qualify as a RIC for tax purposes. In general, a RIC is not permitted to invest, including through corporations in which the RIC owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, more than 25% of its total assets in qualified publicly-traded partnerships.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN OTHER INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

The Trust may invest in investment companies such as open-end funds (mutual funds), closed-end funds and exchange traded funds (also referred to as "Underlying Funds"). The Trust may invest in Underlying Funds subject to the limitations set forth in the 1940 Act. Underlying Funds typically incur fees that are separate from those fees incurred directly by the Trust; therefore, the Trust's purchase of Underlying Funds' securities results in the layering of expenses. The Trust's shareholders indirectly bear a proportionate share of the operating expenses of Underlying Funds (including advisory fees) in addition to bearing the Trust's expenses.

The Trust may invest in investment companies that are advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates, including ETFs, to the extent permitted by applicable law and/or pursuant to exemptive relief from the SEC. These investment companies typically incur fees that are separate from those fees incurred directly by the Trust. The Trust's purchase of such investment company securities results in the layering of expenses, such that shareholders would indirectly bear a proportionate share of the operating expenses of such investment companies, including advisory fees, in addition to paying Trust expenses.

Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the National

Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as “NASDAQ”) and, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as the Funds), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

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

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

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

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

The majority of ETFs are passive funds that track their related index and have the flexibility of trading like a security. They are managed by professionals and provide the investor with diversification, cost and tax efficiency, liquidity, margin-ability, are useful for hedging, have the ability to go long and short, and some provide quarterly dividends. Additionally, some ETFs are unit investment trusts (UITs), which are unmanaged portfolios overseen by trustees.

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

Certain ETFs that invest in commodities or commodity-related instruments may give rise to income that is not “qualifying income” for purposes of the 90% gross income test for qualification as a “regulated investment company” for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The Trust’s investment in such an ETF may bear on or be limited by the Trust’s intention to qualify as a “regulated investment company”. Further, certain ETFs that invest in commodities or certain commodity-related derivatives may qualify as “qualified publicly traded partnerships” (“QPTPs”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes with the net income generated thereon treated as qualifying income for purposes of this 90% gross income test. Under the tax diversification requirements applicable to regulated investment companies, the Trust’s investment in one or more entities qualifying as QPTPs may not exceed 25% of the Fund’s total assets at the end of each quarter of each taxable year.

## **BDC RISK**

Business Development Companies generally invest in less mature private companies or thinly traded U.S. public companies which involve greater risk than well-established publicly-traded companies. The Trust will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management and other operating expenses and of any performance-based or incentive fees charged by the BDCs in which it invests, in addition to the expenses paid by the Trust. The Investment Company Act imposes certain constraints upon the operations of a BDC. Generally, little public information exists for private and thinly traded companies in which a BDC may invest and there is a risk that investors may not be able to make a fully informed evaluation of a BDC and its portfolio of investments. In addition, to qualify and remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders, the BDCs in which the Trust invests must meet certain source-of-income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. If a BDC in which the Trust invests fails to qualify as a RIC, such BDC would be liable for federal, and possibly state, corporate taxes on its taxable income and gains. Such failure by a BDC could substantially reduce the BDC’s net assets and the amount of income available for distribution to the Trust, which would in turn decrease the total return of the Trust in respect of such investment.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN STRUCTURED FINANCE SECURITIES**

A portion of the Trust’s investments may consist of equipment trust certificates, collateralized mortgage obligations, collateralized bond obligations, collateralized loan obligations or similar instruments. Such structured finance securities are generally backed by an asset or a pool of assets, which serve as collateral. Depending on the type of security, the collateral may take the form of a portfolio of mortgage loans or bonds or other assets. The Trust and other investors in structured finance securities ultimately bear the credit risk of the underlying collateral. In some instances, the structured finance securities are issued in multiple tranches, offering investors various maturity and credit risk characteristics, often categorized as senior, mezzanine and subordinated/equity according to their degree of risk. The riskiest securities are the equity tranche, which bears the bulk of defaults from the bonds or loans serving as collateral, and thus may protect the other, more senior tranches from default. If there are defaults or the relevant collateral otherwise underperforms, scheduled payments to senior tranches of such securities take precedence over those of mezzanine tranches, and scheduled payments to mezzanine tranches take precedence over those to subordinated/equity tranches. A senior tranche typically has higher ratings and lower yields than the underlying securities, and may be rated investment grade. Despite the protection from the equity tranche, other tranches can experience substantial losses due to actual defaults, increased sensitivity to defaults due to previous defaults and the disappearance of protecting tranches, market anticipation of defaults and aversion to certain structured finance securities as a class. In light of the above considerations, structured finance securities may present risks similar to those of the other types of debt obligations in which the Trust may invest and, in fact, such risks may be of greater significance in the case of structured finance securities. Moreover, investing in structured finance securities may entail a variety of unique risks. In addition, the performance of a structured finance security will be affected by a variety of factors, including the security’s priority in the capital structure of the issuer thereof, the availability of any credit enhancement, the level and timing of payments and recoveries on and the characteristics of the underlying receivables, loans or other assets that are being securitized, remoteness of those assets from the originator or transferor, the adequacy of and ability to realize upon any related collateral and the capability of the servicer of

the securitized assets. Structured finance securities carry additional risks that include, but are not limited to: (i) the possibility that distributions from collateral securities will not be adequate to make interest or other payments; (ii) the structure and complexity of the transaction and the legal documents could lead to disputes among investors regarding the characterization of proceeds; (iii) the investment return achieved by the Trust could be significantly different than those predicted by financial models; (iv) the lack of a readily available secondary market for structured finance securities; (v) risk of forced “fire sale” liquidation due to technical defaults such as coverage test failures; and (vi) the manager of a structured finance security may perform poorly. In addition, the complex structure of the security may produce unexpected investment results, especially during times of market stress or volatility, and a small number of defaults may have a disproportionate impact on the performance of the security. Investments in structured finance securities may also be subject to illiquidity risk, as they are normally privately offered and sold and thus, are not registered under securities laws. In addition to the risks noted above and other risks, structured finance securities may be subject to prepayment risk. Collateralized mortgage obligations may have risks similar to those of mortgage-backed securities. See “Mortgage-Backed Securities Risk” for more information.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN PREFERRED SECURITIES**

There are special risks associated with investing in preferred securities, including:

- *Deferral.* Preferred securities may include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If the Trust owns a preferred security that is deferring the payment of its distributions, the Trust may be required to report income for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent of any such deferred distribution even though the Trust has not yet received such income. In order to receive the special treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code and to avoid U.S. federal income and/or excise taxes at the Trust level, the Trust may be required to distribute this reported income to shareholders in the tax year in which the income is reported (without a corresponding receipt of cash). Therefore, the Trust may be required to pay out as an income distribution in any such tax year an amount greater than the total amount of income the Trust actually received, and may, among other things, sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain cash needed for these income distributions.
- *Subordination.* Preferred securities are subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company’s capital structure in terms of priority to corporate income and liquidation payments, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than more senior debt instruments.
- *Liquidity.* Preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stock or U.S. government securities.
- *Limited Voting Rights.* Generally, preferred security holders have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company unless preferred dividends have been in arrears for a specified number of periods, at which time the preferred security holders may elect a number of trustees to the issuer’s board. Generally, once all the arrearages have been paid, the preferred security holders no longer have voting rights.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN SWAPS**

Investments in swaps involve the exchange by the Trust with another party of their respective commitments. Use of swaps subjects the Trust to risk of default by the counterparty. If there is a default by the counterparty to such a transaction, there may be contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction although contractual remedies may not be sufficient in the event the counterparty is insolvent. The Trust may enter into credit default swaps, currency swaps or other swaps which may be surrogates for other instruments such as currency forwards or options. Swap agreements are sophisticated financial instruments that typically

involve a small investment of cash relative to the magnitude of risks assumed. Swaps can be highly volatile and may have a considerable impact on the Trust's performance, as the potential gain or loss on any swap transaction is not necessarily subject to any fixed limit.

Recently, several broker-dealers and other financial institutions have experienced extreme financial difficulty, sometimes resulting in bankruptcy of the institution. Although the Investment Adviser monitors the creditworthiness of the Trust's counterparties, the Trust's counterparties could experience similar difficulties, possibly resulting in losses to the Trust.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN SYNTHETIC SECURITIES**

In addition to credit risks associated with holding non-investment grade loans and high-yield debt securities, with respect to synthetic securities the Trust will usually have a contractual relationship only with the counterparty of such synthetic securities, and not the Reference Obligor on the Reference Obligation. The Trust generally will have no right to enforce directly compliance by the Reference Obligor with the terms of the Reference Obligation nor any rights of setoff against the Reference Obligor, nor have any voting rights with respect to the Reference Obligation. The Trust will not benefit directly from any collateral supporting the Reference Obligation or have the benefit of the remedies on default that would normally be available to a holder of such Reference Obligation. In addition, in the event of insolvency of its counterparty, the Trust will be treated as a general creditor of such counterparty and will not have any claim with respect to the credit risk of the counterparty or of the Reference Obligor. As a result, investments in synthetic securities are subject to an additional degree of risk because they are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty as well as that of the Reference Obligor. The Investment Adviser may not perform independent credit analyses of any particular counterparty, or any entity guaranteeing the obligations of such counterparty. See "Principal Risks of the Trust – Counterparty Risk."

The Trust currently does not expect to invest more than 10% of its assets in synthetic securities as measured on a mark-to-market basis. However, the Trust's investments in synthetic securities may exceed this amount from time to time.

## **VALUATION RISK**

Fair value is defined as the amount for which assets could be sold in an orderly disposition over a reasonable period of time, taking into account the nature of the asset. Fair value pricing, however, involves judgments that are inherently subjective and inexact, since fair valuation procedures are used only when it is not possible to be sure what value should be attributed to a particular asset or when an event will affect the market price of an asset and to what extent. As a result, fair value pricing may not reflect actual market value, and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security will be materially different from the value that actually could be or is realized upon the sale of that asset.

## **RISKS OF NON-DIVERSIFICATION AND OTHER FOCUSED STRATEGIES**

While the Investment Adviser invests in a number of fixed-income and equity instruments issued by different issuers and employs multiple investment strategies with respect to the Trust's investment portfolio, it is possible that a significant amount of the Trust's investments could be invested in the instruments of only a few companies or other issuers or that at any particular point in time one investment strategy could be more heavily weighted than the others. The focus of the Trust's investment portfolio in any one issuer would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk with respect to defaults by such issuer or other adverse events affecting that issuer, and the focus of the portfolio in any one industry or group of industries would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk with respect to economic downturns relating to such industry. The focus of the Trust's investment portfolio in any one investment strategy would subject the Trust to a greater degree of risk than if the Trust's investment portfolio were varied in its investments with respect to several investment strategies.

## **RISKS RELATED TO CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS**

Recently, debt markets have experienced a period of high volatility, which has negatively impacted market liquidity conditions and prices. Initially, the concerns on the part of market participants were focused on the subprime segment of the mortgage-backed securities market. These concerns expanded to include derivatives, securitized assets and a broad range of other debt securities, including those rated investment grade, the U.S. and international credit and interbank money markets generally, and a wide range of financial institutions and markets, asset classes, and sectors. As a result, debt instruments have experienced, and may in the future experience, liquidity issues, increased price volatility, credit downgrades, and increased likelihood of default. Debt securities may be difficult to value during such periods. These market conditions may have an adverse effect on the Trust's investments and hamper the Trust's ability to sell the debt securities in which it invests or to find and purchase suitable debt instruments. Because the Trust invests heavily in fixed income securities and related investments, it may underperform during periods of rising interest rates. Market conditions may also make it more difficult or impossible for the Trust to use leverage to the degree required, or make any such leverage more expensive (for example, by increasing interest expense). In addition, these conditions may directly and adversely affect the setting of dividend rates on the common shares.

In recent periods, governmental financial regulators, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, have taken steps to maintain historically low interest rates by purchasing bonds. The ending of those programs, and withdrawal of other measures of government support, along with any increase to base interest rates, could result in the effects described above or otherwise adversely affect the value of the Trust's investments, and could have a material adverse effect on prices for debt securities and on the management of the Trust.

The recent market conditions have also caused domestic and international issuers to seek capital infusions to strengthen their financial positions or to remain financially viable. These capital infusions have taken a variety of forms, including the public or private issuance of additional debt securities, equity securities or both, which have been purchased by, among others, public and private investors, government agencies, and sovereign wealth funds. If the Trust owns shares of an issuer that sells additional equity securities and the Trust cannot or chooses not to purchase shares in the offering, the Trust's interest in the issuing company will be diluted.

## **RISKS OF INVESTING IN A TRUST WITH ANTI-TAKEOVER PROVISIONS**

The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust includes provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Trust or convert the Trust to open-end status. These provisions could deprive the holders of common shares of opportunities to sell their common shares at a premium over the then current market price of the common shares or at net asset value. See "Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust" on page 132 of this prospectus.

## **KEY ADVISER PERSONNEL RISK**

The Trust's ability to identify and invest in attractive opportunities is dependent upon the Investment Adviser. If one or more key individuals leaves the Investment Adviser, the Investment Adviser may not be able to hire qualified replacements or may require an extended time to do so. This situation could prevent the Trust from achieving its investment objectives.

## **RISKS RELATING TO DILUTION OF SHAREHOLDERS' INTERESTS**

Shareholders' interests in the Trust may be diluted if they do not fully exercise their subscription rights in any rights offering. In addition, if the subscription price is less than our net asset value per share, then there will be an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of our shares. In the event we issue subscription rights, shareholders who do not fully exercise their rights should expect that they will, at the completion of a rights offering pursuant to this prospectus, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case if

they fully exercised their rights. Such dilution is not currently determinable because it is not known what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. Any such dilution will disproportionately affect non-exercising shareholders. This dilution could be substantial. The amount of any decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price and net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of the rights offering or what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering.

## **RISKS RELATING TO TRUST'S TAX STATUS**

To remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to RICs and their shareholders under the Code, the Trust must meet certain source of income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. Very generally, in order to qualify as a RIC, the Trust must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income derived with respect to its business of investing in stock or other securities. In some cases, if the Trust fails to meet these income requirements at the end of a taxable year, it will be able to cure such failure by paying a Trust-level tax to avoid the loss of its RIC status; such tax could be substantial. The Trust must also meet certain asset diversification requirements at the end of each quarter of each of its taxable years. Failure to meet these diversification requirements on the last day of a quarter will result in the Trust's loss of RIC status, unless it is able to cure such failure, for instance, by disposing of certain investments, including at potentially disadvantageous times and prices, and, in some cases, by paying a Trust-level tax.

In addition, in order to be eligible for the special tax treatment accorded RICs, the Trust must meet the annual distribution requirement, requiring it to distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its "investment company taxable income" (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid – generally its taxable ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gains in excess of realized net long-term capital losses, if any) and its net tax-exempt income (if any), to its shareholders. Because the Trust currently maintains a committed facility, and may use additional debt financing in the future, the Trust is subject to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the Investment Company Act that could, under certain circumstances, restrict the Trust from making the distributions necessary to satisfy this annual distribution requirement and to avoid corporate-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Any taxable income (including net long-term capital gains) that the Trust is unable to distribute will be subject to corporate-level tax at regular corporate rates. Further, if the Trust fails to meet the annual distribution requirement, the source of income requirement or the asset diversification requirement in respect of a taxable year and is ineligible to or otherwise does not cure such failure for any such year, all of its taxable income regardless of whether timely distributed to shareholders will be subject to corporate-level tax and all of its distributions from earnings and profits (including from net long-term capital gains) will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

In any such event, the resulting corporate taxes could substantially reduce the Trust's net assets, the amount of income available for distribution and the amount of its distributions. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on the Trust and its shareholders. In addition, in some cases, the Trust could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions in order to re-qualify as a RIC.

## **RIC-RELATED RISKS OF INVESTMENTS GENERATING NON-CASH TAXABLE INCOME**

Certain of the Trust's investments will require the Trust to recognize taxable income in a taxable year in excess of the cash generated on those investments during that year. In particular, the Trust expects that a substantial portion of its investments in loans and other debt obligations will be treated as having "market discount" and/or "original issue discount" for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which, in some cases, could be significant. Because the Trust may be required to recognize income in respect of these investments before or without receiving cash representing such income, the Trust may have difficulty satisfying the annual distribution

requirements applicable to RICs and avoiding Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Accordingly, the Trust may be required to sell portfolio securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, raise additional debt or equity capital, or reduce new investments, to obtain the cash needed to make these income distributions. If the Trust liquidates portfolio securities to raise cash, the Trust may realize gain or loss on such liquidations; in the event the Trust realizes net long-term or short-term capital gains from such liquidation transactions, its shareholders may receive larger capital gain or ordinary dividends, respectively, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

## **OPERATIONAL AND TECHNOLOGY RISK**

The Trust, its service providers, and other market participants increasingly depend on complex information technology and communications systems to conduct business functions. These systems are subject to a number of different threats or risks that could adversely affect the Trust and its shareholders, despite the efforts of the Trust and its service providers to adopt technologies, processes, and practices intended to mitigate these risks.

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

Cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures that affect the Trust's service providers or counterparties may adversely affect the Trusts and its shareholders, including by causing losses for the Trust or impairing Trust operations. For example, the Trust's or its service providers' assets or sensitive or confidential information may be misappropriated, data may be corrupted, and operations may be disrupted (e.g., cyber-attacks or operational failures may cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential Trust information, interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact the ability to calculate the Trust's NAV, and impede trading). In addition, cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures may cause reputational damage and subject the Trust or its service providers to regulatory fines, litigation costs, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. While the Trust and its service providers may establish business continuity and other plans and processes to address the possibility of cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including that they do not apply to third parties, such as other market participants, as well as the possibility that certain risks have not been identified or that unknown threats may emerge in the future.

Similar types of operational and technology risks are also present for issuers of the Trust's investments, which could have material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Trust's investments to lose value. In addition, cyber-attacks involving the Trust counterparty could affect such counterparty's ability to meet its obligations to the Trust, which may result in losses to the Trust and its shareholders. Furthermore, as a result of cyber-attacks, disruptions, or failures, an exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities or the entire market, which may result in the Trust being, among other things, unable to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments or unable to accurately price its investments. The Trust cannot directly control any cybersecurity plans and systems put in place by its service providers, Trust counterparties, issuers in which the Trust invests, or securities markets and exchanges.

## **CERTAIN AFFILIATIONS**

Certain broker-dealers may be considered to be affiliated persons of the Trust or the Investment Adviser. Absent an exemption from the Commission or other regulatory relief, the Trust is generally precluded from effecting certain principal transactions with affiliated brokers, and its ability to purchase securities being

underwritten by an affiliated broker or a syndicate including an affiliated broker, or to utilize affiliated brokers for agency transactions, is subject to restrictions. This could limit the Trust's ability to engage in securities transactions and take advantage of market opportunities. In addition, unless and until the underwriting syndicate is broken in connection with the initial public offering of the securities, the Trust will be precluded from effecting principal transactions with brokers who are members of the syndicate.

### **LIMITATIONS OF CREDIT RATINGS**

Credit ratings represent only the opinion of the rating agency with respect to the ability of the issuer to make principal and interest payments on the securities. In determining a credit rating, rating agencies do not evaluate the risks of fluctuations in market value. Further, there may be limits on the effectiveness of the rating agencies' financial models. For these and other reasons, a credit rating may not fully reflect the risks inherent in the relevant security. Further, a rating organization may have a conflict of interest with respect to a security for which it assigns a particular rating. For example, if the issuer or sponsor of a security pays a rating agency for the analysis of the security, an inherent conflict of interest may exist that could affect the reliability of the rating. In addition, credit rating agencies may or may not make timely changes in a rating to reflect changes in the economy or in the conditions of the issuer that affect the market value of the security. In other words, a security or an issuer may maintain a certain credit rating even though conditions have deteriorated since the rating was issued. Consequently, credit ratings should not necessarily be relied upon as an indicator of investment quality. If a rating organization changes the rating assigned to one or more of the Trust's portfolio securities, the Trust is not required to sell the relevant securities.

### **CONCENTRATION RISK**

The Trust is required to invest at least 25% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of issuers conducting their principal business activities in the real estate industry. Under this policy, the Trust may be subject to greater market fluctuations than a fund that does not concentrate its investments in a particular industry. Financial, economic, business, and other developments affecting issuers in the real estate industry will have a greater effect on the Trust, and if securities of the real estate industry fall out of favor, the Trust could underperform, or its net asset value may be more volatile than, funds that have greater industry diversification.

### **REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY RISK**

Issuers principally engaged in real estate industry, including real estate investment trusts, may be subject to risks similar to the risks associated with the direct ownership of real estate, including: (i) changes in general economic and market conditions; (ii) changes in the value of real estate properties; (iii) risks related to local economic conditions, overbuilding and increased competition; (iv) increases in property taxes and operating expenses; (v) changes in zoning laws; (vi) casualty and condemnation losses; (vii) variations in rental income, neighborhood values or the appeal of property to tenants; (viii) the availability of financing and (ix) changes in interest rates and leverage.

### **COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY RISK**

The market for communications products and services is characterized by rapidly changing technology, rapid product obsolescence, cyclical market patterns, evolving industry standards and frequent new product introductions. The success of the communications industry issuers depends in substantial part on the timely and successful introduction of new products and services. An unexpected change in in the market for products or services based on a particular technology could have a material adverse effect on an issuer's operating results. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that communications industry issuers will be able to respond in a timely manner to compete in the rapidly developing marketplace. Many communications companies rely on a combination of patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secret laws to establish and protect their intellectual

property. There can be no assurance that the steps taken to protect intellectual property will be adequate to prevent misappropriation or that competitors will not independently develop products or services that are substantially equivalent or superior to such issuers' products or services.

### **Management of the Trust**

The Trust is a party to contractual arrangements with various parties, including, among others, the Trust's investment adviser, administrator, distributor, and shareholder servicing agent, who provide services to the Trust. Shareholders are not parties to, or intended ("third party") beneficiaries of, any such contractual arrangements, and such contractual arrangements are not intended to create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the Trust.

Neither this prospectus, nor the related Statement of Additional Information, is intended, or should be read, to be or to give rise to an agreement or contract between the Trust and any investor, or to give rise to any rights in any shareholder or other person other than any rights under federal or state law that may not be waived.

### **TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

The Board is responsible for the overall management of the Trust, including supervision of the duties performed by the Investment Adviser. There are six trustees of the Trust. Five of the trustees are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) of the Trust. The names and business addresses of the trustees and officers of the Trust and their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years are set forth under "Management of the Trust" in the Statement of Additional Information.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISER**

NexPoint Advisors, L.P. acts as the Trust's investment adviser. The Investment Adviser is located at 200 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201. As of February 28, 2018, the Investment Adviser, together with its affiliates, managed approximately \$13.8 billion in assets on behalf of investors around the world. The Investment Adviser is controlled by James Dondero by virtue of his control of its general partner, NexPoint Advisors GP, LLC.

*Responsibilities.* The Investment Adviser provides the following services to the Trust: (i) furnishes an investment program for the Trust; (ii) determines, subject to the overall supervision and review of the Board, the investments to be purchased, held, sold or exchanged by the Trust and the portion, if any, of the assets of the Trust to be held uninvested; (iii) makes changes in the investments of the Trust; and (iv) votes, exercises consents, and exercises all other rights pertaining to such investments. Subject to the foregoing, the Investment Adviser will have the authority to engage one or more sub-advisers in connection with the portfolio management of the Trust, which sub-advisers may be affiliates of the Investment Adviser; provided, however, that the Investment Adviser shall remain responsible to the Trust with respect to its duties and obligations set forth in the investment advisory agreement.

*Compensation.* In return for its advisory services, the Investment Adviser receives an annual fee, payable monthly, in an amount equal to 1.00% of the average weekly value of the Trust's Managed Assets (the "Advisory Fee"). The accrued fees are payable monthly as promptly as possible after the end of each month during which the investment advisory agreement is in effect. A discussion regarding the basis for the approval of the investment advisory agreement by the Board is available in the Trust's report to shareholders for the period ended December 31, 2017.

*Potential Conflicts of Interest.* The Investment Adviser is an affiliate of Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors, L.P. ("HCMFA"). The Investment Adviser and/or its general partner, limited partners, officers,

affiliates and employees provide investment advice to other parties and manage other accounts and private investment vehicles similar to the Trust. For the purposes of this section, the term “Highland” shall include the Investment Adviser and its affiliated investment advisors, including Highland Capital Management, L.P. and its affiliates. In connection with such other investment management activities, the Investment Adviser and/or its general partner, limited partners, officers, affiliates and employees may decide to invest the funds of one or more other accounts or recommend the investment of funds by other parties, rather than the Trust’s monies, in a particular security or strategy. In addition, the Investment Adviser and such other persons will determine the allocation of funds from the Trust and such other accounts to investment strategies and techniques on whatever basis they consider appropriate or desirable in their sole and absolute discretion.

Highland has built a professional working environment, a firm-wide compliance culture and compliance procedures and systems designed to protect against potential incentives that may favor one account over another. Highland has adopted policies and procedures that address the allocation of investment opportunities, execution of portfolio transactions, personal trading by employees and other potential conflicts of interest that are designed to ensure that all client accounts are treated equitably over time. Nevertheless, Highland furnishes advisory services to numerous clients in addition to the Trust, and Highland may, consistent with applicable law, make investment recommendations to other clients or accounts (including accounts that have performance or higher fees paid to Highland or in which portfolio managers have a personal interest in the receipt of such fees) that may be the same as or different from those made to the Trust. In addition, Highland, its affiliates and any of their partners, directors, officers, stockholders or employees may or may not have an interest in the securities whose purchase and sale the Investment Adviser recommends to the Trust. Actions with respect to securities of the same kind may be the same as or different from the action that the Investment Adviser, or any of its affiliates, or any of their partners, directors, officers, stockholders or employees or any member of their families may take with respect to the same securities. Moreover, the Investment Adviser may refrain from rendering any advice or services concerning securities of companies of which any of the Investment Adviser’s (or its affiliates’) partners, directors, officers or employees are directors or officers, or companies as to which the Investment Adviser or any of its affiliates or partners, directors, officers and employees of any of them has any substantial economic interest or possesses material non-public information. In addition to its various policies and procedures designed to address these issues, Highland includes disclosure regarding these matters to its clients in both its Form ADV and investment advisory agreements.

The Investment Adviser, its affiliates or their partners, directors, officers or employees similarly serve or may serve other entities that operate in the same or related lines of business, including accounts managed by an investment adviser affiliated with the Investment Adviser. Accordingly, these individuals may have obligations to investors in those entities or funds or to other clients, the fulfillment of which might not be in the best interests of the Trust. As a result, the Investment Adviser will face conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities to the Trust and other funds and clients. In order to enable such affiliates to fulfill their fiduciary duties to each of the clients for which they have responsibility, the Investment Adviser will endeavor to allocate investment opportunities in a fair and equitable manner, pursuant to policies and procedures adopted by the Investment Adviser and its advisory affiliates that are designed to manage potential conflicts of interest, which may, subject to applicable regulatory constraints, involve pro rata co-investment by the funds and such other clients or may involve a rotation of opportunities among the funds and such other clients. The Trust will only make investments in which the Investment Adviser or an affiliate hold an interest to the extent permitted under the Investment Company Act and SEC staff interpretations or pursuant to the terms and conditions of the exemptive order received by the Investment Adviser and certain funds affiliated with the Trust, dated April 19, 2016. For example, exemptive relief is not required for the Trust to invest in syndicated deals and secondary loan market transactions in which the Investment Adviser or an affiliate has an interest where price is the only negotiated point. The order applies to all “Investment Companies,” which includes future closed-end investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act that are managed by the Investment Adviser, which includes the Trust. The Trust, therefore, may in the future invest in accordance with the terms and conditions of the exemptive order. To mitigate any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, allocation of limited offering securities (such as IPOs and registered secondary offerings) to principal accounts that do not include third party investors may only

be made after all other client account orders for the security have been filled. However, there can be no assurance that such policies and procedures will in every case ensure fair and equitable allocations of investment opportunities, particularly when considered in hindsight.

Conflicts may arise in cases when clients invest in different parts of an issuer's capital structure, including circumstances in which one or more clients own private securities or obligations of an issuer and other clients may own public securities of the same issuer. In addition, one or more clients may invest in securities, or other financial instruments, of an issuer that are senior or junior to securities, or financial instruments, of the same issuer that are held by or acquired for, one or more other clients. For example, if such issuer encounters financial problems, decisions related to such securities (such as over the terms of any workout or proposed waivers and amendments to debt covenants) may raise conflicts of interests. In such a distressed situation, a client holding debt securities of the issuer may be better served by a liquidation of the issuer in which it may be paid in full, whereas a client holding equity securities of the issuer might prefer a reorganization that holds the potential to create value for the equity holders. In the event of conflicting interests within an issuer's capital structure, Highland will generally pursue the strategy that Highland believes best reflects what would be expected to be negotiated in an arm's length transaction with due consideration being given to Highland's fiduciary duties to each of its accounts (without regard to the nature of the accounts involved or fees received from such accounts). This strategy may be recommended by one or more Highland investment professionals. A single person may represent more than one part of an issuer's capital structure. The recommended course of action will be presented to the conflicts committee for final determination as to how to proceed. Highland may elect, but is not required, to assign different teams to make recommendations for different parts of the capital structure as the conflicts committee determines in its discretion. In the event any Highland personnel serve on the board of the subject company, they generally recuse themselves from voting on any board matter with respect to a transaction that has an asymmetrical impact on the capital structure. Highland personnel board members may still make recommendations to the conflicts committee. If any such persons are also on the conflicts committee, they may recuse themselves from the committee's determination. A portfolio manager with respect to any applicable Highland registered investment company clients ("Retail Accounts") participates in such discussions, but makes an independent determination as to which course of action he or she determines is in the best interest of the applicable Retail Accounts. Highland may use external counsel for guidance and assistance.

The Investment Adviser and its affiliates have both subjective and objective procedures and policies in place designed to manage potential conflicts of interest involving clients so that, for example, investment opportunities are allocated in a fair and equitable manner among the Trust and such other clients. An investment opportunity that is suitable for multiple clients of the Investment Adviser and its affiliates may not be capable of being shared among some or all of such clients due to the limited scale of the opportunity or other factors, including regulatory restrictions imposed by the Investment Company Act. There can be no assurance that the Investment Adviser's or its affiliates' efforts to allocate any particular investment opportunity fairly among all clients for whom such opportunity is appropriate will result in an allocation of all or part of such opportunity to the Trust. Not all conflicts of interest can be expected to be resolved in favor of the Trust.

Another type of conflict may arise if one client account buys a security and another client sells or shorts the same security. Currently, such opposing positions are generally not permitted within the same account without prior trade approval by the Investment Adviser's Chief Compliance Officer. However, a portfolio manager may enter into opposing positions for different clients to the extent each such client has a different investment objective and each such position is consistent with the investment objective of the applicable client. In addition, transactions in investments by one or more affiliated client accounts may have the effect of diluting or otherwise disadvantaging the values, prices or investment strategies of other client accounts.

Because certain client accounts may have investment objectives, strategies or legal, contractual, tax or other requirements that differ (such as the need to take tax losses, realize profits, raise cash, diversification, etc.), an affiliated advisor may purchase, sell or continue to hold securities for certain client accounts contrary to other

recommendations. In addition, an affiliated advisor may be permitted to sell securities or instruments short for certain client accounts and may not be permitted to do so for other affiliated client accounts.

As a result of the Trust's arrangements with Highland, there may be times when Highland, the Investment Adviser or their affiliates have interests that differ from those of the Trust's shareholders, giving rise to a conflict of interest. The Trust's officers serve or may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or a related line of business as the Trust does, or of investment funds managed by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates. Similarly, the Investment Adviser or its affiliates may have other clients with similar, different or competing investment objectives. In serving in these multiple capacities, they may have obligations to other clients or investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which may not be in the best interests of the Trust or its shareholders. For example, the Trust's officers have, and will continue to have, management responsibilities for other investment funds, accounts or other investment vehicles managed or sponsored by the Investment Adviser and its affiliates. The Trust's investment objective may overlap, in part or in whole, with the investment objective of such affiliated investment funds, accounts or other investment vehicles. As a result, those individuals may face conflicts in the allocation of investment opportunities among the Trust and other investment funds or accounts advised by or affiliated with the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to allocate investment opportunities among eligible accounts in a manner that is fair and equitable over time and consistent with its allocation policy. However, the Trust can offer no assurance that such opportunities will be allocated to it fairly or equitably in the short-term or over time. See "Conflicts of Interest" for a discussion of our Investment Adviser's allocation policy.

Currently a substantial portion of the Trust's assets are invested in REITs, asset-backed securities and/or collateralized loan obligations sponsored, organized and/or managed by Highland and its affiliates. The Investment Adviser will monitor for conflicts of interest in accordance with its fiduciary duties and will provide the independent trustees of the Trust with an opportunity to periodically review the Trust's investments in such REITs, asset-backed securities and/or CLOs and assure themselves that continued investment in such securities remains in the best interests of the Trust and its shareholders. The Investment Adviser may effect client cross-transactions where it causes a transaction to be effected between the Trust and another client advised by the Investment Adviser or any of its affiliates. The Investment Adviser may engage in a client cross-transaction involving the Trust any time that the Investment Adviser believes such transaction to be fair to the Trust and the other client of the Investment Adviser or its affiliates.

As further described below, the Investment Adviser may effect principal transactions where the Trust may make and/or hold an investment, including an investment in securities, in which the Investment Adviser and/or its affiliates have a debt, equity or participation interest, in each case in accordance with applicable law, which may include the Investment Adviser obtaining the consent and approval of the Trust prior to engaging in any such principal transaction between the Trust and the Investment Adviser or its affiliates.

The Investment Adviser may direct the Trust to acquire or dispose of investments in cross trades between the Trust and other clients of the Investment Adviser or its affiliates in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements. In addition, to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act and SEC staff interpretations, the Trust may make and/or hold an investment, including an investment in securities, in which the Investment Adviser and/or its affiliates have a debt, equity or participation interest, and the holding and sale of such investments by the Trust may enhance the profitability of the Investment Adviser's own investments in such companies.

During periods in which the Trust is using leverage, the fees paid to the Investment Adviser for investment advisory services and to the Administrator for administrative services will be higher than if the Trust did not use leverage because the fees paid will be calculated on the basis of the Trust's Managed Assets, which may create an incentive for the Investment Adviser to leverage the Trust or to leverage using strategies that increase the Investment Adviser's fee. Furthermore, the Investment Adviser will also benefit to the extent that the Trust's Managed Assets are derived from the reinvested collateral received on portfolio securities loaned.

In addition to the Advisory Fee of the Investment Adviser, the Trust pays all other costs and expenses of its operations, including, but not limited to, compensation of its trustees (other than those affiliated with the Investment Adviser), custodian, transfer and dividend disbursing agent expenses, legal fees, listing fees and expenses, expenses of independent auditors, expenses of preparing, printing and distributing shareholder reports, notices, proxy statements and reports to governmental agencies, and reimbursement of actual expenses of the Investment Adviser or others for registration and maintenance of the Trust's registration with the Commission and other jurisdictions and taxes, if any.

Pursuant to the Trust's investment advisory agreement, the Trust has undertaken to indemnify the Investment Adviser and its partners, officers, employees, agents, and controlling persons for certain liabilities arising under the agreement, except liabilities arising from their willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his position. In accordance with the indemnification provision in the Trust's Investment Advisory Agreement, the Trust has in the past indemnified the Investment Adviser from time to time, and may continue to do so in the future.

#### *No-Action Letter and Exemptive Order*

The Commission staff, through a No-Action Letter dated June 26, 2013, has stated that it will not recommend enforcement action if the Trust utilizes Rule 486(b) of the Securities Act to file post-effective amendments to its shelf registration statement in order to update the Trust's financial statements and make other non-material changes.

Additionally, the Trust, Highland Capital Management Fund Advisors L.P. and the Investment Adviser have obtained an exemptive order dated April 19, 2016 from the Commission to permit certain co-investments among the Trust and other accounts managed by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates, subject to certain conditions.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR/SUB-ADMINISTRATOR**

Under an administration agreement dated June 29, 2006 and amended June 6, 2008, (the "Administration Agreement"), the Investment Adviser provides administration services to the Trust, provides executive and other personnel necessary to administer the Trust and furnishes office space. Some of the administrative services provided by the Investment Adviser under the Administration Agreement, include, but are not limited to:

- preparing and coordinating the Trust's state filings;
- determining and overseeing publication of the Trust's NAV and distribution amounts;
- overseeing and liaising with services providers, such as the custodian and transfer agent;
- monitoring leverage compliance;
- coordinating the negotiation of credit agreements and other agreements with counterparties;
- investigating customer complaints;
- determining and monitoring expense accruals;
- authorizing expenditures and bill payments on behalf of the Trust; and
- performing such additional administrative duties as requested by the Trust.

Effective June 14, 2012, NexPoint Advisors, L.P. became the investment advisor and administrator to the Trust. Prior to June 14, 2012, HCMFA (formerly Pyxis Capital, L.P.) was the investment advisor and administrator to the Trust. The Investment Adviser will receive an annual fee, payable monthly, in an amount equal to 0.20% of the average weekly value of the Trust's Managed Assets. The Investment Adviser earned for administration services \$1,770,870 in fees for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, \$1,083,853 in fees for

the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, and \$1,170,744 in fees for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. The Investment Adviser may waive a portion of its fees. Under a separate sub-administration agreement, dated January 7, 2013, the Investment Adviser has delegated certain administrative functions to State Street Bank and Trust Company (“State Street”), at an annual rate, payable by the Investment Adviser, of 0.01% of the average weekly value of the Trust’s Managed Assets. Some of the administrative services delegated to State Street, include, but are not limited to, preparing monthly security transaction listings; coordinating communications with other service providers; coordinating printing of shareholder reports; monitoring compliance with various regulatory schemes applicable to the Trust; assisting in preparation of proxy materials, fidelity bond and insurance policies and with Commission examination and responses thereto; and coordinating preparation of board materials.

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

The Trust’s portfolio manager is James Dondero. Mr. Dondero has managed the portfolio since September 2012. His investment decisions are not subject to the oversight, approval or ratification of a committee.

Mr. Dondero has over 25 years of experience in the credit markets. In addition to his role at the Investment Adviser, Mr. Dondero is the co-founder and President of Highland Capital Management, L.P., founder and President of NexPoint Advisors, L.P., Chairman of the board of directors, Chief Executive Officer and member of the investment committee of NXRT, President of NexPoint Capital, Inc., President of NexPoint Multifamily Capital Trust, Inc., director for American Banknote Corporation, director for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, director for Jernigan Capital, Inc., Chairman of the board of directors for Cornerstone Healthcare, Chairman of the board of directors for CCS Medical, and Chairman of NexBank, an affiliated bank. Mr. Dondero has over 30 years of experience investing in credit and equity markets and has helped pioneer credit asset classes. Prior to founding Highland Capital Management in 1993, Mr. Dondero served as Chief Investment Officer of Protective Life’s GIC subsidiary and helped grow the business from concept to over \$2 billion between 1989 and 1993. His portfolio management experience includes mortgage-backed securities, investment grade corporates, leveraged bank loans, high-yield bonds, emerging market debt, real estate, derivatives, preferred stocks and common stocks. From 1985 to 1989, he managed approximately \$1 billion in fixed income funds for American Express. Mr. Dondero received a BS in Commerce (Accounting and Finance) from the University of Virginia, and is a Certified Managerial Accountant. Mr. Dondero has earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

The Statement of Additional Information provides additional information about the portfolio manager’s compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio manager and the portfolio manager’s ownership of securities issued by the Trust.

## **Determination of Net Asset Value**

The net asset value of the common shares of the Trust is computed based upon the value of the Trust’s investment portfolio securities and other assets. Net asset value per common share is determined daily on each day that the NYSE is open for business as of the close of the regular trading session on the NYSE, usually 4:00 p.m., Eastern time. The NYSE is open Monday through Friday, but currently is scheduled to be closed on New Year’s Day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents’ Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day or on the preceding Friday or subsequent Monday when a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, respectively.

The Trust calculates net asset value per common share by subtracting liabilities (including accrued expenses or dividends) from the total assets of the Trust (the value of the securities plus cash or other assets, including interest accrued but not yet received) and dividing the result by the total number of outstanding common shares of the Trust.

## VALUATIONS

The Trust uses the following valuation methods to determine either current market value for investments for which market quotations are available or, if not available, the fair value, as determined in good faith pursuant to policies and procedures approved by the Board:

- The market value of each security listed or traded on any recognized securities exchange or automated quotation system will be the last reported sale price at the relevant valuation date on the composite tape or on the principal exchange on which such security is traded, except that debt securities that are not credit-impaired and have remaining maturities of 60 days or less will be valued at amortized cost, a method of valuation that approximates market value. If no sale is reported on that date, or for over-the-counter securities, the Investment Adviser utilizes, when available, pricing quotations from principal market makers. Such quotations may be obtained from third-party pricing services or directly from investment brokers and dealers in the secondary market. Generally, the Trust's loan and bond positions are not traded on exchanges and consequently are valued based on market prices received from third-party pricing services or broker-dealer sources.
- Dividends declared but not yet received, and rights in respect of securities which are quoted ex-dividend or ex-rights, will be recorded at the fair value thereof, as determined by the Investment Adviser, which may (but need not) be the value so determined on the day such securities are first quoted ex-dividend or ex-rights.
- Listed options, or over-the-counter options for which representative brokers' quotations are available, will be valued in the same manner as listed or over-the-counter securities as hereinabove provided. Premiums for the sale of such options written by the Trust will be included in the assets of the Trust, and the market value of such options shall be included as a liability.
- The Trust's non-marketable investments for which market quotations are not readily will generally be valued in such manner as the Investment Adviser determines in good faith to reflect their fair values under procedures established by, and under the general supervision and responsibility of, the Board. The pricing of all assets that are fair valued in this manner will be subsequently reported to and ratified by the Board. Pursuant to the Trust's pricing procedures, securities for which market quotations are not readily available may include securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, securities for which no or limited trading activity has occurred for a period of time, or securities that are otherwise deemed to be illiquid (i.e., securities that cannot be disposed of within seven days at approximately the price at which the security is currently priced by the Trust). Swaps and other derivatives would generally fall under this category.

When determining the fair value of an asset, the Investment Adviser seeks to determine the price that the Trust might reasonably expect to receive from the current sale of that asset in an arm's-length transaction. Fair value is defined as the amount for which assets could be sold in an orderly disposition over a reasonable period of time, taking into account the nature of the asset. Fair value determinations are based upon all available factors that the Investment Adviser deems relevant. Fair value pricing, however, involves judgments that are inherently subjective and inexact, since fair valuation procedures are used only when it is not possible to be sure what value should be attributed to a particular asset or when an event will affect the market price of an asset and to what extent. As a result, fair value pricing may not reflect actual market value, and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security will be materially different from the value that actually could be or is realized upon the sale of that asset.

## DETERMINATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH OFFERINGS

In connection with any primary offering of the Trust's common shares, the Trust is required to make the determination that it is not selling its common shares at a price below its then current net asset value at the time at which the sale is made. However, if the net asset value of the Trust changes during the pendency of a primary

offering such that there is a possibility that the price of the Trust's common shares could fall below the then current net asset value of its common shares at the time at which the sale is made, or (ii) there is a possibility that the Trust could trigger the undertaking (which the Trust provided to the Commission in the registration statement to which this prospectus is a part) to suspend the offering of its common shares pursuant to this prospectus if the net asset value fluctuates by certain amounts in certain circumstances until the prospectus is amended, the Trust may elect, in the case of clause (i) above, to postpone the offering until such time as the Trust makes a determination that it is not at risk of selling its common shares at a price below its then current net asset value and, in the case of clause (ii) above, to comply with such undertaking or to undertake to determine net asset value to ensure that such undertaking has not been triggered.

### **Distributions**

Subject to market conditions, the Trust expects to declare dividends on the Trust's common shares on a monthly basis. The Trust intends to pay any net capital gain distributions annually.

Various factors will affect the level of the Trust's current income and current gains, such as its asset mix and the Trust's use of options and other derivative transactions. To permit the Trust to maintain more stable monthly dividends and annual capital gain distributions, the Trust may from time to time distribute less than the entire amount of income and gains earned in the relevant month or year, respectively. The undistributed income and gains would be available to supplement future distributions. As a result, the distributions paid by the Trust for any particular period may be more or less than the amount of income and gains actually earned by the Trust during the applicable period. Undistributed income and gains will add to the Trust's net asset value, and, correspondingly, distributions from previously undistributed income and gains, as well as from capital, if any, will be deducted from the Trust's net asset value.

Shareholders will automatically receive newly issued common shares for all dividends declared for common shares of the Trust in accordance with the Trust's Dividend Reinvestment Plan unless an election is made to receive cash. Participants requesting a sale of securities through the plan agent of the Trust's Dividend Reinvestment Plan are subject to a sales fee and a brokerage commission. See "Dividend Reinvestment Plan."

### **Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

Unless the registered owner of common shares elects to receive cash by contacting the Plan Agent, all dividends declared for the common shares of the Trust will be automatically paid in the form of, or reinvested by American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC ("AST" or the "Plan Agent") in, newly issued common shares of the Trust. If you are a registered owner of common shares and elect not to participate in the Plan, you will receive all dividends or other distributions (together, a "dividend") in cash paid by check mailed directly to you (or, if the shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to such nominee) by AST, as dividend disbursing agent. You may elect not to participate in the Plan and to receive all dividends in cash by sending written instructions or by contacting AST, as dividend disbursing agent, at the address set forth below. Participation in the Plan is completely voluntary and may be terminated or resumed at any time without penalty by contacting the Plan Agent before the dividend record date; otherwise such termination or resumption will be effective with respect to any subsequently declared dividend. Some brokers may automatically elect to receive cash on your behalf and may reinvest that cash in additional shares of the Trust for you.

The Plan Agent will open an account for each shareholder under the Plan in the same name in which such shareholder's shares are registered. Whenever the Trust declares a dividend payable in cash, non-participants in the Plan will receive cash and participants in the Plan will receive the equivalent in newly issued common shares. The common shares will be acquired by the Plan Agent through receipt of additional unissued but authorized common shares from the Trust. The number of newly issued common shares to be credited to each participant's

account will be determined by dividing the dollar amount of the dividend by the lesser of (i) the net asset value per common share determined on the declaration date and (ii) the market price per common share as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE on the declaration date.

The Plan Agent maintains all shareholders' accounts in the Plan and furnishes written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information needed by shareholders for tax records. Common shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by the Plan Agent on behalf of the Plan participant, and each shareholder proxy will include those shares purchased or received pursuant to the Plan. The Plan Agent will forward all proxy solicitation materials to participants and vote proxies for shares held under the Plan in accordance with the instructions of the participants.

In the case of shareholders such as banks, brokers or nominees which hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners, the Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of common shares certified from time to time by the record shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who participate in the Plan.

There will be no brokerage charges with respect to common shares issued directly by the Trust. The automatic reinvestment of dividends will not relieve participants of any tax that may be payable (or required to be withheld) on such dividends. Accordingly, any taxable dividend received by a participant that is reinvested in additional common shares will be subject to U.S. federal (and possibly state and local) income tax even though such participant will not receive a corresponding amount of cash with which to pay such taxes. See "Tax Matters." Participants who request a sale of shares through the Plan Agent are subject to a \$2.50 sales fee and pay a brokerage commission of \$0.05 per share sold.

The Trust reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan. There is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan; however, the Trust reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants.

All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to the Plan Agent at American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC 6201 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11219; telephone (718) 921-8200.

### **Shareholder Loyalty Program**

To promote loyalty and long-time alignment of interests among the Trust's shareholders, the Investment Adviser offers an incentive to shareholders that buy and hold the Trust's common shares for a period of at least twelve months through its Shareholder Loyalty Program (the "Program"). To participate in the Program, existing shareholders must open an account (the "Account") with the Program's administrator, AST. Subsequently, if a participant makes contributions to the Account during a defined trading period to purchase shares, the Investment Adviser will make a corresponding contribution to create an effective 2% gross up of the participant's contributions. More specifically, the Investment Adviser's contribution will be for 2% of the total contributed by the participant. For example, if a participant contributes \$10,000 to the Account during a defined trading period to purchase shares, NexPoint will make a corresponding contribution of \$200, or 2% of the total \$10,000, to purchase additional Shares for the participant (the "Bonus Shares"). In addition, Program participants will not be required to pay any customary selling commissions or distribution fees on the purchase of shares under the Program. NexPoint will bear the costs of brokerage fees in connection with the Program out of its own profits.

While the portion of the Trust's common shares that are acquired through the participant's contribution will vest immediately, Bonus Shares will not vest until the first anniversary of the date that the Bonus Shares were purchased. Vested shares will be held in the Account and Bonus Shares will be held in an account at AST for the conditional benefit of the shareholder. Under the Program, participants must purchase a minimum of \$10,000 worth of shares in the initial subscription and \$5,000 in each subsequent subscription, unless the Investment

Adviser, in its sole discretion, decides to permit subscriptions for a lesser amount. If the Trust's common shares are trading at a discount, AST will purchase common shares on behalf of participants in open-market purchases. If the Trust's common shares are trading at a premium, AST may purchase common shares on behalf of participants in open-market purchases or the Trust may sell common shares to the Shareholder Loyalty Program by means of this prospectus or otherwise. See "Plan of Distribution."

All dividends received on shares that are purchased under the Program will be automatically reinvested through the Program. A participant's interest in a dividend paid to the holder of a vested share will vest immediately. A participant's interest in a dividend paid to the holder of a Bonus Share will vest at the same time that the Bonus Share's vesting requirements are met. In addition, for dividends paid to holders of shares that were purchased with a participant's contributions, the Investment Adviser will make a corresponding contribution to the amount of the reinvested dividend to create an effective 2% gross up of the dividend amount.

AST maintains all shareholders' accounts in the Program and furnishes written confirmation of all transactions in the accounts, including information needed by shareholders for tax records. Shares in the account of each Program participant will be held by AST on behalf of the Program participant, and each shareholder proxy will include those shares purchased or received pursuant to a Program. AST will forward all proxy solicitation materials to participants and vote proxies for shares held under the Program in accordance with the instructions of the participants.

In the case of shareholders such as banks, brokers or nominees which hold shares for others who are the beneficial owners, AST will administer the Program on the basis of the number of common shares certified from time to time by the record shareholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who participate in the Program.

The Trust and the Investment Adviser reserve the right to amend or terminate the Program. To help align the interests of the Investment Adviser's employees with the interests of the Trust's shareholders, the Investment Adviser offers a similar program to its employees.

Participants in the Program should be aware that their receipt of Bonus Shares under the Program constitutes taxable income to them. In addition, such participants owe taxes on that portion of any distribution that constitutes taxable income in respect of shares of our common stock held in their Program accounts, whether or not such shares of common stock have vested in the hands of the participants. To the extent any payments or distributions under the Program are subject to U.S. federal, state or local taxes, the Trust, any participating affiliate of the Trust or the agent for the Program may satisfy its tax withholding obligation by (1) withholding shares of Stock allocated to the participant's account, (2) deducting cash from the participant's account or (3) deducting cash from any other compensation the participant may receive. Program participants should consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences to them of participating in the Program.

The Program may create an incentive for shareholders to invest additional amounts in the Trust. Because the Investment Adviser's management fee is based on a percentage of the assets of the Trust, the Program will result in increased net revenues to the Investment Adviser if the increase in the management fee due to the increased asset base offsets the costs associated with establishing and maintaining the Program.

### **Description of Capital Structure**

This prospectus contains a summary of the common shares, preferred shares, and subscription rights. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. However, this prospectus will contain the material terms and conditions for each security.

Any of the securities described herein may be issued separately or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities (for example, common shares and rights), which may or may not be separable from one another. If such units are publicly offered, they and their underlying securities will be registered under the Securities Act prior to completion of the offering.

## **COMMON SHARES**

The Trust is a statutory trust organized under the laws of the State of Delaware pursuant to an Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated as of March 10, 2006. The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.001 per share. Each common share has one vote and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the terms of this offering, will be fully paid and non-assessable, except that the trustees shall have the power to cause shareholders to pay expenses of the Trust by setting off charges due from shareholders from declared but unpaid dividends or distributions owed such shareholders and/or by reducing the number of common shares owned by such shareholder. The Trust currently is not aware of any expenses that will be paid pursuant to this provision, except to the extent fees payable under its Dividend Reinvestment Plan are deemed to be paid pursuant to this provision.

The Trust intends to hold annual meetings of shareholders so long as the common shares are listed on a national securities exchange and such meetings are required as a condition to such listing. All common shares are equal as to dividends, assets and voting privileges and have no conversion, preemptive or other subscription rights. The Trust will send annual and semi-annual reports, including financial statements, to all holders of its shares.

The Trust has no present intention of offering any additional shares other than the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and common shares issued under the Trust's Dividend Reinvestment Plan. Any additional offerings of shares will require approval by the Board. Any additional offering of common shares will be subject to the requirements of the Investment Company Act, which generally provides that shares may not be issued at a price below the then current net asset value, exclusive of sales load, except in connection with an offering to existing holders of common shares or with the consent of a majority of the Trust's common shareholders.

Any additional offerings of common shares would result in current shareholders owning a smaller proportionate interest in the Trust than they owned prior to such offering to the extent that shareholders do not purchase sufficient shares in such offering to maintain their percentage interest. The Trust's net asset value would be reduced immediately following an offering of the shares due to the costs of such offering, which will be borne entirely by the Trust. The sale of shares by the Trust (or the perception that such sales may occur) may have an adverse effect on prices of shares in the secondary market. An increase in the number of shares available may put downward pressure on the market price for shares. If the Trust were unable to invest the proceeds of an additional offering of shares as intended, the Trust's per share distribution may decrease and the Trust may not participate in market advances to the same extent as if such proceeds were fully invested as planned.

The Trust's common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "NHF." Unlike open-end funds, closed-end funds like the Trust do not continuously offer shares and do not provide daily redemptions. Rather, if a shareholder determines to buy additional common shares or sell shares already held, the shareholder may do so by trading through a broker on the NYSE or otherwise. Shares of closed-end investment companies frequently trade on an exchange at prices lower than net asset value. Because the market value of the common shares may be influenced by such factors as dividend levels (which are in turn affected by expenses), dividend stability, net asset value, relative demand for and supply of such shares in the market, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Trust, the common shares may not trade at a price equal to or higher than net asset value in the future. The common shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and you should not purchase the common shares if you intend to sell them soon after purchase. See the Statement of Additional Information under "Repurchase of Common Shares."

The following table provides information about the Trust’s outstanding shares as of April 12, 2018. The Trust does not currently hold any of its shares for its own account.

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>(1) Amount Authorized</u>	<u>(2) Amount Outstanding</u>	<u>(3) Amount Held by the Trust or for its Account</u>	<u>(4) Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Amount Shown Under (3)</u>
Common Shares . . . . .	Unlimited	22,788,000	—	22,788,000

Pursuant to Section 3.8 of the Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust, the Board has the power to cause each holder of common or preferred shares of the Trust to pay directly, in advance or arrears, for charges of distribution, of the custodian or transfer, shareholder servicing or similar agent, a pro rata amount as determined from time to time by the Board, by setting off such charges due from such shareholder from declared but unpaid dividends or distributions owed such shareholder and/or by reducing the number of shares in the account of such shareholder by that number of full and/or fractional shares which represents the outstanding amount of such charges due from such shareholder. In the event the Trustees determine to cause each shareholder to pay certain expenses directly by setting off such expenses due from a shareholder from dividends payable to such shareholder, the shareholder generally will be deemed to receive, and incur U.S. federal income taxes on, the full amount of the distribution paid to such shareholder, prior to its reduction by the expenses allocated to the shareholder. Alternatively, to the extent the Trustees determine to cause each shareholder to pay certain expenses directly by reducing the number of shares in the shareholder’s account by the amount of the expenses allocated to the shareholder, such reduction in shares generally will constitute a redemption for U.S. federal income tax purposes, giving rise to capital gain or loss on the shares redeemed. See “Tax Matters” below for more information about the tax treatment of distributions and redemptions from the Trust. In either case, the expenses directly charged to the shareholder generally will be deductible by such shareholder for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but may be subject to the 2% floor on miscellaneous itemized deductions and other significant limitations on itemized deductions set forth in the Code.

For information concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in common shares of the Trust, See “Tax Matters” below and “Tax Matters” in the Statement of Additional Information.

## **PREFERRED SHARES**

The Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust provides that the Board may authorize and issue preferred shares with rights as determined by the Board, by action of the Board without the approval of the holders of the common shares. Holders of common shares have no preemptive right to purchase any preferred shares that might be issued. Whenever preferred shares are outstanding, the Trust will not be permitted to declare any distributions from the Trust unless all accrued dividends on preferred shares have been paid, unless asset coverage (as defined in the Investment Company Act) with respect to preferred shares would be at least 200% after giving effect to the distributions and unless certain other requirements imposed by any rating agencies rating the preferred shares have been met.

Although it has no current intention to do so in the next twelve months, the Trust may issue preferred shares as part of its leverage strategy. Although the terms of any preferred shares, including dividend rate, liquidation preference and redemption provisions, will be determined by the Board, subject to applicable law and the Trust’s Agreement and Declaration of Trust, it is likely that the preferred shares will be structured to carry a relatively short-term dividend rate reflecting interest rates on short-term bonds, by providing for the periodic redetermination of the dividend rate at relatively short intervals through an auction, remarketing or other procedure. The Trust also believes that it is likely that the liquidation preference, voting rights and redemption provisions of the preferred shares will be similar to those stated below.

*Liquidation Preference.* In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Trust, the holders of preferred shares will be entitled to receive a preferential liquidating distribution,

which is expected to equal the original purchase price per preferred share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of common shares. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of preferred shares will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by the Trust.

*Voting Rights.* The Investment Company Act requires that the holders of any preferred shares, voting separately as a single class, have the right to elect at least two trustees at all times. The remaining trustees will be elected by holders of common shares and preferred shares, voting together as a single class. In addition, subject to the prior rights, if any, of the holders of any other class of senior securities outstanding, the holders of any preferred shares have the right to elect a majority of the trustees of the Trust at any time two years' dividends on any preferred shares are unpaid. The Investment Company Act also requires that, in addition to any approval by shareholders that might otherwise be required, the approval of the holders of a majority of any outstanding preferred shares, voting separately as a class, would be required to (i) adopt any plan of reorganization that would adversely affect the preferred shares, and (ii) take any action requiring a vote of security holders under Section 13(a) of the Investment Company Act, including, among other things, changes in the Trust's subclassification as a closed-end investment company or changes in its fundamental investment restrictions. As a result of these voting rights, the Trust's ability to take any such actions may be impeded to the extent that there are any preferred shares outstanding. The Board presently intends that, except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus and except as otherwise required by applicable law, holders of preferred shares will have equal voting rights with holders of common shares (one vote per share, unless otherwise required by the Investment Company Act) and will vote together with holders of common shares as a single class.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding preferred shares, voting as a separate class, will be required to amend, alter or repeal any of the preferences, rights or powers of holders of preferred shares that materially and adversely affect such preferences, rights or powers, or to increase or decrease the authorized number of preferred shares. The class vote of holders of preferred shares described above will in each case be in addition to any other vote required to authorize the action in question.

*Redemption, Purchase and Sale of Preferred Shares by the Trust.* The terms of the preferred shares are expected to provide that (i) they are redeemable by the Trust in whole or in part at the original purchase price per share plus accrued dividends per share, (ii) the Trust may tender for or purchase preferred shares, and (iii) the Trust may subsequently resell any shares so tendered for or purchased.

Any redemption or purchase of preferred shares by the Trust will reduce the leverage applicable to the common shares, while any resale of shares by the Trust will increase that leverage.

The discussion above describes the possible offering of preferred shares by the Trust. If the Board determines to proceed with such an offering, the terms of the preferred shares may be the same as, or different from, the terms described above, subject to applicable law and the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust. The Board, without the approval of the holders of common shares, may authorize an offering of preferred shares or may determine not to authorize such an offering and may fix the terms of the preferred shares to be offered.

If preferred shares are offered in the future, such shares will be registered under the Securities Act prior to the offering.

## **SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS**

### *General*

We may issue subscription rights to our shareholders to purchase common shares. Subscription rights may be issued independently or together with any other offered security and may or may not be transferable by the person purchasing or receiving the subscription rights. In connection with a subscription rights offering to our

shareholders, we would distribute certificates evidencing the subscription rights and a prospectus supplement to our shareholders on the record date that we set for receiving subscription rights in such subscription rights offering.

The applicable prospectus supplement would describe the following terms of subscription rights in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

- the period of time the offering would remain open;
- the title of such subscription rights;
- the exercise price for such subscription rights (or method of calculation thereof);
- the ratio of the offering;
- the number of such subscription rights issued to each shareholder;
- the extent to which such subscription rights are transferable and the market on which they may be traded if they are transferable;
- the date on which the right to exercise such subscription rights shall commence, and the date on which such right shall expire (subject to any extension);
- the extent to which such subscription rights include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities and the terms of such over-subscription privilege;
- any termination right we may have in connection with such subscription rights offering; and
- any other terms of such subscription rights, including exercise, settlement and other procedures and limitations relating to the transfer and exercise of such subscription rights.

#### *Exercise of Subscription Rights*

Each subscription right would entitle the holder of the subscription right to purchase for cash such amount of shares of common shares at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the prospectus supplement relating to the subscription rights offered thereby. Under the Investment Company Act, we may generally only offer subscription rights that expire not later than 120 days after their issuance and are issued exclusively and ratably to a class or classes of our security holders. Subscription rights may be exercised at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date for such subscription rights set forth in the prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, all unexercised subscription rights would become void.

Subscription rights may be exercised as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the subscription rights offered thereby. Upon receipt of payment and the subscription rights certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the subscription rights agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement we will forward, as soon as practicable, the common shares purchasable upon such exercise. To the extent permissible under applicable law, we may determine to offer any unsubscribed offered securities directly to persons other than shareholders, to or through agents, underwriters or dealers or through a combination of such methods, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The Trust's common shareholders will indirectly bear all of the expenses of any subscription rights offerings, regardless of whether the Trust's common shareholders exercise any subscription rights.

#### *Dilutive Effect*

The Trust may effectuate one or more rights offerings, as part of which the Trust will issue subscription rights. In any such event, shareholders who do not fully exercise their subscription rights should expect that they will, at the completion of a rights offering pursuant to this prospectus, own a smaller proportional interest in the

Trust than would otherwise be the case if they fully exercised their rights. We cannot state precisely the amount of any such dilution in share ownership because we do not know at this time what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. These shareholders will also experience a disproportionately greater decrease in their participation in the Trust's earnings and assets and their voting power than the increase the Trust will experience in its assets, potential earning power and voting interests due to such offering. These shareholders may also experience a decline in the market price of their shares, which often reflects to some degree announced or potential increases and decreases in net asset value per share. This decrease could be more pronounced as the size of the offering and level of discounts increases. Further, if current shareholders do not purchase any shares to maintain their percentage interest, regardless of whether such offering is above or below the then current net asset value, their voting power will be diluted.

In addition, if the subscription price in any such offering is less than the net asset value per share of our common shares, then shareholders would experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of their shares as a result of the offering. The amount of any decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price and net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of a rights offering or what proportion of the shares will be purchased as a result of such rights offering. Any dilution could be substantial and may be compounded by any subsequent rights offering the Trust may undertake.

#### *U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of an Issuance of Subscription Rights to Common Shareholders*

The following is a summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of an issuance of subscription rights to our common shareholders pursuant to this prospectus (for purposes of this section, each such issuance is referred to as an "offer" and each subscription right, a "right"), under the provisions of the Code, U.S. Treasury regulations promulgated under the Code ("Treasury regulations"), and other applicable authority in effect as of the date of the prospectus that are generally applicable to common shareholders and other holders of rights to purchase common shares who are "United States persons" within the meaning of the Code. This summary does not address any state, local, foreign or other tax consequences. These authorities may be changed, possibly with retroactive effect, or become subject to new legislative, administrative, or judicial interpretation. Common shareholders or other holders of rights should consult their tax advisors regarding the tax consequences, including U.S. federal, state, or local, or foreign or other tax consequences, relevant to their particular circumstances. This summary assumes that the rights are issued separately by the Trust and not as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities.

The Trust believes that the value of any right issued pursuant to an offer will not be includible in the income of a common shareholder at the time the right is issued, and the Trust will not report to the IRS that a common shareholder has income as a result of the issuance of the right; however, depending on the specific terms of the offer, there may be no guidance directly on point concerning certain aspects of the taxation of the offer. The remainder of this discussion assumes that the receipt of the rights by common shareholders will not be a taxable event for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

The basis of a right issued to a common shareholder will be zero, and the basis of the common share(s) with respect to which the right was issued (the "Old Share(s)") will remain unchanged, except that the shareholder must allocate its basis in the Old Share(s) between the Old Shares and the right in proportion to their respective fair market values on the date of distribution of the right if (i) either (a) the fair market value of the right on the date of distribution is at least 15% of the fair market value of the Old Share(s) on that date, or (b) the shareholder affirmatively elects (in the manner set out in Treasury regulations) to allocate to the right a portion of the basis of the Old Share(s), and (ii) the right does not expire unexercised in the hands of the shareholder (i.e., the shareholder either exercises or sells the right following its issuance). In compliance with Treasury regulations, the Trust will report to the common shareholders and to the IRS within 45 days of the distribution of the rights (or, if earlier, January 15 of the year following the calendar year of the distribution), either by mail or on the Trust's website, the effect, if any, of the offer on the common shareholders' basis in their Old Shares. Any determination the Trust makes with respect to the value of the rights in connection with this reporting

requirement will not be binding on the IRS. Shareholders should consult with their tax advisers to determine the proper allocation, if any, of tax basis between rights and Old Shares, including whether the election described above would be appropriate for their situation.

No loss will be recognized by a common shareholder if a right distributed to such shareholder expires unexercised in the hands of such shareholder.

The basis of a right purchased in the market generally will be its purchase price. If a right that has been purchased in the market expires unexercised, the holder will recognize a loss equal to the basis of the right.

Any gain or loss on the sale of a right or, in the case of rights purchased in the market, any loss from a right that expires unexercised, will be a capital gain or loss if the right is held as a capital asset (which, in the case of rights issued to common shareholders, will normally depend on whether the Old Shares are held as capital assets), and will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the holding period of the right exceeds (or is deemed to exceed) one year. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitation. The holding period of a right issued to a common shareholder will include the holding period of the Old Share(s).

No gain or loss will be recognized by a holder upon the exercise of a right, and the basis of any common share acquired upon exercise (the “New Share”) will equal the sum of the basis, if any, of the right and the subscription price for the New Share. When a holder exercises a right, the holder’s holding period in the New Share(s) does not include the time during which the holder held the unexercised right; the holding period of the New Share(s) will begin no later than the date following the date of exercise of the right.

Employee retirement plans and other tax-exempt entities, including governmental plans, should also be aware that if they borrow in order to finance their exercise of rights, they may become subject to the tax on unrelated business taxable income (“UBTI”) under Section 511 of the Code. If any portion of an individual retirement account (“IRA”) is used as security for a loan, the portion so used may also be treated as distributed to the IRA depositor.

For more information relating to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the Trust, see “Tax Matters” below and “Tax Matters” in the Statement of Additional Information.

#### *Previous Rights Offerings*

On January 18, 2008, the Trust offered subscription rights to its common shareholders. The net proceeds from this rights offering was \$143.6 million.

On May 8, 2017, the Trust offered subscription rights to its common shareholders. The net proceeds from this rights offering was \$139.9 million.

#### **EMPLOYEE PLAN CONSIDERATIONS**

Shareholders whose shares are held in employee benefit plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”) or Section 4975 of the Code (including corporate savings and 401(k) plans, Keogh or H.R. 10 plans of self-employed individuals and individual retirement accounts) (each, a “Plan”) should be aware that additional contributions of cash to the Plan (other than rollover contributions or trustee-to-trustee transfers from other Plans) in order to exercise rights would be treated as contributions to such Plan and, when taken together with contributions previously made, may result in, among other things, excise taxes for excess or nondeductible contributions. In the case of Plans qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and certain other retirement plans, additional cash contributions could cause the maximum contribution limitations of Section 415 of the Code or other qualification rules to be violated. In addition, there may be other adverse tax and ERISA consequences if rights are sold or transferred by a Plan.

Plans also should be aware that if they borrow in order to finance their exercise of rights, they may become subject to the tax on UBTI under Section 511 of the Code. If any portion of an IRA is used as security for a loan, the portion so used also is treated as distributed to the IRA depositor.

ERISA contains fiduciary responsibility requirements, and ERISA and the Code contain prohibited transaction rules that may affect the exercise or transfer of rights. Due to the complexity of these rules and the penalties for noncompliance, fiduciaries of Plans and other retirement plans should consult with their counsel and other advisers regarding the consequences of their exercise or transfer of rights under ERISA and the Code.

## **COMMITTED FACILITY, MASTER REPURCHASE AGREEMENT AND BRIDGE CREDIT AGREEMENT**

The Trust currently leverages through borrowings from a committed facility, a master repurchase agreement and a bridge facility. The Trust has entered into the Committed Facility with BNP to borrow up to \$135,000,000. The Committed Facility has a rolling 90-day term (referred to as a “90-day evergreen”). Absent a default or termination event, as described in the Committed Facility, or the ratings decline as described in the following sentence, BNP is required to provide the Trust with 180 days’ notice prior to terminating or materially amending the Committed Facility. BNP has a termination right if BNP’s long-term credit rating declines three or more notches below its highest rating by any of Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, Moody’s Investor Service, Inc. or Fitch Ratings, Ltd., during the period commencing on and including October 28, 2014 and ending on the date of such long-term credit rating decline. Upon any such termination, BNP shall pay the Trust a fee equal to 0.10% of the maximum amount of financing available on the termination date. The Trust pays interest on borrowed amounts under the Committed Facility at an annual rate of the one month London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”) plus 0.60% to 1.30%, depending on the asset class of the underlying collateral. The Committed Facility agreement contains customary covenant and default provisions. When borrowings are made under the Committed Facility, collateral must be posted to an account with the Trust’s custodian, State Street held for the benefit of BNP. Such borrowings constitute financial leverage.

The Trust has entered into an agreement with BNP Paribas Securities Corporation (“BNP Securities”) under which it may from time to time enter into reverse repurchase transactions pursuant to the terms of a master repurchase agreement and related annexes, dated as of November 16, 2017 (collectively the “Repurchase Agreement”). A reverse repurchase transaction is a repurchase transaction in which the Trust is the seller of securities or other assets and agrees to repurchase them at a date certain or on demand. Pursuant to the Repurchase Agreement, the Trust may agree to sell securities or other assets to BNP Securities for an agreed-upon price (the “Purchase Price”), with a simultaneous agreement to repurchase such securities or other assets from BNP Securities for the Purchase Price plus a price differential that is economically similar to interest. The price differential is negotiated for each transaction.

On February 16, 2018, the Trust, and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, NexPoint Real Estate Capital, LLC (“NREC”) and NexPoint Real Estate Opportunities, LLC (“NREO”), entered into a bridge credit agreement (the “Bridge Facility”) with KeyBank National Association, as administrative agent and lender. Under the terms of the Bridge Facility, the Trust, NREC and NREO may borrow up to \$36.5 million. The Bridge Facility must be fully funded through a maximum of two loan advances. Each borrowing under the Bridge Facility will be comprised of either ABR Loans or Eurodollar Loans (each as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement (as defined below)), as the Trust may request. The Trust may elect to convert a borrowing to a different type or to continue a borrowing under the same type and, in the case of a Eurodollar loan, may elect the applicable Interest Periods (as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement).

The Bridge Facility has an initial term of six months, maturing on August 16, 2018, with two three-month extension options outlined further in the credit agreement for the Bridge Facility (the “KeyBank Credit Agreement”). Payments due pursuant to the Bridge Facility are interest-only. The Bridge Facility bears interest based on the type of borrowing. The ABR Loans bear interest at the lesser of (x) the Alternate Base Rate (as

defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement) plus the Applicable Rate, or (y) the Maximum Rate (as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement). The Eurodollar Loans bear interest at the lesser of (a) the Adjusted LIBO Rate (as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement) for the Interest Period in effect plus the Applicable Rate, or (b) the Maximum Rate (as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement). The Applicable Rate means for any Eurodollar Loan, 200 basis points, and for any ABR Loan, 100 basis points.

For the initial loan under the Bridge Facility, the Trust borrowed \$20,000,000 under a Loan which bears interest at approximately 2.00%. The Trust may change this election from time to time, as provided by the KeyBank Credit Agreement. Pursuant to the KeyBank Credit Agreement, the Trust is subject to certain loan compliance covenants.

The Bridge Facility is fully recourse and is secured by Collateral (as defined in the KeyBank Credit Agreement). The Bridge Facility may be prepaid or terminated at any time without penalty, provided, however, that KeyBank National Association shall be indemnified for any breakage costs.

Prior to December 15, 2017, the Trust had entered into a secured Credit Facility with State Street in the amount of \$85,650,000. The Trust has since paid the Credit Facility in full and the Credit Facility expired on its terms. Such borrowings constituted financial leverage. The Credit Facility contained customary covenant, negative covenant and default provisions, including covenants that limit the Trust's ability to: (i) pay dividends in certain circumstances, (ii) incur additional debt, or (iii) consolidate or merge into or with any person, other than as permitted by the Credit Facility, or sell, lease or otherwise transfer, directly or indirectly, all or substantially all of its assets. In addition, the Trust agreed not to purchase assets not contemplated by the investment policies and restrictions in effect when the Credit Facility became effective. The prohibition on the payment of dividends might impair the ability of the Trust to meet the RIC distribution requirements and to avoid Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes. Furthermore, the Trust may not incur additional debt from any other party, except in limited circumstances (*e.g.*, in the ordinary course of business).

Any senior security representing indebtedness, as defined in Section 18(g) of the Investment Company Act, must have asset coverage of at least 300%.

### **Market and Net Asset Value Information**

The Trust's common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "NHF." The Trust's common shares commenced trading on the NYSE in June 2006. In the trading history of the Trust's common shares, the Trust's common shares have traded at both a premium and a discount to net asset value. The Trust cannot predict whether its shares will trade in the future at a premium or discount to net asset value. Issuance of additional common shares may have an adverse effect on prices in the secondary market for the Trust's common shares by increasing the number of shares available, which may put downward pressure on the market price for the shares.

The following table sets forth, for each of the periods indicated, the high and low closing market prices of the Trust's common shares on the NYSE, the corresponding net asset value per share on such dates and the corresponding premium/discount to net asset value per share on such dates. See "Net Asset Value" for information as to how the Trust's net asset value is determined.

Quarter*	Market Price		Net Asset Value per Share		Premium/ (Discount) as a % of Net Asset Value	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2015	\$31.80	\$28.88	\$36.12	\$32.60	(11.96)%	(11.41)%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2015	\$29.68	\$22.12	\$32.68	\$26.80	(9.18)%	(17.46)%
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015	\$25.11	\$19.23	\$27.90	\$23.31	(10.00)%	(17.50)%
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2016	\$20.46	\$16.90	\$23.69	\$20.56	(13.63)%	(17.80)%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016	\$22.16	\$17.80	\$24.57	\$20.80	(9.81)%	(14.42)%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016	\$22.61	\$21.17	\$25.02	\$23.88	(9.63)%	(11.35)%
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2016	\$23.06	\$20.40	\$26.02	\$23.88	(11.38)%	(14.57)%
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017	\$23.75	\$22.54	\$26.47	\$25.01	(8.04)%	(11.62)%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2017	\$22.84	\$21.45	\$25.54	\$23.95	(6.46)%	(13.40)%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017	\$23.05	\$21.85	\$25.22	\$23.95	(6.58)%	(12.77)%
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2017	\$25.40	\$23.11	\$26.61	\$24.85	(3.64)%	(9.05)%

\* Data prior to October 6, 2015 has been adjusted to give effect to a 4 to 1 reverse stock split of the Trust's issued and outstanding shares that was effected on October 6, 2015, thereby reducing by a factor of four the number of shares outstanding.

The Trust's net asset value per common share at the close of business on April 19, 2018 (the last trading date prior to the date of this prospectus on which the Trust determined its net asset value) was \$26.12, and the last reported sale price of a common share on the NYSE on that day was \$23.11, a discount to net asset value of 11.52%.

### Anti-Takeover Provisions in the Agreement and Declaration of Trust

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust includes provisions that could have the effect of limiting the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Trust or to change the composition of its Board. This could have the effect of depriving shareholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices by discouraging a third party from seeking to obtain control over the Trust. Such attempts could have the effect of increasing the expenses of the Trust and disrupting the normal operation of the Trust. The Board is divided into three classes, with the terms of one class expiring at each annual meeting of shareholders. At each annual meeting, one class of trustees is elected to a three-year term. This provision could delay for up to two years the replacement of a majority of the Board. A trustee may be removed from office (for cause, and not without cause) by the action of a majority of the remaining trustees followed by a vote of the holders of at least 75% of the shares then entitled to vote for the election of the respective trustee.

In addition, the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust requires the favorable vote of a majority of the Board followed by the favorable vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of each affected class or series of the Trust, voting separately as a class or series, to approve, adopt or authorize certain transactions with 5% or greater holders of a class or series of shares and their associates, unless the transaction has been approved by at least 80% of the trustees, in which case "a majority of the outstanding voting securities" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) of the Trust shall be required. For purposes of these provisions, a 5% or greater holder of a class or series of shares (a "Principal Shareholder") refers to any person who, whether directly or indirectly and whether alone or together with its affiliates and associates, beneficially owns 5% or more of the outstanding shares of all outstanding classes or series of shares of beneficial interest of the Trust.

The 5% holder transactions subject to these special approval requirements are: the merger or consolidation of the Trust or any subsidiary of the Trust with or into any Principal Shareholder; the issuance of any securities of the Trust to any Principal Shareholder for cash, except pursuant to any automatic dividend reinvestment plan; the sale, lease or exchange of all or any substantial part of the assets of the Trust to any Principal Shareholder,

except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than 2% of the total assets of the Trust, aggregating for the purpose of such computation all assets sold, leased or exchanged in any series of similar transactions within a twelve-month period; or the sale, lease or exchange to the Trust or any subsidiary of the Trust, in exchange for securities of the Trust, of any assets of any Principal Shareholder, except assets having an aggregate fair market value of less than 2% of the total assets of the Trust, aggregating for purposes of such computation all assets sold, leased or exchanged in any series of similar transactions within a twelve-month period.

To convert the Trust to an open-end investment company, the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust requires the favorable vote of a majority of the board of the trustees followed by the favorable vote of the holders of at least 75% of the outstanding shares of each affected class or series of shares of the Trust, voting separately as a class or series, unless such amendment has been approved by at least 80% of the trustees, in which case "a majority of the outstanding voting securities" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) of the Trust shall be required. The foregoing vote would satisfy a separate requirement in the Investment Company Act that any conversion of the Trust to an open-end investment company be approved by the shareholders. If approved in the foregoing manner, conversion of the Trust to an open-end investment company could not occur until 90 days after the shareholders' meeting at which such conversion was approved and would also require at least 30 days' prior notice to all shareholders. Following any such conversion, it is possible that certain of the Trust's investment policies and strategies would have to be modified to assure sufficient portfolio liquidity. In the event of conversion, the common shares would cease to be listed on the NYSE or other national securities exchanges or market systems. Shareholders of an open-end investment company may require the company to redeem their shares at any time, except in certain circumstances as authorized by or under the Investment Company Act, at their net asset value, less such redemption charge, if any, as might be in effect at the time of a redemption. The Trust expects to pay all such redemption requests in cash, but reserves the right to pay redemption requests in a combination of cash and securities. If such partial payment in securities were made, investors may incur brokerage costs in converting such securities to cash. If the Trust were converted to an open-end fund, it is likely that new shares would be sold at net asset value plus a sales load. The Board believes, however, that the closed-end structure is desirable in light of the Trust's investment objectives and policies. Therefore, you should assume that it is not likely that the Board would vote to convert the Trust to an open-end fund.

For the purposes of calculating "a majority of the outstanding voting securities" under the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, each class and series of the Trust shall vote together as a single class, except to the extent required by the Investment Company Act or the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, with respect to any class or series of shares. If a separate class vote is required, the applicable proportion of shares of the class or series, voting as a separate class or series, also will be required.

The Agreement and Declaration of Trust also provides that the Trust may be liquidated upon the approval of 80% of the trustees.

The Board has determined that provisions with respect to the Board and the shareholder voting requirements described above, which voting requirements are greater than the minimum requirements under Delaware law or the Investment Company Act, are in the best interest of shareholders generally. Reference should be made to the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, on file with the Commission, for the full text of these provisions, the material terms of which are summarized in this prospectus.

### **Closed-End Fund Structure**

The Trust is a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company (commonly referred to as a closed-end fund). Closed-end funds differ from open-end funds (which are generally referred to as mutual funds) in that closed-end funds generally list their shares for trading on a stock exchange and do not redeem their shares at the request of the shareholder. This means that if you wish to sell your shares of a closed-end fund you must trade them on the market like any other stock at the prevailing market price at that time. In a mutual fund, if the

shareholder wishes to sell shares of the fund, the mutual fund will redeem or buy back the shares at “net asset value” (less a redemption fee, if applicable, or contingent deferred sales charge, if applicable). Also, mutual funds generally offer new shares on a continuous basis to new investors, and closed-end funds generally do not. The continuous inflows and outflows of assets in a mutual fund can make it difficult to manage a mutual fund’s investments. By comparison, closed-end funds are generally able to stay more fully invested in securities that are consistent with their investment objective and also have greater flexibility to make certain types of investments and to use certain investment strategies, such as financial leverage and investments in illiquid securities.

Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. Because of this possibility and the recognition that any such discount may not be in the interest of shareholders, the Board might consider from time to time engaging in open-market repurchases, tender offers for shares or other programs intended to reduce the discount. We cannot guarantee or assure, however, that the Board will decide to engage in any of these actions, nor is there any guarantee or assurance that such actions, if undertaken, would result in the shares trading at a price equal or close to net asset value per share. The Board might also consider converting the Trust to an open-end mutual fund, which would also require a vote of the shareholders of the Trust.

### **Repurchase of Common Shares; Discount**

Shares of closed-end investment companies often trade at a discount to their net asset value, and the Trust’s common shares may also trade at a discount to their net asset value, although it is possible that they may trade at a premium above net asset value. The market price of the Trust’s common shares will be determined by such factors as relative demand for and supply of such common shares in the market, the Trust’s net asset value, general market and economic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the Trust. See “Net Asset Value.” Although the Trust’s common shareholders will not have the right to redeem their common shares, the Trust may take action to repurchase common shares in the open market or make tender offers for its common shares. This may have the effect of reducing any market discount from net asset value. The Board may decide not to take any of these actions. In addition, there can be no assurance that share repurchases or tender offers, if undertaken, will reduce market discount. On November 2, 2016, the Board approved a share repurchase program (the “Repurchase Program”) pursuant to which the Trust may repurchase, over a six-month period beginning in December 2016, up to \$10 million of its shares of its outstanding shares in open-market transactions. In connection with the May 8, 2017 rights offering, the Board approved the extension of the Repurchase Program for a period of one year from the closing of the rights offering. As of the date of this prospectus, the Trust had not completed any repurchases since the Trust’s discount to net asset value has closed significantly.

The amount and timing of the repurchases will be at the discretion of the Trust’s investment adviser, subject to market conditions and investment considerations. There is no assurance that the Trust will purchase shares at any particular discount levels or in any particular amounts. Any repurchases made under the Repurchase Program would be made on a national securities exchange at the prevailing market price, subject to exchange requirements regarding volume, timing and other limitations under federal securities laws.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, at any time when there are outstanding borrowings, the Trust may not purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any of its common shares unless (i) all accrued preferred shares dividends have been paid, and (ii) at the time of such purchase, redemption or acquisition, the net asset value of the Trust’s portfolio (determined after deducting the acquisition price of the common shares) is at least 200% of the liquidation value of the outstanding borrowings. Any service fees incurred in connection with any tender offer made by the Trust will be borne by the Trust and will not reduce the stated consideration to be paid to tendering shareholders.

There is no assurance that, if action is undertaken to repurchase or tender for common shares, such action will result in the common shares trading at a price which approximates their net asset value. Although share repurchases and tenders could have a favorable effect on the market price of the Trust’s common shares, you

should be aware that the acquisition of common shares by the Trust will decrease the capital of the Trust and, therefore, may have the effect of increasing the Trust's expense ratio and decreasing the asset coverage with respect to any borrowings. Any share repurchases or tender offers will be made in accordance with requirements of the Exchange Act, the Investment Company Act, and the principal stock exchange on which the common shares are traded. See the Trust's Statement of Additional Information for a discussion of the U.S. federal income tax implications of a repurchase or tender offer by the Trust.

Before deciding whether to take any action if the common shares trade below net asset value, the Board would likely consider all relevant factors, including the extent and duration of the discount, the liquidity of the Trust's portfolio, the impact of any action that might be taken on the Trust or its shareholders and market considerations. Based on these considerations, even if the Trust's shares should trade at a discount, the Board may determine that, in the interest of the Trust and its shareholders, no action should be taken.

### **Tax Matters**

The following is a general summary of some of the important U.S. federal income tax considerations affecting the Trust and its common shareholders that are "United States persons" within the meaning of the Code, and does not address any state, local, foreign or other tax consequences. It reflects provisions of the Code, existing Treasury regulations, and other applicable authority, as of the date of this prospectus. These authorities may be changed, possibly with retroactive effect, or become subject to new legislative, administrative, or judicial interpretations. This summary does not purport to be a complete description of the U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to common shareholders of the Trust. For example, it does not describe certain tax considerations that may be relevant to certain types of holders subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including shareholders subject to the U.S. federal alternative minimum tax, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, pension plans and trusts, RICs, dealers in securities, shareholders holding Trust shares through tax-advantaged accounts (such as 401(k) plans or IRAs), financial institutions, persons who are neither citizens nor residents of the United States, and shareholders holding Trust shares as part of a hedge, straddle, or conversion transaction. This summary assumes that investors hold Trust common shares as capital assets (within the meaning of the Code). Your investment in the Trust may have other tax implications. Please consult your tax advisor about U.S. federal, state, local, foreign or other tax laws applicable to you, as the tax consequences to an investor in the Trust's common shares will depend on the facts of his, her or its particular situation. For more information, including a summary of certain tax consequences of investing in the Trust for non-U.S. persons, please see the Statement of Additional Information under "Tax Matters."

This summary does not discuss the tax consequences of an investment in subscription rights of the Trust, separately, or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities. See "Description of Capital Structure—U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences of an Issuance of Subscription Rights to Common Shareholders" above for a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the Trust's issuance of subscription rights to common shareholders.

The Trust has elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code and intends each year to qualify and to be eligible to be treated as such. In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded RICs and their shareholders, the Trust must, among other things:

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

(ii) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Trust's taxable year, (a) at least 50% of the market value of the Trust's total assets consists of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, the securities of other RICs and other securities limited, in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Trust's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Trust's total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Trust owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, (x) in the securities (other than U.S. government securities and the securities of other RICs) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers that the Trust controls, as determined under applicable Code rules, and that are determined to be engaged in the same business or similar or related trades or businesses, or (y) in the securities of one or more "qualified publicly traded partnerships"; and

(iii) distribute to its shareholders with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its "investment company taxable income" (as that term is defined in the Code, without regard to the deduction for dividends paid—generally taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and any net tax-exempt interest income, for such year.

In general, a RIC is not subject to tax at the corporate level on income and gains from investments that are distributed in a timely manner to shareholders in the form of dividends, provided the RIC complies with these ongoing requirements. If the Trust were to fail to comply with the income, diversification or distribution requirements, the Trust could in some cases cure such failure, including by paying a Trust-level tax, paying interest, making additional distributions, or disposing of certain assets. If the Trust were ineligible to or otherwise did not cure such failure for any year or otherwise were to fail to qualify as a RIC accorded special tax treatment, the Trust would be subject to Trust-level taxation on its taxable income at regular corporate rates and consequently the income available for distribution to shareholders would be reduced. Additionally, all of its distributions from earnings and profits (including from net long-term capital gains) would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income. In addition, in some cases, the Trust could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions in order to re-qualify as a RIC.

Amounts not distributed on a timely basis in accordance with a calendar-year distribution requirement are subject to a nondeductible 4% federal excise tax at the Trust level. To avoid the tax, the Trust must distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (i) 98% of its ordinary income (not taking into account any capital gains or losses) for the calendar year, (ii) 98.2% of its capital gains in excess of its capital losses (adjusted for certain ordinary losses) for a one-year period generally ending on October 31 of the calendar year (unless an election is made to use the Trust's taxable year end) and (iii) any such undistributed income from the prior year. For these purposes, the Trust will be treated as having distributed any amount on which it has been subject to corporate income tax in the taxable year ending with the calendar year. The Trust reserves the right to pay the excise tax when circumstances warrant.

Certain of the Trust's investment practices, including Derivative Transactions, short sales and hedging activities generally, as well as the Trust's investments in certain types of securities, including loans or other debt obligations issued or purchased at a discount and preferred stock, may be subject to special and complex 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 long-term capital gain or "qualified dividend income" into short-term capital gain or ordinary income taxable at higher rates, (iii) accelerate the recognition of income, (iv) convert short-term losses into long-term losses, (v) cause the Trust to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (vi) adversely affect the time a purchase or sale of stock or other securities is deemed to occur, (vii) cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Trust's securities, or (viii) otherwise adversely alter the characterization of certain complex financial transactions. These U.S. federal income tax provisions could therefore affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions to shareholders. In particular, the Trust expects that a substantial portion of the Trust's investments in loans and other debt obligations will be treated as having "market discount" and/or "original issue discount" for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which, in some cases, could be significant, and could cause the Trust to recognize income in

respect of these investments before or without receiving cash representing such income. Accordingly, the Trust may be required to, among other things, dispose of securities, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, to obtain the cash needed to meet the distribution requirements for qualification as a RIC and to avoid incurring Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

Investments in distressed debt obligations that are at risk of or are in default present special tax issues for the Trust. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether and to what extent the Trust should recognize market discount on a distressed debt obligation; when the Trust may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount; when and to what extent the Trust may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how the Trust should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by the Trust as necessary, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its eligibility for treatment as a RIC and that it does not become subject to Trust-level U.S. federal income or excise taxes.

Special tax rules may affect the treatment of gains and losses recognized by the Trust when the Trust invests in certain foreign debt securities or engages in foreign currency transactions. The application of these special rules may accelerate or increase the Trust's recognition of ordinary income or loss, and affect the timing, amount and/or character of distributions made by the Trust. In addition, dividend, interest, capital gains and other income received by the Trust from investments outside the United States may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by foreign countries. Tax treaties between the United States and other countries may reduce or eliminate such taxes. Shareholders generally will not be entitled separately to claim a credit or deduction with respect to such foreign taxes incurred by the Trust. This will decrease the Trust's yield on securities subject to such taxes. Foreign taxes paid by or withheld from the Trust will reduce the return from the Trust's underlying investments.

Distributions paid to shareholders by the Trust from its net realized long-term capital gains (that is, the excess of any net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss, in each case determined with reference to any loss carryforwards) that the Trust properly reports as capital gain dividends ("capital gain dividends") are generally taxable to you as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long you have held your shares. All other dividends paid to you by the Trust, including dividends from net investment income and from short-term capital gains (that is, the excess of any net short-term capital gain over any net long-term capital loss, in each case determined with reference to loss carryforwards), from its earnings and profits are generally taxable to you as ordinary income. Distributions of investment income properly reported by the Trust as derived from "qualified dividend income" will be taxed in the hands of individuals at the rates applicable to long-term capital gains, provided holding period and other requirements are met at both the shareholder and Trust levels. It is not generally expected that a significant portion of Trust distributions will qualify for favorable tax treatment as "qualified dividend income" or as income eligible for the dividend-received deduction for corporate shareholders.

The Code generally imposes a 3.8% Medicare contribution tax on the "net investment income" of certain individuals, estates and trusts to the extent their income exceeds certain threshold amounts. Net investment income generally includes for this purpose dividends paid by the Trust, including any capital gain dividends and net capital gains recognized on the sale or exchange of shares of the Trust. Shareholders are advised to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this additional tax on their investment in the Trust.

If, for any taxable year, the Trust's total distributions exceed both current earnings and profits and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess will generally be treated as a tax-free return of capital up to the amount of your tax basis in the shares. The amount treated as a tax-free return of capital will reduce your tax basis in the shares, thereby increasing your potential gain or reducing your potential loss on a subsequent taxable disposition of the shares. Any amounts distributed to you in excess of your tax basis in the shares will be taxable to you as capital gain.

Dividends and other taxable distributions are taxable to you even if they are reinvested in additional common shares of the Trust under the Trust's Dividend Reinvestment Plan. If your dividends and other distributions are reinvested in common shares under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan, you generally will be treated as having received a dividend equal to either (i) if common shares are purchased on the open market on your behalf, the amount of cash allocated to you for the purchase of such common shares, or (ii) if newly issued common shares are issued to you, generally, the fair market value of such new common shares. Dividends and other distributions paid by the Trust are generally treated as received by you at the time the dividend or distribution is made. If, however, the Trust pays you a dividend in January that was declared and payable to shareholders of record in the previous October, November or December, then such dividend will be treated for tax purposes as being paid by the Trust and received by you on December 31 of the year in which the dividend was declared.

The price of common shares purchased at any time may reflect either unrealized gains, or realized but undistributed income or gains. If you purchase common shares just prior to a distribution, you will receive a distribution that may be taxable to you even though it economically represents in part a return of your invested capital.

Your broker or other intermediary will send you information after the end of each year setting forth the amount and tax status of any distributions paid to you by the Trust.

If you sell or otherwise dispose of common shares of the Trust, you will generally recognize a gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between your tax basis in such shares of the Trust and the amount you receive in exchange for such shares. Any such gain or loss generally will be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held (or are treated as having held) such shares for more than one year at the time of sale. All or a portion of any loss you realize on a taxable sale or exchange of your shares of the Trust will be disallowed if you acquire other shares of the Trust (whether through the automatic reinvestment of dividends or otherwise) within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after your sale or exchange of the shares. In such case, the basis of the shares acquired will be adjusted to reflect the disallowed loss. In addition, any loss realized upon a taxable sale or exchange of Trust shares held (or deemed held) by you for six months or less will be treated as long-term, rather than short-term, to the extent of any capital gain dividends received (or deemed received) by you with respect to those shares.

Your broker or other intermediary may be required to withhold, for U.S. federal backup withholding tax purposes, a portion of the dividends, distributions and redemption proceeds payable to an individual shareholder who fails to provide the broker or other intermediary with the shareholder's correct taxpayer identification number (in the case of an individual, generally, such individual's social security number) or to make the required certification, or who has been notified by the IRS that such shareholder is subject to backup withholding. Certain shareholders are exempt from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax and any amount withheld may be refunded or credited against your U.S. federal income tax liability, if any, provided that you furnish the required information to the IRS.

Upon the sale or exchange of common shares of the Trust, your broker or other intermediary generally will be required to provide you and the IRS with cost basis and certain other related tax information about the Trust shares you sold or exchanged. This cost basis reporting requirement is effective for shares purchased, including through dividend reinvestment, on or after January 1, 2012. Please consult your broker or other intermediary for more information regarding available methods for cost basis reporting and how to select a particular method. Please consult your tax advisor to determine which available cost basis method is best for you.

**The discussions set forth herein and in the Statement of Additional Information do not constitute tax advice, and you are urged to consult your own tax advisor to determine the specific U.S. federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences to you of investing in the Trust.**

## **Custodian and Transfer Agent**

The custodian of the assets of the Trust is State Street Bank and Trust Company (One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111). The custodian performs custodial services for the Trust. American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC (6201 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11219; telephone (718) 921-8200) serves as the Trust's transfer agent with respect to its common shares.

## **Legal Opinion**

Certain legal matters in connection with the securities have been passed upon for the Trust by Smith, Katzenstein & Jenkins LLP, special Delaware counsel to the Trust.

## **Privacy Principles of the Trust**

The Trust is committed to maintaining the privacy of its shareholders and to safeguarding their non-public personal information. The following information is provided to help you understand what personal information the Trust collects, how the Trust protects that information and why, in certain cases, the Trust may share information with select other parties.

Generally, the Trust does not receive any non-public personal information relating to its shareholders, although certain non-public personal information of its shareholders may become available to the Trust. The Trust does not disclose any non-public personal information about its shareholders or former shareholders to anyone, except as permitted by law or as is necessary in order to service shareholder accounts (for example, to a transfer agent or third party administrator).

The Trust restricts access to non-public personal information about its shareholders to employees of the Trust's Investment Adviser and its affiliates with a legitimate business need for the information. The Trust maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards designed to protect the non-public personal information of its shareholders.

No dealer, salesperson or any other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this prospectus in connection with the Offer and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Trust or the Investment Adviser. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of any offer to buy any security other than the common shares of the Trust offered by this prospectus, nor does it constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy the common shares of the Trust by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized, or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or to any such person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that information contained herein is correct as of any time subsequent to the date hereof. However, if any material change occurs while this prospectus is required by law to be delivered, the prospectus will be amended or supplemented accordingly.

## **Where You Can Find Additional Information**

We have filed with the Commission a registration statement on Form N-2 together with all amendments and related exhibits under the Securities Act. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the securities being offered by this prospectus.

We file annual and semi-annual reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. You can inspect any materials we file with the Commission, without charge, at the Commission's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. The information we file with the Commission is available free of charge by contacting us at 200 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201 or by telephone at 1-866-351-4440 or on our web site at [www.nexpointadvisors.com](http://www.nexpointadvisors.com). The Commission also maintains a web site that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding registrants, including us, that file such information electronically with the Commission. The address of the Commission's web site is [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Unless specifically incorporated into this prospectus, documents contained on our web site or on the Commission's web site about us are not incorporated into this prospectus and should not be considered to be part of this prospectus.

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**NexPoint Strategic Opportunities Fund  
(formerly, NexPoint Credit Strategies Fund)**

**Common Shares  
Subscription Rights**

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**PROSPECTUS**

**April 20, 2018**