

**FT VEST RISING DIVIDEND ACHIEVERS TOTAL RETURN FUND  
STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Class A Shares Class I Shares**

Dated September 27, 2024

c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc.

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**A REGISTRATION STATEMENT TO WHICH THIS STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI") RELATES HAS BEEN FILED BY FT VEST RISING DIVIDEND ACHIEVERS TOTAL RETURN FUND (THE "FUND") PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(B) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940, AS AMENDED. HOWEVER, SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST (THE "SHARES") OF THE FUND ARE NOT REGISTERED UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933, AS AMENDED (THE "1933 ACT"), SINCE SUCH SHARES WILL BE ISSUED SOLELY IN PRIVATE PLACEMENT TRANSACTIONS WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE ANY "PUBLIC OFFERING" WITHIN THE MEANING OF SECTION 4(A)(2) OF THE 1933 ACT. INVESTMENT IN THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY BY INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES THAT ARE "ACCREDITED INVESTORS" WITHIN THE MEANING OF REGULATION D UNDER THE 1933 ACT. SHARES WILL BE OFFERED AND SOLD UNDER THE EXEMPTION PROVIDED BY SECTION 4(A)(2) OF THE 1933 ACT AND RULE 506(C) OF REGULATION D PROMULGATED THEREUNDER AND SIMILAR EXEMPTIONS IN THE LAWS OF THE STATES AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS WHERE THE OFFERING WILL BE MADE, WHICH PERMIT GENERAL SOLICITATION. THIS MEMORANDUM SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR THE SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY, AND THERE SHALL NOT BE ANY SALE OF SHARES, IN ANY JURISDICTION IN WHICH SUCH OFFER, SOLICITATION OR SALE IS NOT AUTHORIZED OR TO ANY PERSON TO WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO MAKE SUCH OFFER, SOLICITATION, OR SALE.**

This SAI is not a prospectus. This SAI relates to and should be read in conjunction with the Private Placement Memorandum (the "Memorandum") of the FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund (the "Fund") dated September 27, 2024, and as it may be further amended or supplemented from time to time. This SAI is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Memorandum. A copy of the Memorandum may be obtained without charge by contacting the Fund at the telephone number or address set forth above.

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

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

The Fund's Memorandum, which is dated September 27, 2024, provides basic information investors should know before investing. This SAI is intended to provide additional information regarding the activities and operations of the Fund and should be read in conjunction with the Memorandum.

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## INVESTMENT POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Fund is classified and operates as a diversified fund under the Investment Company Act. Under the Investment Company Act, a diversified fund is a fund that meets the following requirements: at least 75% of the value of its total assets is represented by cash and cash items (including receivables), government securities, securities of other investment companies, and other securities for the purposes of this calculation limited in respect of any one issuer to an amount not greater in value than 5% of the value of the total assets of such management company and to not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer. The Fund may not change its diversification classification to become non-diversified without the approval of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding voting securities.

The investment objective of the Fund, as well as the principal investment strategies of the Fund and the principal risks associated with such investment strategies, are set forth in the Memorandum. Certain additional information regarding the investment program of the Fund is set forth below.

### FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES

The Fund's fundamental policies, which are listed below, may only be changed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. As defined by the Investment Company Act, the vote of a "majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund" means the vote, at an annual or special meeting of the Shareholders of the Fund ("Shareholders"), duly called, (i) of 67% or more of the Shares represented at such meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares are present in person or represented by proxy or (ii) of more than 50% of the outstanding Shares, whichever is less. No other policy is a fundamental policy of the Fund, except as expressly stated. The Fund may not:

- (1) Issue any senior security, except to the extent permitted by Section 18 of the Investment Company Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") or any other applicable authority.
- (2) Borrow money, except to the extent permitted by Section 18 of the Investment Company Act, as interpreted, modified, or otherwise permitted by the SEC or any other applicable authority. This investment restriction does not apply to borrowings from affiliated investment companies or other affiliated persons of the Fund to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the SEC or any other applicable authority.
- (3) Underwrite securities of other issuers, except insofar as the Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio securities.
- (4) Make loans, except through purchasing fixed-income securities, lending portfolio securities, or entering into repurchase agreements in a manner consistent with the investment policies of the Fund, or as otherwise permitted under the Investment Company Act. This investment restriction does not apply to loans to affiliated investment companies or other affiliated persons of the Fund to the extent permitted by the Investment Company Act, the SEC or any other applicable authority.
- (5) Purchase, hold or deal in real estate, except that the Fund may invest in securities that are secured by real estate, including, without limitation, mortgage-related securities, or that are issued by companies or partnerships that invest or deal in real estate or real estate investment trusts, and may hold and dispose of real estate acquired by the Fund as a result of the ownership of securities or other permitted investments.
- (6) Invest in commodities and commodity contracts, except that the Fund (i) may purchase and sell non-U.S. currencies, options, swaps, futures and forward contracts, including those related to indexes, options and options on indexes, as well as other financial instruments and contracts that are commodities or commodity contracts, (ii) may also purchase or sell commodities if acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments, (iii) may invest in commodity pools and other entities that purchase and sell commodities and commodity contracts, and (iv) may make such investments as otherwise permitted by the Investment Company Act, and as interpreted, modified or otherwise permitted by regulatory authority having jurisdiction, from time to time.
- (7) Invest 25% or more of the value of its total assets in the securities of issuers that are engaged in any single industry or group of industries, except that U.S. government securities and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities may be purchased without limitation.
- (8) With respect to 75% of its total assets, (i) invest in securities of any issuer if, immediately after such investment, more than 5% of the total assets of the Fund (taken at current value) would be invested in the securities of such issuer or (ii) acquire more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any issuer; provided that these limitations do not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed as to interest or principal by the U.S. government or its agencies or instrumentalities or to securities issued by other investment companies.

With respect to these investment restrictions and other policies described in this SAI or the Memorandum, if a percentage restriction is adhered to at the time of an investment or transaction, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in the values of investments or the value of the Fund's total assets, except in the case of the ongoing asset coverage requirement in the case of borrowings, will not constitute a violation of such restriction or policy. For purposes of the investment restriction regarding concentration above, the Fund may select its own industry classifications, provided such classifications are reasonable. The Fund's use of these classification systems is not a fundamental policy of the Fund and therefore, can be changed without Shareholder approval.

#### NON-FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES

##### **The Fund may change its investment objective, policies, restrictions, strategies, and techniques.**

Except as otherwise indicated, the Fund may change its investment objective and any of its policies, restrictions, strategies, and techniques without Shareholder approval. The Fund's investment objective and investment strategies are not fundamental policies of the Fund and may be changed by the Board of Trustees of the Fund (the "Board") without the vote of a majority (as defined by the Investment Company Act) of the Fund's outstanding Shares.

The following descriptions of the Investment Company Act may assist investors in understanding the above policies and restrictions.

**Borrowing.** The Investment Company Act restricts an investment company from borrowing in excess of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of its total assets (including the amount borrowed, but excluding temporary borrowings not in excess of 5% of its total assets). Under current law as interpreted by the SEC and its staff, the Fund may borrow from: (a) a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of the Fund; or (b) a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Fund has an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and repurchase commitments of the Fund pursuant to reverse repurchase transactions.

**Commodities.** The Investment Company Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities, but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The extent to which the Fund can invest in commodities or contracts related to commodities is set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Memorandum and this SAI.

**Concentration.** The SEC staff has defined concentration as investing 25% or more of an investment company's total assets in any particular industry or group of industries, with certain exceptions such as with respect to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities. For purposes of the Fund's concentration policy, the Fund may classify and re-classify companies in a particular industry and define and re-define industries in any reasonable manner, consistent with SEC guidance. For purposes of the Fund's industry concentration policy, the Investment Adviser may analyze the characteristics of a particular issuer and instrument and may assign an industry classification consistent with those characteristics. The Investment Adviser may, but need not, consider industry classifications provided by third parties.

**Real Estate.** The Investment Company Act does not directly restrict an investment company's ability to invest in real estate or interests in real estate, but does require that every investment company have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The Fund may invest in real estate or interests in real estate, securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate (e.g. mortgage loans evidenced by notes or other writings defined to be a type of security), mortgage-related securities, investment funds that invest in real estate through entities that may qualify as REITs, or in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including REITs). The Fund can invest in real estate or interest in real estate to the extent set out in the investment strategies and policies described in the Memorandum and this SAI.

**Senior Securities.** The current limit on issuance of senior securities limits the issuance of a class of senior securities that is indebtedness to no more than 33 1/3% of the value of the Fund's total assets or, if the class of senior security is stock, to no more than 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets. The Fund's limitation with respect to issuing senior securities is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Fund, provided that the Fund's engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the Investment Company Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the SEC or its staff.

**Underwriting.** Under the Investment Company Act, underwriting securities involves an investment company purchasing securities directly from an issuer for the purpose of selling (distributing) them or participating in any such activity either directly or indirectly.

**Lending.** Under the Investment Company Act, an investment company may only make loans if expressly permitted by its investment policies.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES OF THE FUND AND RELATED RISKS**

As discussed in the Memorandum, the Fund's investment objective is to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns through a combination of high level of current income and potential (although limited) long-term capital appreciation, while attempting to mitigate the risk of loss of principal. There can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective or that the Fund's investment strategies will be successful.

In seeking to achieve this investment objective, the Fund intends to pursue a hedged equity investment strategy by (i) investing primarily in U.S. exchange-traded equity securities contained in the NASDAQ US Rising Dividend Achievers<sup>TM</sup> Index (such index, the "Reference Index"), (ii) mitigating some of the risk of loss of principal by purchasing a hedge against the S&P 500 Index, and (iii) producing income with a target net income objective of 15.0% on an annual basis. Under normal market conditions, the Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by allocating at least 80% of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, to component securities of the NASDAQ US Rising Dividend Achievers Index.

This section provides additional information about various types of investments and investment techniques that may be employed by the Fund and their related risks.

#### **Types of Investments and Related Risks**

**EQUITY SECURITIES.** Equity securities represent an ownership position in a company. The prices of equity securities fluctuate based on, among other things, events specific to their issuers and market, economic, and other conditions. Equity securities may include common and preferred stocks. Common stocks include the common stock of any class or series of a domestic or foreign corporation or any similar equity interest, such as a trust or partnership interest. These investments may or may not pay dividends and may or may not carry voting rights. Common stock occupies the most junior position in a company's capital structure. The Fund may also invest in warrants and rights related to common stocks.

Equity securities are especially susceptible to general market movements and to volatile increases and decreases of value as market confidence in and perceptions of the issuers change. These perceptions are based on unpredictable factors including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic or banking crises. The Investment Adviser cannot predict the direction or scope of any of these factors. Shareholders of common stocks have rights to receive payments from the issuers of those common stocks that are generally subordinate to those of creditors of, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks of, such issuers.

Shareholders of common stocks of the type held by the Fund have a right to receive dividends only when and if, and in the amounts, declared by the issuer's board of directors and have a right to participate in amounts available for distribution by the issuer only after all other claims on the issuer have been paid or otherwise been settled. Common stocks do not represent an obligation of the issuer and, therefore, do not offer any assurance of income or provide the same degree of protection of capital as do debt securities. The issuance of additional debt securities or preferred stock will create prior claims for payment of principal, interest and dividends which could adversely affect the ability and inclination of the issuer to declare or pay dividends on its common stock or the rights of holders of common stock with respect to assets of the issuer upon liquidation or bankruptcy.

The value of common stocks is subject to market fluctuations for as long as the common stocks remain outstanding, and thus the value of the equity securities in the Fund will fluctuate over the life of the Fund and may be more or less than the price at which they were purchased by the Fund. The equity securities held in the Fund may appreciate or depreciate in value (or pay dividends) depending on the full range of economic and market influences affecting these securities, including the impact of the Fund's purchase and sale of the equity securities and other factors.

Holders of common stocks incur more risk than holders of preferred stocks and debt obligations because common stockholders, as owners of the entity, have generally inferior rights to receive payments from the issuer in comparison with the rights of creditors of, or holders of debt obligations or preferred stocks issued by, the issuer. Cumulative preferred stock dividends must be paid before common stock dividends and any cumulative preferred stock dividend omitted is added to future dividends payable to the holders of cumulative preferred stock. Preferred stockholders are also generally entitled to rights on liquidation which are senior to those of common stockholders.

**CALL OPTIONS.** A call option is a contractual obligation which gives the buyer of the option the right to purchase a certain number of shares of common stock from the writer (seller) of the option at a predetermined price. If the predetermined price is reached, the buyer has the right, depending on the type of option, to exercise the option at the option's expiration date or at any time up until the option's expiration.

**FLEX OPTIONS RISK.** The Fund holds purchased and written FLEX Options. The FLEX Options are European style options, which are exercisable at the strike price only on the FLEX Option expiration date. The FLEX Options held by the Fund give the option holder the right to buy the cash value of the reference asset on the FLEX Option expiration date at the strike price. The value of the FLEX Options prior to their expiration on the FLEX Option expiration date may vary because of factors other than fluctuations in value of the reference asset. The value of FLEX Options will be affected by changes in the value of the reference asset and its underlying securities, an increase in interest rates, a change in the actual and perceived volatility of the stock market and the reference asset and the remaining time to expiration. Additionally, the value of the FLEX Options does not increase or decrease at the same rate as the underlying asset or its underlying securities (although they generally move in the same direction).

**DERIVATIVES RISK.** The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying asset, index or rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. In addition, when the Fund invests in certain derivative securities, including, but not limited to, when-issued securities, forward commitments, futures contracts and interest rate swaps, the Fund is effectively leveraging its investments, which could result in exaggerated changes in the net asset value of the Fund's shares and can result in losses that exceed the amount originally invested. The success of the derivatives strategies will depend on the Investment Adviser's and Sub-Adviser's ability to assess and predict the impact of market or economic developments on the underlying asset, index or rate and the derivative itself, without the benefit of observing the performance of the derivative under all possible market conditions. Liquidity risk exists when a security cannot be purchased or sold at the time desired, or cannot be purchased or sold without adversely affecting the price. Certain specific risks associated with an investment in derivatives may include: market risk, credit risk, correlation risk, liquidity risk, legal risk and systemic or "interconnection" risk, as specified below.

- **Market Risk.** Market risk is the risk that the value of the underlying assets may go up or down. Adverse movements in the value of an underlying asset can expose the Fund to losses. Derivative instruments may include elements of leverage and, accordingly, fluctuations in the value of the derivative instrument in relation to the underlying asset may be magnified. The successful use of derivative instruments depends upon a variety of factors, particularly the portfolio managers' ability to predict movements of the securities, currencies and commodities markets, which may require different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. There can be no assurance that any particular strategy adopted will succeed. A decision to engage in a derivative transaction will reflect the portfolio managers' judgment that the derivative transaction will provide value to the Fund and its shareholders and is consistent with the Fund's objective, investment limitations and operating policies. In making such a judgment, the portfolio managers will analyze the benefits and risks of the derivative transactions and weigh them in the context of the Fund's overall investments and investment objective.

- *Credit Risk/Counterparty Risk.* Credit risk is the risk that a loss may be sustained as a result of the failure of a counterparty to comply with the terms of a derivative instrument. The counterparty risk for exchange-traded derivatives is generally less than for privately negotiated or over-the-counter (“OTC”) derivatives, since generally a clearing agency, which is the issuer or counterparty to each exchange-traded instrument, provides a guarantee of performance. For privately negotiated instruments, there is no similar clearing agency guarantee. In all transactions, the Fund will bear the risk that the counterparty will default, and this could result in a loss of the expected benefit of the derivative transactions and possibly other losses to the Fund. The Fund will enter into transactions in derivative instruments only with counterparties that the Investment Adviser reasonably believes are capable of performing under the contract.
- *Correlation Risk.* Correlation risk is the risk that there might be an imperfect correlation, or even no correlation, between price movements of a derivative instrument and price movements of investments being hedged. When a derivative transaction is used to completely hedge another position, changes in the market value of the combined position (the derivative instrument plus the position being hedged) result from an imperfect correlation between the price movements of the two instruments. With a perfect hedge, the value of the combined position remains unchanged with any change in the price of the underlying asset. With an imperfect hedge, the value of the derivative instrument and its hedge are not perfectly correlated. For example, if the value of a derivative instrument used in a short hedge (such as writing a call option, buying a put option or selling a futures contract) increased by less than the decline in value of the hedged investments, the hedge would not be perfectly correlated. This might occur due to factors unrelated to the value of the investments being hedged, such as speculative or other pressures on the markets in which these instruments are traded. The effectiveness of hedges using instruments on indices will depend, in part, on the degree of correlation between price movements in the index and the price movements in the investments being hedged.
- *Liquidity Risk.* Liquidity risk is the risk that a derivative instrument cannot be sold, closed out or replaced quickly at or very close to its fundamental value. Generally, exchange contracts are very liquid because the exchange clearinghouse is the counterparty of every contract. OTC transactions are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since they often can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction. The Fund might be required to maintain segregated accounts and/or make margin payments when taking positions in derivative instruments involving obligations to third parties (*i.e.*, instruments other than purchase options). If the Fund is unable to close out its positions in such instruments, it might be required to continue to maintain such assets or accounts or make such payments until the position expires, matures or is closed out. These requirements might impair the Fund's ability to sell a security or make an investment at a time when it would otherwise be favorable to do so, or require that the Fund sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time. The Fund's ability to sell or close out a position in an instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends upon the existence of a liquid secondary market or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the counterparty to enter into a transaction closing out the position. Due to liquidity risk, there is no assurance that any derivatives position can be sold or closed out at a time and price that is favorable to the Fund.
- *Legal Risk.* Legal risk is the risk of loss caused by the unenforceability of a party's obligations under the derivative. While a party seeking price certainty agrees to surrender the potential upside in exchange for downside protection, the party taking the risk is looking for a positive payoff. Despite this voluntary assumption of risk, a counterparty that has lost money in a derivative transaction may try to avoid payment by exploiting various legal uncertainties about certain derivative products.
- *Systemic or “Interconnection” Risk.* Systemic or “interconnection” risk is the risk that a disruption in the financial markets will cause difficulties for all market participants. In other words, a disruption in one market will spill over into other markets, perhaps creating a chain reaction. Much of the OTC derivatives market takes place among the OTC dealers themselves, thus creating a large interconnected web of financial obligations. This interconnectedness raises the possibility that a default by one large dealer could create losses for other dealers and destabilize the entire market for OTC derivative instruments.

**FIXED INCOME INVESTMENTS AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:** For temporary or defensive purposes, the Fund may invest in fixed income investments and cash equivalents in order to provide income, liquidity and preserve capital.

Fixed income investments and cash equivalents held by the Fund may include, without limitation, the types of investments set forth below.

The Fund may invest in U.S. government securities, including bills, notes and bonds differing as to maturity and rates of interest, which are either issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury or by U.S. government agencies or instrumentalities. U.S. government securities include securities that are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury, by various agencies of the U.S. government, or by various instrumentalities that have been established or sponsored by the U.S. government. U.S. Treasury securities are backed by the “full faith and credit” of the United States. Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and U.S. government-sponsored instrumentalities may or may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Some of the U.S. government agencies that issue or guarantee securities include the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Farmers Home Administration, the Federal Housing Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Small Business Administration and The Tennessee Valley Authority. An instrumentality of the U.S. government is a government agency organized under federal charter with government supervision. Instrumentalities issuing or guaranteeing securities include, among others, the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Federal Land Banks, the Central Bank for Cooperatives, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks and the FNMA. In the case of those U.S. government securities not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, the investor must look principally to the agency or instrumentality issuing or guaranteeing the security for ultimate repayment and may not be able to assert a claim against the United States itself in the event that the agency or instrumentality does not meet its commitment. The U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities do not guarantee the market value of their securities; consequently, the value of such securities may fluctuate. In addition, the Fund may invest in sovereign debt obligations of non-U.S. countries. A sovereign debtor’s willingness or ability to repay principal and interest in a timely manner may be affected by a number of factors, including its cash flow situation, the extent of its non-U.S. reserves, the availability of sufficient non-U.S. exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the economy as a whole, the sovereign debtor’s policy toward principal international lenders and the political constraints to which it may be subject.

The Fund may invest in certificates of deposit issued against funds deposited in a bank or savings and loan association. Such certificates are for a definite period of time, earn a specified rate of return and are normally negotiable. Pursuant to the certificate of deposit, the issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the certificate on the date specified thereon. Under current FDIC regulations, the maximum insurance payable as to any one certificate of deposit is \$250,000; therefore, certificates of deposit purchased by the Fund may not be fully insured. The Fund may only invest in certificates of deposit issued by U.S. banks with at least \$1 billion in assets.

The Fund may invest in bankers’ acceptances, which are short-term credit instruments used to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then “accepted” by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of interest for a specific maturity.

The Fund may invest in repurchase agreements, which involve purchases of debt securities with counterparties that are deemed by the Advisers to present acceptable credit risks. In such an action, at the time the Fund purchases the security, it simultaneously agrees to resell and redeliver the security to the seller, who also simultaneously agrees to buy back the security at a fixed price and time. This assures a predetermined yield for the Fund during its holding period since the resale price is always greater than the purchase price and reflects an agreed-upon market rate. Such actions afford an opportunity for the Fund to invest temporarily available cash. The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements only with respect to obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, certificates of deposit or bankers’ acceptances in which the Fund may invest. Repurchase agreements may be considered loans to the seller, collateralized by the underlying securities. The risk to the Fund is limited to the ability of the seller to pay the agreed-upon sum on the repurchase date; in the event of default, the repurchase agreement provides that the Fund is entitled to sell the underlying collateral. If the value of the collateral declines after the agreement is entered into, however, and if the seller defaults under a repurchase agreement when the value of the underlying collateral is less than the repurchase price, the Fund could incur a loss of both principal and interest. The Advisers monitor the value of the collateral at the time the action is entered into and at all times during the term of the repurchase agreement. The Advisers do so in an effort to determine that the value of the collateral always equals or exceeds the agreed-upon repurchase price to be paid to the Fund. If the seller were to be subject to a federal bankruptcy proceeding, the ability of the Fund to liquidate the collateral could be delayed or impaired because of certain provisions of the bankruptcy laws.



The Fund may invest in bank time deposits, which are monies kept on deposit with banks or savings and loan associations for a stated period of time at a fixed rate of interest. There may be penalties for the early withdrawal of such time deposits, in which case the yields of these investments will be reduced.

The Fund may invest in commercial paper, which are short-term unsecured promissory notes, including variable rate master demand notes issued by corporations to finance their current operations. Master demand notes are direct lending arrangements between the Fund and a corporation. There is no secondary market for the notes. However, they are redeemable by the Fund at any time. The Fund's Advisers will consider the financial condition of the corporation (e.g., earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios) and will regularly monitor the corporation's ability to meet all of its financial obligations, because the Fund's liquidity might be impaired if the corporation were unable to pay principal and interest on demand. The Fund may invest in commercial paper only if it has received the highest rating from at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization or, if unrated, judged by the Advisers to be of comparable quality.

The Fund may invest in shares of money market funds, as consistent with its investment objective and policies. Shares of money market funds are subject to management fees and other expenses of those funds. Therefore, investments in money market funds will cause the Fund to bear proportionately the costs incurred by the money market funds' operations. At the same time, the Fund will continue to pay its own management fees and expenses with respect to all of its assets, including any portion invested in the shares of other investment companies. It is possible for the Fund to lose money by investing in money market funds.

#### **OTHER POTENTIAL RISKS AND ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION**

**BUSINESS AND REGULATORY RISKS.** Legal, tax and regulatory developments that may adversely affect the Fund, the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser could occur during the term of the Fund. Securities and futures markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations and margin requirements enforced by the SEC, other regulators and self-regulatory organizations and exchanges authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The regulation of derivatives transactions and funds that engage in such transactions is an evolving area of law and is subject to modification by government and judicial actions. It is impossible to predict what, if any, changes in regulations may occur, but any regulations which restrict the ability of the Fund to trade in securities or the ability of the Fund to employ, or brokers and other counterparties to extend, credit in its trading (as well as other regulatory changes that result) could have a material adverse impact on the Fund's portfolio.

**RELIANCE ON KEY PERSONNEL.** The Fund's ability to pursue its investment strategy is dependent upon the Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser. If one or more key individuals leaves the Investment Adviser or Sub-Adviser, the Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser may not be able to hire qualified replacements, or may require an extended time to do so. This could prevent the Fund from achieving its investment objective.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER.** The Fund's portfolio turnover rate may vary from year to year. A high portfolio turnover rate (100% or more) increases the Fund's transaction costs (including brokerage commissions and dealer costs), which would adversely impact the Fund's performance. Higher portfolio turnover may result in the realization of more short-term capital gains than if the Fund had lower portfolio turnover. The turnover rate will not be a limiting factor, in executing the Fund's investment strategies.

**FINANCIAL FAILURE OF INTERMEDIARIES.** There is always the possibility that the institutions, including brokerage firms and banks, with which the Fund does business, or to which securities have been entrusted for custodial purposes, will encounter financial difficulties that may impair their operational capabilities or result in losses to the Fund.

**SUSPENSIONS OF TRADING.** Each exchange typically has the right to suspend or limit trading in all securities that it lists. Such a suspension could render it impossible for the Fund to liquidate its positions and thereby expose it to losses. In addition, there is no guarantee that non-exchange markets will remain liquid enough for the Fund to close out positions.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Fund and its service providers may be prone to operational and information security risks resulting from breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption, or lose operational capacity. Breaches in cyber security include, among other behaviors, stealing or corrupting data maintained online or digitally, denial of service attacks on websites, the unauthorized release of confidential information or various other forms of cyber-attacks. Cyber security breaches affecting the Fund, the Investment Adviser, Sub-Adviser, financial intermediaries and other third-party service providers may adversely impact the Fund. For instance, cyber security breaches may impact the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, cause the release of private Shareholder information or confidential business information, impede investment activities, subject the Fund to regulatory fines or financial losses and/or cause reputational damage. The Fund may also incur additional costs for cyber security risk management purposes. The Fund, Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser have limited ability to prevent or mitigate cybersecurity incidents affecting third party service providers, and such third-party service providers may have limited indemnification obligations to the Fund, Investment Adviser or Sub-Adviser.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of the Fund in general, may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments due to short-term market movements or any longer periods during more prolonged market downturns. In addition, local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, spread of infectious diseases or other public health issues, recessions, natural disasters or other events could have a significant negative impact on the Fund and its investments. Such events may affect certain geographic regions, countries, sectors and industries more significantly than others. Such events could adversely affect the prices and liquidity of the Fund's portfolio securities or other instruments and could result in disruptions in the trading markets. Any of such circumstances could have a materially negative impact on the value of a Fund's shares and result in increased market volatility. During any such events, the Fund's shares may trade at increased premiums or discounts to their net asset value and the bid/ask spread on the Fund's shares may widen.

Health crises caused by the outbreak of infectious diseases or other public health issues, may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social, economic, market and financial risks. The impact of any such events, could negatively affect the global economy, as well as the economies of individual countries or regions, the financial performance of individual companies, sectors and industries, and the markets in general in significant and unforeseen ways. Any such impact could adversely affect the prices and liquidity of the securities and other instruments in which the Fund invests and negatively impact the Fund's investment return. For example, an outbreak of a respiratory disease designated as COVID-19 was first detected in China in December 2019 and subsequently spread internationally. The ensuing policies enacted by governments and central banks have caused and may continue to cause significant volatility and uncertainty in global financial markets, negatively impacting global growth prospects. While vaccines have been developed, there is no guarantee that vaccines will be effective against future variants of the disease. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may be short term or may last for an extended period of time, and in either case could result in a substantial economic downturn or recession.

In addition, the operations of the Fund, the Investment Adviser and the Fund's other service providers may be significantly impacted, or even temporarily or permanently halted, as a result of government quarantine measures, voluntary and precautionary restrictions on travel or meetings and other factors related to a public health emergency, including its potential adverse impact on the health of any such entity's personnel.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The business operations of the Fund are managed and supervised under the direction of the Board, subject to the laws of the State of Delaware and the Fund's Declaration of Trust. The Board has overall responsibility for the management and supervision of the business affairs of the Fund on behalf of its Shareholders, including the authority to establish policies regarding the management, conduct and operation of its business. The Board exercises the same powers, authority and responsibilities on behalf of the Fund as are customarily exercised by the board of directors of a registered investment company organized as a corporation. The officers of the Fund conduct and supervise the daily business operations of the Fund.

The members of the Board (each, a "Trustee") are not required to contribute to the capital of the Fund or to hold Shares. A majority of Trustees of the Board are not "interested persons" (as defined in the Investment Company Act) of the Fund (collectively, the "Independent Trustees"). Any Trustee who is not an Independent Trustee is an interested trustee ("Interested Trustee").

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

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

### Independent Trustees

Name, Address and Year of Birth	Position(s) Held with the Fund	Length of Time Served	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex* Overseen	Other Directorships Held by Trustees
David G. Lee Year of Birth: 1952 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chairman and Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2012); President and Director, Client Opinions, Inc. (2003 – 2012); Chief Operating Officer, Brandywine Global Investment Management (1998 – 2002).	23	None
Robert Seyferth Year of Birth: 1952 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2009); Chief Procurement Officer/Senior Managing Director, Bear Stearns/JP Morgan Chase (1993 – 2009).	23	None
Gary E. Shugrue Year of Birth: 1954 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2023); Managing Director, Veritable LP (investment advisory firm) (2016-2023); Founder/President, Ascendant Capital Partners, LP (private equity firm) (2001– 2015).	23	Trustee, Quaker Investment Trust (2 portfolios) (registered investment company).

\* The fund complex consists of the Fund, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A2, AFA Private Credit Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Assets Fund, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, First Trust Private Assets Fund, First Trust Private Credit Fund, First Trust Real Assets Fund, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Keystone Private Income Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Variant Impact Fund, Destiny Alternative Fund LLC, Destiny Alternative Fund (TEI) LLC, First Trust Hedged Strategies Fund; FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A2; FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A3; FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A3; First Trust Enhanced Private Credit Fund; Pender Real Estate Credit Fund; and Felicitas Private Markets Fund.

**Interested Trustee and Officers**

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Fund</b>	<b>Length of Time Served</b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex*</b>	<b>Other Directorships Held by Trustees</b>
Terrance P. Gallagher** Year of Birth: 1958 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Executive Vice President and Trust Platform Director, (2024 – present); Executive Vice President and Director of Fund Accounting, Administration and Tax; UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2007 – 2023); President, Investment Managers Series Trust II (registered investment company) (2013-Present).	23	Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (33 portfolios) (registered investment company).
Michael Peck Year of Birth: 1980 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	President	Since Inception	Chief Executive Officer and Co-CIO, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly known as Vivaldi Asset Management LLC) (2012 – Present); President and Co-CIO, Vivaldi Capital Management, LP (2012 – March 2024); Portfolio Manager, Coe Capital Management (2010 – 2012); Senior Financial Analyst and Risk Manager, the Bond Companies (2006 – 2008).	N/A	N/A
Chad Eisenberg Year of Birth: 1982 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Treasurer	Since Inception	Chief Operating Officer, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly known as Vivaldi Asset Management LLC) (2012 – Present); Chief Operating Officer, Vivaldi Capital Management, LP (2012 – March 2024); Director, Coe Capital Management LLC (2010 – 2011).	N/A	N/A
Bernadette Murphy Year of Birth: 1964 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chief Compliance Officer	Since Inception	Director, Vigilant Compliance, LLC (investment management solutions firm) (2018 – Present); Director of Compliance and operations, B. Riley Capital Management, LLC (investment advisory firm) (2017 – 2018); Chief Compliance Officer, Dialectic Capital Management, LP (investment advisory firm) (2008 – 2018).	N/A	N/A
Ann Maurer Year of Birth: 1972 c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Secretary	Since Inception	Senior Vice President, Client Services (2017 – Present); Vice President, Senior Client Service Manager (2013 – 2017); Assistant Vice President, Client Relations Manager (2002 – 2013), each with UMB Fund Services, Inc.	N/A	N/A

\* The fund complex consists of the Fund, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A2, AFA Private Credit Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Assets Fund, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, First Trust Private Assets Fund, First Trust Private Credit Fund, First Trust Real Assets Fund, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Keystone Private Income Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Variant Impact Fund, Destiny Alternative Fund LLC, Destiny Alternative Fund (TEI) LLC, First Trust Hedged Strategies Fund; FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A2; FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund Series A3; FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A3; First Trust Enhanced Private Credit Fund; Pender Real Estate Credit Fund; and Felicitas Private Markets Fund.

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

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

*David G. Lee.* Mr. Lee has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. He has more than 29 years of experience in the financial services industry.

*Robert Seyferth.* Mr. Seyferth has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Seyferth has more than 34 years of business and accounting experience.

*Terrance P. Gallagher.* Mr. Gallagher has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Gallagher has more than 43 years of experience in the financial service industry.

*Gary E. Shugrue.* Mr. Shugrue has been a Trustee since the Fund's inception. Mr. Shugrue has more than 35 years of experience in the financial service industry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Audit Committee*

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

### *Nominating Committee*

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

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

As of the date of this SAI, none of the Trustees owns Shares of the Fund.

As of the date of this SAI, the Trustees and officers of the Fund as a group owned less than one percent of the outstanding Shares of the Fund.

### **Independent Trustee Ownership of Securities**

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

### **Trustee Compensation**

In consideration of the services rendered by the Independent Trustees, the Fund will pay each Independent Trustee a retainer of \$10,000 per fiscal year. Trustees that are interested persons will be compensated by the Fund's administrator and/or its affiliates and will not be separately compensated by the Fund.

### **CODES OF ETHICS**

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

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

### **INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND OTHER SERVICES**

#### **The Investment Adviser**

First Trust Capital Management L.P. serves as the investment adviser to the Fund. The Investment Adviser is an investment adviser registered with the SEC under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Subject to the general supervision of the Board, and in accordance with the investment objective, policies, and restrictions of the Fund, the Investment Adviser is responsible for the management and operation of the Fund and the investment of the Fund's assets. The Investment Adviser provides such services to the Fund pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement (the "Investment Management Agreement").

The Investment Management Agreement became effective as of September 27, 2024 and will continue in effect for an initial two-year term. Thereafter, the Investment Management Agreement will continue in effect from year to year provided such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or a majority of the Board, and (ii) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees of the Fund, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Investment Management Agreement will be available in the Fund's first annual or semi-annual report to Shareholders.

Pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement, the Fund pays the Investment Adviser a unitary management fee (the "Unitary Management Fee") in consideration of the advisory services provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund. In turn, the Investment Adviser will pay substantially all operating expenses of the Fund, except initial and ongoing offering expenses and organizational expenses, interest expenses, taxes, portfolio transaction-related fees and expenses, costs of borrowing, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, litigation and indemnification expenses, and any other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business. The Fund pays the Investment Adviser an annual rate of 2.65%, payable monthly in arrears, based upon the Fund's net assets as of each month-end. The Unitary Management Fee is paid to the Investment Adviser before giving effect to any repurchase of Shares in the Fund effective as of that date and will decrease the net profits or increase the net losses of the Fund.

### **The Sub-Adviser**

The Sub-Adviser selected by the Investment Adviser is primarily responsible for its investment strategy and the day-to-day management of the Fund's assets. Vest Financial LLC ("Vest" or the "Sub-Adviser") is located at 8350 Broad St., Suite 240, McLean, Virginia 22102. Vest is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser and manages, as of June 30, 2024, approximately \$29.9 billion of assets. The Sub-Adviser is a subsidiary of Vest Group, Inc. ("VG"). First Trust Capital Partners, LLC ("FTCP"), an affiliate of the Investment Adviser, is the largest single holder of voting shares in VG.

The Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement became effective as of September 27, 2024 and will continue in effect for an initial two-year term. Thereafter, the Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in effect from year to year provided such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by (i) the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund or a majority of the Board, and (ii) the vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees of the Fund, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement will be available in the Fund's first annual or semi-annual report to Shareholders.

Pursuant to a sub-advisory agreement among the Fund, the Investment Adviser and Vest (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement"), the Investment Adviser pays the Sub-Adviser a management fee (the "Sub-Advisory Fee") in consideration of the advisory services provided by the Sub-Adviser to the Fund. The Sub-Adviser's fees are paid by the Investment Adviser out of the Unitary Management Fee. The Sub-Adviser receives a sub-advisory fee equal to 50% of the monthly Unitary Management Fee paid to the Investment Adviser, which shall be reduced as follows. The Sub-Adviser has agreed with the Investment Adviser that it will pay one-half of all operating expenses of the Fund, excluding the Unitary Management Fee, initial and ongoing offering expenses and organizational expenses, interest expenses, taxes, portfolio transaction-related fees and expenses, costs of borrowing, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, and litigation and indemnification expenses and any other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business. The sub-advisory fees shall be reduced by the Sub-Adviser's share of such expenses, and in the event the Sub-Adviser's share of the expenses exceeds the amount of the sub-advisory fee in any month, the Sub-Adviser will pay the difference to the Investment Adviser.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement may be terminated without the payment of any penalty by the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the Fund, or by the Board, or a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act), upon sixty (60) days' written notice to the Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser.

All fees and expenses are accrued monthly and deducted before payment of dividends to investors. The Investment Management Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement have been approved by the Board, including a majority of the Independent Trustees, and the initial shareholder of the Fund. Information regarding the Board's approval will be available in the Fund's first annual or semi-annual report to Shareholders.

### **The Portfolio Managers**

The personnel of the Sub-Adviser who will have primary responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Fund's portfolio (the "Portfolio Managers") are Karan Sood and Howard Rubin.



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

	Type of Accounts	Total # of Accounts Managed	Total Assets	# of Accounts Managed for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance	Total Assets for which Advisory Fee is Based on Performance
1. Karan Sood	Registered Investment Companies:	100	\$ 32,444,060,000	0	\$ 0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	13	\$ 236,463,000	0	\$ 0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
2. Howard Rubin	Registered Investment Companies:	100	\$ 32,444,060,000	0	\$ 0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	13	\$ 236,463,000	0	\$ 0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

(1) As of August 31, 2024, unless otherwise noted.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Each Portfolio Manager’s management of “other accounts” may give rise to potential conflicts of interest in connection with his management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of the other accounts, on the other. The other accounts may have the same investment objective as the Fund. Therefore, a potential conflict of interest may arise as a result of the identical investment objectives, whereby a Portfolio Manager could favor one account over another. Another potential conflict could include the Portfolio Manager’s knowledge about the size, timing and possible market impact of Fund trades, whereby a Portfolio Manager could use this information to the advantage of other accounts and to the disadvantage of the Fund. However, the Sub-Adviser has established policies and procedures to ensure that the purchase and sale of securities among all accounts it manages are fairly and equitably allocated.

**Compensation of the Portfolio Managers**

The Portfolio Managers do not receive compensation that is based upon the Fund, any separate account strategy, partnership or any other commingled account’s, or any private account’s pre- or after-tax performance, or the value of the assets held by such entities. The Portfolio Managers do not receive any special or additional compensation from the Sub-Adviser for their service as Portfolio Managers. The Portfolio Managers receive a salary from the Sub-Adviser. In addition to base salary, the Portfolio Managers may receive additional bonus compensation which is tied to the overall financial operating results of the Sub-Adviser's parent company, Vest Group, Inc.

**Portfolio Managers’ Ownership of Shares**

As a matter of policy, Portfolio Managers of the Sub-Adviser do not own shares in the closed-end management investment companies that they manage.

Name of Portfolio Manager:	Dollar Range of Shares Beneficially Owned by Portfolio Manager <sup>(1)</sup> :
Karan Sood	None
Howard Rubin	None

(1) As of the date of this SAI.

## BROKERAGE

The Fund expects to trade securities and other financial instruments through one or more prime brokers, securities and futures brokers or clearing firms, introducing brokers, executing brokers, dealers, custodians and counterparties (collectively, “brokers”) in connection with its portfolio transactions. In selecting brokers to execute transactions, each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser does not need to solicit competitive bids and does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available commission cost. Each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser will take into account the broker’s reliability, reputation, financial responsibility, stability, ability to execute trades, nature and frequency of sales coverage, commission rate, if any, and responsiveness. Each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser may or may not negotiate “execution only” commission rates. In cases where the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser does not negotiate “execution only” rates, the Fund may be deemed to be paying for other services provided by the broker with so-called “soft dollars” included in the commission rate. If the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser uses “soft dollars”, it is expected that the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, will only enter into “soft dollar” arrangements that fall within the “safe harbor” provided by Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Securities Exchange Act”). Furthermore, to the extent that any incidental benefits (such as research) are provided to the Fund, the Investment Adviser, the Sub-Adviser and/or their respective affiliates, and/or other funds and/or accounts managed by the Investment Adviser, the Sub-Adviser or their respective affiliates in connection with trading futures or options on futures, it is expected that such incidental benefits would fall within the safe harbor provisions of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act as if such benefits were being provided in connection with the trading of securities. Research and brokerage services obtained by the use of commissions arising from the Fund’s portfolio transactions may be used by each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser in its other investment activities, including for other client accounts and thus, the Fund may not necessarily, in any particular instance, be the direct or indirect beneficiary of the research or brokerage services provided.

In some instances, the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may receive a product or service that may be used only partially for functions within Section 28(e). In such instances, the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, will make a good-faith effort to determine the relative proportion of the product or service used to assist the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, in carrying out its investment decision-making responsibilities and the relative proportion used for administrative or other purposes outside Section 28(e). The proportion of the product or service attributable to assisting the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser in carrying out its investment decision-making responsibilities will be paid through brokerage commissions generated by client transactions and the proportion attributable to administrative or other purposes outside Section 28(e) will be paid for by the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, from its own resources, unless reimbursable by the Fund as indicated in the expense section.

The Fund may utilize broker-provided financing in connection with its trading and, accordingly, the Fund may pledge its assets held at such brokers as collateral to secure such financing arrangements.

Each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser may, but is not required to, aggregate sale and purchase orders of securities and other financial instruments for the Fund with similar orders being made simultaneously for other accounts or entities, including those of its affiliates, if the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser, as applicable, determines, in its reasonable judgment, such aggregation is reasonably likely to result in an overall economic benefit to the Fund based on an evaluation that the Fund will be benefited by relatively better purchase or sale prices, lower commission expenses or beneficial timing of transactions, or a combination of these and other factors. No assurance can be given that it will be possible to execute such orders regularly at or near the desired buy or sell point or that the orders will be executed successfully. In many instances, the purchase or sale of securities and/or other financial instruments for the Fund will be effected simultaneously with the purchase or sale of like securities and/or other financial instruments for other accounts or entities. Such transactions may be made at slightly different prices, due to the volume of financial instruments purchased or sold. In such event, the average price of all securities and other financial instruments purchased or sold in such transactions may be determined by the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser in its sole discretion, or the Investment Adviser or the Sub-Adviser will employ an objective price allocation system that promotes fairness among all accounts or entities, including client and proprietary accounts.

From time to time, brokers may introduce potential investors to the Fund. Subject to its obligation to seek best execution, each of the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser may consider referrals of investors to the Fund in determining its selection of brokers. However, the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser will not commit to an investor or broker to allocate a particular amount of brokerage in any such situation.

## TAXES

The following summarizes certain additional tax considerations generally affecting the Fund and Shareholders that are not described in the Memorandum. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Fund or its Shareholders, and the discussions here and in the Memorandum are not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Potential investors should consult their tax advisers with specific reference to their own tax situations.

The discussions of the federal tax consequences in the Memorandum and this SAI are based on the Code and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive.

### General

The Fund intends to qualify as a RIC under federal income tax law. As a RIC, the Fund will generally not be subject to federal corporate income taxes, provided that it distributes out to Shareholders its taxable income and gain each year. To qualify for treatment as a RIC, the Fund must meet three important tests each year.

First, with respect to each taxable year, the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, other income derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, or net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Second, generally, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs, and securities of other issuers (as to which the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of its total assets in securities of the issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer), and no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of (1) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and securities of other RICs), (2) two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or (3) one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Third, the Fund must distribute an amount equal to at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss) and 90% of its tax-exempt income, if any, for the year.

The Fund intends to comply with this distribution requirement. If the Fund were to fail to make sufficient distributions, it could be liable for corporate income tax and for excise tax in respect of the shortfall or, if the shortfall is large enough, the Fund could be disqualified as a RIC. If for any taxable year the Fund were not to qualify as a RIC, all its taxable income would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to Shareholders. In that event, taxable Shareholders would recognize dividend income on distributions to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, although Shareholders that are corporations could be eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

The Code imposes a nondeductible 4% excise tax on RICs that fail to distribute each year an amount equal to specified percentages of their ordinary taxable income and capital gain net income (excess of capital gains over capital losses). The Fund intends to make sufficient distributions or deemed distributions each year to avoid liability for this excise tax.

The Fund may be required to liquidate positions in order to fund the repurchase of shares. The Fund will seek to manage its ability to meet the RIC requirements in light of any asset liquidations necessary to repurchase shares. However, in some circumstances, repurchases could impact the Fund's ability to meet the above-described requirements. For example, amounts used to repurchase shares are unavailable for the Fund to use to meet its distribution requirements, or the disposition of Fund assets may affect its ability to continue to meet the asset diversification test described above.

**Nature of Fund's Investments.** The Fund's investments may be subject to special provisions of the Code that may, among other things, (i) disallow, suspend or otherwise limit the allowance of certain losses or deductions, (ii) convert lower taxed long-term capital gains into higher taxed short-term capital gains or ordinary income, (iii) convert an ordinary loss or a deduction into a capital loss, (iv) cause the Fund to recognize income or gain without a corresponding receipt of cash, (v) adversely alter the characterization of certain Fund investments or distributions, (vi) and/or affect the Fund's ability to qualify as a RIC.

The Fund writes certain options contracts subject to section 1256 of the Code ("Section 1256 Contracts"). Some of the Fund's index call options may be Section 1256 Contracts. In general, any gain or loss arising from the lapse, closing out or exercise of a Section 1256 Contract is treated as 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gain or loss. In addition, the Fund generally will be required to "mark to market" (i.e., treat as sold for fair market value) each outstanding index option position that is a Section 1256 Contract at the close of each taxable year.

The Fund's call options that do not qualify as Section 1256 Contracts generally will be governed by Code section 1234. Pursuant to Code section 1234, if a written option expires unexercised, the premium received is short-term capital gain to the Fund. If the Fund enters into a closing transaction, the difference between the premium received for writing the option, and the amount paid to close out its position generally is short-term capital gain or loss.

However, derivative instruments held by the Fund that are offsetting positions, such as options, as well as its investments in portfolio securities, may be considered, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, to constitute "straddles." For instance, a straddle can arise if the Fund writes a covered call option on a stock (i.e., a call on a stock owned by the Fund). The application of the straddle rules can result in loss and expense deferral, an increase in short-term capital gains instead of long-term capital gains, and for dividends to not qualify for the dividends received deduction or as qualified dividend income.

If the Fund enters into offsetting transactions with respect to the same or substantially identical property, it will be treated as if it had sold and immediately repurchased the property and must recognize gain with respect to that position. A constructive sale may include the following positions with respect to a security: (i) a short sale; (ii) an offsetting notional principal contract; (iii) a futures or forward contract; or (iv) other transactions identified in future Treasury Regulations. Losses realized from a sale of a position that was previously the subject of a constructive sale will be disallowed until the position is subsequently disposed of.

The application of certain requirements for qualification as a RIC and the application of certain other federal income tax rules may be unclear in some respects in connection with investments in certain derivatives and other investments. As a result, the Fund may be required to limit the extent to which it invests in such investments and it is also possible that the IRS may not agree with the Fund's treatment of such investments. In addition, the tax treatment of derivatives and certain other investments may be affected by future legislation, Treasury Regulations and guidance issued by the IRS (which could apply retroactively) that could affect the timing, character and amount of a Fund's income and gains and distributions to shareholders, affect whether the Fund has made sufficient distributions and otherwise satisfied the requirements to maintain its qualification as a RIC and avoid federal income and excise taxes or limit the extent to which the Fund may invest in certain derivatives and other investments in the future.

Certain of the Fund's investments will require the Fund to recognize taxable income in a taxable year in excess of the cash generated on those investments during that year. Because the Fund may be required to recognize income in respect of these investments before, or without receiving, cash representing such income, the Fund may have difficulty satisfying the annual distribution requirements applicable to RICs and avoiding Fund-level U.S. federal income and/or excise taxes. Accordingly, the Fund may be required to sell assets, including at potentially disadvantageous times or prices, raise additional debt or equity capital, make taxable distributions of its shares or debt securities, or reduce new investments, to obtain the cash needed to make these income distributions. If the Fund liquidates assets to raise cash, the Fund may realize gain or loss on such liquidations; in the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such liquidation transactions, the Shareholders may receive larger capital gain distributions than they would in the absence of such transactions.

#### **State and Local Taxes**

Although the Fund expects to qualify as a "regulated investment company" and to be relieved of all or substantially all federal income taxes, depending upon the extent of its activities in states and localities in which its offices are maintained, in which its agents or independent contractors are located or in which it is otherwise deemed to be conducting business, the Fund may be subject to the tax laws of such states or localities.

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

Grant Thornton LLP, located at principal business address 171 N. Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm, providing audit services.

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

#### **ADMINISTRATOR**

The Fund has contracted with UMB Fund Services, Inc. (the "Administrator") to provide it with certain administrative and accounting services.

#### **CUSTODIAN**

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

## PLACEMENT AGENT

First Trust Portfolios L.P. (“Placement Agent” or “FT Portfolios”) is the Placement Agent of Shares and is located at 120 E. Liberty Drive, Suite 400, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. The Placement Agent is a registered broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc (“FINRA”). Pursuant to the Placement Agent Agreement, the Placement Agent acts as the agent of the Fund in connection with the offering of Shares of the Fund on a best efforts basis. The Placement Agent has no obligation to sell any specific quantity of Shares. The Placement Agent and its officers have no role in determining (i) the investment policies of the Fund, (ii) which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Fund, or (iii) the valuation of the Fund’s assets and liabilities. The Placement Agent is affiliated with the Investment Adviser and Sub-Adviser.

## ADDITIONAL PAYMENT TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

FT Portfolios or its affiliates may from time to time make payments, out of their own resources, to certain financial intermediaries that sell shares of the Fund and other products for which FT Portfolios serves as placement agent or distributor (collectively, “FT Portfolios Funds”) to promote the sales and retention of FT Portfolios Fund shares by those firms and their customers. The amounts of these payments vary by intermediary. The level of payments that FT Portfolios or an affiliate is willing to provide to a particular intermediary may be affected by, among other factors, (i) the firm’s total assets or FT Portfolios Fund shares held in and recent net investments into FT Portfolios Funds, (ii) the value of the assets invested in the FT Portfolios Funds by the intermediary’s customers, (iii) redemption rates, (iv) its ability to attract and retain assets, (v) the intermediary’s reputation in the industry, (vi) the level and/or type of marketing assistance and educational activities provided by the intermediary, (vii) the firm’s level of participation in FT Portfolios Funds’ sales and marketing programs, (viii) the firm’s compensation program for its registered representatives who sell FT Portfolios Fund shares and provide services to FT Portfolios Fund shareholders, and (ix) the asset class of the FT Portfolios Funds for which these payments are provided. Such payments are generally asset-based but also may include the payment of a lump sum.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may also make payments to certain intermediaries for certain administrative services and shareholder processing services, including record keeping and sub-accounting of shareholder accounts pursuant to a sub-transfer agency, omnibus account service or sub-accounting agreement. All fees payable by FT Portfolios or an affiliate under this category of services may be charged back to the FT Portfolios Fund, subject to approval by the Board.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may make payments, out of its own assets, to those firms as compensation and/or reimbursement for marketing support and/or program servicing to selected intermediaries that are registered as holders or dealers of record for accounts invested in one or more of the FT Portfolios Funds or that make FT Portfolios Fund shares available through certain selected FT Portfolios Fund no-transaction fee institutional platforms and fee-based wrap programs at certain financial intermediaries. Program servicing payments typically apply to employee benefit plans, such as retirement plans, or fee-based advisory programs but may apply to retail sales and assets in certain situations. The payments are based on such factors as the type and nature of services or support furnished by the intermediary and are generally asset-based. Services for which an intermediary receives marketing support payments may include, but are not limited to, business planning assistance, advertising, educating the intermediary’s personnel about FT Portfolios Funds in connection with shareholder financial planning needs, placement on the intermediary’s preferred or recommended fund list, and access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the intermediary. In addition, intermediaries may be compensated for enabling representatives of FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other employees, client and investor events and other events sponsored by the intermediary. Services for which an intermediary receives program servicing payments typically include, but are not limited to, record keeping, reporting or transaction processing and shareholder communications and other account administration services, but may also include services rendered in connection with Fund investment selection and monitoring, employee enrollment and education, plan balance rollover or separation, or other similar services. An intermediary may perform program services itself or may arrange with a third party to perform program services. These payments, if any, are in addition to the service fee and any applicable omnibus sub-accounting fees paid to these firms with respect to these services by the FT Portfolios Funds out of FT Portfolios Fund assets.

From time to time, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates, at its expense, may provide other compensation to intermediaries that sell or arrange for the sale of shares of the FT Portfolios Funds, which may be in addition to marketing support and program servicing payments described above. For example, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may: (i) compensate intermediaries for National Securities Clearing Corporation networking system services (e.g., shareholder communication, account statements, trade confirmations and tax reporting) on an asset-based or per-account basis; (ii) compensate intermediaries for providing FT Portfolios Fund shareholder trading information; (iii) make one-time or periodic payments to reimburse selected intermediaries for items such as ticket charges (i.e., fees that an intermediary charges its representatives for effecting transactions in FT Portfolios Fund shares) or exchange order, operational charges (e.g., fees that an intermediary charges for establishing the FT Portfolios Fund on its trading system), and literature printing and/or distribution costs; (iv) at the direction of a retirement plan's sponsor, reimburse or pay direct expenses of an employee benefit plan that would otherwise be payable by the plan; and (v) provide payments to broker-dealers to help defray their technology or infrastructure costs.

When not provided for in a marketing support or program servicing agreement, FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates may also pay intermediaries for enabling FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates to participate in and/or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited registered representatives and other intermediary employees, client and investor events and other intermediary-sponsored events, and for travel expenses, including lodging incurred by registered representatives and other employees in connection with prospecting, asset retention and due diligence trips. These payments may vary depending upon the nature of the event. FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates make payments for such events as it deems appropriate, subject to its internal guidelines and applicable law.

FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates occasionally sponsor due diligence meetings for registered representatives during which they receive updates on various FT Portfolios Funds and are afforded the opportunity to speak with portfolio managers. Although invitations to these meetings are not conditioned on selling a specific number of shares, those who have shown an interest in FT Portfolios Funds are more likely to be considered. To the extent permitted by their firm's policies and procedures, all or a portion of registered representatives' expenses in attending these meetings may be covered by FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates.

The amounts of payments referenced above made by FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates could be significant and may create an incentive for an intermediary or its representatives to recommend or offer shares of the FT Portfolios Funds to its customers. The intermediary may elevate the prominence or profile of the FT Portfolios Funds within the intermediary's organization by, for example, placing the FT Portfolios Funds on a list of preferred or recommended funds and/or granting FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates preferential or enhanced opportunities to promote the FT Portfolios Funds in various ways within the intermediary's organization. These payments are made pursuant to negotiated agreements with intermediaries. The payments do not change the price paid by investors for the purchase of a share or the amount the FT Portfolios Fund will receive as proceeds from such sales. Furthermore, many of these payments are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fee table section of the FT Portfolios Fund's Prospectus or Memorandum because they are not paid by the FT Portfolios Fund. The types of payments described herein are not mutually exclusive, and a single intermediary may receive some or all types of payments as described.

Other compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by state laws or any self-regulatory agency, such as FINRA. Investors can ask their intermediaries for information about any payments they receive from FT Portfolios and/or its affiliates and the services it provides for those payments. Investors may wish to take intermediary payment arrangements into account when considering and evaluating any recommendations relating to FT Portfolios Fund shares.

## **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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

The Fund is required to file Form N-PX, with its complete proxy voting record for the twelve months ended June 30, no later than August 31 of each year. The Fund's Form N-PX filing, once available, will be available: (i) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-(877) 779-1999 or (ii) by visiting the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

#### **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

As of the date of this SAI, there were no record or beneficial owners of 5% or more of the Fund or any Share class.

#### **DISCLAIMERS**

The Nasdaq US Rising Dividend Achievers<sup>TM</sup> Index is determined, composed and calculated by Nasdaq, Inc. The Fund is not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by Nasdaq, Inc. or its affiliates (Nasdaq, Inc., with its affiliates, are referred to as the "Corporations"). The Corporations have not passed on the legality or suitability of, or the accuracy or adequacy of descriptions and disclosures relating to, the Fund. The Corporations make no representation or warranty, express or implied to the owners of the Fund or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the Fund particularly, or the ability of the Fund to track general market performance. The Corporations' only relationship to FTCM is in the licensing of "Nasdaq" and the Reference Index's registered trademarks, trade names and service marks of the Corporations and the use of the Reference Index which is determined, composed and calculated by the Corporations without regard to FTCM or the Fund. Nasdaq, Inc. has no obligation to take the needs of FTCM or the owners of the Fund into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the Reference Index. The Corporations are not responsible for and have not participated in the determination of the timing of, prices at, or quantities of the Fund to be issued or in the determination or calculation of the equation by which the Fund is to be converted into cash. The Corporations have no liability in connection with the administration, marketing or trading of the Fund.

THE CORPORATIONS DO NOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY AND/OR UNINTERRUPTED CALCULATION OF THE REFERENCE INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. THE CORPORATIONS MAKE NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY FIRST TRUST, OWNERS OF THE FUND, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY FROM THE USE OF THE REFERENCE INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. THE CORPORATIONS MAKE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE WITH RESPECT TO THE REFERENCE INDEX OR ANY DATA INCLUDED THEREIN. WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OF THE FOREGOING, IN NO EVENT SHALL THE CORPORATIONS HAVE ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY LOST PROFITS OR SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, PUNITIVE, INDIRECT, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF NOTIFIED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.



*Last Amended: October 7, 2022 (firm name updated January 2, 2024)*

***Background***

Vest Financial, LLC (the “Firm” or the “Adviser”) has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of its clients and must not place its own interests ahead of its clients. The Firm serves as the investment adviser or sub-adviser to open- end mutual funds, Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”), Collective Investment Trusts (“CITs”), and acts as a portfolio consultant and may provide sub-supervisory services for Unit Investment Trusts (“UITs”) (collectively “Clients”).

Investment advisers registered with the SEC, and which exercise voting authority with respect to client securities, are required by Rule 206(4)-6 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 the (“Advisers Act”), as amended, to (a) adopt and implement written policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that client securities are voted in the best interests of clients, which must include how an adviser addresses material conflicts that may arise between an adviser’s interests and those of its clients; (b) to disclose to clients how they may obtain information from the adviser with respect to the voting of proxies for their securities; (c) to describe to clients a summary of its proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy to its clients; and (d) maintain certain records relating to the adviser’s proxy voting activities when the adviser does have proxy voting authority.

Each Client’s agreement with the Firm describes the Firm’s proxy voting responsibilities with respect to that Client, under which the Firm generally will be granted authority to vote proxies related to the investment portfolio securities in a Client’s account unless a Client has expressly reserved the authority to vote such proxies.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, most of the strategies managed for Clients involves the trading of options, and therefore, do not hold portfolio securities for which any matters relating to such portfolio securities were considered at a shareholder meeting. Where a Client’s portfolio holds securities that would be entitled to vote, the objective of the Client’s strategy is generally to track an index. In these instances, purchase and sale decisions of portfolio securities are based on changes to the underlying index and are not usually based on the Adviser’s positive or negative outlook of the issuer.

***Voting Policy***

To assist the Firm in carrying out its responsibilities with respect to proxy voting, the Firm has engaged on outside firm, Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (“ISS”), who provides proxy research, advisory, voting, recordkeeping and vote-reporting service. Pursuant to a proxy voting agency service agreement, ISS is responsible for, among other things: obtaining proxies based on companies owned in Client accounts; providing proxy materials, research and analysis; maintaining a proxy voting system that adequately tracks and records votes; and providing proxy voting records required to file Form N-PX on behalf of Clients that are registered investment companies. The Firm also utilizes ISS’s proprietary service, Proxy Exchange, which provides voting services including voting recommendations.

The Firm has adopted ISS's Proxy Voting Guidelines Benchmark Policy Recommendations (the "ISS Guidelines") to determine how each issue on proxy ballots is to be voted. The Firm has reviewed the ISS Guidelines and believes it to be the most consistent and compatible with strategies managed by the Firm and to maximize shareholder value. The ISS Guidelines are incorporated hereto by reference, and a copy of the ISS Guidelines, as may be revised from time to time, is maintained with the Firm's Proxy Voting Policy.

Proxy statements will be voted in accordance with this template unless: (i) the Firm determines that it has a conflict of interest; or (ii) the Firm's portfolio managers ("Portfolio Managers") determine that there are other reasons not to follow the ISS Guidelines; or (iii) No input is provided by the ISS Guidelines, in which case the Adviser will independently determine how a particular issue should be voted and such determination will be documented by the Portfolio Manager.

It will generally be the responsibility of the Firm to vote all proxies, where authorized. It is contemplated that the Firm will be active in all proxy voting issues, however, there may be occasions when a vote is missed by Firm personnel. In the event a vote is missed by Firm personnel, for any reason, that vote will be automatically cast in accordance with the ISS Guidelines. Any decisions regarding proxy voting where the Firm determines not to follow the ISS Guidelines shall be determined by the Portfolio Managers. The Firm's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") must be notified of the decision and a memo regarding the reason for not following the ISS Guidelines must be maintained in the proxy voting file. Additionally, the Firm may determine not to vote a particular proxy if the costs and burdens exceed the benefits of voting (e.g., casting a vote on a foreign security that could involve additional costs or when securities are subject to loan or to share blocking restrictions).

The Firm's Portfolio Managers and CCO will review, at least annually, the ISS Guidelines for continued relevancy and make a determination that relying on the ISS Guidelines for proxy voting continue to be in the best interest of the Firm's Clients.

#### ***Voting Procedures***

Once a Client account is established, the Firm will arrange for the Client's custodian, as necessary, to forward proxy materials to ISS. The Firm will also confirm that the Client's custodian provides ISS with a list of Client holdings on a regular basis to enable ISS to track meeting dates and notify the Firm of upcoming meetings.

The voting recommendations are provided by Proxy Exchange for each meeting. Internally, the Firm provides oversight of the proxy voting process. The Firm through a Portfolio Manager or other designated person will review the proxy vote statements and recommendations. In the event a vote is inadvertently missed, the ballot will be cast automatically in accordance with our proxy voting guidelines. A record will be made and maintained of all votes.

The Firm may abstain from voting a proxy if it concludes that the effect on the client's or shareholder's economic interests or the value of the portfolio holding is indeterminable or insignificant. The Firm may also abstain from voting if it concludes the cost of voting is disproportionate to the economic impact the vote would have on the portfolio holdings.

The Firm's CCO or the CCO's designee will monitor the proxy voting process to ensure that all votes are cast, the proper number of shares are recorded and that the proxy proposals are voted in accordance with the ISS Guidelines or, if there is a vote cast that deviates from such policies, that a rationale is documented.

### ***Conflicts of Interest***

The Firm will use commercially reasonable efforts to determine whether a potential conflict may exist, and a potential conflict shall be deemed to exist only if the Portfolio Manager actually knows or should have known of the conflict. The Firm is sensitive to conflicts of interest that may arise in the proxy decision-making process and has identified the following potential conflicts of interest:

- A principal of the Firm or any person involved in the proxy decision-making process currently serves on the Board of the portfolio company.
- An immediate family member of a principal of the Firm or any person involved in the proxy decision-making process currently serves as a director or executive officer of the portfolio company.
- The Firm, or any Client account managed by the Firm any or any affiliate, holds a significant ownership interest in the portfolio company.

Any conflict of interest will be resolved in the best interests of Client's and fund shareholders. In the event a material conflict of interest is identified or believed to exist, the employee will advise the CCO and the Portfolio Managers will decide whether the Firm should either (1) disclose the conflict to the Client to enable the Client to evaluate the Firm's proxy voting advice in light of the conflict or (2) disclose to the Client the conflict, with no voting recommendation, and vote in accordance with the Client's instructions.

The Firm shall also maintain records of any conflicts of interest that were identified with any specific vote, and if so, what action was taken to resolve the conflict with respect to each vote cast.

### ***Due Diligence***

The CCO performs the following oversight and assurance functions, among others, over the Firm's proxy voting: (1) periodically samples proxy votes to ensure that they were cast in compliance with this Proxy Voting Policy; (2) review, no less frequently than annually, the adequacy of this Proxy Voting Policy to make sure that it has been implemented effectively, including whether it continues to be reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interests of the Firm's clients; (3) at least annually perform due diligence on whether a retained proxy advisory firm has the capacity and competency to adequately analyze proxy issues, including the adequacy and quality of the proxy advisory firm's staffing and personnel and its policies; and (4) oversee any retained proxy advisory firms and their procedures regarding their capabilities to (i) produce proxy research that is based on current and accurate information (ii) identify and address any conflicts of interest and any other considerations that we believe would be appropriate in considering the nature and quality of the services provided by the proxy advisory firm and (iii) ensure adherence to contractual terms.

### ***Reporting***

Upon a client's written request, the Firm provides information on how portfolio company shares held in the Client's account were voted. The Firm also furnishes to clients a description of its proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy of these policies and procedures to the requesting client. The Firm will also provide required disclosures in response to Item 17 of Form ADV Part 2A summarizing these Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, including a statement that clients may request information regarding how the Firm voted client's proxies.

### ***Proxy Vote Record Retention***

The Firm, in conjunction with ISS, will compile and maintain for five (5) years the proxy voting records required by Rule 204-2(c)(2) under the Advisers Act, which include (1) copies of these Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures, (2) a copy of each proxy statement received for Client securities (this requirement may be satisfied by a third party who has agreed in writing to do so or by obtaining a copy of the proxy statement from the EDGAR database), (3) a record of each vote cast on behalf of a client (this requirement may be satisfied by a third party who has agreed in writing to do so), (4) a copy of any document created by the Firm that was material to making the voting decision or that memorializes the basis for the decision, and (5) a copy of each written Client request for information on how the Firm voted proxies on the client's behalf, as well as a copy of any written response to a written or oral client request for such information. All proxy voting records are to be retained for five years, with the first two years in the offices of the Firm. All records may be maintained electronically.

### ***Form N-PX Filing Logistics***

The Firm is responsible for ensuring that the third-party proxy vote service maintains the complete proxy log and confirms the timely voting of proxies. The proxy vote log will be maintained in such a manner that the following information is contained within the log in accordance with the requirements of submitting Form N-PX for proxies voted on behalf of the Firm's Fund:

- the name of the issuer;
- the exchange ticker symbol, if available;
- the CUSIP number, if available;
- the shareholder meeting date;
- a brief identification of the matter voted on;
- whether the matter was proposed by the issuer or a security holder;
- whether the Firm cast its vote on the matter;

- how the Firm cast its vote on the matter (for, against, abstain, or withhold regarding the election of directors); and
- whether the Firm cast its vote for or against management.

The Firm shall provide the information necessary to complete the Form N-PX to the appropriate fund service provider who will submit the filings in a timely manner.