

## PROSPECTUS

May 1, 2019

**FIRST TRUST/DOW JONES DIVIDEND & INCOME  
ALLOCATION PORTFOLIO**

CLASS I

CLASS II

**FIRST TRUST MULTI INCOME ALLOCATION PORTFOLIO**

CLASS I

CLASS II

The First Trust Variable Insurance Trust (the “Trust”) is an investment vehicle for life insurance companies writing variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts (each a “Participating Insurance Company”). This prospectus provides important information regarding the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio and the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio (each a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”).

**The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

**NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NO BANK GUARANTEE**

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

#### Investment Objective

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio (the "Fund") seeks to provide total return by allocating among dividend-paying stocks and investment grade bonds.

#### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses reflected below do not include contract level fees of the variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts offered by a Participating Insurance Company (each a "Contract"). If such fees were included, the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher. More information about eligibility requirements for each share class is available from your Participating Insurance Company.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None	None

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Management Fees	0.60%	0.60%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	0.00%
Other Expenses	0.37%	0.37%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1.22%</b>	<b>0.97%</b>
Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)</sup>	0.02%	0.02%
<b>Total Net Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>0.95%</b>

(1) *The Fund's investment advisor has agreed to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year at least until May 1, 2020. Expenses borne by the Fund's investment advisor are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Class I share or Class II share expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding (i) the applicable expense limitation in place for the most recent fiscal year for which such expense limitation was in place, (ii) the applicable expense limitation in place at the time the fees were waived, or (iii) the current expense limitation. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2020 upon 60 days' written notice.*

#### Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's annual operating expenses (before any fee waiver or expense reimbursement) remain at current levels for the time periods indicated. Additionally, the example assumes that the Fund's investment advisor's agreement to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year will be terminated following May 1, 2020. The example does not take into account Contract level fees. If such fees were included, the estimated expenses would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your cost would be:

## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

Share Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class I	\$122	\$385	\$668	\$1,476
Class II	97	307	534	1,188

### Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 76% of the average value of its portfolio.

### Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in equity securities and approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in fixed income securities at the time of purchase. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase at least 80% of the Fund’s net assets (including investment borrowings) will be invested in securities of issuers included in a Dow Jones index. The equity portion of the portfolio will be derived from a quantitative process that seeks to provide total return through investing generally in dividend paying stocks included in the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup>. The Fund’s investment advisor reserves the right to over-weight, under-weight or exclude certain securities from the portfolio that would otherwise be selected pursuant to the quantitative process in certain instances.

The fixed income component seeks to provide income and preserve capital through investing in a diversified investment grade debt portfolio. Investment grade debt securities are those long-term debt securities rated “BBB-” or higher by Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC or Fitch, Inc. or “Baa3” or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., and those short-term debt securities rated “A-3” or higher by Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC, “F3” or higher by Fitch, Inc. or “Prime 3” or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., at the time of purchase. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase approximately 80% of the net assets of the Fund allocated to corporate debt will be invested in investment grade debt securities included in the Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index (the “*Bond Index*”) and other investment grade debt securities of issuers whose securities are included in the Bond Index; and investment grade debt securities of issuers included in the Dow Jones Composite Average. The Fund may also invest in U.S. government and agency securities, including mortgage-backed securities. The Fund may, at certain times, also hold exchange-traded funds (“*ETFs*”) that invest in investment grade corporate debt securities and U.S. government bonds in lieu of investing directly in such securities. Corporate debt securities are fixed income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary differences being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured. Corporate debt may be rated investment grade or below investment grade and may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

As of February 28, 2019, the Fund had significant investments in financial and industrial companies.

### Principal Risks

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund’s investment objective will be achieved.

**CALL RISK.** Some debt securities may be redeemed, or “called,” at the option of the issuer before their stated maturity date. In general, an issuer will call its debt securities if they can be refinanced by issuing new debt securities which bear a lower interest rate. The Fund is subject to the possibility that during periods of falling interest rates an issuer will call its high yielding debt securities. The Fund would then be forced to invest the proceeds at lower interest rates, likely resulting in a decline in the Fund’s income.

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due. In addition, the value of a debt security may decline because of concerns about the issuer’s ability or unwillingness to make such payments.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Fund is susceptible to operational risks through 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. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests or the Fund's third-party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. Although the Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third-party service providers.

**DEBT SECURITIES RISK.** Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer or other obligor of a security will not be able or willing to make payments of interest and principal when due. Generally, the value of debt securities will change inversely with changes in interest rates. To the extent that interest rates rise, certain underlying obligations may be paid off substantially slower than originally anticipated and the value of those securities may fall sharply. During periods of falling interest rates, the income received by the Fund may decline. If the principal on a debt security is prepaid before expected, the prepayments of principal may have to be reinvested in obligations paying interest at lower rates. Debt securities generally do not trade on a securities exchange making them generally less liquid and more difficult to value than common stock.

**DIVIDENDS RISK.** The Fund's investment in dividend-paying securities could cause the Fund to underperform similar funds that invest without consideration of an issuer's track record of paying dividends. Companies that issue dividend-paying securities are not required to continue to pay dividends on such securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that such companies could reduce or eliminate the payment of dividends in the future.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** The value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of the equity securities in which it invests. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant equity market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting an issuer occur. Common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

**ETF RISK.** Under certain market conditions, the Fund may invest in ETFs. The Fund's investment in shares of ETFs subjects it to the risks of owning the securities underlying the ETF, as well as the same structural risks faced by an investor purchasing shares of the Fund, including authorized participant concentration risk, market maker risk, premium/discount risk and trading issues risk. As a shareholder in another ETF, the Fund bears its proportionate share of the ETF's expenses, subjecting Fund shareholders to duplicative expenses.

**EXTENSION RISK.** Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or other obligated party) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these debt securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of debt securities, making their market value more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term debt securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term debt securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value.

**FINANCIAL COMPANIES RISK.** Financial companies, such as retail and commercial banks, insurance companies and financial services companies, are especially subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, extensive government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentrations in geographic markets, industries or products (such as commercial and residential real estate loans), competition from new entrants and blurred distinctions in their fields of business.

**INCOME RISK.** The Fund's income may decline when interest rates fall or if there are defaults in its portfolio. This decline can occur because the Fund may subsequently invest in lower-yielding securities as debt securities in its portfolio mature, are near maturity or are called, or the Fund otherwise needs to purchase additional debt securities.

**INDUSTRIALS COMPANIES RISK.** Industrials companies convert unfinished goods into finished durables used to manufacture other goods or provide services. Examples of industrials companies include companies involved in the production of electrical equipment and components, industrial products, manufactured housing and telecommunications equipment, as well as defense

and aerospace companies. General risks of industrials companies include the general state of the economy, exchange rates, commodity prices, intense competition, consolidation, domestic and international politics, government regulation, import controls, excess capacity, consumer demand and spending trends. In addition, industrials companies may also be significantly affected by overall capital spending levels, economic cycles, rapid technological changes, delays in modernization, labor relations, environmental liabilities, governmental and product liability and e-commerce initiatives.

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of the Fund's assets and distributions may decline.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline because of rising market interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term debt securities and higher for longer-term debt securities. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates and a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. In general, duration represents the expected percentage change in the value of a security for an immediate 1% change in interest rates. For example, the price of a debt security with a three-year duration would be expected to drop by approximately 3% in response to a 1% increase in interest rates. Therefore, prices of debt securities with shorter durations tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than debt securities with longer durations. As the value of a debt security changes over time, so will its duration.

**LIQUIDITY RISK.** The Fund may hold certain investments that may be subject to restrictions on resale, trade over-the-counter or in limited volume, or lack an active trading market. Accordingly, the Fund may not be able to sell or close out of such investments at favorable times or prices (or at all), or at the prices approximating those at which the Fund currently values them. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments and may be subject to wide fluctuations in market value.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the portfolio managers will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not produce the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective.

**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.

**MORTGAGE-RELATED SECURITIES RISK.** Mortgage-related securities are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. However, these investments make the Fund more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate. Mortgage-related securities are also significantly affected by the rate of prepayments and modifications of the mortgage loans underlying those securities, as well as by other factors such as borrower defaults, delinquencies, realized or liquidation losses and other shortfalls. Mortgage-related securities are particularly sensitive to prepayment risk, given that the term to maturity for mortgage loans is generally substantially longer than the expected lives of those securities. As the timing and amount of prepayments cannot be accurately predicted, the timing of changes in the rate of prepayments of the mortgage loans may significantly affect the Fund's actual yield to maturity on any mortgage-related securities. Along with prepayment risk, mortgage-related securities are significantly affected by interest rate risk.

**PREPAYMENT RISK.** Prepayment risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt security will repay principal prior to the scheduled maturity date. Debt securities allowing prepayment may offer less potential for gains during a period of declining interest rates, as the Fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at lower interest rates. These factors may cause the value of an investment in the Fund to change.

**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** Small and/or mid capitalization companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger, more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, fewer products or financial resources, management inexperience and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies.

## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

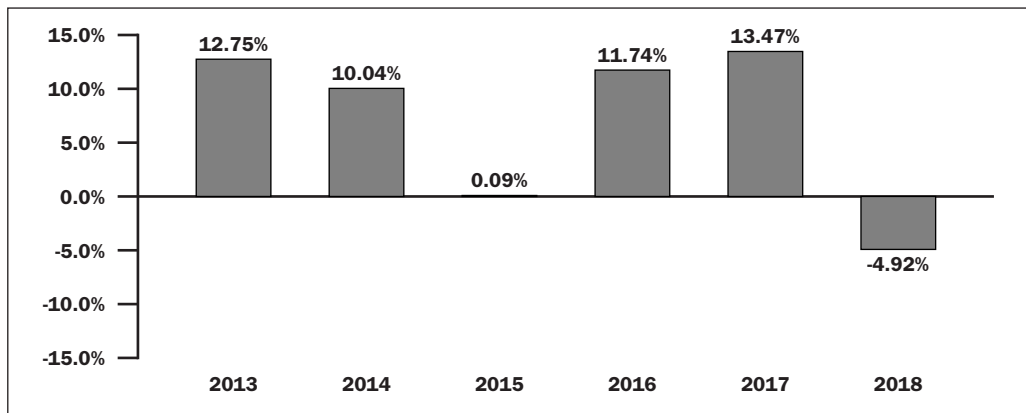
**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES RISK.** U.S. government securities are subject to interest rate risk but generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of debt securities. As a result, the yields available from U.S. government securities are generally lower than the yields available from other debt securities. U.S. government securities are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and the payment of principal when held to maturity. While securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. federal government agencies (such as Ginnie Mae) are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, securities issued by government sponsored entities (such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) are solely the obligation of the issuer and generally do not carry any guarantee from the U.S. government.

**VALUATION RISK.** Unlike publicly traded securities that trade on national securities exchanges, there is no central place or exchange for trading most debt securities. Debt securities generally trade on an "over-the-counter" market. Due to the lack of centralized information and trading, the valuation of debt securities may carry more uncertainty and risk than that of publicly traded securities. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of debt securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Also, because the available information is less reliable and more subjective, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities.

### Annual Total Return

The bar chart and table below illustrate the annual calendar year returns of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns based on net asset value compare to those of a specialty market index, three broad-based market indices and two blended benchmark indices. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio – Class I Shares Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31



During the periods shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
5.72%	March 31, 2013	-7.32%	December 31, 2018

The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

### Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2018

	1 Year	5 Years	Since Inception	Inception Date
<b>Fund Performance - Class I</b>	-4.92%	5.83%	6.92%	5/1/2012
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index <sup>(1)</sup>	-2.51%	3.28%	3.16%	
Russell 3000® Index <sup>(2)</sup>	-5.24%	7.91%	11.11%	
Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index <sup>SM(3)</sup>	-5.30%	7.85%	11.03%	
Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index <sup>SM(4)</sup>	-2.69%	3.26%	3.21%	
Blended Benchmark <sup>(5)</sup>	-3.60%	5.74%	7.24%	
Secondary Blended Benchmark <sup>(6)</sup>	-3.61%	5.82%	7.34%	
<b>Fund Performance - Class II</b>	-4.60%		6.03%	5/1/2014
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index <sup>(1)</sup>	-2.51%		2.54%	
Russell 3000® Index <sup>(2)</sup>	-5.24%		8.01%	
Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index <sup>SM(3)</sup>	-5.30%		7.94%	
Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index <sup>SM(4)</sup>	-2.69%		2.57%	
Blended Benchmark <sup>(5)</sup>	-3.60%		5.41%	
Secondary Blended Benchmark <sup>(6)</sup>	-3.61%		5.51%	

(1) *Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index measures the performance of investment grade U.S. corporate bonds. This index includes all publicly issued, dollar-denominated corporate bonds with a minimum of \$250 million par outstanding that are investment grade-rated (Baa3/BBB- or higher). The index excludes bonds having less than one year to final maturity as well as floating rate bonds, non-registered private placements, structured notes, hybrids, and convertible securities. (Bloomberg).*

(2) *The Russell 3000® Index is composed of 3,000 large U.S. companies, as determined by market capitalization. This index represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. (Bloomberg).*

(3) *The Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup> measures all U.S. equity securities that have readily available prices.*

(4) *The Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index<sup>SM</sup> measures the return of readily tradable, high-grade U.S. corporate bonds. The index includes an equally weighted basket of 96 recently issued investment-grade corporate bonds with laddered maturities.*

(5) *The Blended Benchmark return is a 50/50 split between the Russell 3000® Index and the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index returns.*

(6) *The Secondary Blended Benchmark return is a 50/50 split between the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup> and the Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index<sup>SM</sup> returns.*

## Management

### Investment Advisor

First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust" or the "Advisor")

### Portfolio Managers

The Fund's portfolio is managed by a team (the "Investment Committee") consisting of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Chairman of the Investment Committee and Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Eric Maisel, Senior Vice President of First Trust

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Each Investment Committee member has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2012, except for Chris A. Peterson, who has served as a member of the portfolio management team since 2016, and Eric Maisel, who has served as a member of the portfolio management team since 2019.



### **Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

Shares of the Fund are sold only to each Participating Insurance Company's variable insurance account (each an "Account") to fund the benefits of the Contracts. The Account purchases shares of the Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts.

Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in the Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Contracts. There are no minimum investment requirements. For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from the Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the Contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price; otherwise, the next business day's price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for your Account.

### **Tax Information**

Shares of the Fund may be purchased only by the Accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for the Contracts.

### **Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or a Participating Insurance Company), First Trust and related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

#### Investment Objectives

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio's (the "Fund") primary investment objective is to maximize current income, with a secondary objective of capital appreciation.

#### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses reflected below do not include contract level fees of the variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts offered by a Participating Insurance Company (each a "Contract"). If such fees were included, the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher. More information about eligibility requirements for each share class is available from your Participating Insurance Company.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None	None

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Management Fees	0.60%	0.60%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	0.00%
Other Expenses	1.24%	1.23%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.27%	0.27%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2.36%</b>	<b>2.10%</b>
Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	1.26%	1.25%
<b>Total Net Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>1.10%</b>	<b>0.85%</b>

(1) The Fund's investment advisor has agreed to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year at least until May 1, 2020. Expenses borne by the Fund's investment advisor are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Class I share or Class II share expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding (i) the applicable expense limitation in place for the most recent fiscal year for which such expense limitation was in place, (ii) the applicable expense limitation in place at the time the fees were waived, or (iii) the current expense limitation. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2020 upon 60 days' written notice.

(2) Pursuant to a contractual agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Fund's investment advisor, the Fund's investment advisor will waive management fees in the amount of 0.37% of the Fund's average daily net assets until May 1, 2020. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust's Board of Trustees on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2020 upon 60 days' written notice.

#### Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's annual operating expenses (before any fee waiver or expense reimbursement) remain at current levels for the time periods indicated. Additionally, the example assumes that the Fund's investment advisor's agreement to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year will be terminated following May 1, 2020. The example does not

## First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

take into account Contract level fees. If such fees were included, the estimated expenses would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your cost would be:

Share Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class I	\$112	\$616	\$1,146	\$2,599
Class II	87	537	1,014	2,332

### Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 40% of the average value of its portfolio.

### Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to achieve its objectives through diversified exposure to nine income generating asset classes: dividend-paying stocks, preferred stocks, energy infrastructure companies and master limited partnerships (“MLPs”), real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), high yield or “junk” bonds, floating rate loans, corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities and Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (“TIPS”). The Fund will be actively managed by First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) and implementing the strategy involves multiple portfolio managers.

The Advisor will tactically adjust allocation weights in a manner deemed to offer attractive levels of total return relative to the level of expected risk. The Advisor intends to adjust asset allocation weights quarterly but may do so more or less frequently depending upon market conditions. The maximum weight of any asset class, at the time of adjustment, will be 20%. The minimum weight of any asset class, at the time of adjustment, will be 5%.

The Fund may, at certain times, invest in exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) that generally provide exposure to the nine asset classes in lieu of investing directly in such assets classes. Certain of the ETFs may be advised by First Trust, as a result, First Trust will also earn advisory fees on the underlying ETFs.

In general, the U.S. dollar-denominated fixed income securities in which the Fund invests may be issued by U.S. and non-U.S. issuers, of any credit quality, including high yield securities. The high yield securities in which the Fund invests are rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or unrated and deemed by the Advisor to be of comparable quality, commonly referred to as “junk” bonds. The Fund also invests in the equity securities of domestic and foreign issuers listed on a U.S. or foreign securities exchange and non-U.S. securities that are listed on a U.S. securities exchange in the form of American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”). The Fund may invest in equity securities issued by small, mid or large capitalization companies.

### Principal Risks

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund’s investment objectives will be achieved.

**BANK LOANS RISK.** Investments in bank loans are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk that may be heightened because of the limited public information available regarding bank loans and because loan borrowers may be leveraged and tend to be more adversely affected by changes in market or economic conditions. If the Fund holds a bank loan through another financial institution or relies on a financial institution to administer the loan, its receipt of principal and interest on the loan may be subject to the credit risk of that financial institution. It is possible that any collateral securing a loan may be insufficient or unavailable to the Fund, and that the Fund’s rights to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or insolvency laws. Additionally, there is no central clearinghouse for loan trades and the loan market has not established enforceable settlement standards or remedies for failure to settle. As such, the secondary market for bank loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods (in some cases longer than 7 days) which may cause the Fund to be unable to realize the full value of its investment. In addition, bank loans are generally not registered with the Securities Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be considered “securities,” and the Fund may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws.

**CALL RISK.** Some debt securities may be redeemed, or "called," at the option of the issuer before their stated maturity date. In general, an issuer will call its debt securities if they can be refinanced by issuing new debt securities which bear a lower interest rate. The Fund is subject to the possibility that during periods of falling interest rates an issuer will call its high yielding debt securities. The Fund would then be forced to invest the proceeds at lower interest rates, likely resulting in a decline in the Fund's income.

**COVENANT-LITE LOAN RISK.** Covenant-lite loans contain fewer maintenance covenants, or no maintenance covenants at all, than traditional loans and may not include terms that allow the lender to monitor the financial performance of the borrower and declare a default if certain criteria are breached. This may hinder the Fund's ability to reprice credit risk associated with the borrower and reduce the Fund's ability to restructure a problematic loan and mitigate potential loss. As a result, the Fund's exposure to losses on such investments is increased, especially during a downturn in the credit cycle.

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due. In addition, the value of a debt security may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability or unwillingness to make such payments.

**CURRENCY RISK.** Changes in currency exchange rates affect the value of investments denominated in a foreign currency, and therefore the value of such investments in the Fund's portfolio. The Fund's net asset value could decline if a currency to which the Fund has exposure depreciates against the U.S. dollar or if there are delays or limits on repatriation of such currency. Currency exchange rates can be very volatile and can change quickly and unpredictably. As a result, the value of an investment in the Fund may change quickly and without warning.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Fund is susceptible to operational risks through 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. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests or the Fund's third-party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. Although the Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third-party service providers.

**DEBT SECURITIES RISK.** Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer or other obligor of a security will not be able or willing to make payments of interest and principal when due. Generally, the value of debt securities will change inversely with changes in interest rates. To the extent that interest rates rise, certain underlying obligations may be paid off substantially slower than originally anticipated and the value of those securities may fall sharply. During periods of falling interest rates, the income received by the Fund may decline. If the principal on a debt security is prepaid before expected, the prepayments of principal may have to be reinvested in obligations paying interest at lower rates. Debt securities generally do not trade on a securities exchange making them generally less liquid and more difficult to value than common stock.

**DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS RISK.** Depositary receipts may be less liquid than the underlying shares in their primary trading market. Any distributions paid to the holders of depositary receipts are usually subject to a fee charged by the depositary. Holders of depositary receipts may have limited voting rights, and investment restrictions in certain countries may adversely impact the value of depositary receipts because such restrictions may limit the ability to convert the equity shares into depositary receipts and vice versa. Such restrictions may cause the equity shares of the underlying issuer to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the depositary receipts.

**DIVIDENDS RISK.** The Fund's investment in dividend-paying securities could cause the Fund to underperform similar funds that invest without consideration of an issuer's track record of paying dividends. Companies that issue dividend-paying securities are not required to continue to pay dividends on such securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that such companies could reduce or eliminate the payment of dividends in the future.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK.** Investments in securities issued by companies operating in emerging market countries involve additional risks relating to political, economic, or regulatory conditions not associated with investments in securities and

instruments issued by U.S. companies or by companies operating in other developed market countries. Investments in emerging markets securities are generally considered speculative in nature and are subject to the following heightened risks: smaller market capitalization of securities markets which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital; rapid inflation; and currency convertibility issues. Emerging market countries also often have less uniformity in accounting and reporting requirements, unsettled securities laws, unreliable securities valuation and greater risk associated with custody of securities. Furthermore, investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales and future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization or creation of government monopolies.

**ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES RISK.** Energy infrastructure companies are subject to risks specific to the energy and energy-related industries. This includes but is not limited to: fluctuations in commodity prices impacting the volume of energy commodities transported, processed, stored or distributed; reductions in volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities being available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; slowdowns in new construction and acquisitions limiting growth potential; reduced demand for oil, natural gas and petroleum products, particularly for a sustained period of time; depletion of natural gas reserves or other commodities; rising interest rates resulting in higher costs of capital, increased operating costs; counterparties to contracts defaulting or going bankrupt; and an inability to execute acquisitions or expansion projects in a cost-effective manner; extreme weather events and environmental hazards; and threats of attack by terrorists on energy assets. Energy infrastructure companies may also face counterparty risk, such that long-term contracts may be declared void if the counterparty to those contracts enters bankruptcy proceedings. In addition, energy infrastructure companies are subject to significant federal, state and local government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices they may charge for products and services. Various governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these regulations and the permits issued under them and violators are subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines, injunctions or both. Stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could be enacted in the future which would likely increase compliance costs and may adversely affect the financial performance of energy infrastructure companies. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, also may impact the energy infrastructure companies.

Certain energy infrastructure companies in the utilities industry are subject to the imposition of rate caps, increased competition due to deregulation, the difficulty in obtaining an adequate return on invested capital or in financing large construction projects, the limitations on operations and increased costs and delays attributable to environmental considerations, and the capital market's ability to absorb utility debt. In addition, taxes, government regulation, international politics, price and supply fluctuations, volatile interest rates and energy conservation may cause difficulties for these companies. Such issuers have been experiencing certain of these problems in varying degrees.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** The value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of the equity securities in which it invests. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant equity market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting an issuer occur. Common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

**ETF RISK.** Under certain market conditions, the Fund may invest in ETFs. The Fund's investment in shares of ETFs subjects it to the risks of owning the securities underlying the ETF, as well as the same structural risks faced by an investor purchasing shares of the Fund, including authorized participant concentration risk, market maker risk, premium/discount risk and trading issues risk. As a shareholder in another ETF, the Fund bears its proportionate share of the ETF's expenses, subjecting Fund shareholders to duplicative expenses.

**EXTENSION RISK.** Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or other obligated party) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these debt securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of debt securities, making their market value more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term debt securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term debt securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value.

**FLOATING RATE DEBT INSTRUMENTS RISK.** Investments in floating rate debt instruments are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. Floating rate debt instruments include debt securities issued by corporate and governmental entities, as well bank loans, mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities. Floating rate debt instruments are structured so that the security's

coupon rate fluctuates based upon the level of a reference rate. Most commonly, the coupon rate of a floating rate debt instrument is set at the level of a widely followed interest rate, plus a fixed spread. As a result, the coupon on floating rate debt instrument will generally decline in a falling interest rate environment, causing the Fund to experience a reduction in the income it receives from the instrument. A floating rate debt instrument's coupon rate resets periodically according to its terms. Consequently, in a rising interest rate environment, floating rate debt instruments with coupon rates that reset infrequently may lag behind the changes in market interest rates. Floating rate debt instruments may also contain terms that impose a maximum coupon rate the issuer will pay, regardless of the level of the reference rate. To the extent the Fund invests in floating rate loans, such instruments may be subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, may trade infrequently, and their value may be impaired when the Fund needs to liquidate such securities. It is possible that the collateral securing a floating rate loan may be insufficient or unavailable to the Fund, and that the Fund's rights to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or insolvency laws. Additionally, floating rate loans may not be considered "securities" under federal securities laws, and purchasers, such as the Fund, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws.

**HIGH YIELD SECURITIES RISK.** High yield securities, or "junk" bonds, are subject to greater market fluctuations, are less liquid and provide a greater risk of loss than investment grade securities, and therefore, are considered to be highly speculative. In general, high yield securities may have a greater risk of default than other types of securities and could cause income and principal losses for the Fund.

**INCOME RISK.** The Fund's income may decline when interest rates fall or if there are defaults in its portfolio. This decline can occur because the Fund may subsequently invest in lower-yielding securities as debt securities in its portfolio mature, are near maturity or are called, or the Fund otherwise needs to purchase additional debt securities.

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of the Fund's assets and distributions may decline.

**INFLATION-INDEXED SECURITIES RISK.** Inflation-indexed debt securities, such as TIPS, are subject to the same risks as other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. The principal amount of an inflation-indexed security typically increases with inflation and decreases with deflation, as measured by a specified index. Although the holders of TIPS receive no less than the par value of the security at maturity, if the Fund purchases TIPS in the secondary market whose principal values have previously been adjusted upward and there is a period of subsequent declining inflation rates, the Fund may receive at maturity less than it invested and incur a loss.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline because of rising market interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term debt securities and higher for longer-term debt securities. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates and a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. In general, duration represents the expected percentage change in the value of a security for an immediate 1% change in interest rates. For example, the price of a debt security with a three-year duration would be expected to drop by approximately 3% in response to a 1% increase in interest rates. Therefore, prices of debt securities with shorter durations tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than debt securities with longer durations. As the value of a debt security changes over time, so will its duration.

**LIQUIDITY RISK.** The Fund may hold certain investments that may be subject to restrictions on resale, trade over-the-counter or in limited volume, or lack an active trading market. Accordingly, the Fund may not be able to sell or close out of such investments at favorable times or prices (or at all), or at the prices approximating those at which the Fund currently values them. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments and may be subject to wide fluctuations in market value.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the portfolio managers will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not produce the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective.

**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.

**MLP RISK.** Investments in securities of MLPs involve certain risks different from or in addition to the risks of investing in common stocks. MLP common units can be affected by macro-economic factors and other factors unique to the partnership or company and the industry or industries in which the MLP operates. Certain MLP securities may trade in relatively low volumes due to their smaller capitalizations or other factors, which may cause them to have a high degree of price volatility and illiquidity. The structures of MLPs create certain risks, including, for example, risks related to the limited ability of investors to control an MLP and to vote on matters affecting the MLP, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between an MLP and the MLP's general partner, the risk that an MLP will generate insufficient cash flow to meet its current operating requirements, the risk that an MLP will issue additional securities or engage in other transactions that will have the effect of diluting the interests of existing investors, and risks related to the general partner's right to require unit-holders to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price. On March 15, 2018, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") changed its long-standing tax allowance policy which no longer permits MLPs to include in their cost of service an income tax allowance. This has had a negative impact on the performance of some MLPs affected by this decision. This policy change and any similar policy changes in the future could adversely impact an MLP's business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows and ability to pay cash distributions or dividends.

**MLP TAX RISK.** The Fund's ability to meet its investment objective relies in part upon the level of taxable income it receives from the MLPs in which it invests, a factor over which the Fund has no control. The benefit the Fund derives from its investment in MLPs is largely dependent on their being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Partnerships do not pay U.S. federal income tax at the partnership level. Rather, each partner is allocated a share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. A change in current tax law or a change in the underlying business mix of a given MLP could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in the MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax (as well as state and local income taxes) on its taxable income at the applicable corporate tax rate. This would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by an MLP and could result in a significant reduction in the value of the Fund's investment. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U. S. federal income tax purposes would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and causing any such distributions received by the Fund to be taxed as dividend income to the extent of the MLP's current or accumulated earnings and profits. To the extent a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP is treated as a return of capital, the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the interests of the MLP may be reduced, which will result in an increase in the amount of income or gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the Fund for tax purposes upon the sale of any such interests or upon subsequent distributions in respect of such interests. Furthermore, any return of capital distribution received from an MLP may require the Fund to restate the character of its distributions and amend any shareholder tax reporting previously issued.

**MORTGAGE-RELATED SECURITIES RISK.** Mortgage-related securities are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. However, these investments make the Fund more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate. Mortgage-related securities are also significantly affected by the rate of prepayments and modifications of the mortgage loans underlying those securities, as well as by other factors such as borrower defaults, delinquencies, realized or liquidation losses and other shortfalls. Mortgage-related securities are particularly sensitive to prepayment risk, given that the term to maturity for mortgage loans is generally substantially longer than the expected lives of those securities. As the timing and amount of prepayments cannot be accurately predicted, the timing of changes in the rate of prepayments of the mortgage loans may significantly affect the Fund's actual yield to maturity on any mortgage-related securities. Along with prepayment risk, mortgage-related securities are significantly affected by interest rate risk.

**NON-U.S. SECURITIES RISK.** Non-U.S. securities are subject to higher volatility than securities of domestic issuers due to possible adverse political, social or economic developments, restrictions on foreign investment or exchange of securities, lack of liquidity, currency exchange rates, excessive taxation, government seizure of assets, different legal or accounting standards, and less government supervision and regulation of securities exchanges in foreign countries.

**PREFERRED SECURITIES RISK.** Preferred securities combine some of the characteristics of both common stocks and bonds. Preferred securities are typically subordinated to bonds and other debt securities in a company's capital structure in terms of priority to corporate income, subjecting them to greater credit risk than those debt securities. Generally, holders of preferred

securities have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company unless preferred dividends have been in arrears for a specified number of periods, at which time the preferred security holders may obtain limited rights. In certain circumstances, an issuer of preferred securities may defer payment on the securities and, in some cases, redeem the securities prior to a specified date. Preferred securities may also be substantially less liquid than other securities, including common stock.

**PREPAYMENT RISK.** Prepayment risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt security will repay principal prior to the scheduled maturity date. Debt securities allowing prepayment may offer less potential for gains during a period of declining interest rates, as the Fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at lower interest rates. These factors may cause the value of an investment in the Fund to change.

**REIT RISK.** REITs typically own and operate income-producing real estate, such as residential or commercial buildings, or real-estate related assets, including mortgages. As a result, investments in REITs are subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate, which may include, but are not limited to: fluctuations in the value of underlying properties; defaults by borrowers or tenants; market saturation; changes in general and local operating expenses; and other economic, political or regulatory occurrences affecting companies in the real estate sector. REITs are also subject to the risk that the real estate market may experience an economic downturn generally, which may have a material effect on the real estate in which the REITs invest and their underlying portfolio securities. REITs may have also a relatively small market capitalization which may result in their shares experiencing less market liquidity and greater price volatility than larger companies. Increases in interest rates typically lower the present value of a REIT's future earnings stream, and may make financing property purchases and improvements more costly. Because the market price of REIT stocks may change based upon investors' collective perceptions of future earnings, the value of the Fund will generally decline when investors anticipate or experience rising interest rates.

**SMALL FUND RISK.** The Fund currently has fewer assets than larger funds, and like other smaller funds, large inflows and outflows may impact the Fund's market exposure for limited periods of time. This impact may be positive or negative, depending on the direction of market movement during the period affected. If the Fund fails to attract a large amount of assets, shareholders of the Fund may incur higher expenses as the Fund's fixed costs would be allocated over a smaller number of shareholders.

**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** Small and/or mid capitalization companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger, more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, fewer products or financial resources, management inexperience and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies.

**TBA TRANSACTIONS RISK.** The Fund may purchase securities in TBA Transactions. In such a transaction, the purchase price of the securities is typically fixed at the time of the commitment, but delivery and payment can take place a month or more after the date of the commitment. At the time of delivery of the securities, the value may be more or less than the purchase or sale price. Purchasing securities in a TBA Transaction may give rise to investment leverage and may increase the Fund's volatility. Default by, or bankruptcy of, a counterparty to a TBA Transaction would expose the Fund to possible losses because of an adverse market action, expenses or delays in connection with the purchase or sale of the pools specified in such transaction.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES RISK.** U.S. government securities are subject to interest rate risk but generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of debt securities. As a result, the yields available from U.S. government securities are generally lower than the yields available from other debt securities. U.S. government securities are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and the payment of principal when held to maturity. While securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. federal government agencies (such as Ginnie Mae) are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, securities issued by government sponsored entities (such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) are solely the obligation of the issuer and generally do not carry any guarantee from the U.S. government.

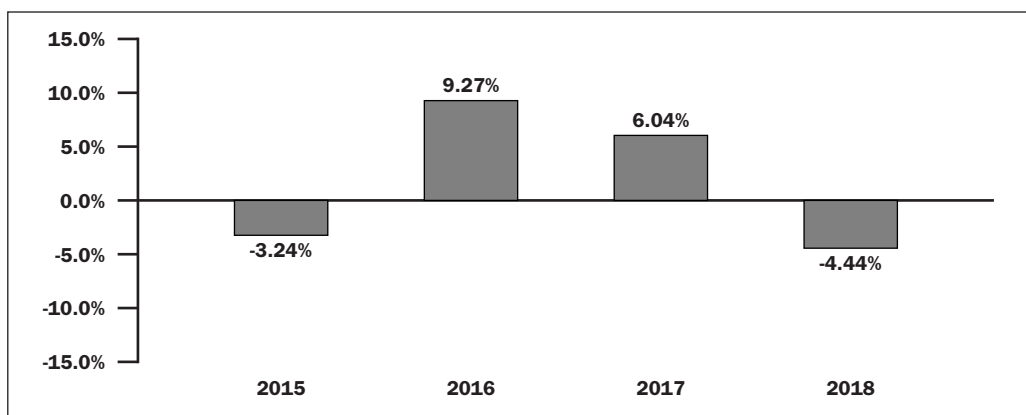
**VALUATION RISK.** Unlike publicly traded securities that trade on national securities exchanges, there is no central place or exchange for trading most debt securities. Debt securities generally trade on an "over-the-counter" market. Due to the lack of centralized information and trading, the valuation of debt securities may carry more uncertainty and risk than that of publicly traded securities. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of debt securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Also, because the available information is less reliable and more subjective, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities.



### Annual Total Return

The bar chart and table below illustrate the annual calendar year returns of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns based on net asset value compare to those of two blended benchmark indices and two broad-based market indices. Returns for the market indices do not include expenses, which are deducted from Fund returns, or taxes. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

### First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio – Class I Shares Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31



During the periods shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
4.44%	June 30, 2016	-5.62%	December 31, 2018

The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2018

	1 Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
<b>Fund Performance - Class I</b>	-4.44%	2.47%	5/1/2014
<b>Fund Performance - Class II</b>	-4.11%	2.72%	
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%	2.07%	
Russell 3000® Index <sup>(2)</sup>	-5.24%	8.01%	
Broad Blended Benchmark <sup>(3)</sup>	-1.82%	4.58%	
Multi Asset Class Blended Benchmark <sup>(4)</sup>	-3.56%	2.40%	

(1) The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index represents the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. Bonds included in the index are U.S. dollar denominated; have a fixed rate coupon; carry an investment-grade rating; have at least one year to final maturity; and meet certain criteria for minimum amount of outstanding par value.

(2) The Russell 3000® Index is composed of 3,000 large U.S. companies, as determined by market capitalization. This index represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. (Bloomberg).

(3) The Broad Blended Benchmark return is a split between the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (60%) and the Russell 3000® Index (40%).

(4) The Multi Asset Class Blended Benchmark is weighted to include nine indexes: Russell 3000® Index (15%), ICE BofAML Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index (8%), Alerian MLP Index (15%), S&P U.S. REIT Index (15%), ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Index (8%), S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index (15%), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index (8%), ICE BofAML U.S. MBS Index (8%), and ICE BofAML U.S. Inflation-Linked Treasury Index (8%).

## Management

### ***Investment Advisor***

First Trust Advisors L.P. (“*First Trust*” or the “*Advisor*”)

### ***Investment Sub-Advisors***

Energy Income Partners, LLC (“*EIP*” or a “*Sub-Advisor*”)

Stonebridge Advisors LLC (“*Stonebridge*” or a “*Sub-Advisor*”)

### ***Portfolio Managers***

The Fund’s portfolio is managed by a team (the “*Investment Committee*”) consisting of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Chairman of the Investment Committee and Managing Director of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- William Housey, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- James Snyder, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Jeremiah Charles, Senior Vice President of First Trust

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Each Investment Committee member has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2014, except for Chris A. Peterson, who has served as a member of the portfolio management team since 2016.

## Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Shares of the Fund are sold only to each Participating Insurance Company’s variable insurance account (each an “*Account*”) to fund the benefits of the Contracts. The Account purchases shares of the Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts.

Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in the Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Contracts. There are no minimum investment requirements. For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from the Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the Contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day’s closing price; otherwise, the next business day’s price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for your Account.

## Tax Information

Shares of the Fund may be purchased only by the Accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for the Contracts.

## Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or a Participating Insurance Company), First Trust and related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

## Additional Information on the Funds' Investment Objectives and Strategies

Each Fund's investment objective(s) is fundamental and may not be changed without approval by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Unless an investment policy is identified as being fundamental, all investment policies included in this prospectus and the Funds' Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") are non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the First Trust Variable Insurance Trust (the "Trust"), of which the Funds are each a series, without shareholder approval. If there is a material change to a Fund's principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that a Fund will achieve its investment objective(s).

During periods of large cash inflows, the Funds may depart from their principal investment strategies and invest a larger amount or all of their assets in ETFs and/or cash equivalents or they may hold cash.

The Funds have adopted certain investment limitations that cannot be changed without shareholder approval. These limitations include restrictions on the issuance of senior securities, borrowing money for other than temporary or other permissible purposes, underwriting securities of other issuers, transacting in real estate interests, making loans, transacting in physical commodities, and mortgaging Fund assets. Such limitations are discussed further in the SAI in the section entitled "Investment Objectives and Policies."

The Funds may engage in active and frequent trading which may result in increased portfolio turnover and brokerage costs.

To select the equity securities for the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, First Trust primarily follows a disciplined investment strategy and invests in the common stocks determined by the strategy. The equity component of the portfolio is derived from a quantitative process that seeks to provide total return with below market risk and an above market dividend yield through investing generally in dividend paying stocks. First Trust begins with the universe of stocks in the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup>. The First Trust quantitative model for selecting the equity component of the Fund incorporates investment metrics for dividend strength, capital strength and price stability. The top 150 - 170 best scoring stocks are selected utilizing the First Trust quantitative selection methodology; however, First Trust reserves the right to over-weight, under-weight or exclude certain securities from the portfolio that would otherwise be selected pursuant to the methodology in certain instances including, but not limited to: the bankruptcy of the issuer; a legal question or impediment is affecting the security; an issue has arisen calling into question the viability, liquidity or tradability of the issuer; a decrease in or elimination of dividends by an issuer; or as otherwise determined from time to time by First Trust. Stocks are typically equally weighted and the equity portfolio is generally rebalanced each quarter.

To select the fixed income securities for the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, First Trust begins with a universe of: investment grade debt securities included in the Bond Index and other investment grade debt securities of issuers whose securities are included in the Bond Index; and investment grade debt securities of issuers included in the Dow Jones Composite Average. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase debt securities from this universe will comprise approximately 80% of the net assets of the Fund devoted to corporate debt securities. The Fund may also invest in U.S. government and agency securities that First Trust believes will aid in managing duration, liquidity needs, and credit risk. The Fund may also hold ETFs that invest in investment grade corporate debt securities and U.S. government bonds in lieu of investing directly in such securities. The Fund may hold these ETFs to provide an efficient means to temporarily invest cash. However, the ETF holdings may constitute a large portion of the debt portfolio in periods when Fund asset size is low and it is in the best interest of the Fund to transact in ETFs for purposes of efficient liquidity and diversification benefits when compared to that provided by transacting in debt directly. In selecting the fixed income securities for the Fund, First Trust follows a top-down analysis of key secular and cyclical trends that seeks to identify the optimal sector allocation and security selection based upon macro trends and bottom-up fundamental research. The investment process routinely monitors market conditions and portfolio risk for its effect on relative value.

To select the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio's tactical allocation weights, the Advisor uses its own quantitative process and fundamental research to identify asset classes with the potential for providing a high level of current income and capital appreciation. The Advisor also completes fundamental, bottom-up analysis that emphasizes, but is not limited to, leverage, interest coverage, free cash flow, and the quality of company management. The analysis continues with relative value measurements to further screen and scale securities under consideration. The Fund will invest in securities that the Advisor believes offer attractive returns through capital appreciation and current income. The selection of ETFs will be primarily to achieve the desired asset class allocation set by the Advisor. The investment process routinely monitors market conditions and portfolio risks for their effects on achieving the Fund's objectives. These risks include, but are not limited to, duration exposure, industry diversification, and security concentration.

## Fund Investments

### Corporate Debt Securities

The Funds invest in corporate debt securities of all kinds, including those with small, mid and large capitalizations. Corporate debt securities are fixed income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary differences being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured. Corporate debt may be rated investment grade or below investment grade and may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

### Delayed Delivery Securities

The Funds may buy or sell securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, paying for or taking delivery of the securities at a later date, normally within 15 to 45 days of the trade. Such transactions involve an element of risk because the value of the securities to be purchased may decline before the settlement date.

### Derivatives

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio may use futures, interest rate swaps, total return swaps, non-U.S. currency swaps, credit default swaps, options and other derivative instruments to seek to enhance return, to hedge some of the risks of its investments in securities, as a substitute for a position in the underlying asset, to reduce transaction costs, to maintain full market exposure (which means to adjust the characteristics of its investments to more closely approximate those of the markets in which it invests), to manage cash flows, to limit exposure to losses due to changes to non-U.S. currency exchange rates, if applicable, or to preserve capital.

The Fund will comply with the regulatory requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with respect to coverage of options and futures positions by registered investment companies and, if the guidelines so require, will earmark or set aside cash, U.S. Government securities, high grade liquid debt securities and/or other liquid assets permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission in a segregated custodial account in the amount prescribed. Securities earmarked or held in a segregated account cannot be sold while the futures or options position is outstanding, unless replaced with other permissible assets, and will be marked to market daily.

### Dividend Paying Equity Securities and Depositary Receipts

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in equity securities of domestic and foreign issuers listed on a U.S. or foreign securities exchange and non-U.S. securities that are listed on a U.S. securities exchange in the form of Depositary Receipts.

### Energy Infrastructure Companies and MLPs

These companies principally include publicly-traded MLPs and limited liability companies taxed as partnerships, MLP affiliates, yield corporations, pipeline companies, utilities and other companies that are involved in operating or providing services in support of infrastructure assets such as pipeline, power transmission, power generation, petroleum, natural gas storage and terminalling.

**MLPs.** The Funds may invest in MLPs, which are limited partnerships whose shares (or units) are listed and traded on a U.S. securities exchange, and I-Shares, which represent an ownership interest issued by an affiliated party of an MLP. To qualify as an MLP, a partnership must receive at least 90% of its income from qualifying sources such as natural resource activities. Natural resource activities include the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and marketing of mineral or natural resources. MLPs generally have two classes of owners, the general partner and limited partners. The general partner, which is generally a major energy company, investment fund or the management of the MLP, typically controls the MLP through a 2% general partner equity interest in the MLP plus common units and subordinated units. Limited partners own the remainder of the partnership, through ownership of common units, and have a limited role in the partnership's operations and management.

The Funds may invest in MLP subordinated units, which are typically issued by MLPs to their original sponsors, such as their founders, corporate general partners of MLPs, entities that sell assets to MLPs, and institutional investors. In addition, as indicated above, the Fund may invest in I Shares, which are issued by MLP affiliates. The MLP affiliate uses the proceeds from the sale of I-Shares to purchase limited partnership interests in the MLP in the form of i units. I-units have similar features as

MLP common units in terms of voting rights, liquidation preference and distributions. However, rather than receiving cash, the MLP affiliate receives additional i-units in an amount equal to the cash distributions received by MLP common units. Similarly, holders of I-Shares will receive additional I-Shares, in the same proportion as the MLP affiliates' receipt of i-units, rather than cash distributions. I-Shares themselves have limited voting rights which are similar to those applicable to MLP common units. I-Shares are listed and traded on a U.S. national securities exchange.

## **Equity Securities**

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio invests approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in equity securities. The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio also invests in equity securities.

## **High Yield Corporate Bonds and Floating Rate Loans**

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in a combination of high yield corporate bonds and floating rate loans.

The high yield corporate bonds in which the Fund invests are rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or unrated and deemed by the Advisor to be of comparable quality, commonly referred to as “junk” bonds. Generally, bonds are considered to have “junk” status if they are rated Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below by Moody's Investor Service, Inc. (“Moody's”), Fitch Ratings (“Fitch”), or Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (“S&P Ratings”), respectively. For purposes of determining whether a security is below investment grade, the lowest available rating will be considered. High yield debt may be issued, for example, by companies without long track records of sales and earnings or by issuers that have questionable credit strength. Corporate bonds may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

The floating rate loans in which the Fund invests represent amounts borrowed by companies or other entities from banks and other lenders. In many cases, floating rate loans are issued in connection with recapitalizations, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, and refinancing. A significant portion of the floating rate loans in which the Fund invests are expected to be rated below investment grade or unrated. The floating rate loans held by the Fund may be senior or subordinate obligations of the borrower. In the event of bankruptcy, holders of senior floating rate loans are typically paid (to the extent assets are available) before certain other creditors of the borrower (e.g., bondholders and stockholders). Holders of subordinate loans may be paid after more senior bondholders. Loans may or may not be secured by collateral.

Floating rate loans have interest rates that reset periodically. The interest rates on floating rate loans are generally based on a percentage above the London Interbank Offered Rate (“LIBOR”), a U.S. bank's prime or base rate, the overnight federal funds rate, or another rate. Floating rate loans may be structured and administered by a financial institution that acts as the agent of the lenders participating in the floating rate loan. The Fund may acquire floating rate loans directly from a lender or through the agent, as an assignment from another lender who holds a floating rate loan, or as a participation interest in another lender's floating rate loan or portion thereof.

## **Investment Companies and Other Pooled Investment Vehicles**

The Funds may invest in securities of investment companies, including ETFs; some of which may be ETFs that are advised by the Advisor. ETFs trade on a securities exchange and their shares may, at times, trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value. As a shareholder in a pooled investment vehicle, a Fund will bear its ratable share of that vehicle's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the fund's advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Normally shareholders are subject to duplicative expenses to the extent a Fund invests in other pooled investment vehicles. In addition, a Fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of ETFs and closed end investment companies. Securities of other pooled investment vehicles may be leveraged, in which case the value and/or yield of such securities will tend to be more volatile than securities of unleveraged vehicles.

The Funds' ability to invest in other investment companies is limited by the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations. The Funds may invest in other investment companies in excess of the limits imposed under the 1940 Act pursuant to exemptive orders obtained by certain investment companies and their sponsors from the Securities and Exchange Commission, subject to certain conditions and pursuant to a contractual arrangement between a Fund and such investment companies.

## **Mortgage-Related Investments and Mortgage-Related Derivatives**

The Funds invest in mortgage-related debt securities and other mortgage-related instruments. A Fund generally expects that the mortgage-related investments in which it invests will primarily consist of investment grade securities (i.e., securities with credit ratings within the four highest rating categories of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization at the time of purchase). The mortgage-related investments in which a Fund invests include mortgage-backed securities (such as residential

mortgage backed securities (“*RMBS*”) and commercial mortgage backed securities (“*CMBS*”). Mortgage-backed securities represent an interest in a pool of mortgage loans made by banks and other financial institutions to finance purchases of homes, commercial buildings and other real estate. The individual mortgage loans are packaged or “pooled” together for sale to investors. As the underlying mortgage loans are paid off, investors receive principal and interest payments. Mortgage-backed securities may be fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities (ARMS). Certain mortgage-backed securities (including RMBS and CMBS), where mortgage payments are divided up between paying the loan’s principal and paying the loan’s interest, are referred to as stripped mortgage-backed securities (SMBS). Further, mortgage-backed securities can also be categorized as collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) or real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) where they are divided into multiple classes with each class being entitled to a different share of the principal and/or interest payments received from the pool of underlying assets.

The mortgage-backed securities in which a Fund invests may be, but are not required to be, issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, such as Ginnie Mae and U.S. government-sponsored entities, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Government agency or instrumentality securities have different levels of credit support. For example, Ginnie Mae securities carry a guarantee as to the timely repayment of principal and interest that is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. However, the full faith and credit guarantee does not apply to the market prices and yields of the Ginnie Mae securities or to the net asset value, trading price or performance of a Fund, which will vary with changes in interest rates and other market conditions. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pass-through mortgage certificates are backed by the credit of the respective instrumentality and are not guaranteed by the U.S. government. Other securities issued by government agencies or instrumentalities, including government-sponsored entities, may only be backed by the creditworthiness of the issuing institution, not the U.S. government, or the issuers may have the right to borrow from the U.S. Treasury to meet their obligations. Many mortgage-backed securities are pass-through securities, which means they provide investors with monthly payments consisting of a pro rata share of both regular interest and principal payments as well as unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgage loans. Because prepayment rates of individual mortgage pools vary widely, the average life of a particular pool cannot be predicted accurately. Adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities include ARMS and other mortgage-backed securities with interest rates that adjust periodically to reflect prevailing market rates.

Additionally, the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in mortgage dollar rolls. In a mortgage dollar roll, the Fund will sell (or buy) mortgage-backed securities for delivery on a specified date and simultaneously contract to repurchase (or sell) substantially similar (same type, coupon and maturity) securities on a future date. During the period between a sale and repurchase, the Fund will forgo principal and interest paid on the mortgage-backed securities. The Fund will earn or lose money on a mortgage dollar roll from any difference between the sale price and the future purchase price. In a sale and repurchase, the Fund will also earn money on the interest earned on the cash proceeds of the initial sale. The Fund intends to enter into mortgage dollar rolls only with high quality securities dealers and banks, as determined by the Advisor.

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may also invest in to-be-announced transactions (“*TBA Transactions*”). A TBA Transaction is a method of trading mortgage-backed securities. In a TBA Transaction, the buyer and the seller agree on general trade parameters such as agency, settlement date, par amount and price. The actual pools delivered generally are determined two days prior to the settlement date.

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in interest only synthetic (“*IOS*”) contracts. IOS contracts are synthetic total return swaps referencing the interest component of mortgage pools. They provide investors with synthetic exposure to interest flows of mortgage-backed securities. Initially, the Fund expects that the mortgage-related derivatives in which it invests will consist only of IOS contracts; however, the Fund may, in the future, invest in other mortgage-related derivatives to the extent consistent with the types of derivative instruments referenced below.

Further, the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may enter into short sales as part of its overall portfolio management strategies or to offset a potential decline in the value of a security; however, the Fund does not expect, under normal market conditions, to engage in short sales with respect to more than 30% of the value of its net assets that are invested in Mortgage-Related Investments. To the extent required under applicable federal securities laws, rules, and interpretations thereof, the Fund will “set aside” liquid assets or engage in other measures to “cover” open positions and short positions held in connection with the foregoing types of transactions and mortgage-related derivatives.

## **Preferred Securities**

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in preferred securities. Certain of the preferred securities in which the Fund invests are traditional preferred stocks which issue dividends that qualify for the dividends received deduction under which “qualified” domestic corporations are able to exclude a percentage of the dividends received from their taxable income.

Certain of the preferred securities in which the Fund invests are preferred stock that does not issue dividends that qualify for the dividends received deduction or generate qualified dividend income. Hybrid preferred securities, another type of preferred securities, are typically junior and fully subordinated liabilities of an issuer or the beneficiary of a guarantee that is junior and fully subordinated to the other liabilities of the guarantor. Preferred securities held by the Fund generally pay fixed or adjustable-rate distributions to investors and have preference over common stock in the payment of distributions and the liquidation of a company's assets, which means that a company typically must pay dividends or interest on its preferred securities before paying any dividends on its common stock. Preferred securities are generally junior to all forms of the company's debt, including both senior and subordinated debt.

## **REITs**

The Funds may invest in real estate investment trusts, or "REITs," which are companies that own and most often actively manage income-generating commercial real estate. Some REITs make or invest in loans and other obligations that are secured by real estate collateral. Most REITs are publicly traded. REITs receive special tax considerations and are typically a highly liquid method of investing in real estate.

REITs are generally categorized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest in and own properties, and thus are responsible for the equity or value of their real estate assets. Their revenues come principally from their properties' rents. Mortgage REITs deal in investment and ownership of property mortgages. These REITs loan money for mortgages to owners of real estate or purchase existing mortgages or mortgage-backed securities. Their revenues are generated primarily by the interest that they earn on the mortgage loans. Hybrid REITs combine the investment strategies of equity REITs and mortgage REITs by investing in both properties and mortgages.

## **TIPS**

The Funds may invest in TIPS. TIPS are inflation-indexed fixed-income securities issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury that utilize an inflation mechanism tied to the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). TIPS are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. TIPS are offered with coupon interest rates lower than those of nominal rate Treasury securities. The coupon interest rate remains fixed throughout the term of the securities. However, each day the principal value of the TIPS is adjusted based upon a pro-rata portion of the CPI as reported three months earlier. Future interest payments are made based upon the coupon interest rate and the adjusted principal value.

## **U.S. Government Securities**

The Funds may invest in U.S. government and agency securities, including mortgage-backed securities. U.S. government securities include U.S. Treasury obligations and securities issued or guaranteed 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 obligations are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government. 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 U.S. government.

## **Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments**

Normally, a Fund invests substantially all of its assets to meet its investment objective(s). Each Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or it may hold cash. The percentage of a Fund invested in such holdings varies and depends on several factors, including market conditions. For temporary defensive purposes and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows, a Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest part or all of its assets in these securities, or it may hold cash. During such periods, a Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective(s). A Fund may adopt a defensive strategy when the portfolio managers believe securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances. For more information on eligible short-term investments, see the SAI.

## **Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings**

A description of the policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Funds' portfolio securities is included in the Funds' SAI, which is available on the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

## Additional Risks of Investing in the Funds

Risk is inherent in all investing. Investing in a Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may lose all or part of your investment. There can be no assurance that a Fund will meet its stated objective(s). Before you invest, you should consider the following risks in addition to the Principal Risks set forth above in this prospectus.

### Principal Risks

**BANK LOANS RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in bank loans. The Fund may invest in secured and unsecured participations in bank loans and assignments of such loans. In making investments in such loans, which are made by banks or other financial intermediaries to borrowers, the Fund will depend primarily upon the creditworthiness of the borrower for payment of principal and interest which will expose the Fund to the credit risk of the underlying borrower. Participations by the Fund in a lender's portion of a bank loan typically will result in the Fund having a contractual relationship only with such lender, not with the borrower. The Fund may have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the lender selling a loan participation and only upon receipt by such lender of such payments from the borrower, which exposes the Fund to the credit risk of the lender. In connection with purchasing participations, the Fund generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the loan agreement, nor any rights with respect to any funds acquired by other lenders through set-off against the borrower, and the Fund may not directly benefit from any collateral supporting the loan in which it has purchased the participation. There is also the risk that the value of any collateral securing a loan may decline and that the collateral may be insufficient to cover the amount owed on the loan. The secondary market for bank loans may not be highly liquid, and the Fund may have difficulty selling bank loans (other than at a discount) and it may experience settlement delays with respect to bank loan trades (in some cases longer than 7 days). Further, loans held by the Fund may not be considered securities and, therefore, purchasers, such as the Fund, may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws and would be forced to rely upon the contractual persons in the loan agreement and states law to enforce its rights to repayment. Many of the loans in which the Fund may invest or obtain exposure to may be "covenant-lite" loans. The amount of public information available with respect to bank loans may be less extensive than available for registered or exchange-traded securities. Covenant-lite loans may contain fewer or no maintenance covenants compared to other loans and may not include terms which allow the lender to monitor the performance of the borrower and declare a default if certain criteria are breached. The Fund may experience relatively greater realized or unrealized losses or delays in enforcing its rights on its holdings of covenant-lite loans than its holdings of loans with the usual covenants.

**CALL RISK.** Some debt securities may be redeemed at the option of the issuer, or "called," before their stated maturity date. In general, an issuer will call its debt securities if they can be refinanced by issuing new debt securities which bear a lower interest rate. A Fund is subject to the possibility that during periods of falling interest rates an issuer will call its high yielding debt securities. A Fund would then be forced to invest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, likely resulting in a decline in the Fund's income. Such redemptions and subsequent reinvestments would also increase a Fund's portfolio turnover. If a called debt security was purchased by a Fund at a premium, the value of the premium may be lost in the event of a redemption.

**COVENANT-LITE LOAN RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in covenant-lite loans. The loan agreement, which sets forth the terms of a loan and the obligations of the borrower and lender, contains certain covenants that mandate or prohibit certain borrower actions, including financial covenants that dictate certain minimum and maximum financial performance levels. Covenants that require the borrower to maintain certain financial metrics during the life of the loan (such as maintaining certain levels of cash flow and limiting leverage) are known as "maintenance covenants." These covenants are included to permit the lender to monitor the performance of the borrower and declare an event of default if breached, allowing the lender to renegotiate the terms of the loan based upon the elevated risk levels or take other actions to help mitigate losses. Covenant-lite loans contain fewer or no maintenance covenants making an investment in these types of loans inherently riskier than an investment in loans containing provisions allowing the lender reprice credit risk associated with the borrower or restructure a problematic loan. Since 2013, the number of covenant-lite loans issued has increased significantly. The Fund's elevated exposure to such loans during a downturn in the credit cycle could cause the Fund to experience outsized losses.

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer or other obligated party of a debt security may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due. In addition, the value of a debt security may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability or unwillingness to make such payments. Debt securities are subject to varying degrees of credit risk which are often reflected in credit ratings. The credit rating of a debt security may be lowered if the issuer or other obligated party suffers adverse changes to its financial condition. These adverse changes may lead to greater volatility in the price of the debt



security and affect the security's liquidity. High yield and comparable unrated debt securities, while generally offering higher yields than investment grade debt with similar maturities, involve greater risks, including the possibility of dividend or interest deferral, default or bankruptcy, and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay dividends or interest and repay principal. To the extent that a Fund holds debt securities that are secured or guaranteed by financial institutions, changes in credit quality of such financial institutions could cause values of the debt security to deviate.

**CURRENCY RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in securities denominated in a non-U.S. currency. Changes in currency exchange rates affect the value of investments denominated in a foreign currency, the value of dividends and interest earned from such securities and gains and losses realized on the sale of such securities. The Fund's net asset value could decline if a currency to which the Fund has exposure depreciates against the U.S. dollar or if there are delays or limits on repatriation of such currency. Currency exchange rates can be very volatile and can change quickly and unpredictably. Changes in currency exchange rates may affect the Fund's net asset value, the value of dividends and interest earned, and gains and losses realized on the sale of securities. An increase in the strength of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies may cause the value of the Fund to decline. Certain non-U.S. currencies may be particularly volatile, and non-U.S. governments may intervene in the currency markets, causing a decline in value or liquidity in the Fund's non-U.S. holdings whose value is tied to the affected non-U.S. currency. Additionally, the prices of non-U.S. securities that are traded in U.S. dollars are often indirectly influenced by currency fluctuations.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** The Funds are susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause a Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause a Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. These risks typically are not covered by insurance. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber incidents include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to digital systems (e.g., through "hacking" or malicious software coding) for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data or causing operational disruption. Cyber attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorized access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on websites (i.e., efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). Cyber security failures by or breaches of the systems of issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, the Advisor, distributor and other service providers (including, but not limited to, sub-advisors, index providers, fund accountants, custodians, transfer agents and administrators), market makers, authorized participants or the issuers of securities in which a Fund invests, have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in: financial losses; interference with a Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value; disclosure of confidential trading information; impediments to trading; submission of erroneous trades or erroneous creation or redemption orders; the inability of a Fund or its service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; or additional compliance costs. Substantial costs may be incurred by a Fund in order to resolve or prevent cyber incidents in the future. While the Funds have established business continuity plans in the event of, and risk management systems to prevent, such cyber attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified and that prevention and remediation efforts will not be successful. Furthermore, the Funds cannot control the cyber security plans and systems put in place by service providers to the Funds, issuers in which the Funds invest, market makers or authorized participants. However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, and the Funds and their shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

**DEBT SECURITIES RISK.** Investments in debt securities subject the holder to the credit risk of the issuer or other obligor. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a security will not be able or willing to make payments of interest and principal when due. Generally, the value of debt securities will change inversely with changes in interest rates. To the extent that interest rates rise, certain underlying obligations may be paid off substantially slower than originally anticipated and the value of those securities may fall sharply. During periods of falling interest rates, the income received by a Fund may decline. If the principal on a debt security is prepaid before expected, the prepayments of principal may have to be reinvested in obligations paying interest at lower rates. Debt securities generally do not trade on a centralized securities exchange making them generally less liquid and more difficult to value than common stock. The values of debt securities may also increase or decrease as a result of market fluctuations, actual or perceived inability or unwillingness of issuers, guarantors or liquidity providers to make scheduled principal or interest payments or illiquidity in debt securities markets generally.

**DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in depositary receipts. Depositary receipts are securities issued by a bank or trust company reflecting ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign company. An investment in depositary receipts involves further risks due to certain unique features. Any distributions paid to the holders of depositary receipts are usually subject to a fee charged by the depositary. Holders of depositary receipts may have limited

voting rights pursuant to a deposit agreement between the underlying issuer and the depositary. In certain cases, the depositary will vote the shares deposited with it as directed by the underlying issuer's board of directors. Furthermore, investment restrictions in certain countries may adversely impact the value of depositary receipts because such restrictions may limit the ability to convert shares into depositary receipts and vice versa. Such restrictions may cause shares of the underlying issuer to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the depositary receipt. Moreover, if depositary receipts are converted into shares, the laws in certain countries may limit the ability of a non-resident to trade the shares and to reconvert the shares to depositary receipts. Depositary receipts may be "sponsored" or "unsponsored." Sponsored depositary receipts are established jointly by a depositary and the underlying issuer, whereas unsponsored depositary receipts may be established by a depositary without participation by the underlying issuer. Holders of unsponsored depositary receipts generally bear all the costs associated with establishing the unsponsored depositary receipts. In addition, the issuers of the securities underlying unsponsored depositary receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the U.S. and, therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depositary receipts.

**DIVIDENDS RISK.** Certain Funds invest in dividend-paying securities. A Fund's investment in dividend-paying securities could cause the Fund to underperform similar funds that invest without consideration of an issuer's track record of paying dividends. Companies that issue dividend-yielding securities are not required to continue to pay dividends on such securities. Therefore, there is the possibility that such companies could reduce or eliminate the payment of dividends in the future especially if the companies are facing an economic downturn.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in securities issued by companies incorporated in emerging market countries. Investments in securities issued by companies operating in emerging market countries involve additional risks relating to political, economic, or regulatory conditions not associated with investments in securities and instruments issued by U.S. companies or by companies operating in other developed market countries. This is due to, among other things, the potential for greater market volatility, lower trading volume, higher levels of inflation, political and economic instability, greater risk of a market shutdown and more governmental limitations on foreign investments in emerging market countries than are typically found in more developed market countries. Moreover, emerging market countries often have less uniformity in accounting and reporting requirements, unsettled securities laws, less reliable securities valuations and greater risks associated with custody of securities than developed markets. In addition, emerging market countries often have greater risk of capital controls through such measures as taxes or interest rate control than developed markets. Certain emerging market countries may also lack the infrastructure necessary to attract large amounts of foreign trade and investment. Local securities markets in emerging market countries may trade a small number of securities and may be unable to respond effectively to increases in trading volume, potentially making prompt liquidation of holdings difficult or impossible. Settlement procedures in emerging market countries are frequently less developed and reliable than those in the U.S. and other developed market countries. In addition, significant delays may occur in registering the transfer of securities. Settlement or registration problems may make it more difficult for the Fund to value its portfolio securities and could cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities. Investing in emerging market countries involves a higher risk of expropriation, nationalization, confiscation of assets and property or the imposition of restrictions on foreign investments and on repatriation of capital invested by certain emerging market countries. Enforcing legal rights may be made difficult, costly and slow in emerging markets as there may be additional problems enforcing claims against non-U.S. governments.

**ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES RISK.** Energy infrastructure companies are subject to risks specific to the energy and energy-related industries. This includes but is not limited to: fluctuations in commodity prices impacting the volume of energy commodities transported, processed, stored or distributed; reductions in volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities being available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; slowdowns in new construction and acquisitions limiting growth potential; reduced demand for oil, natural gas and petroleum products, particularly for a sustained period of time; depletion of natural gas reserves or other commodities; rising interest rates resulting in higher costs of capital, increased operating costs and an inability to execute acquisitions or expansion projects in a cost-effective manner; extreme weather events and environmental hazards; and threats of attack by terrorists on energy assets. In addition, energy infrastructure companies are subject to significant federal, state and local government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices they may charge for products and services. Various governmental authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these regulations and the permits issued under them and violators are subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including civil fines, injunctions or both. Stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could be enacted in the future which would likely increase compliance costs and may adversely affect the financial performance of energy infrastructure companies. Certain energy infrastructure companies in the utilities industry are subject to the imposition of rate caps, increased competition due to deregulation, the difficulty in obtaining an adequate return on invested capital or in financing large construction projects,

the limitations on operations and increased costs and delays attributable to environmental considerations, and the capital market's ability to absorb utility debt. In addition, taxes, government regulation, international politics, price and supply fluctuations, volatile interest rates and energy conservation may cause difficulties for these companies. Such issuers have been experiencing certain of these problems to varying degrees.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** The value of a Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of the equity securities in which it invests. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant equity market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. Common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market. Additionally, holders of an issuer's common stock may be subject to greater risks than holders of its preferred stock and debt securities because common stockholders' claims are subordinated to those of holders of preferred stocks and debt securities upon the bankruptcy of an issuer.

**ETF RISK.** The Funds may invest in ETFs. Most ETFs use a "passive" investment strategy and seek to replicate the performance of a market index. Such ETFs do not take defensive positions in volatile or declining markets their shares may trade below net asset value. While some ETFs seek to achieve the same return as a particular market index, the performance of the ETF may diverge from the performance of the index. Some ETFs are actively managed ETFs and do not track a particular index which indirectly subjects an investor to active management risk. An active secondary market in ETF shares may not develop or be maintained and may be halted or interrupted due to actions by its listing exchange, unusual market conditions or other reasons. There can be no assurance that an ETF's shares will continue to be listed on an active exchange. In addition, shareholders bear both their proportionate share of a Fund's expenses and, indirectly, the ETF's expenses, incurred through a Fund's ownership of the ETF. Because the expenses and costs of an ETF are shared by its investors, redemptions by other investors in the ETF could result in decreased economies of scale and increased operating expenses for such ETF. These transactions might also result in higher brokerage, tax or other costs for the ETF. This risk may be particularly important when one investor owns a substantial portion of the ETF. There is a risk that ETFs in which a Fund invests may terminate due to extraordinary events. For example, any of the service providers to ETFs, such as the trustee or sponsor, may close or otherwise fail to perform their obligations to the ETF, and the ETF may not be able to find a substitute service provider. Also, certain ETFs may be dependent upon licenses to use various indexes as a basis for determining their compositions and/or otherwise to use certain trade names. If these licenses are terminated, the ETFs may also terminate. In addition, an ETF may terminate if its net assets fall below a certain amount.

**EXTENSION RISK.** Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or other obligated party) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these debt securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of debt securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term debt securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term debt securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value. Extension risk is particularly prevalent for a callable debt security where an increase in interest rates could result in the issuer of that security choosing not to redeem the debt security as anticipated on the security's call date. Such a decision by the issuer could have the effect of lengthening the debt security's expected maturity, making it more vulnerable to interest rate risk and reducing its market value.

**FINANCIAL COMPANIES RISK.** Certain Funds invest significantly in financial companies. Financial companies are subject to extensive governmental regulation and intervention, which may adversely affect the scope of their activities, the prices they can charge, the amount and types of capital they must maintain and, potentially, their size. Governmental regulation may change frequently and may have significant adverse consequences for financial companies, including effects not intended by such regulation. The impact of more stringent capital requirements, or recent or future regulation in various countries, on any individual financial company or on financial companies as a whole cannot be predicted. Certain risks may impact the value of investments in financial companies more severely than those of investments in other issuers, including the risks associated with companies that operate with substantial financial leverage. Financial companies may also be adversely affected by volatility in interest rates, loan losses and other customer defaults, decreases in the availability of money or asset valuations, credit rating downgrades and adverse conditions in other related markets. Insurance companies in particular may be subject to severe price competition and/or rate regulation, which may have an adverse impact on their profitability. Financial companies are also a target for cyber attacks and may experience technology malfunctions and disruptions as a result.

**FLOATING RATE DEBT INSTRUMENTS RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in ETFs that hold floating rate debt securities. Investments in floating rate debt instruments are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. Floating rate debt instruments include debt securities issued by corporate and governmental entities, as well bank loans, mortgage-backed securities and asset-backed securities. Floating rate debt instruments are structured so that the security's coupon rate fluctuates based upon the level of a reference rate. Most commonly, the coupon rate of a floating rate debt instrument is set at the level of a widely followed interest rate, plus a fixed spread. As a result, the coupon on floating rate debt instrument will generally decline in a falling interest rate environment, causing the Fund to experience a reduction in the income it receives from the instrument. A floating rate debt instrument's coupon rate resets periodically according to its terms. Consequently, in a rising interest rate environment, floating rate debt instruments with coupon rates that reset infrequently may lag behind the changes in market interest rates. Floating rate debt instruments may also contain terms that impose a maximum coupon rate the issuer will pay, regardless of the level of the reference rate. The Fund may invest in floating rate loans considered to be high yield, or "junk," instruments and considered speculative because of the credit risk of their issuers. Such issuers are more likely than investment grade issuers to default on their payments of interest and principal owed to the Fund. An economic downturn would also generally lead to a higher non-payment rate, and a floating rate debt instrument may lose significant market value before a default occurs. To the extent the Fund invests in floating rate loans, such instruments may be subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale, may trade infrequently, and their value may be impaired when the Fund needs to liquidate such securities. It is possible that the collateral securing a floating rate loan may be insufficient or unavailable to Fund, and that the Fund's rights to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or insolvency laws. Additionally, there is no central clearinghouse for loan trades and the loan market has not established enforceable settlement standards or remedies for failure to settle. As such, the secondary market for floating rate loans may be subject to irregular trading activity, wide bid/ask spreads and extended trade settlement periods which may cause the Fund to be unable to realize the full value of its investment. Lastly, floating rate loans may not be considered "securities," and purchasers, such as the Fund, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws.

**HIGH YIELD SECURITIES RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may hold high yield securities. The Fund's investment in high yield securities, or "junk" bonds, may entail increased credit risks and the risk that the value of the Fund's assets will decline, and may decline precipitously, with increases in interest rates. In recent years there have been wide fluctuations in interest rates and therefore in the value of debt securities generally. High yield securities are, under most circumstances, subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss of income and principal than are investments in lower-yielding, higher-rated debt securities. As interest rates rise, the value of high yield securities may decline precipitously. Increased rates may also indicate a slowdown in the economy which may adversely affect the credit of issuers of high yield securities resulting in a higher incidence of defaults among such issuers. A slowdown in the economy, or a development adversely affecting an issuer's creditworthiness, may result in the issuer being unable to maintain earnings or sell assets at the rate and at the prices, respectively, that are required to produce sufficient cash flow to meet its interest and principal requirements. The Fund's portfolio managers cannot predict future economic policies or their consequences or, therefore, the course or extent of any similar market fluctuations in the future. In addition, high yield securities are generally less liquid than investment grade securities.

**INCOME RISK.** A Fund's income may decline when interest rates fall. This decline can occur because a Fund may subsequently invest in lower-yielding securities as debt securities in its portfolio mature, are near maturity or are called, or the Fund otherwise needs to purchase additional debt securities. In addition, a Fund's income could decline when a Fund experiences defaults on the debt securities it holds.

**INDUSTRIALS COMPANIES RISK.** The value of securities issued by industrials companies may be adversely affected by supply and demand related to their specific products or services and industrials sector products in general. The products of manufacturing companies may face obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction. World events and changes in government regulations, import controls, economic conditions and exchange rates may adversely affect the performance of companies in the industrials sector. Industrials companies may be adversely affected by liability for environmental damage and product liability claims. Industrials companies may also be adversely affected by changes or trends in commodity prices, which may be influenced by unpredictable factors. Industrials companies, particularly aerospace and defense companies, may also be adversely affected by government spending policies because companies in this sector tend to rely to a significant extent on government demand for their products and services.

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the present value of a Fund's assets and distributions may decline. Inflation creates uncertainty over the future real value (after inflation) of an investment. Inflation rates may change frequently

and drastically as a result of various factors, including unexpected shifts in the domestic or global economy, and a Fund's investments may not keep pace with inflation, which may result in losses to Fund investors.

**INFLATION-INDEXED SECURITIES RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in inflation-indexed debt securities. Inflation-indexed debt securities, such as TIPS, are subject to the same risks as other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. The principal amount of an inflation-indexed security typically increases with inflation and decreases with deflation, as measured by a specified index. It is possible that, in a period of declining inflation rates, the Fund could receive at maturity less than the initial principal amount of an inflation-indexed security. Although the holders of TIPS receive no less than the par value of the security at maturity, if the Fund purchases TIPS in the secondary market whose principal values have previously been adjusted upward and there is a period of subsequent declining inflation rates, the Fund may receive at maturity less than it invested and incur a loss. Depending on the changes in inflation rates during the period the Fund holds an inflation-indexed security, the Fund may earn less on the security than on a conventional debt security. Generally, the value of inflation-indexed securities are affected by changes in "real" interest rates, which are stated interest rates reduced by the expected impact of inflation. Inflation-indexed securities normally will decline in price when "real" interest rates rise. Changes in the values of inflation-indexed securities may be difficult to predict, and it is possible that an investment in such securities will have an effect different from that anticipated by the Fund's portfolio managers. The principal amounts of inflation-indexed securities are typically only adjusted periodically, and changes in the values of the securities may only approximately reflect changes in inflation rates and may occur substantially after the changes in inflation rates in question occur.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** The value of debt securities held by a Fund will fluctuate in value with changes in interest rates. In general, debt securities will increase in value when interest rates fall and decrease in value when interest rates rise. A Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter term investments and higher for longer term investments. Duration is a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The longer the duration of a debt security, the greater the debt security's price sensitivity is to changes in interest rates. Rising interest rates also may lengthen the duration of debt securities with call features, since exercise of the call because less likely as interest rates rise, which in turn will make the securities more sensitive to changes in interest rates and result in even steeper price declines in the event of further interest rate increases. Interest rate risk may be increased by a Fund's investment in inverse floaters because of the leveraged nature of those investments. An increase in interest rates could also cause principal payments on a debt security to be repaid at a slower rate than expected. This risk is particularly prevalent for a callable debt security where an increase in interest rates could cause the issuer of that security to not redeem the security as anticipated on the call date, effectively lengthening the security's expected maturity, in turn making that security more vulnerable to interest rate risk and reducing its market value. When interest rates fall, a Fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds from the sale, redemption or early prepayment of a debt security at a lower interest rate.

**LIBOR RISK.** In 2012, regulators in the United States and the United Kingdom alleged that certain banks, including some banks serving on the panel for U.S. dollar LIBOR, engaged in manipulative acts in connection with their submissions to the British Bankers Association. Manipulation of the LIBOR rate-setting process would raise the risk to a Fund of being adversely impacted if a Fund received a payment based upon LIBOR and such manipulation of LIBOR resulted in lower resets than would have occurred had there been no manipulation. In 2017, the head of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority announced a desire to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. There remains uncertainty regarding the future utilization of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement rate. As such, the potential effect of a transition away from LIBOR on a Fund or the financial instruments in which the Fund invests cannot yet be determined.

**LIQUIDITY RISK.** The Funds may have investments that they may not be able to dispose of or close out readily at a favorable time or price (or at all), or at a price approximating a Fund's valuation of the investment. For example, certain investments may be subject to restrictions on resale, may trade over-the-counter or in limited volume, or may not have an active trading market. Illiquid securities may trade at a discount from comparable, more liquid investments and may be subject to wide fluctuations in market value. It may be difficult for a Fund to value illiquid securities accurately. The market for certain investments may become illiquid under adverse market or economic conditions independent of any specific adverse changes in the conditions of a particular issuer. If a Fund needed to sell a large block of illiquid securities to meet shareholder redemption request or to raise cash, these sales could further reduce the securities' prices and adversely affect performance of the Fund. Disposal of illiquid securities may entail registration expenses and other transaction costs that are higher than those for liquid securities.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** Each Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing a Fund's investment portfolio, the portfolio managers will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not produce the desired result. There can be no guarantee that a Fund will meet its investment objective(s), meet relevant benchmarks or perform as well as other funds with similar objectives.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security, or shares of a 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 a Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments due to short-term market movements or any longer periods during more prolonged market downturns.

**MLP RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in MLPs. Investments in securities of MLPs involve certain risks different from or in addition to the risks of investing in common stocks, including for example risks related to the limited ability of investors to control an MLP and to vote on matters affecting the MLP, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between an MLP and the MLP's general partner, the risk that an MLP will generate insufficient cash flow to meet its current operating requirements, the risk that an MLP will issue additional securities or engage in other transactions that will have the effect of diluting the interests of existing investors, and risks related to the general partner's right to require investors to sell their common units at an undesirable time or price. MLP common units can be affected by macro-economic and other factors affecting the stock market in general, changes or anticipated changes in interest rates, investor sentiment towards MLPs or the energy sector generally, changes in a particular issuer's financial condition, or unfavorable or unanticipated poor performance of a particular issuer (in the case of MLPs, generally measured in terms of distributable cash flow). Prices of common units of individual MLPs also can be affected by other factors unique to the partnership or company, including earnings power and coverage ratios. Certain MLP securities may trade in relatively low volumes due to their smaller capitalizations or other factors, which may cause them to have a high degree of price volatility and lack sufficient market liquidity to enable the Fund to effect a sale at an advantageous time or price. Because many MLPs pay out most of their operating cash flows, the MLPs rely on capital markets for access to equity and debt financing to fund growth through organization. If market conditions limit an MLPs access to capital markets, the MLPs growth prospects could diminish and its costs of capital increase, which would decrease the value of the common units held by the Fund.

**MLP TAX RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio's ability to meet its investment objective relies in part upon the level of taxable income it receives from the MLPs in which it invests, a factor over which the Fund has no control. The benefit the Fund derives from its investment in MLPs is largely dependent on their being treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Partnerships do not pay U.S. federal income tax at the partnership level. Rather, each partner is allocated a share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. A change in current tax law or a change in the underlying business mix of a given MLP could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in the MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax (as well as state and local income taxes) on its taxable income at the applicable corporate tax rate. This would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by an MLP and could result in a significant reduction in the value of the Fund's investment. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U. S. federal income tax purposes would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP and causing any such distributions received by the Fund to be taxed as dividend income to the extent of the MLP's current or accumulated earnings and profits. To the extent a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP is treated as a return of capital, the Fund's adjusted tax basis in the interests of the MLP may be reduced, which will result in an increase in the amount of income or gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the Fund for tax purposes upon the sale of any such interests or upon subsequent distributions in respect of such interests. Furthermore, any return of capital distribution received from an MLP may require the Fund to restate the character of its distributions and amend any shareholder tax reporting previously issued. On March 15, 2018, the FERC changed its long-standing tax allowance policy which no longer permits MLPs to include in their cost of service an income tax allowance. This has had a negative impact on the performance of some MLPs affected by this decision. This policy change and any similar policy changes in the future could adversely impact an MLP's business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows and ability to pay cash distributions or dividends.

**MORTGAGE-RELATED SECURITIES RISK.** The Funds may invest in mortgage-related securities, including mortgage-backed securities. Mortgage-related securities are subject to the same risks as investments in other types of debt securities, including credit risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and valuation risk. However, these investments make a Fund more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate. Mortgage-related securities are also significantly affected by the rate of prepayments and modifications of the mortgage loans underlying those securities, as well as by other factors such as borrower defaults, delinquencies, realized or liquidation losses and other shortfalls. Mortgage-related securities are particularly sensitive to prepayment risk, given that the term to maturity for mortgage loans is generally substantially longer than the expected lives of those securities. Nonetheless, the timing and amount of prepayments cannot

be accurately predicted. The timing of changes in the rate of prepayments of the mortgage loans may significantly affect a Fund's actual yield to maturity on any mortgage-related securities, even if the average rate of principal payments is consistent with the Fund's expectation. Along with prepayment risk, mortgage-related securities are significantly affected by interest rate risk. In a low interest rate environment, mortgage loan prepayments would generally be expected to increase due to factors such as re-financings and loan modifications at lower interest rates. In contrast, if prevailing interest rates rise, prepayments of mortgage loans would generally be expected to decline and therefore extend the weighted average lives of mortgage-related securities held or acquired by a Fund. Fund investments in mortgage-backed securities issued by Ginnie Mae are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Fund investments in mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, and there can be no assurance that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies or instrumentalities where it is not obligated to do so.

**NON-U.S. SECURITIES RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in non-U.S. securities. An investment in securities of non-U.S. companies involves risks not associated with domestic issuers. Investment in non-U.S. securities may involve higher costs than investment in U.S. securities, including higher transaction and custody costs as well as the imposition of additional taxes by non-U.S. governments. Non-U.S. investments may also involve risks associated with the level of currency exchange rates, less complete financial information about the issuers, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes on dividend income, the possible seizure or nationalization of non-U.S. holdings, the possible establishment of exchange controls or freezes on the convertibility of currency or the adoption of other governmental restrictions might adversely affect an investment in non-U.S. securities. Additionally, non-U.S. issuers may be subject to less stringent regulation, and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements. The U.S. and non-U.S. markets often rise and fall at different times or by different amounts due to economic or other regional developments particular to a given country or region.

**PREFERRED SECURITIES RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in preferred securities. Preferred securities combine some of the characteristics of both common stocks and bonds. Preferred securities are typically subordinated to bonds and other debt securities in a company's capital structure in terms of priority to corporate income, subjecting them to greater credit risk than those debt securities. Preferred securities often include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If the Fund owns a preferred security that is deferring its distributions, the Fund may be required to report income for federal income tax purposes although it has not yet received such income in cash. Generally, holders of preferred securities have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company unless preferred dividends have been in arrears for a specified number of periods, at which time the preferred security holders may elect a number of directors to the issuer's board of director. Generally, once the issuer pays all the arrearages, the preferred security holders no longer have voting rights. In certain circumstances, an issuer of preferred securities may redeem the securities prior to a specified date. For instance, for certain types of preferred securities, a redemption may be triggered by a change in federal income tax or securities laws or a change in regulatory trademark. As with redemption provisions of debt securities, a special redemption by the issuer may negatively impact the return of the preferred security held by the Fund. Preferred securities may also be substantially less liquid than other securities, including common stock.

**PREPAYMENT RISK.** Prepayment risk is the risk that the issuer of a debt security will repay principal (in part or in whole) prior to the scheduled maturity date. Debt securities allowing prepayment may offer less potential for gains during a period of declining interest rates, as a Fund may be required to reinvest the proceeds of any prepayment at lower interest rates, reducing its income. If the Fund purchased the debt securities at a premium, prepayments on the securities could cause the Fund to lose a portion of its principal investment. These factors may cause the value of an investment in a Fund to change. The impact of prepayments on the price of a debt security may be difficult to predict and may increase the security's volatility.

**REIT RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in REITs. REITs typically own and operate income-producing real estate, such as residential or commercial buildings, or real-estate related assets, including mortgages. As a result, investments in REITs are subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate, which may include, but are not limited to: fluctuations in the value of underlying properties; defaults by borrowers or tenants; market saturation; changes in general and local operating expenses; and other economic, political or regulatory occurrences affecting companies in the real estate sector. Additionally, investing in REITs involves certain other risks related to their structure and focus, which include, but are not limited to, dependency upon management skills, limited diversification, the risks of locating and managing financing for projects, heavy cash flow dependency, possible default by borrowers, the costs and potential losses of self-liquidation of one or more holdings, the risk of a possible lack of mortgage funds and associated interest rate risks, overbuilding, property vacancies, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, losses due to environmental damages, changes in neighborhood values and appeal to purchasers, the possibility of failing to maintain exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act, failure to satisfy the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for maintaining REIT status

and, in many cases, relatively small market capitalization, which may result in less market liquidity and greater price volatility for a REIT's shares. REITs are also subject to the risk that the real estate market may experience an economic downturn generally, which may have a material effect on the real estate in which the REITs invest and their underlying portfolio securities.

**SMALL FUND RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio currently has fewer assets than larger funds, and like other smaller funds, large inflows and outflows may impact the Fund's market exposure for limited periods of time. This impact may be positive or negative, depending on the direction of market movement during the period affected. If the Fund fails to attract a large amount of assets, shareholders of the Fund may incur higher expenses as the Fund's fixed costs would be allocated over a smaller number of shareholders.

**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** The Funds invests in the securities of small and/or mid capitalization companies. The stock price of small and/or mid capitalization companies may be more volatile than those of larger companies and therefore a Fund's share price may be more volatile than those of funds that invest a larger percentage of their assets in stocks issued by large capitalization companies. Stock prices of small and/or mid capitalization companies are also generally more vulnerable than those of large capitalization companies to adverse business and economic developments. Securities of small and/or mid capitalization companies may be thinly traded, making it difficult for a Fund to buy and sell them. In addition, small and/or mid capitalization companies are typically less financially stable than larger, more established companies and may reinvest a high proportion of their earnings in their business and may not pay dividends. Small and/or mid capitalization companies may also depend on a small number of essential personnel who may also be less experienced than the management of larger companies, making these companies more vulnerable to experiencing adverse effects due to the loss or inexperience of personnel. Small and/or mid capitalization companies also normally have less diverse product lines than those of large capitalization companies and are more susceptible to adverse developments concerning their products.

**TBA TRANSACTIONS RISK.** First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may purchase securities in TBA Transactions. In such a transaction, the purchase price of the securities is typically fixed at the time of the commitment, but delivery and payment can take place a month or more after the date of the commitment. At the time of delivery of the securities, the value may be more or less than the purchase or sale price. Purchasing securities in a TBA Transaction may give rise to investment leverage and may increase the Fund's volatility. Default by, or bankruptcy of, a counterparty to a TBA Transaction would expose the Fund to possible losses because of an adverse market action, expenses or delays in connection with the purchase or sale of the pools specified in such transaction. The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority recently imposed mandatory margin requirements for certain types of TBA Transactions. Such transactions historically have not been required to be collateralized, and, if those rules are implemented, mandatory collateralization could increase the cost of such transactions and impose added operational complexity.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES RISK.** The Funds may invest in U.S. government securities. U.S. government securities are subject to interest rate risk but generally do not involve the credit risks associated with investments in other types of debt securities. As a result, the yields available from U.S. government securities are generally lower than the yields available from other debt securities. U.S. government securities are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and the payment of principal when held to maturity. While securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. federal government agencies (such as Ginnie Mae) are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, securities issued by government sponsored entities (such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) are solely the obligation of the issuer and generally do not carry any guarantee from the U.S. government. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government will provide financial support to its government sponsored entities or any other agency if not obligated by law to do so.

**VALUATION RISK.** Unlike publicly traded securities that trade on national securities exchanges, there is no central place or exchange for trading most debt securities. Debt securities generally trade on an "over-the-counter" market which may be anywhere in the world where the buyer and seller can settle on a price. Due to the lack of centralized information and trading, the valuation of debt securities may carry more uncertainty and risk than that of publicly traded securities. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of debt securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Also, because the available information is less reliable and more subjective, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities. Typically, debt securities are valued using information provided by a third-party pricing service utilizing a range of market-based inputs and assumptions, including broker quotations and transactions in comparable securities to value the securities. There is no assurance that a Fund will be able to sell a portfolio security at the price established by the pricing service.



## Non-Principal Risks

**BORROWING AND LEVERAGE RISK.** If a Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce the Fund's returns. Any such borrowings are intended to be temporary. However, under certain market conditions, including periods of low demand or decreased liquidity, such borrowings might be outstanding for longer periods of time. As prescribed by the 1940 Act, a Fund will be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing immediately following such borrowing and at all times thereafter. A Fund may be required to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms if market fluctuations or other factors reduce the Fund's asset coverage to less than the prescribed amount.

**COMMODITY PRICING RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies may be directly affected by energy commodity prices, especially those energy companies who own the underlying energy commodity. Commodity prices fluctuate for several reasons including, changes in market and economic conditions, the impact of weather on demand, levels of domestic production and imported commodities, energy conservation, domestic and foreign governmental regulation and taxation and the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems. Volatility of commodity prices which leads to a reduction in production or supply may also impact the performance of MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies that are solely involved in the transportation, processing, storing, distribution or marketing of commodities. Volatility of commodity prices may also make it more difficult for MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies to raise capital to the extent the market perceives that their performance may be directly tied to commodity prices.

**CREDIT RATING AGENCY RISK.** Credit ratings are determined by credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's, Inc., Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and Fitch Inc., and are only the opinions of such entities. Ratings assigned by a rating agency are not absolute standards of credit quality and do not evaluate market risk or the liquidity of securities. Any shortcomings or inefficiencies in credit rating agencies' processes for determining credit ratings may adversely affect the credit ratings of securities held by a Fund and, as a result, may adversely affect those securities' perceived or actual credit risk.

**DEFERRED TAX RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, as a limited partner in the MLPs in which it invests, the Fund will be allocated its pro rata share of income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses from the MLPs. A significant portion of MLP income has historically been offset by tax deductions. The Fund will recognize income with respect to that portion of a distribution that is not offset by tax deductions, with the remaining portion of the distribution being treated as a tax-deferred return of capital. The percentage of an MLP's distribution which is offset by tax deductions will fluctuate over time for various reasons. A significant slowdown in acquisition or investment activity by MLPs held in the Fund's portfolio could result in a reduction of accelerated depreciation or other deductions generated by these activities, which may result in increased net income to the Fund. A reduction in the percentage of the income from an MLP offset by tax deductions or gains as a result of the sale of portfolio securities will reduce that portion, if any, of the Fund's distribution treated as a tax-deferred return of capital and increase that portion treated as dividend income, resulting in lower after-tax distributions to the Fund's shareholders. The Fund will rely to some extent on information provided by MLPs, which is usually not timely, to determine the tax character of the distributions to shareholders.

**EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND RECOUPMENT RISK.** First Trust has entered into an agreement with the Trust in which the Advisor has agreed to waive certain fees and/or reimburse the Fund for expenses exceeding an agreed upon amount. First Trust is also entitled to recoup from the Fund any waived or reimbursed amounts pursuant to the agreement for a period of up to three years from the date of waiver or reimbursement. Any such recoupment or modification or termination of the agreement could negatively affect the Fund's returns.

**FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY.** If, in any year, a Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under the applicable tax laws, the Fund would be taxed as an ordinary corporation. In such circumstances, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment. If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company, distributions to the Fund's shareholders generally would be eligible for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders. See "Federal Tax Matters."

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RISK.** With respect to First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund relies on a sublicense from First Trust that permits the Fund to use the associated trade names, trademarks and/or service marks (the "Intellectual Property") in connection with the name and/or investment strategies of the Fund. Such license may be terminated by the owners of the Intellectual Property and, as a result, the Fund may lose its ability to use the Intellectual Property. There is also no guarantee that the owners of the Intellectual Property have all rights to license the Intellectual Property

to First Trust for use by the Fund. Accordingly, in the event the license is terminated or the owners of the Intellectual Property do not have rights to license the Intellectual Property, it may have a significant effect on the operation of the Fund.

**ISSUER SPECIFIC CHANGES RISK.** The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole.

**LEGISLATION/LITIGATION RISK.** From time to time, various legislative initiatives are proposed that may have a negative impact on certain securities in which a Fund invests. In addition, litigation regarding any of the securities owned by a Fund may negatively impact the value of a Fund's shares. Such legislation or litigation may cause a Fund to lose value or may result in higher portfolio turnover if the Advisor or a Sub-Advisor determines to sell such a holding.

**OPERATIONAL RISK.** Each Fund is subject to risks arising from various operational factors, including, but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of a Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or systems failures. Although the Funds and the Advisor seek to reduce these operational risks through controls and procedures, there is no way to completely protect against such risks.

## Fund Organization

Each Fund is a series of the Trust, an investment company registered under the 1940 Act. Each Fund is treated as a separate fund with its own investment objective(s) and policies. The Trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Board is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Trust. The Board elects the Trust's officers and approves all significant agreements, including those with the investment advisor, custodian and fund administrative and accounting agent.

## Management of the Funds

First Trust Advisors L.P., 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, is the investment advisor to the Funds. In this capacity, First Trust is responsible for the selection and ongoing monitoring of the securities in each Fund's portfolio and certain other services necessary for the management of the Funds.

First Trust is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. Grace Partners of DuPage L.P. is a limited partnership with one general partner, The Charger Corporation, and a number of limited partners. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, the Chief Executive Officer of First Trust. First Trust discharges its responsibilities subject to the policies of the Board.

First Trust serves as advisor or sub-advisor for 7 mutual fund portfolios, 10 exchange-traded funds consisting of 141 series and 15 closed-end funds. It is also the portfolio supervisor of certain unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("FTP"), an affiliate of First Trust, 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. FTP specializes in the underwriting, trading and distribution of unit investment trusts and other securities. FTP is the principal underwriter of the shares of each Fund.

There is no one individual primarily responsible for portfolio management decisions for the Funds. Investments are made under the direction of each Fund's Investment Committee.

With respect to First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, the Investment Committee consists of Daniel J. Lindquist, Jon C. Erickson, David G. McGarel, Roger F. Testin, Chris A. Peterson, Todd Larson and Eric Maisel.

- Mr. Lindquist is Chairman of the Investment Committee and presides over Investment Committee meetings. Mr. Lindquist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of each Fund's investment strategy. Mr. Lindquist was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from September 2005 to July 2012 and is now a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP. Mr. Lindquist is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Erickson joined First Trust in 1994 and is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. As the head of First Trust's Equity Research Group, Mr. Erickson is responsible for determining the securities to be purchased and sold by funds that do not utilize quantitative investment strategies. Mr. Erickson is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. McGarel is the Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP. As First Trust's Chief Investment Officer, Mr. McGarel consults with the other members of the Investment Committee on market conditions and First Trust's general investment philosophy. Mr. McGarel was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from January 2004 to July 2012. Mr. McGarel is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

- Mr. Testin is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. Mr. Testin is the head of First Trust's Portfolio Management Group. Mr. Testin has been a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP since November 2003. Mr. Testin is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Peterson is a Senior Vice President and head of First Trust's strategy research group. He joined First Trust in January of 2000. Mr. Peterson is responsible for developing and implementing quantitative equity investment strategies. Mr. Peterson received his B.S. in Finance from Bradley University in 1997 and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2005. He has over 20 years of financial services industry experience and is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Larson is a Senior Vice President and has been a Fixed Income Portfolio Manager at First Trust since December 2007. Mr. Larson is responsible for managing fixed income portfolios for First Trust's institutional clients. Prior to joining First Trust, Mr. Larson was a portfolio manager with ABN AMRO Asset Management, Horizon Cash Management and Van Kampen American Capital. Mr. Larson is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Maisel joined First Trust Advisors in 2008 and is Portfolio Manager and Credit Analyst with the Investment Grade Fixed Income Team. He has over 25 years of experience as an investment professional. His previous positions include Senior Portfolio Manager for the Ascendant Structured Credit Opportunity Fund, Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager for the Black River Global Credit Fund, Vice President and Senior Trader for the Cargill Financial Markets Group, and Senior Corporate Bond Trader for American General Corporation. Eric earned his B.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Pittsburgh, and his M.Sc. from Oxford University - which he attended on a British Marshall Scholarship. He is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation, a member of the CFA Institute, and the Investment Analysts Society of Chicago.

With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund and First Trust have retained EIP and Stonebridge, an affiliate of First Trust, to serve as investment sub-advisors. First Trust Capital Partners, LLC, an affiliate of the Advisor, owns, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, a 15% ownership interest in each of the Energy Income Partners, LLC and EIP Partners, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and affiliate of Energy Income Partners, LLC. In this capacity, the Sub-Advisors will provide recommendations to the Advisor regarding the selection and on-going monitoring of the securities in the Fund's investment portfolio. EIP will act as sub-advisor for, and manage on a discretionary basis the investment and reinvestment of only the assets of the Fund allocated to EIP by the Advisor and furnish an investment program in respect of and make investment decisions only with respect to the portion of the Fund's investment portfolio allocated to it by the Advisor. Stonebridge will serve as a non-discretionary sub-adviser.

EIP has been retained by the Fund to provide recommendations regarding the selection and ongoing monitoring of the MLP, MLP affiliate and energy infrastructure securities in the Fund's investment portfolio and to exercise discretion only with respect to assets of the Fund allocated to EIP by the Advisor as described in the paragraph immediately preceding this one. EIP, located at 10 Wright Street, Westport, Connecticut 06880, is a registered investment advisor and serves as investment advisor to investment portfolios with approximately \$5.85 billion of assets as of January 31, 2019. EIP is a Delaware limited liability company and a Securities and Exchange Commission-registered investment advisor, founded in October 2003 by James J. Murchie to provide professional asset management services in the area of energy-related MLPs and other high-payout securities in the energy infrastructure sector. In addition to serving as sub-advisor to the Fund, EIP serves as the investment manager to two unregistered investment companies and one open end mutual fund investment company as well as separately managed accounts for high net worth individuals and institutions. EIP also provides a model portfolio for unified managed accounts. EIP also serves as the sub-advisor to the First Trust Energy Income and Growth Fund (NYSE MKT: FEN), First Trust Energy Infrastructure Fund (NYSE: FIF), First Trust MLP and Energy Income Fund (NYSE: FEI), First Trust North American Energy Infrastructure Fund (NYSE: EMLP), First Trust New Opportunities MLP & Energy Fund (NYSE: FPL), a sleeve of the First Trust Strategic Income ETF (NYSE: FDIV) and the First Trust North American Energy Infrastructure Income UCITS Fund. EIP mainly focuses on portfolio companies that operate infrastructure assets such as pipelines, storage and terminals that receive fee-based or regulated income from their customers.

Stonebridge, an affiliate of First Trust based in Wilton, Connecticut, has been retained by the Fund to provide recommendations regarding the selection and ongoing monitoring of the preferred and hybrid securities in the Fund's investment portfolio. Stonebridge is a registered investment advisor with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Stonebridge, located at 10 Westport Road, Suite C-101, Wilton, Connecticut 06897, is a niche asset management firm that manages portfolios of preferred securities for investors. Stonebridge, formed in December 2004, serves as investment advisor or portfolio supervisor to investment portfolios with approximately \$7.7 billion in assets, which it managed or supervised as of January 31, 2019. A portion of these assets are contained in investments sponsored by FTP, for which Stonebridge acts as sub-portfolio supervisor.

With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Investment Committee consists of Daniel J. Lindquist, David G. McGarel, Jon C. Erickson, Roger F. Testin, Chris A. Peterson, William Housey, Todd Larson, James Snyder and Jeremiah Charles.

- Mr. Lindquist, see above.
- Mr. McGarel, see above.
- Mr. Erickson, see above.
- Mr. Testin, see above.
- Mr. Peterson, see above.
- Mr. Larson, see above.
- Mr. Housey, Senior Vice President, Senior Portfolio Manager. Mr. Housey joined First Trust Advisors L.P. in June 2010 as the Senior Portfolio Manager for the Leveraged Finance Investment Team and has 22 years of investment experience. Mr. Housey is also a member of the First Trust Strategic Model Investment Committee and the Fixed Income Sub-Committee. Prior to joining First Trust, Mr. Housey was at Morgan Stanley Investment Management and its wholly owned subsidiary, Van Kampen Funds, Inc. for 11 years where he last served as Executive Director and Co-Portfolio Manager. Mr. Housey has extensive experience in the portfolio management of both leveraged and unleveraged credit products, including senior loans, high-yield bonds, credit derivatives and corporate restructurings. Mr. Housey received a B.S. in Finance from Eastern Illinois University and an M.B.A. in Finance as well as Management and Strategy from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. He also holds the FINRA Series 7, Series 52 and Series 63 licenses. Mr. Housey also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. He is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago. Mr. Housey also serves on the Village of Glen Ellyn, IL Police Pension Board.
- Mr. Snyder is a Portfolio Manager for the First Trust Securitized Products Group. Prior to joining First Trust in 2013, Mr. Snyder worked as a Senior Portfolio Manager at Fort Sheridan Advisors where he managed mortgage portfolios for institutional clients. Mr. Snyder has led several mortgage trading and portfolio groups at Deerfield Capital, Spyglass Capital & Trading and American Express Financial Advisors. Mr. Snyder managed AXP Federal Income Fund, and developed mortgage trading strategies for Spyglass Capital and Deerfield's Mortgage REIT and Opportunity Fund. Mr. Snyder holds a B.S. and M.A. in Economics from DePaul University and an MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business.
- Mr. Charles is a Portfolio Manager for the First Trust Securitized Products Group. Prior to joining First Trust in 2013, Mr. Charles worked as a Vice President of mortgage product sales for CRT Capital where he advised pension funds, hedge funds, and institutional money managers. Before joining CRT in 2011, Mr. Charles spent six years with Deerfield Capital Management LLC as a Senior Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager for the mortgage trading team. Mr. Charles began his professional career as an analyst at Piper Jaffray. Mr. Charles holds a B.S. in Finance from the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, and a M.S. in Real Estate Finance with Honors from the Charles H. Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University.

For additional information concerning First Trust, the Sub-Advisors and the Investment Committees, including a description of the services provided to the Funds, see "Management of the Funds" in the Funds' SAI. In addition, the SAI provides additional information about the compensation of Investment Committee members, other accounts managed by members of the Investment Committee and ownership by members of the Investment Committee of shares of the Funds.

## **Management Fee**

For providing management services, each Fund pays First Trust an annual Fund management fee of 0.60% of average daily net assets. Each Fund is responsible for all of its expenses, including the investment advisory fees, costs of transfer agency, custody, fund administration, legal, audit and other services, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses connected with the execution of portfolio transactions, distribution and service fees pursuant to a 12b-1 plan, if any, acquired fund fees and/or expenses, and extraordinary expenses. First Trust has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the annual operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes, and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, (the "Expense Caps") at least until May 1, 2020. Expenses borne and fees waived by First Trust are subject to reimbursement by the Fund up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred by a Fund, but no reimbursement payment will be made by such Fund at any time if it would result in a Class's expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding (i) the applicable Expense Cap in place for the most recent fiscal year for which such Expense Cap was in place, (ii) the applicable Expense Cap in place at the time the fees were waived, or (iii) the current

Expense Cap. Pursuant to a contractual agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, and First Trust, First Trust will waive management fees in the amount of 0.37% of the Fund's average daily net assets until May 1, 2020. The agreement may be terminated by the Board on behalf of the Fund at any time and by First Trust only after May 1, 2020 upon 60 days' written notice. Information regarding the Board's approval of the continuation of the investment management agreement for First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio and the continuation of the investment management and sub-advisory agreements for First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio is available in the Funds' Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

## Share Classes

Each Fund currently offers two classes of shares: Class I and Class II. Each class represents an interest in the same portfolio of investments but with a different combination of expenses. Consult with your Participating Insurance Company representative for additional information on whether the shares are an appropriate investment choice. Not all Participating Insurance Companies may offer both classes of shares. Contact your Participating Insurance Company or refer to your plan documents for instructions on how to purchase, exchange, or redeem shares. With certain limited exceptions, the Fund is available only to U.S. citizens or residents.

Please refer to the SAI for more information about Class I and Class II shares, including more detailed program descriptions. If your Participating Insurance Company offers more than one class of shares, you should carefully consider which class of shares to purchase. A certain class may have higher expenses than another, which may lower the return on your investment. Additional information is also available from your Participating Insurance Company.

### Class I Shares

You can purchase Class I shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any sales charge. Class I shares are subject to an annual service fee pursuant to a 12b-1 service plan of 0.25% of the Fund's average daily net assets attributable to Class I shares. The annual 0.25% service fee compensates your Participating Insurance Company for providing ongoing service to you. Class I shares are not subject to a distribution fee.

### Class II Shares

You can purchase Class II shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any sales charge. Class II shares are not subject to ongoing service or distribution fees and therefore have lower ongoing expenses than Class I shares.

## Investment in Fund Shares

Shares of the Funds are sold only to Accounts to fund the benefits of the variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts issued by a Participating Insurance Company. Each Account purchases shares of a Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts. First Trust then uses the proceeds to buy securities for the Funds. The Accounts, as shareholders, have an ownership interest in the Funds' investments.

Shares of a Fund may be offered to insurance company separate Accounts of both variable annuity and variable life insurance Contracts. Due to differences in tax treatment and other considerations, the interests of various Contract owners participating in a Fund may conflict. The Board will monitor events in order to identify the existence of any material irreconcilable conflicts and determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflict. The Board will appoint a monitor (the "Monitor") who may be the Chief Compliance Officer or another officer of the Trust to review all reports made by Participating Insurance Companies to the Fund and such other information received from Participating Insurance Companies with respect to any current or potential material irreconcilable conflict. If the Monitor reports to the Board that a current or potential material irreconcilable conflict may exist, it will be the duty of the Board to determine whether such conflict in fact exists and determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflict.

The Funds do not issue share certificates. Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in a Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Accounts. There are no minimum investment requirements. All investments in a Fund are credited to the shareholder's account in the form of full and fractional shares of such Fund (rounded to the nearest 1/1000 of a share). For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The price received for purchase requests will depend on when the order is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price, otherwise the next business day's price will be used. A business day is

any day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business and normally ends at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. See "Net Asset Value" for a discussion of how shares are priced.

## Redemption of Fund Shares

Each Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from an Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price, otherwise the next business day's price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account.

A Fund may suspend the right of redemption only under the following unusual circumstances:

- when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than weekends and holidays) or trading is restricted;
- when trading in the markets utilized is restricted, or when an emergency exists, as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission, so that disposal of a Fund's investments or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable; or
- during any period when the Securities and Exchange Commission may permit.

## Distributions and Taxes

### Automatic Reinvestment

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid semi-annually by the Funds in June and December. Each Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually. All dividends payable by a Fund will be reinvested in the Fund.

### Certain Federal Income Tax Matters

Each Fund intends to qualify annually and to elect to be treated as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"). This section does not discuss the federal income tax consequences of investing in the Fund or of owning the Contracts. This may not be sufficient for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for those Contracts.

Failure to satisfy certain diversification standards under the Code at any time would result in imposition of Federal income tax on a Contract owner in a manner different from, and generally less favorable than, the federal income tax treatment otherwise applicable to owners of variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts. Generally, if all of the beneficial interests in the Fund are held by segregated asset accounts of insurance companies and public access to the Fund is available exclusively through the purchase of certain variable contracts, the segregated asset accounts are treated as holding a pro rata portion of each asset of the Fund directly for purposes of the diversification rules of the Code.

Section 817(h)(2) of the Code provides that a segregated asset account upon which contracts such as the Contracts is based is treated as meeting the diversification standards if, as of the close of each quarter: (i) the assets in the account meet the diversification requirements for a regulated investment company; (ii) no more than 55% of the value of those assets consist of cash, cash items, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies; and (iii) the segregated asset account meets a number of further requirements under the Treasury Regulations.

Each Fund will be managed with the intention of complying with these diversification requirements. It is possible that, in order to comply with these requirements, less desirable investment decisions may be made which could affect the investment performance of the Fund.

Please see "Certain Federal Income Tax Matters" in the Fund's SAI for a more complete discussion of the federal tax matters concerning the Fund.

## Rule 12b-1 Service Plan

FTP serves as the selling agent and distributor of a Fund's shares. In this capacity, FTP manages the offering of a Fund's shares and is responsible for all sales and promotional activities. In order to compensate FTP for its costs in connection with these activities, each Fund has adopted a service plan under Rule 12b-1 of the 1940 Act. For Class I shares, each Fund may spend up to 0.25% per year of its average daily net assets as a 12b-1 service fee. Class II shares are not subject to the 12b-1 service fee. FTP uses the 12b-1 service fee to compensate the Participating Insurance Companies for providing account services to Contract owners. These services include establishing and maintaining Contract owners' accounts, supplying information to Contract owners, delivering Fund materials to Contract owners, answering inquiries, and providing other personal services to Contract owners. Because these fees are paid out of a Fund's assets on an on-going basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of an investment in Class I shares and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges. In addition, the plan allows First Trust to use a portion of its advisory fee to compensate FTP for other expenses, including printing and distributing prospectuses to persons other than shareholders or Contract owners, and the expenses of compensating its sales force and preparing, printing and distributing advertising, sales literature and reports to shareholders and Contract owners used in connection with the sale of shares. The Board of the Trust reserves the right to suspend payments under the 12b-1 service plan at any time.

## Net Asset Value

The net asset value is determined for each class of shares of the Funds as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is open for business. Net asset value for each class is calculated for the Funds by taking the market price of a Fund's total assets attributable to such class, including interest or dividends accrued but not yet collected, less all liabilities attributable to such class, and dividing such amount by the total number of shares of the class outstanding. The result, rounded to the nearest cent, is the net asset value per share. Differences in net asset value of each class of a Fund's shares are generally expected to be due to the daily expense accruals of the specified distribution and service fees and transfer agency costs applicable to such class of shares and the differential in the dividends that may be paid on each class of shares. All valuations are subject to review by the Board or its delegate.

Each Fund's investments are valued daily at market value or, in the absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value, in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the 1940 Act. Portfolio securities listed on any exchange other than Nasdaq Stock Market LLC and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("AIM") are valued at the last sale price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. Securities listed on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM are valued at the official closing price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. If there has been no sale on such day, or no official closing price in the case of securities traded on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM, the securities are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and ask price on such day.

Portfolio securities traded on more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, on the business day as of which such value is being determined at the close of the exchange representing the principal market for such securities. Portfolio securities traded in the over-the-counter market, but excluding securities trading on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM, are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at the closing bid price. Short-term investments that mature in less than 60 days when purchased are fair valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discount, provided the Advisor's Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortized cost is an appropriate reflection of fair value given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of the determination.

Mortgage-related debt securities and other mortgage-related instruments ("*Mortgage-Related Investments*") will generally be valued by using a third-party pricing service. If a pricing service does not cover a particular Mortgage-Related Investment, or discontinues covering a Mortgage-Related Investment, the security will be priced using a broker quote. To derive values, pricing services and broker-dealers may use matrix pricing and valuation models, as well as recent market transactions for the same or similar assets. Occasionally, the Advisor's pricing committee (the "*Pricing Committee*") may determine that a pricing service price does not represent an accurate value of a Mortgage-Related Investment, based on the broker quote it receives, a recent trade in the security by the Fund, information from a portfolio manager, or other market information. In the event that the Pricing Committee determines that the pricing service price is unreliable or inaccurate based on such other information, the broker quote may be used. Additionally, if the Pricing Committee determines that the price of a Mortgage-Related

Investment obtained from a pricing service and the available broker quote is unreliable or inaccurate due to market conditions or other reasons, or if a pricing service price or broker quote is unavailable, the security will be valued using fair value pricing, as described below.

Floating rate loans in which a Fund invests are not listed on any securities exchange or board of trade. Floating rate loans are typically bought and sold by institutional investors in individually negotiated private transactions that function in many respects like an over-the-counter secondary market, although typically no formal market-makers exist. This market, while having grown substantially since its inception, generally has fewer trades and less liquidity than the secondary market for other types of securities. Some floating rate loans have few or no trades, or trade infrequently, and information regarding a specific floating rate loan may not be widely available or may be incomplete. Accordingly, determinations of the market value of floating rate loans may be based on infrequent and dated information. Because there is less reliable, objective data available, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of floating rate loans than for other types of securities. Typically, floating rate loans are fair valued using information provided by a third-party pricing service. The third-party pricing service primarily uses over-the-counter pricing from dealer runs and broker quotes from indicative sheets to value the floating rate loans.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Board or its delegate, the Advisor's Pricing Committee, at fair value. The use of fair value pricing by a Fund is governed by valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, certain restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*")) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; a security whose market or fair value price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of net asset value of each class of shares of the Funds or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, does not reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. When fair value prices are used, generally they will differ from the current market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchange. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities. See the Funds' SAI for details.

Because foreign securities exchanges may be open on different days than the days during which an investor may buy or sell shares of a Fund, the value of the Fund's securities may change on days when investors are not able to buy or sell shares of the Fund. The value of securities denominated in foreign currencies is converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the time of valuation.

Repurchase agreements will be valued as follows: Overnight repurchase agreements will be valued at cost when it represents the best estimate of fair value. Term repurchase agreements (*i.e.*, those whose maturity exceeds seven days) will be valued by the Advisor's Pricing Committee at the average of the bid quotations obtained daily from at least two recognized dealers.

Currency-linked notes, credit-linked notes, interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, and other similar instruments will be valued by a Fund by using a pricing service or, if the pricing service does not provide a value, by quotes provided by the selling dealer or financial institution. When price quotes are not available, fair market value is based on prices of comparable securities. Absent a material difference between the exit price for these instruments and the market rates for similar instruments, currency-linked notes, credit-linked notes, etc. will be valued at the exit price.

## **Fund Service Providers**

The Funds' transfer agent, dividend paying agent and shareholder servicing agent is BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc. ("*BNYM IS*"), 301 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, Delaware 19809. BNYM IS is responsible for maintaining shareholder records for the Funds. The Funds' fund accounting agent, administrative agent, and custodian is The Bank of New York Mellon ("*BNYM*"), 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286. As accounting and administrative agent, BNYM is responsible for providing certain accounting and administrative services to the Funds. As custodian, BNYM is responsible for custody of each Funds' assets.

Each Participating Insurance Company performs certain administrative services for the Funds, its Account and the variable annuity and variable life insurance Contracts. Each Fund pays an administrative services fee of 0.20% of average daily net assets to cover expenses incurred by the Participating Insurance Company in connection with these services. For more information on the Funds' expenses, see "Investment Advisory and Other Services" in the Funds' SAI.



## **Borrowing by the Funds**

Each Fund may borrow money for temporary or emergency purposes, including to meet redemption requests or clear portfolio transactions. When a Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce a Fund's returns. In order to facilitate such borrowing, the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, has entered into a Credit Agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia which allows a Fund to borrow money from time to time for the purposes listed above. As prescribed by 1940 Act, a Fund will generally be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing.

## **Shareholder Inquiries**

All inquiries regarding the Funds should be directed to your Participating Insurance Company who can contact a Fund on your behalf by calling (888) 373-5776, or by mail to the Trust, c/o BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., P.O. Box 9788, Providence, RI 02940.

## **Frequent Trading and Market Timing**

Each Fund is intended for long-term investment and discourages frequent trading or market timing. Due to the fact that all shares of a Fund are issued to, and redeemed from, the Account, it is difficult for a Fund to monitor trading by a particular investor. However, FTP has entered into an agreement with each Participating Insurance Company that permits a Fund, or its designee, to receive certain identity and transaction information and requires each Participating Insurance Company to restrict or prohibit certain future purchases or exchanges by shareholders in certain circumstances. In addition, the Funds may rely on each Participating Insurance Company to adopt policies and procedures or may rely on its own policies and procedures with respect to transfers into or from the Account.

Excessive trading in a Fund's shares can disrupt portfolio management, lead to higher operating costs, and cause other operating inefficiencies for the Fund. However, the Fund is also mindful that shareholders may have valid reasons for periodically purchasing and redeeming Fund shares.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Frequent Trading Policy that seeks to balance a Fund's need to prevent excessive trading in Fund shares while offering investors the flexibility in managing their financial affairs to make periodic purchases and redemptions of Fund shares.

Technical limitations in operational systems at Participating Insurance Companies or at FTP may limit a Fund's ability to detect and prevent frequent trading. In addition, a Fund may permit Participating Insurance Companies to enforce their own internal policies and procedures concerning frequent trading. Such policies may differ from the Funds' Frequent Trading Policy and may be approved for use in instances where a Fund reasonably believes that the Participating Insurance Company's policies and procedures effectively discourage inappropriate trading activity. Shareholders holding their accounts with Participating Insurance Companies may wish to contact the Participating Insurance Company for information regarding its frequent trading policy. Although a Fund does not knowingly permit frequent trading, it cannot guarantee that it will be able to identify and restrict all frequent trading activity.

Each Fund reserves the right in its sole discretion to waive unintentional or minor violations (including transactions below certain dollar thresholds) if it determines that doing so would not harm the interests of the Fund's shareholders. These include, among others, redemptions pursuant to systematic withdrawal plans, redemptions in connection with the total disability or death of the investor and involuntary redemptions by operation of law, redemptions in payment of account or plan fees. The Fund may also modify or suspend the Frequent Trading Policy without notice during periods of market stress or other unusual circumstances.

Each Fund reserves the right to impose restrictions on purchases or exchanges that are more restrictive than those stated above if it determines, in its sole discretion, that a transaction or a series of transactions involves market timing or excessive trading that may be detrimental to Fund shareholders. The Fund also reserves the right to reject any purchase orders, including exchange purchases, for any reason. For example, the Fund may refuse purchase orders if the Fund would be unable to invest the proceeds from the purchase order in accordance with the Fund's investment policies and/or objective, or if the Fund would be adversely affected by the size of the transaction, the frequency of trading in the account or various other factors.

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## Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Funds' financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of each Fund. The total returns represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in a Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information for the periods indicated has been derived from financial statements audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Funds' financial statements, is included in the Funds' Annual Report to Shareholders dated December 31, 2018 and is incorporated by reference in the Funds' SAI, which is available upon request.

### Financial Highlights

#### For a share outstanding throughout each period

#### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

Class I Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 13.73	\$ 12.85	\$ 11.94	\$ 12.41	\$ 11.37
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss)	0.21	0.18	0.14	0.16	0.15
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.88)	1.54	1.25 <sup>(a)</sup>	(0.15)	0.99
Total from investment operations	(0.67)	1.72	1.39	0.01	1.14
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.21)	(0.18)	(0.13)	(0.27)	(0.10)
Net realized gain	(0.03)	(0.66)	(0.35)	(0.21)	—
Total from distributions	(0.24)	(0.84)	(0.48)	(0.48)	(0.10)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 12.82	\$ 13.73	\$ 12.85	\$ 11.94	\$ 12.41
<b>Total return <sup>(b) (c)</sup></b>	(4.92)%	13.47%	11.74% <sup>(a)</sup>	0.09%	10.04%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$767,616	\$737,320	\$543,951	\$243,244	\$195,128
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.22%	1.23%	1.29%	1.34%	1.43%
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.56%	1.35%	1.29%	1.35%	1.40%
Portfolio turnover rate	76%	71%	96%	81%	65%

(a) First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$1,000 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(b) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(c) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a share outstanding throughout each period**

**First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class II Shares	Year Ended December 31,				Period Ended 12/31/2014 <sup>(d)</sup>
	2018	2017	2016	2015	
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$13.75	\$12.87	\$11.95	\$12.43	\$ 11.63
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss)	0.25 <sup>(e)</sup>	0.14	0.19	0.17	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.88)	1.61	1.24 <sup>(a)</sup>	(0.14)	0.77
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>(0.63)</b>	<b>1.75</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.91</b>
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.24)	(0.21)	(0.16)	(0.30)	(0.11)
Net realized gain	(0.03)	(0.66)	(0.35)	(0.21)	—
<b>Total from distributions</b>	<b>(0.27)</b>	<b>(0.87)</b>	<b>(0.51)</b>	<b>(0.51)</b>	<b>(0.11)</b>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$12.85</b>	<b>\$13.75</b>	<b>\$12.87</b>	<b>\$11.95</b>	<b>\$ 12.43</b>
<b>Total return</b> <sup>(b) (c)</sup>	(4.60)%	13.75%	12.07% <sup>(a)</sup>	0.25%	7.82%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 44	\$ 202	\$ 17	\$ 16	\$ 11
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	0.97%	1.00%	1.04%	1.09%	1.21% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.79%	1.88%	1.53%	1.64%	1.69% <sup>(f)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	76%	71%	96%	81%	65%

(a) First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$1,000 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(b) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(c) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(d) The Fund's Class II shares were seeded on April 30, 2014, and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(e) Based on average shares outstanding.

(f) Annualized.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a share outstanding throughout each period**  
**First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class I Shares	Year Ended December 31,				Period Ended
	2018	2017	2016	2015	12/31/2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 10.89	\$ 10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39	\$ 10.00
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss)	0.23	0.24	0.20	0.19	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.71)	0.39	0.71	(0.53) <sup>(b)</sup>	0.39
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>(0.48)</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>(0.34)</b>	<b>0.46</b>
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.24)	(0.25)	(0.23)	(0.19)	(0.07)
Net realized gain	—	(0.03)	—	—	—
<b>Total from distributions</b>	<b>(0.24)</b>	<b>(0.28)</b>	<b>(0.23)</b>	<b>(0.19)</b>	<b>(0.07)</b>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$ 10.17</b>	<b>\$ 10.89</b>	<b>\$ 10.54</b>	<b>\$ 9.86</b>	<b>\$ 10.39</b>
<b>Total return <sup>(c) (d)</sup></b>	<b>(4.44)%</b>	<b>6.04%</b>	<b>9.27%</b>	<b>(3.24)%<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>4.57%</b>
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$24,451	\$20,083	\$17,965	\$ 12,257	\$ 6,894
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets <sup>(e)</sup>	2.09%	2.17%	2.22%	2.60%	6.00% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets <sup>(e)</sup>	0.83%	0.83%	0.83%	0.90%	1.20% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	2.29%	2.24%	2.10%	2.17%	2.35% <sup>(f)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	40%	46%	46%	93%	15%

(a) The Fund's Class I shares were seeded on April 30, 2014 and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(b) First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$5,471 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(c) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(d) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(e) The Fund indirectly bears its proportionate share of fees and expenses incurred by the underlying funds in which the Fund invests. This ratio does not include these indirect fees and expenses.

(f) Annualized.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a share outstanding throughout each period**  
**First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class II Shares	Year Ended December 31,				Period Ended
	2018	2017	2016	2015	12/31/2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$10.88	\$10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39	\$ 10.00
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss)	0.26	0.27	0.20	0.24	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(0.70)	0.38	0.74	(0.55) <sup>(b)</sup>	0.43
<b>Total from investment operations</b>	<b>(0.44)</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>(0.31)</b>	<b>0.47</b>
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.27)	(0.28)	(0.26)	(0.22)	(0.08)
Net realized gain	—	(0.03)	—	—	—
<b>Total from distributions</b>	<b>(0.27)</b>	<b>(0.31)</b>	<b>(0.26)</b>	<b>(0.22)</b>	<b>(0.08)</b>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	<b>\$10.17</b>	<b>\$10.88</b>	<b>\$10.54</b>	<b>\$ 9.86</b>	<b>\$ 10.39</b>
<b>Total return <sup>(c) (d)</sup></b>	<b>(4.11)%</b>	<b>6.22%</b>	<b>9.53%</b>	<b>(3.01)%<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>4.74%</b>
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 142	\$ 159	\$ 156	\$ 100	\$ 105
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets <sup>(e)</sup>	1.83%	1.92%	1.99%	2.31%	14.44% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets <sup>(e)</sup>	0.58%	0.58%	0.58%	0.67%	0.95% <sup>(f)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	2.49%	2.49%	2.34%	2.32%	0.54% <sup>(f)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	40%	46%	46%	93%	15%

(a) The Fund's Class II shares were seeded on April 30, 2014 and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(b) First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$5,471 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(c) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(d) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(e) The Fund indirectly bears its proportionate share of fees and expenses incurred by the underlying funds in which the Fund invests. This ratio does not include these indirect fees and expenses.

(f) Annualized.

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## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

### **For More Information**

This prospectus is intended for use in connection with variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts. For more detailed information on the Funds, several additional sources of information are available to you. The SAI, incorporated by reference into this prospectus, contains detailed information on the Funds' policies and operation. Additional information about the Funds' investments is available in the annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Funds' annual reports, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly impacted the Funds' performance during the last fiscal year. The Funds' most recent SAI, annual or semi-annual reports and certain other information are available free of charge by calling the Funds at (800) 621-1675, on the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com) or through your financial advisor. Shareholders may call the toll-free number above with any inquiries.

You may obtain this and other information regarding the Fund, including the SAI and Codes of Ethics adopted by First Trust, FTP and the Trust, directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Information on the SEC's website is free of charge. Visit the SEC's on-line EDGAR database at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or in person at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., or call the SEC at (202) 551-8090 for information on the Public Reference Room. You may also request information regarding the Fund by sending a request (along with a duplication fee) to the SEC's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-1520 or by sending an electronic request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

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