

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
**MAY 1, 2019**

**LORD ABBETT SERIES FUND, INC.**

**Bond Debenture Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Growth Opportunities Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**International Opportunities Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Classic Stock Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Mid Cap Stock Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Developing Growth Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Short Duration Income Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Fundamental Equity Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Total Return Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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**Growth and Income Portfolio**

| <b>CLASS</b> | <b>TICKER</b> |
|--------------|---------------|
| VC           | N/A           |

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This SAI is not a prospectus. A prospectus may be obtained from your financial intermediary or from the Distributor at 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302-3973. This SAI is divided into two Parts - Part I and Part II. Part I contains information that is particular to the Funds offered in this SAI, and should be read in conjunction with the prospectuses for Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc., as applicable, dated May 1, 2019, as supplemented from time to time. Part I includes information about the Funds, including investment policies, management fees paid by the Funds, and information about other fees applicable to and services provided to the Funds. Part II contains additional information that more generally applies to the Lord Abbett Funds.

Each Fund's audited financial statements are incorporated into this SAI by reference to the Fund's most recent annual report. The Funds' annual and semiannual reports to shareholders are available without charge, upon request by calling 888-522-2388. In addition, you can make inquiries through your financial intermediary.

**PART I**  
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**1.**  
**GLOSSARY**

**Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc.** is comprised of the following Funds:

- Bond Debenture Portfolio
- Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio
- Classic Stock Portfolio
- Developing Growth Portfolio
- Fundamental Equity Portfolio
- Growth and Income Portfolio
- Growth Opportunities Portfolio
- International Opportunities Portfolio
- Mid Cap Stock Portfolio
- Short Duration Income Portfolio
- Total Return Portfolio

**Lord Abbett Funds** are comprised of the following management investment companies:

- Lord Abbett Affiliated Fund, Inc.: **Affiliated Fund**
- Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund, Inc.: **Bond Debenture Fund**
- Lord Abbett Developing Growth Fund, Inc.: **Developing Growth Fund**
- Lord Abbett Equity Trust: **Equity Trust**
- Lord Abbett Global Fund, Inc.: **Global Fund**
- Lord Abbett Investment Trust: **Investment Trust**
- Lord Abbett Mid Cap Stock Fund, Inc.: **Mid Cap Stock Fund**
- Lord Abbett Municipal Income Fund, Inc.: **Municipal Income Fund**
- Lord Abbett Research Fund, Inc.: **Research Fund**
- Lord Abbett Securities Trust: **Securities Trust**
- Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc.: **Series Fund**
- Lord Abbett U.S. Government & Government Sponsored Enterprises Money Market Fund, Inc.: **Money Market Fund**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1933 Act</b>                    | Securities Act of 1933, as amended   |
| <b>1940 Act</b>                    | Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended   |
| <b>Board</b>                       | Board of Directors   |
| <b>Board Member(s)</b>             | Director(s) of the Board   |
| <b>CDSC</b>                        | Contingent Deferred Sales Charge   |
| <b>CEA</b>                         | Commodity Exchange Act, as amended   |
| <b>CPO</b>                         | Commodity Pool Operator  |
| <b>Distributor</b>                 | Lord Abbett Distributor LLC  |
| <b>Fund(s)</b>                     | Each separate investment portfolio of the Registrant   |
| <b>Independent Board Member(s)</b> | Director(s) of the Board who are not “interested persons” as defined in the 1940 Act, of each Fund |
| <b>Interested Board Member(s)</b>  | Director(s) of the Board who are not Independent Board Members                                     |
| <b>Lord Abbett</b>                 | Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC   |
| <b>NYSE</b>                        | New York Stock Exchange  |
| <b>Registrant</b>                  | Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc.  |
| <b>SAI</b>                         | Statement of Additional Information  |
| <b>SEC</b>                         | United States Securities and Exchange Commission   |

**2.**  
**FUND INFORMATION**

The Registrant is an open-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act. All Funds are diversified within the meaning of the 1940 Act. The table below sets forth information about the Registrant's organization.

**Registrant Organization**

| <b>Registrant</b> | <b>Form of Organization</b> | <b>Date of Organization</b> | <b>Number of Funds</b> | <b>Shares Available for Issuance</b>    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Series Fund       | Maryland corporation        | August 28, 1989             | 11                     | 1,300,000,000 shares, \$0.001 par value |

**Portfolio Turnover**

| <b>Fund</b>            | <b>Fiscal Year 2017 Turnover Rate</b> | <b>Fiscal Year 2018 Turnover Rate</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Total Return Portfolio | 452%                                  | 611%                                  |

The change in portfolio turnover over the last two fiscal years for the Fund included in the table above was primarily due to trading strategies employed by the Fund's portfolio management team in response to market conditions and shareholder cashflow activity, and not reflective of a material change in the Fund's principal investment strategies.

**3.**  
**INVESTMENT POLICIES**

**Fundamental Investment Restrictions.** Each Fund's investment objective cannot be changed without the approval of a "majority of the Fund's outstanding shares."<sup>1</sup> Each Fund also is subject to the following fundamental investment restrictions that cannot be changed without the approval of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares.

**Growth and Income Portfolio**

The Fund may not:

1. sell short securities or buy securities or evidences of interests therein on margin, although it may obtain short-term credit necessary for the clearance of purchases of securities;
2. buy or sell put or call options, although it may buy, hold or sell rights or warrants, write covered call options and enter into closing purchase transactions as discussed below;
3. borrow money, except that (i) it may borrow from banks (as defined in the 1940 Act)<sup>2</sup> in amounts up to 33⅓% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed), (ii) it may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets for temporary purposes, (iii) it may obtain such short-term credit as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities, (iv) it may purchase securities on margin to the extent permitted by applicable law,<sup>3</sup> and (v) it may borrow money from other Lord Abbett Funds to the extent permitted by applicable law and any exemptive relief obtained by the Fund;
4. invest in securities or other assets not readily marketable at the time of purchase or subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale except as described under "Restricted or Not Readily Marketable Securities for Growth and Income Portfolio" below;
5. act as underwriter of securities issued by others, unless it is deemed to be one in selling a portfolio security requiring registration under the 1933 Act such as those described under "Restricted or Not Readily Marketable Securities for Growth and Income Portfolio" below;
6. make loans to other persons, except that (i) the acquisition of bonds, debentures or other corporate debt securities and investments in government obligations, commercial paper, pass-through instruments, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, repurchase agreements or any similar instruments shall not be subject to this limitation, and (ii) the Fund may lend its portfolio securities, provided that the lending of portfolio securities may be made only in accordance with applicable law, and (iii) the Fund may lend money to other Lord Abbett Funds to the extent permitted by applicable law and any exemptive relief obtained by the Fund;

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<sup>1</sup> A "majority of the Fund's outstanding shares" means the vote of the lesser of (1) 67% or more of the voting securities present at a shareholder meeting, provided that more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund are present at the meeting or represented by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund regardless of whether such shareholders are present at the meeting (or represented by proxy).

<sup>2</sup> As such term is defined in Section 2(a)(5) of the 1940 Act.

<sup>3</sup> SEC staff guidance currently prohibits a Fund from purchasing any security on margin, except such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions.

7. pledge, mortgage or hypothecate its assets; however, this provision does not apply to permitted borrowing mentioned above or to the grant of escrow receipts or the entry into other similar escrow arrangements arising out of the writing of covered call options;<sup>4</sup>
8. buy or sell real estate including limited partnership interests therein (except securities of companies, such as real estate investment trusts, that deal in real estate or interests therein), or oil, gas or other mineral leases, commodities or commodity contracts in the ordinary course of its business, except such interests and other property acquired as a result of owning other securities, though securities will not be purchased in order to acquire any of these interests;
9. invest more than 5% of its gross assets, taken at market value at the time of investment, in companies (including their predecessors) with less than three years' continuous operation;
10. buy securities if the purchase would then cause the Fund to have more than (i) 5% of its gross assets,<sup>5</sup> at market value at the time of purchase, invested in securities of any one issuer, except securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or (ii) 25% of its gross assets, at market value at the time of purchase, invested in securities issued or guaranteed by a foreign government, its agencies or instrumentalities;
11. buy voting securities if the purchase would then cause the Fund to own more than 10% of the outstanding voting stock of any one issuer;
12. own securities in a company when any of its officers, directors, or security holders is an officer or director of the Fund or an officer, director, or partner of the investment manager or sub-adviser, if after the purchase any of such persons owns beneficially more than ½ of 1% of such securities and such persons together own more than 5% of such securities;
13. concentrate its investments in any particular industry, but if deemed appropriate for attainment of its investment objective, up to 25% of its gross assets (at market value at the time of investment) may be invested in any one industry classification used for investment purposes;
14. buy securities from or sell securities to the Fund's officers, directors, or employees, or to the investment manager or sub-adviser or to their partners, directors, and employees; or
15. issue senior securities to the extent such issuance would violate applicable law.<sup>6</sup>

Compliance with these fundamental investment restrictions will be determined at the time of the purchase or sale of the security, except in the case of the third fundamental investment restriction with which the Fund must comply on a continuous basis.

**Bond Debenture Portfolio, Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio, Classic Stock Portfolio, Developing Growth Portfolio, Fundamental Equity Portfolio, Growth Opportunities Portfolio, International Opportunities Portfolio, Mid Cap Stock Portfolio, Short Duration Income Portfolio, and Total Return Portfolio**

Each Fund may not:

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<sup>4</sup> Current federal securities laws prohibit the Fund from pledging more than one-third of its total assets (taken at current value) to secure borrowings made in accordance with the investment restrictions above. For the purpose of this restriction, the deposit of assets in a segregated account with the Fund's custodian in connection with any of the Fund's investment transactions is not considered to be a pledge of the Fund's assets.

<sup>5</sup> For purposes of this fundamental investment restriction, the term "gross assets" means "total assets."

<sup>6</sup> Current federal securities laws prohibit the Fund from issuing senior securities (which generally are defined as securities representing indebtedness), except that the Fund may borrow money from banks in amounts of up to 33⅓% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed).

1. borrow money, except that (i) it may borrow from banks (as defined in the 1940 Act)<sup>7</sup> in amounts up to 33⅓% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed), (ii) it may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets for temporary purposes, (iii) it may obtain such short-term credit as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities, (iv) it may purchase securities on margin to the extent permitted by applicable law,<sup>8</sup> and (v) it may borrow money from other Lord Abnett Funds to the extent permitted by applicable law and any exemptive relief obtained by the Fund;
2. pledge its assets (other than to secure borrowings, or to the extent permitted by each Fund's investment policies as permitted by applicable law);<sup>9</sup>
3. engage in the underwriting of securities, except pursuant to a merger or acquisition or to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of its portfolio securities, it may be deemed to be an underwriter under federal securities laws;
4. make loans to other persons, except that (i) the acquisition of bonds, debentures or other corporate debt securities and investments in government obligations, commercial paper, pass-through instruments, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, repurchase agreements or any similar instruments shall not be subject to this limitation, and (ii) the Fund may lend its portfolio securities, provided that the lending of portfolio securities may be made only in accordance with applicable law, and (iii) the Fund may lend money to other Lord Abnett Funds to the extent permitted by applicable law and any exemptive relief obtained by the Fund;
5. buy or sell real estate (except that each Fund may invest in securities directly or indirectly secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by companies which invest in real estate or interests therein) or commodities or commodity contracts (except to the extent each Fund may do so in accordance with applicable law and without registering as a CPO under the CEA as, for example, with futures contracts);
6. with respect to 75% of its gross assets, buy securities of one issuer representing more than (i) 5% of its gross assets, except securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or (ii) 10% of the voting securities of such issuer;<sup>10</sup>
7. invest more than 25% of its assets, taken at market value, in the securities of issuers in any particular industry (excluding securities of the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities); or
8. issue senior securities to the extent such issuance would violate applicable law.<sup>11</sup>

Compliance with these fundamental investment restrictions will be determined at the time of the purchase or sale of the security, except in the case of the first fundamental investment restriction, with which the Funds must

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<sup>7</sup> The term "bank" is defined in Section 2(a)(5) of the 1940 Act.

<sup>8</sup> SEC staff guidance currently prohibits each Fund from purchasing any security on margin, except such short-term credits as are necessary for the clearance of transactions.

<sup>9</sup> Current federal securities laws prohibit each Fund from pledging more than one-third of its total assets (taken at current value) to secure borrowings made in accordance with the investment restrictions above. For the purpose of this restriction, the deposit of assets in a segregated account with a Fund's custodian in connection with any of the Fund's investment transactions is not considered to be a pledge of the Fund's assets.

<sup>10</sup> For purposes of this fundamental investment restriction, the term "gross assets" means "total assets."

<sup>11</sup> Current federal securities laws prohibit each Fund from issuing senior securities (which generally are defined as securities representing indebtedness), except that a Fund may borrow money from banks in amounts of up to 33⅓% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed).

comply on a continuous basis. For purposes of these restrictions, the Funds do not consider mortgage-related securities, including commercial mortgage-backed securities and other privately issued mortgage-related securities, as representing interests in any particular industry or group of industries.

**Non-Fundamental Investment Restrictions.** Each Fund also is subject to the following non-fundamental investment restrictions that may be changed by the Registrant's Board without shareholder approval.

**All Funds**

Each Fund may not:

1. make short sales of securities or maintain a short position except to the extent permitted by applicable law;
2. invest knowingly more than 15% of its net assets (at the time of investment) in illiquid securities, except for Growth and Income Portfolio, which shall not invest more than 5%, in illiquid securities, except for securities qualifying for resale under Rule 144A under the 1933 Act, determined by Lord Abbett to be liquid, subject to the oversight of the Board;
3. (with the exception of Short Duration Income Portfolio) invest in the securities of other investment companies as defined in the Act, except as permitted by applicable law;<sup>12</sup> Short Duration Income Portfolio may not invest in securities issued by other investment companies except to the extent permitted by applicable law. Short Duration Income Portfolio may not, however, rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and 12(d)(1)(G) of the 1940 Act;
4. (with the exception of Classic Stock Portfolio, Developing Growth Portfolio and Total Return Portfolio) invest in warrants if, at the time of the acquisition, its investment in warrants, valued at the lower of cost or market, would exceed 5% of its total assets (included within such limitation, but not to exceed 2% of its total assets, are warrants that are not listed on the NYSE or NYSE MKT LLC or a major foreign exchange);
5. (with the exception of Classic Stock Portfolio) invest in real estate limited partnership interests or interests in oil, gas or other mineral leases, or exploration or other development programs, except that it may invest in securities issued by companies that engage in oil, gas or other mineral exploration or other development activities;
6. write, purchase or sell puts, calls, straddles, spreads or combinations thereof, except to the extent permitted in its prospectus and SAI, as they may be amended from time to time; or
7. buy from or sell to any of the Company's officers, directors, trustees, employees, or its investment adviser or any of the adviser's officers, partners, or employees, any securities other than shares of the Company.

Compliance with these non-fundamental investment restrictions will be determined at the time of the purchase or sale of the security, except in the case of the second and fourth non-fundamental investment restrictions, with which the applicable Fund must comply at the time of purchase. A Fund will not be required to sell illiquid securities if it exceeds the 15% limit due to market activity or the sale of liquid securities; however, in these

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<sup>12</sup> Under current federal securities laws, no Fund may acquire more than 3% of the voting shares of any other investment company, invest more than 5% of the Fund's total assets in securities of any one investment company, or invest more than 10% of the Fund's total assets in securities of all investment companies. (These percentage limitations may not apply to each Fund's investments in money market funds.)

situations the Fund will take appropriate measures to reduce the percentage of its assets invested in illiquid securities in an orderly fashion.

*Restricted or Not Readily Marketable Securities for Growth and Income Portfolio.* No more than 5% of the value of Growth and Income Portfolio may be invested in securities with legal or contractual restrictions on resale ("restricted securities") (including securities qualifying for resale under the Rule 144A that are determined by the Board, or by Lord Abbett pursuant to the Board's delegation, to be liquid securities, restricted securities, repurchase agreements with maturities of more than seven days and OTC options), other than repurchase agreements and those restricted securities which have a liquid market among certain institutions, including the Fund, and in securities which are not readily marketable.

**4.**  
**FUND INVESTMENTS**

The following tables identify, for each Fund, the investment types and techniques that Lord Abbett may use in managing the Fund. A more detailed description of these investment types and techniques, along with the risks associated with each, is contained in the “Additional Information on Portfolio Investments, Risks, and Techniques” section of Part II. A Fund may use any or all of these investment types and techniques indicated below at any one time, and the fact that a Fund may use a particular investment type or technique does not mean that it will be used. A Fund’s transactions in a particular investment type or use of a particular technique is subject to the limitations imposed by the Fund’s investment objective, policies, and restrictions described in the Fund’s prospectus and in this SAI, as well as the federal securities laws. A Fund may receive instruments or investments not contemplated herein through the conversion or exchange of a permissible investment or as a result of the reorganization or bankruptcy of the issuer of an otherwise permissible investment, and the Fund may hold or dispose of these instruments or investments at its discretion.

Please refer to the applicable prospectus and the fundamental and non-fundamental investment restrictions in the “Investment Policies” section of Part I for more information on any applicable limitations.

| <b>Investment Type</b>                                   | <b>Bond<br/>Debenture<br/>Portfolio</b> | <b>Calibrated<br/>Dividend<br/>Growth<br/>Portfolio</b> | <b>Classic<br/>Stock<br/>Portfolio</b> | <b>Developing<br/>Growth<br/>Portfolio</b> |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Bank Loans   | ■                                       |   |  |  |
| Cash/Short-Term Instruments and Money Market Investments | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Convertible Securities                                   | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities                         | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      |  |
| Debt Securities  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      |  |
| High-Yield Debt Securities                               | ■                                       | ■*  | ■                                      |  |
| Municipal Bonds  | ■                                       |   |  |  |
| Non-U.S. Gov’t and Supranational Debt Securities         | ■                                       |   |  |  |
| U.S. Government Securities                               | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Zero Coupon Bonds  | ■                                       |   |  |  |
| Depository Receipts                                      | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Derivatives  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Commodity-Related Investments                            |   |   |  |  |
| Credit Default Swaps and Similar Instruments             | ■                                       |   |  |  |
| Forward Contracts  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Futures Contracts  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Options Contracts  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Swap Agreements  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Equity Securities  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Common Stocks  | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| IPOs   | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Preferred Stocks   | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Warrants and Rights                                      | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Foreign Currency Transactions                            | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Foreign Securities                                       | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |
| Emerging Market Securities                               | ■                                       | ■   | ■                                      | ■  |

| Investment Type  |                                |   |                               |                                   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  | Bond<br>Debenture<br>Portfolio | Calibrated<br>Dividend<br>Growth<br>Portfolio | Classic<br>Stock<br>Portfolio | Developing<br>Growth<br>Portfolio |
| Illiquid Securities  | ■                              | ■   | ■                             | ■                                 |
| Mortgage-Related and Asset-Backed Securities and<br>Other Collateralized Obligations | ■                              |   |                               |                                   |
| Other Investment Companies   | ■                              | ■   | ■                             | ■                                 |
| REITs  | ■                              | ■   | ■                             | ■                                 |
| Short Sales  | ■                              | ■   | ■                             | ■                                 |
| Structured Notes and Other Hybrid Instruments  | ■                              | ■   | ■                             |                                   |

| Investment Type  |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Fund.<br>Equity<br>Portfolio | Growth<br>and<br>Income<br>Portfolio | Growth<br>Opp.<br>Portfolio | Int'l Opp.<br>Portfolio |
| Bank Loans   |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| Cash/Short-Term Instruments and Money Market<br>Investments                          | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Convertible Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Debt Securities  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| High-Yield Debt Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■*                          |                         |
| Municipal Bonds  |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| Non-U.S. Gov't and Supranational Debt Securities                                     |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| U.S. Government Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Zero Coupon Bonds  |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| Depository Receipts  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Derivatives  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Commodity-Related Investments  |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| Credit Default Swaps and Similar Instruments   |                              |                                      |                             | ■                       |
| Forward Contracts  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Futures Contracts  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Options Contracts  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Swap Agreements  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Equity Securities  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Common Stocks  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| IPOs   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Preferred Stocks   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Warrants and Rights  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Foreign Currency Transactions  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Foreign Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Emerging Market Securities   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Illiquid Securities  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| Mortgage-Related and Asset-Backed Securities and<br>Other Collateralized Obligations |                              |                                      |                             |                         |
| Other Investment Companies   | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |
| REITs  | ■                            | ■                                    | ■                           | ■                       |

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Short Sales                                   | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Structured Notes and Other Hybrid Instruments | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |

\* Each of Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio and Growth Opportunities Portfolio may at times hold below investment grade securities (commonly referred to as “high-yield” or “junk” bonds) if it purchased securities that were considered investment grade at their time of purchase and such securities subsequently are downgraded.

| Investment Type   |                               |  |                              |
|---|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|   | Mid Cap<br>Stock<br>Portfolio | Short<br>Duration<br>Income<br>Portfolio | Total<br>Return<br>Portfolio |
| Bank Loans  |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| Cash/Short-Term Instruments and Money Market Investments                          | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Convertible Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Synthetic Convertible Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Debt Securities   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| High-Yield Debt Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Municipal Bonds   |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| Non-U.S. Gov't and Supranational Debt Securities                                  |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| U.S. Government Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Zero Coupon Bonds   |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| Depository Receipts   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Derivatives   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Commodity-Related Investments   |                               |  |                              |
| Credit Default Swaps and Similar Instruments                                      |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| Forward Contracts   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Futures Contracts   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Options Contracts   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Swap Agreements   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Equity Securities   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Common Stocks   | ■                             |  |                              |
| IPOs  | ■                             |  |                              |
| Preferred Stocks  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Warrants and Rights   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Foreign Currency Transactions   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Foreign Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Emerging Market Securities  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Illiquid Securities   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Mortgage-Related and Asset-Backed Securities and Other Collateralized Obligations |                               | ■  | ■                            |
| Other Investment Companies  | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| REITs   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Short Sales   | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |
| Structured Notes and Other Hybrid Instruments                                     | ■                             | ■  | ■                            |

### **Related Additional Investment Restrictions**

In addition to the principal investment strategies (and related restrictions) discussed in each Fund's prospectus, each Fund may use other investment techniques in seeking to achieve its investment objective, as set forth in the table above. The applicable investment restrictions associated with such other investment techniques are set forth below. Please see "Additional Information on Portfolio Investments, Risks, and Techniques" in Part II of the SAI for more information on these and the other investment techniques that may be used by the Funds.

**Borrowing Money.** Each Fund may borrow money to the extent permitted by its investment policies and restrictions and applicable law. When a Fund borrows money or otherwise leverages its portfolio, the value of an investment in the Fund may be more volatile and other investment risks will tend to be compounded. Each Fund will not purchase additional securities while outstanding borrowings exceed 5% of its total assets.

Each Fund may engage in other transactions that may have the effect of creating leverage in the Fund's portfolio, including, by way of example, derivatives transactions and reverse repurchase agreements. A Fund will generally not treat such transactions as borrowings of money.

**Municipal Securities.** Each of Short Duration Income Portfolio and Total Return Portfolio may invest up to 5% of its net assets in municipal bonds that, at the time of purchase, are rated investment grade by an independent rating agency or are unrated but determined by Lord Abbett to be of comparable quality.

**Assignments and Participations in Senior Loans.** To the extent Bond Debenture Portfolio, Short Duration Income Portfolio, and Total Return Portfolio invest in participations with respect to senior loans, each Fund intends to acquire participations only if the group of loan investors selling the participation, and any other persons interpositioned between the Fund and the group of loan investors, at the time of investment, has outstanding debt or deposit obligations rated investment grade (BBB or A-3 or higher by S&P or Baa or P-3 or higher by Moody's) or comparably rated by another independent rating agency or determined by Lord Abbett to be of comparable quality. Similarly, each Fund will purchase an assignment or participation or act as a loan investor with respect to a syndicated senior loan only where the agent, typically a U.S. or foreign commercial bank, insurance company, finance company, or other financial institution, that is originating, negotiating, and structuring the senior loan for a group of loan investors, at the time of investment, has outstanding debt or deposit obligations rated investment grade by an independent rating agency or determined by Lord Abbett to be of comparable quality. For more information, please see "Additional Information on Portfolio Investments, Risks, and Techniques – Senior Loans" section of Part II.

**When-Issued or Forward Transactions.** Each Fund may purchase portfolio securities on a when-issued or forward basis. When-issued or forward transactions involve a commitment by a Fund to purchase securities, with payment and delivery ("settlement") to take place in the future, in order to secure what is considered to be an advantageous price or yield at the time of entering into the transaction. When-issued purchases and forward transactions are negotiated directly with the other party, and such commitments are not traded on exchanges. Each Fund also may sell securities it has committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Fund on the settlement date. Under no circumstances will settlement for such securities take place more than 120 days after the purchase date.

**5.**  
**BOARD MEMBERS**

The Board Members of the Registrant are also Board Members of each of the Lord Abbett Funds, which collectively consist of 60 funds. For more information on the Board Members, please see the “Management of the Funds” section of Part II.

**Compensation**

The following table sets forth the compensation accrued by the Registrant for the Independent Board Members and the total compensation paid by all Lord Abbett Funds to the Independent Board Members, including amounts payable but deferred at the option of each Independent Board Member. No Interested Board Member or officer of the Lord Abbett Funds received any compensation from the Funds for acting as a Board Member or officer. The Lord Abbett Funds currently do not offer a bonus, pension, profit-sharing, or retirement plan.

| <b>Board Members</b>            | <b>For the Fiscal Year Ended<br/>December 31, 2018 Aggregate<br/>Compensation Accrued by the<br/>Registrant<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Total Compensation Paid by the<br/>Lord Abbett Funds<sup>2</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Eric C. Fast                    | \$8,678   | \$327,400   |
| Evelyn E. Guernsey              | 9,943   | 381,400   |
| Julie A. Hill                   | 9,084   | 347,400   |
| Franklin W. Hobbs <sup>3</sup>  | 2,560   | 92,971  |
| Kathleen M. Lutito <sup>4</sup> | 8,678   | 327,400   |
| James M. McTaggart              | 8,725   | 331,400   |
| Karla M. Rabusch <sup>4</sup>   | 8,784   | 331,400   |
| Mark A. Schmid                  | 8,784   | 331,400   |
| James L.L. Tullis               | 12,122  | 457,400   |

<sup>1</sup> Independent Board Members’ fees, including attendance fees for Board and committee meetings, are allocated among all Lord Abbett Funds based on the net assets of each Fund. A portion of the fees payable by each Fund to its Independent Board Members may be deferred at the option of a Board Member under an equity-based plan (the “equity-based plan”) that deems the deferred amounts to be invested in shares of a Fund for later distribution to the Board Members. In addition, \$25,000 of each Board Member’s retainer must be deferred and is deemed invested in shares of the Funds and other Lord Abbett Funds under the equity-based plan. The total deferred amounts for Mr. Fast, Ms. Guernsey, Ms. Hill, Mr. Hobbs, Ms. Lutito, Mr. McTaggart, Ms. Rabusch, Mr. Schmid, and Mr. Tullis are \$8,678, \$663, \$2,240, \$2,560, \$8,678, \$5,301, \$8,784, \$8,784, and \$6,301, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> The third column shows total compensation, including the types of compensation described in the “For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2018 Aggregate Compensation Accrued by the Registrant” column, accrued by all Lord Abbett Funds during the year ended December 31, 2018, including fees Independent Board Members have chosen to defer.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Hobbs retired from the Board and the Board of Directors/Trustees of each of the other Lord Abbett Funds effective April 23, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Ms. Lutito and Ms. Rabusch were elected to the Board and the Board of Directors/Trustees of each of the other Lord Abbett Funds effective December 30, 2017.

**Fund Ownership**

The following table sets forth certain information about the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by each Board Member in the Registrant and all other Lord Abbett Funds as of December 31, 2018. The amounts shown include deferred compensation (including interest) to the Board Members deemed invested in Fund shares. The amounts ultimately received by the Board Members under the deferred compensation plan will be directly linked to the investment performance of the Lord Abbett Funds.

**Dollar Range of Equity Securities**

| <b><u>Board Members</u></b>   | <b><u>Bond Debenture Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Classic Stock Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Developing Growth Portfolio</u></b> |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Interested Director/Trustee</i>                                      |  |  |                                       |   |
| Douglas B. Sieg   | None                                   | None   | None                                  | None                                      |
| <i>Independent Director/Trustee</i>                                     |  |  |                                       |   |
| Eric C. Fast  | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| Evelyn E. Guernsey  | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| Julie A. Hill   | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| Kathleen M. Lutito <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| James M. McTaggart  | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| Karla M. Rabusch <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| Mark A. Schmid  | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| James L.L. Tullis   | \$1-\$10,000                           | \$1-\$10,000                                       | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                              |
| <i>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Lord Abbett Funds</i> | Over \$100,000                         | Over \$100,000                                     | Over \$100,000                        | Over \$100,000                            |

**Dollar Range of Equity Securities**

| <b><u>Board Members</u></b>   | <b><u>Fundamental Equity Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Growth and Income Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Growth Opportunities Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>International Opportunities Portfolio</u></b> |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <i>Interested Director/Trustee</i>                                      |  |   |  |   |
| Douglas B. Sieg   | None                                       | None                                      | None   | None  |
| <i>Independent Director/Trustee</i>                                     |  |   |  |   |
| Eric C. Fast  | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| Evelyn E. Guernsey  | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| Julie A. Hill   | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$10,001-\$50,000                         | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| Kathleen M. Lutito <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| James M. McTaggart  | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| Karla M. Rabusch <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| Mark A. Schmid  | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| James L.L. Tullis   | \$1-\$10,000                               | \$1-\$10,000                              | \$1-\$10,000                                 | \$1-\$10,000  |
| <i>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Lord Abbett Funds</i> | Over \$100,000                             | Over \$100,000                            | Over \$100,000                               | Over \$100,000                                      |

**Dollar Range of Equity Securities**

| <b><u>Board Members</u></b>   | <b><u>Mid Cap Stock Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Short Duration Income Portfolio</u></b> | <b><u>Total Return Portfolio</u></b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Interested Director/Trustee</i>                                      |                                       |   |                                      |
| Douglas B. Sieg   | None                                  | None  | None                                 |
| <i>Independent Director/Trustee</i>                                     |                                       |   |                                      |
| Eric C. Fast  | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| Evelyn E. Guernsey  | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| Julie A. Hill   | \$10,001-\$50,000                     | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| Kathleen M. Lutito <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| James M. McTaggart  | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| Karla M. Rabusch <sup>1</sup>   | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| Mark A. Schmid  | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| James L.L. Tullis   | \$1-\$10,000                          | \$1-\$10,000                                  | \$1-\$10,000                         |
| <i>Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in Lord Abbett Funds</i> | Over \$100,000                        | Over \$100,000                                | Over \$100,000                       |

<sup>1</sup> Ms. Lutito and Ms. Rabusch were elected to the Board and the Board of Directors/Trustees of each of the other Lord Abbett Funds effective December 30, 2017.

**Committee Meetings**

The following table sets forth the number of times each committee of the Board met during the most recent fiscal year:

| <b><u>Fiscal Year Ended</u></b> | <b><u>Audit Committee</u></b> | <b><u>Proxy Committee</u></b> | <b><u>Nominating and Governance Committee</u></b> | <b><u>Contract Committee</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| December 31, 2018               | 4                             | 2                             | 6   | 7                                |

6.

**INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES, FEES, AND EXPENSES**

For more information on Lord Abbett, please see the “Investment Adviser” section of Part II.

Lord Abbett is each Fund’s investment adviser. Lord Abbett is a privately held investment adviser. Lord Abbett’s address is 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302-3973.

Under the Management Agreements between Lord Abbett and each Lord Abbett Fund, on behalf of each Fund, Lord Abbett is entitled to an annual management fee based on each Fund’s average daily net assets. The management fee is allocated to each class of shares based upon the relative proportion of each Fund’s net assets represented by that class.

For certain Funds, Lord Abbett has contractually agreed to waive its fees and reimburse expenses. These agreements may be terminated only by the Fund’s Board.

Each Fund pays all expenses attributable to its operations not expressly assumed by Lord Abbett, including, without limitation, Independent Board Members’ fees and expenses, association membership dues, legal and auditing fees, taxes, transfer and dividend disbursing agent fees, shareholder servicing costs, expenses relating to shareholder meetings, expenses of registering its shares under federal and state securities laws, expenses of preparing, printing and mailing prospectuses and shareholder reports to existing shareholders, insurance premiums, and other expenses connected with executing portfolio transactions.

**Management Fee Rates**

The management fee is accrued daily, payable monthly, and calculated at the following annual rates:

***Series Fund***

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>Bond Debenture Portfolio</b>             |       |
| First \$500 million                         | 0.50% |
| Next \$9.5 billion                          | 0.45% |
| Over \$10 billion                           | 0.40% |
| <b>Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio</b> |       |
| First \$2 billion                           | 0.55% |
| Over \$2 billion                            | 0.49% |
| <b>Classic Stock Portfolio</b>              |       |
| First \$1 billion                           | 0.70% |
| Next \$1 billion                            | 0.65% |
| Over \$2 billion                            | 0.60% |
| <b>Developing Growth Portfolio</b>          |       |
| First \$100 million                         | 0.75% |
| Over \$100 million                          | 0.50% |
| <b>Fundamental Equity Portfolio</b>         |       |
| First \$200 million                         | 0.75% |
| Next \$300 million                          | 0.65% |
| Over \$500 million                          | 0.50% |
| <b>Growth and Income Portfolio</b>          |       |
| First \$1 billion                           | 0.50% |
| Over \$1 billion                            | 0.45% |

| <b>Growth Opportunities Portfolio</b>        |       |
|--|-------|
| First \$1 billion                            | 0.75% |
| Next \$1 billion                             | 0.65% |
| Next \$1 billion                             | 0.60% |
| Over \$3 billion                             | 0.58% |
| <b>International Opportunities Portfolio</b> |       |
| First \$1 billion                            | 0.75% |
| Next \$1 billion                             | 0.70% |
| Over \$2 billion                             | 0.65% |
| <b>Mid Cap Stock Portfolio</b>               |       |
| First \$200 million                          | 0.75% |
| Next \$300 million                           | 0.65% |
| Over \$500 million                           | 0.50% |
| <b>Short Duration Income Portfolio</b>       |       |
| First \$1 billion                            | 0.35% |
| Next \$1 billion                             | 0.30% |
| Over \$2 billion                             | 0.25% |
| <b>Total Return Portfolio</b>                |       |
| First \$4 billion                            | 0.28% |
| Next \$11 billion                            | 0.26% |
| Over \$15 billion                            | 0.25% |

#### **Management Fees Paid to Lord Abbett**

The following tables set forth the management fees each Fund paid to Lord Abbett (taking into account any management fee waivers) for the last three fiscal years ended December 31<sup>st</sup>:

|   | <b>Gross<br/>Management Fees</b> | <b>2016<br/>Management<br/>Fees Waived</b> | <b>Net<br/>Management Fees</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Bond Debenture Portfolio <sup>1</sup>             | \$5,077,272                      | \$(323,404)                                | \$4,753,868                    |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio <sup>2</sup> | 1,094,221                        | (581,345)                                  | 512,876                        |
| Classic Stock Portfolio                           | 280,967                          | (153,515)                                  | 127,452                        |
| Developing Growth Portfolio                       | 231,322                          | (188,990)                                  | 42,332                         |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio <sup>2</sup>         | 2,516,089                        | (183,409)                                  | 2,332,680                      |
| Growth and Income Portfolio                       | 3,507,079                        | 0  | 3,507,079                      |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio <sup>3</sup>       | 854,783                          | (218,324)                                  | 636,459                        |
| International Opportunities Portfolio             | 352,976                          | (170,711)                                  | 182,265                        |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio <sup>2</sup>              | 2,578,087                        | 0  | 2,578,087                      |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio                   | 104,784                          | (74,029)                                   | 30,755                         |
| Total Return Portfolio <sup>4</sup>               | 1,894,318                        | (1,037,439)                                | 856,879                        |

|   | <b>Gross<br/>Management Fees</b> | <b>2017<br/>Management<br/>Fees Waived</b> | <b>Net<br/>Management Fees</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Bond Debenture Portfolio <sup>1</sup>             | \$5,561,682                      | \$(262,281)                                | \$5,299,401                    |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio <sup>2</sup> | 1,348,403                        | (652,535)                                  | 695,868                        |
| Classic Stock Portfolio                           | 310,111                          | (137,815)                                  | 172,296                        |
| Developing Growth Portfolio                       | 258,012                          | (165,636)                                  | 92,376                         |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio <sup>2</sup>         | 2,876,869                        | (143,913)                                  | 2,732,956                      |

|   |           |             |           |
|---|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Growth and Income Portfolio                 | 3,496,532 | 0           | 3,496,532 |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio <sup>3</sup> | 1,056,165 | (228,788)   | 827,377   |
| International Opportunities Portfolio       | 390,868   | (127,799)   | 263,069   |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio <sup>2</sup>        | 2,560,256 | 0           | 2,560,256 |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio             | 186,203   | (71,867)    | 114,336   |
| Total Return Portfolio <sup>4</sup>         | 2,233,409 | (1,197,074) | 1,036,335 |

|   | <b>Gross<br/>Management Fees</b> | <b>2018<br/>Management<br/>Fees Waived</b> | <b>Net<br/>Management Fees</b> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Bond Debenture Portfolio <sup>1</sup>             | \$5,668,326                      | \$(75,381)                                 | \$5,592,945                    |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio <sup>2</sup> | 1,331,599                        | (596,101)                                  | 735,498                        |
| Classic Stock Portfolio                           | 282,467                          | (131,357)                                  | 151,110                        |
| Developing Growth Portfolio                       | 410,572                          | (203,141)                                  | 207,431                        |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio <sup>2</sup>         | 2,500,718                        | (46,900)                                   | 2,453,818                      |
| Growth and Income Portfolio                       | 3,209,808                        | 0  | 3,209,808                      |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio <sup>3</sup>       | 967,531                          | (183,484)                                  | 784,047                        |
| International Opportunities Portfolio             | 374,983                          | (131,241)                                  | 243,742                        |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio <sup>2</sup>              | 2,285,062                        | 0  | 2,285,062                      |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio                   | 239,774                          | (56,762)                                   | 183,012                        |
| Total Return Portfolio <sup>4</sup>               | 2,537,051                        | (1,189,244)                                | 1,347,807                      |

<sup>1</sup> Before May 1, 2019, the management fees for Bond Debenture Portfolio was calculated at the following annual rates:  
0.50% on the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets; and  
0.45% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$1 billion.

<sup>2</sup> Before May 1, 2019, the management fees for Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio, Fundamental Equity Portfolio and Mid Cap Stock Portfolio were calculated at the following annual rates:  
0.75% on the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets;  
0.70% on the next \$1 billion of average daily net assets; and  
0.65% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$2 billion.

<sup>3</sup> Before May 1, 2019, the management fees for Growth Opportunities Portfolio was calculated at the following annual rates:  
0.80% on the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets;  
0.75% on the next \$1 billion of average daily net assets;  
0.70% on the next \$1 billion of average daily net assets; and  
0.65% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$3 billion.

<sup>4</sup> Before May 1, 2019, the management fees for Total Return Portfolio was calculated at the following annual rates:  
0.45% on the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets;  
0.40% on the next \$1 billion of average daily net assets; and  
0.35% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$2 billion.

#### **Contractual Fee Waivers and Expense Limitations**

Lord Abbett has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or reimburse Fund expenses to the extent necessary to limit each Fund's total net annual operating expenses (excluding certain expenses such as acquired fund fees and expenses) to the annual rates set forth in the following table.

| <b>Series Fund</b>                   | <b>Contract Period</b>       | <b>Class VC</b> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio | May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020 | 0.99%           |
| Developing Growth Portfolio          | May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020 | 1.04%           |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio         | May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020 | 1.08%           |

These agreements may be terminated only by the Fund's Board.

### Administrative Services Fees Paid to Lord Abbett

Pursuant to an Administrative Services Agreement with the Funds, Lord Abbett provides certain administrative services not involving the provision of investment advice to the Funds. The following table sets forth the administrative services fees each Fund paid to Lord Abbett for the last three fiscal years ended December 31<sup>st</sup>:

|                                       | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Series Fund</b>                    |           |           |           |
| Bond Debenture Portfolio              | \$407,353 | \$449,927 | \$459,407 |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio  | 58,358    | 71,915    | 71,019    |
| Classic Stock Portfolio               | 16,055    | 17,721    | 16,141    |
| Developing Growth Portfolio           | 12,337    | 13,761    | 21,897    |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio          | 134,191   | 153,433   | 133,371   |
| Growth and Income Portfolio           | 280,566   | 279,723   | 256,785   |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio        | 42,739    | 52,808    | 48,377    |
| International Opportunities Portfolio | 18,825    | 20,846    | 19,999    |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio               | 137,498   | 136,547   | 121,870   |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio       | 11,976    | 21,280    | 27,403    |
| Total Return Portfolio                | 168,384   | 198,525   | 225,516   |

### Brokerage Commissions

The Funds' policy with respect to portfolio transactions and brokerage is set forth under the "Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices" section of Part II.

**Brokerage Commissions Paid to Independent Broker-Dealer Firms.** The following table sets forth the total brokerage commissions on transactions of securities each Fund paid to independent broker-dealer firms for the last three fiscal years ended December 31<sup>st</sup>.

|                                       | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Bond Debenture Portfolio              | \$294,430 | \$428,592 | \$402,243 |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio  | 57,194    | 42,526    | 51,711    |
| Classic Stock Portfolio               | 19,019    | 12,976    | 8,399     |
| Developing Growth Portfolio           | 60,095    | 32,109    | 48,313    |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio          | 249,257   | 194,340   | 189,700   |
| Growth and Income Portfolio           | 383,998   | 340,801   | 239,741   |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio        | 105,993   | 54,171    | 33,621    |
| International Opportunities Portfolio | 178,319   | 155,799   | 166,624   |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio               | 218,759   | 235,407   | 127,969   |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio       | 993       | 1,028     | 1,077     |
| Total Return Portfolio                | 5,532     | 4,923     | 6,692     |

The amount of brokerage commissions paid by a Fund may change from year to year because of changing asset levels, shareholder activity, and portfolio turnover, among other factors.

In addition to the purchase of research services through "commission sharing arrangements," Lord Abbett purchased third party research services with its own resources during the past three fiscal years ended December 31<sup>st</sup>. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, no Fund directed portfolio transactions to broker-dealers because of Research Services provided.

**Regular Broker-Dealers**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, each Fund acquired securities of its “regular brokers or dealers,” as that term is defined in Rule 10b-1 under the 1940 Act, or of their parents, as follows:

|                                       | <b>Regular Broker or Dealer</b>   | <b>Value of the Fund’s<br/>Aggregate Holdings of the<br/>Regular Broker’s or<br/>Dealer’s or Parent’s<br/>Securities</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Bond Debenture Portfolio              | Bank of America/Merrill Lynch<br>Citigroup Global Markets Inc.<br>Goldman, Sachs & Co.<br>J.P. Morgan Securities LLC  | \$1,126,679<br>1,123,580<br>2,940,345<br>2,329,866   |
| Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio  | None  | None   |
| Classic Stock Portfolio               | None  | None   |
| Developing Growth Portfolio           | None  | None   |
| Fundamental Equity Portfolio          | Goldman, Sachs & Co.<br>JPMorgan Chase & Co.<br>Wells Fargo & Co.   | \$889,374<br>8,426,656<br>4,162,545  |
| Growth and Income Portfolio           | Goldman, Sachs & Co.<br>JPMorgan Chase & Co.<br>Wells Fargo & Co.   | \$4,585,523<br>21,551,079<br>10,596,925  |
| Growth Opportunities Portfolio        | None  | None   |
| International Opportunities Portfolio | None  | None   |
| Mid Cap Stock Portfolio               | None  | None   |
| Short Duration Income Portfolio       | Bank of America/Merrill Lynch<br>Barclays Capital Inc.<br>Citigroup Global Markets Inc.<br>Goldman, Sachs & Co.<br>J.P. Morgan Securities LLC<br>Wells Fargo                    | \$395,583<br>179,955<br>1,294,814<br>2,137,926<br>2,635,913<br>472,994   |
| Total Return Portfolio                | Bank of America/Merrill Lynch<br>Citigroup Global Markets Inc.<br>Goldman, Sachs & Co.<br>J.P. Morgan Securities LLC<br>Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC<br>Wells Fargo Securities, LLC | \$2,336,192<br>9,850,455<br>3,025,314<br>11,499,025<br>2,031,834<br>4,656,730  |

## 7.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER INFORMATION

**Other Accounts Managed**

The following table sets forth information about the other accounts managed by the Funds' portfolio managers as of each Fund's fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 (or another date, if indicated). For more information, please see the "Portfolio Management Information" section of Part II. The data shown below are approximate.

Included in the Registered Investment Companies category are those U.S.-registered funds managed or sub-advised by Lord Abbett, including funds underlying variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered through insurance companies. The Other Pooled Investment Vehicles category includes collective investment funds, offshore funds and similar non-registered investment vehicles. Lord Abbett does not manage any hedge funds. The Other Accounts category encompasses retirement and benefit plans (including both defined contribution and defined benefit plans) sponsored by various corporations and other entities, individually managed institutional accounts of various corporations, other entities and individuals, and separately managed accounts in so-called wrap fee programs sponsored by financial intermediaries unaffiliated with Lord Abbett.

| <i>Series Fund</i>                          | Number of Registered Investment Companies | Total Assets (\$MM) | Number of Other Pooled Investment Vehicles | Total Assets (\$MM) | Number of Other Accounts | Total Assets (\$MM)    |
|---|---|---------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Bond Debenture Portfolio</b>             |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Steven F. Rocco                             | 16  | \$81,666.3          | 24   | \$6,350.4           | 2,815                    | \$6,553.8 <sup>1</sup> |
| Robert A. Lee                               | 20  | 87,620.3            | 23   | 6,353.6             | 2,833                    | 7,782.6 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Andrew H. O'Brien                           | 14  | 77,653.2            | 10   | 3,820.2             | 541                      | 5,842.8 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Kewjin Yuoh                                 | 15  | 78,035.8            | 10   | 3,820.2             | 541                      | 5,842.8 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Robert S. Clark                             | 1   | 12,171.2            | 1  | 283.8               | 0                        | 0                      |
| Christopher J. Gizzo                        | 3   | 18,265.0            | 9  | 3,579.9             | 11                       | 855.6                  |
| <b>Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio</b> |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| William H. Prah                             | 4   | \$8817.7            | 0  | \$0                 | 0                        | \$0                    |
| Marc Pavese                                 | 4   | 8817.7              | 0  | 0                   | 0                        | 0                      |
| <b>Classic Stock Portfolio</b>              |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Eli Rabinowich                              | 9   | \$7,363.6           | 1  | \$58.3              | 1,770                    | \$1,573.7 <sup>2</sup> |
| Jeff D. Diamond                             | 5   | 4,303.0             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| So Young Lee                                | 5   | 4,303.0             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| <b>Developing Growth Portfolio</b>          |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| F. Thomas O'Halloran                        | 9   | \$5,264.5           | 1  | \$29.6              | 13                       | \$701.2 <sup>4</sup>   |
| Matthew R. DeCicco                          | 9   | 5,264.5             | 1  | \$29.6              | 13                       | \$701.2 <sup>4</sup>   |
| Vernon T. Bice                              | 9   | 5,264.5             | 1  | \$29.6              | 13                       | \$701.2 <sup>4</sup>   |
| <b>Fundamental Equity Portfolio</b>         |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Eli Rabinowich                              | 9   | \$7,173.4           | 1  | \$58.3              | 1,770                    | \$1,573.7 <sup>2</sup> |
| Jeff D. Diamond                             | 5   | 4,112.8             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| So Young Lee                                | 5   | 4,112.8             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |

|  | Number of Registered Investment Companies | Total Assets (\$MM) | Number of Other Pooled Investment Vehicles | Total Assets (\$MM) | Number of Other Accounts | Total Assets (\$MM)    |
|--|---|---------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Growth and Income Portfolio</b>           |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Eli Rabinowich                               | 9   | \$6,839.3           | 1  | \$58.3              | 1,770                    | \$1,573.7 <sup>2</sup> |
| Jeff D. Diamond                              | 5   | 3,778.6             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| So Young Lee                                 | 5   | 3,778.6             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| <b>Growth Opportunities Portfolio</b>        |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Jeffrey Rabinowitz                           | 1   | \$713.4             | 0  | \$0                 | 0                        | \$0                    |
| <b>International Opportunities Portfolio</b> |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Todd D. Jacobson                             | 4   | \$1,892.4           | 6  | \$366.6             | 0                        | \$0                    |
| A. Edward Allinson                           | 2   | 1,316.7             | 6  | 366.6               | 0                        | 0                      |
| Vincent J. McBride                           | 1   | 650.7               | 6  | 366.6               | 0                        | 0                      |
| <b>Mid Cap Stock Portfolio</b>               |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Eli Rabinowich                               | 9   | \$7,146.0           | 1  | \$58.3              | 1,770                    | \$1,573.7 <sup>2</sup> |
| Jeff D. Diamond                              | 5   | 4,085.4             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| So Young Lee                                 | 5   | 4,085.4             | 0  | 0                   | 1,222                    | 645.3 <sup>3</sup>     |
| <b>Short Duration Income Portfolio</b>       |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Andrew H. O'Brien                            | 14  | \$78,652.1          | 10   | \$3,820.2           | 541                      | \$5,842.8 <sup>1</sup> |
| Robert A. Lee                                | 20  | 88,619.2            | 23   | 6,353.6             | 2,833                    | 7,782.6 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Kewjin Yuoh                                  | 15  | 79,034.7            | 10   | 3,820.2             | 541                      | 5,842.8 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Steven F. Rocco                              | 16  | 82,665.2            | 24   | 6,350.4             | 2,815                    | 6,553.8 <sup>1</sup>   |
| <b>Total Return Portfolio</b>                |   |                     |  |                     |                          |                        |
| Kewjin Yuoh                                  | 15  | \$78,547.6          | 10   | \$3,820.2           | 541                      | \$5,842.8 <sup>1</sup> |
| Robert A. Lee                                | 20  | 88,132.1            | 23   | 6,353.6             | 2,833                    | 7,782.6 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Andrew H. O'Brien                            | 14  | 78,165.0            | 10   | 3,820.2             | 541                      | 5,842.8 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Steven F. Rocco                              | 16  | 82,178.1            | 24   | 6,350.4             | 2,815                    | 6,553.8 <sup>1</sup>   |

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$627.7 million for which Lord Abbett provides investment models to managed account sponsors.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$446.4 million for which Lord Abbett provides investment models to managed account sponsors.

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$376.1 million for which Lord Abbett provides investment models to managed account sponsors.

<sup>4</sup> Included in the number of accounts and total assets is 1 account with respect to which the management fee is based on the performance of the account; such account totals approximately \$68.6 million in assets.

#### Holdings of Portfolio Managers

As of December 31, 2018, no portfolio manager beneficially owns any securities in the Fund(s) he or she manages.

8.

**CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS**

Shareholders beneficially owning 25% or more of outstanding shares may be in control and may be able to affect the outcome of certain matters presented for a shareholder vote. As of March 15, 2019 to the best of the Funds' knowledge, the following persons or entities owned of record or were known by the Funds to beneficially own more than 25% of a Fund's outstanding shares:

**Bond Debenture Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 54.36%  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE  
ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 60.49%  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**Classic Stock Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 68.40%  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**Developing Growth Portfolio**

PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO 33.86%  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
700 NEWPORT CENTER DR  
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660-6307

**Fundamental Equity Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 65.40%  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**Growth and Income Portfolio**

AIG SUNAMERICA LIFE ASSURANCE CO 43.76%  
VARIABLE SEPERATE ACCOUNT  
2727A ALLEN PKWY # 4-D1  
HOUSTON, TX 77019-2107

**Growth Opportunities Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 66.04%  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**International Opportunities Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO 52.90%  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35202-2606

**Mid Cap Stock Portfolio**

AIG SUNAMERICA LIFE ASSURANCE CO 28.14%  
VARIABLE SEPERATE ACCOUNT  
2727A ALLEN PKWY # 4-D1  
HOUSTON, TX 77019-2107

VOYA RETIREMENT INS AND ANNUITY CO 30.26%  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
ONE ORANGE WAY, B3N  
WINDSOR, CT 06095-4773

**Short Duration Income Portfolio**

LINCOLN LIFE INSURANCE CO 41.81%  
1300 SOUTH CLINTON ST  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46802-3518

**Total Return Portfolio**

PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO 50.51%  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
700 NEWPORT CENTER DR  
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660-6307

As of March 15, 2019, to the best of the Funds' knowledge, the following persons or entities owned of record or were known by the Funds to beneficially own 5% or more of the specified class of a Fund's outstanding shares:

**Bond Debenture Portfolio**

AXA EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT 70  
1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS FL 12  
NEW YORK NY 10104-1472 12.14%

PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT A  
700 NEWPORT CENTER DR  
NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-6307 8.65%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 54.36%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 5.51%

**Calibrated Dividend Growth Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 60.49%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE LIFE SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 6.39%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 8.43%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 13.62%

**Classic Stock Portfolio**

AXA EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
SEPARATE ACCOUNT  
1290 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS FL 12  
NEW YORK NY 10104-1472 10.84%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 68.40%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 11.04%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 5.50%

**Developing Growth Portfolio**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| HORACE MANN LIFE INS SEPERATE<br>ACCOUNT<br>1 HORACE MANN PLZ<br>SPRINGFIELD IL 62715-0001  | 14.39% |
| LINCOLN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>1300 S CLINTON ST<br>FORT WAYNE IN 46802-3518   | 21.97% |
| PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>PACIFIC COLI SEPARATE ACCOUNT III<br>OF PACIFIC LIFE<br>700 NEWPORT CENTER DR<br>NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-6307    | 11.75% |
| PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>PACIFIC SELECT EXEC SEPARATE<br>ACCOUNT OF PACIFIC LIFE<br>700 NEWPORT CENTER DR<br>NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-6307 | 33.86% |

**Fundamental Equity Portfolio**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| DELAWARE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>1601 TRAPELO RD STE 30<br>WALTHAM MA 02451-7360  | 10.08% |
| PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO<br>INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES<br>VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT<br>PO BOX 2606<br>BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 | 65.41% |
| TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY<br>INSURANCE CO<br>PO BOX 5051<br>HARTFORD CT 06102-5051  | 9.68%  |

**Growth and Income Portfolio**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| AIG SUNAMERICA LIFE ASSURANCE<br>COMPANY VARIABLE SEPERATE A/C &<br>VARIABLE ANNUITY<br>2727A ALLEN PKWY # 4-D1<br>HOUSTON TX 77019-2107 | 43.76% |
| PHOENIX HOME LIFE VARIABLE<br>INSURANCE COMPANY<br>15 TECH VALLEY DR<br>EAST GREENBUSH NY 12061-4141                                     | 6.63%  |

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 12.66%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 12.69%

TALCOTT RESOLUTION LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY  
PO BOX 5051  
HARTFORD CT 06102-5051 6.50%

**Growth Opportunities Portfolio**

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 66.04%

**International Opportunities Portfolio**

JEFFERSON NATIONAL LIFE INS CO  
10350 ORMSBY PARK PL STE 600  
LOUISVILLE KY 40223-6175 13.15%

MIDLAND NATIONAL LIFE INS CO  
ANNUITY DIVISION  
4350 WESTOWN PARKWAY  
DES MOINES IA 50266-1036 14.25%

MIDLAND NATIONAL LIFE INS CO  
PO BOX 79907  
WDM IA 50325-0907 10.12%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 52.90%

**Mid Cap Stock Portfolio**

AIG SUNAMERICA LIFE ASSURANCE  
COMPANY VARIABLE SEPERATE A/C &  
VARIABLE ANNUITY  
2727A ALLEN PKWY # 4-D1  
HOUSTON TX 77019-2107 28.14%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE ANNUITY SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 20.00%

PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
INVESTMENT PRODUCTS SERVICES  
VARIABLE LIFE SEPARATE ACCT  
PO BOX 2606  
BIRMINGHAM AL 35202-2606 5.89%

VOYA RETIREMENT INS AND ANNUITY CO  
ONE ORANGE WAY, B3N  
WINDSOR CT 06095-4773 30.26%

**Short Duration Income Portfolio**

LINCOLN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
1300 S CLINTON ST  
FORT WAYNE IN 46802-3518 41.81%

MIDLAND NATIONAL LIFE INS COMPANY  
4546 CORPORATE DRIVE STE 100  
WEST DES MOINES IA 50266-5911 20.32%

NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING  
PO BOX 182029  
COLUMBUS OH 43218-2029 10.79%

NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE CO  
C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING  
PO BOX 182029  
COLUMBUS OH 43218-2029 22.92%

**Total Return Portfolio**

GREAT WEST LIFE AND ANNUITY  
INSURANCE CO COLI  
8515 E ORCHARD RD # 2T2  
GREENWOOD VILLAGE CO 80111-5002 6.31%

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| NATIONWIDE INSURANCE CO<br>PO BOX 182029<br>COLUMBUS OH 43218-2029  | 10.02% |
| NATIONWIDE LIFE INSURANCE CO<br>C/O IPO PORTFOLIO ACCOUNTING<br>PO BOX 182029<br>COLUMBUS OH 43218-2029   | 7.17%  |
| PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>PACIFIC SELECT EXEC SEPARATE<br>ACCOUNT OF PACIFIC LIFE<br>700 NEWPORT CENTER DR<br>NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-6307 | 8.50%  |
| PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY<br>SEPARATE ACCOUNT A<br>700 NEWPORT CENTER DR<br>NEWPORT BEACH CA 92660-6307                                      | 50.51% |

As of March 15, 2019, each Fund's officers and Board Members, as a group, owned less than 1% of each class of the Fund's outstanding shares.

**9.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements are incorporated into this SAI by reference to the Funds' most recent annual reports to shareholders, which have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, based on their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

## PART II

Part II describes policies and practices that apply to each Lord Abbett Fund. Part II is not a standalone document and must be read in conjunction with Part I. The Lord Abbett Funds are comprised of Equity Trust, Investment Trust, and Securities Trust, each a Delaware statutory trust; and Affiliated Fund, Bond Debenture Fund, Developing Growth Fund, Global Fund, Mid Cap Stock Fund, Municipal Income Fund, Research Fund, Series Fund, and Money Market Fund, each a Maryland corporation.

**Note: Updated SAIs for each Fund will be filed with the SEC in accordance with each Fund’s regularly scheduled annual update cycle. References in this Part II to Funds that have not yet filed an updated SAI do not supersede the currently effective SAI for those Funds.**

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**1.**  
**GLOSSARY**

**Lord Abbett Funds** are comprised of the following management investment companies:

Lord Abbett Affiliated Fund, Inc.: **Affiliated Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund, Inc.: **Bond Debenture Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Developing Growth Fund, Inc.: **Developing Growth Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Equity Trust: **Equity Trust**  
 Lord Abbett Global Fund, Inc.: **Global Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Investment Trust: **Investment Trust**  
 Lord Abbett Mid Cap Stock Fund, Inc.: **Mid Cap Stock Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Municipal Income Fund, Inc.: **Municipal Income Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Research Fund, Inc.: **Research Fund**  
 Lord Abbett Securities Trust: **Securities Trust**  
 Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc.: **Series Fund**  
 Lord Abbett U.S. Government & Government Sponsored Enterprises Money Market Fund, Inc.: **Money Market Fund**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1933 Act</b>                             | Securities Act of 1933, as amended  |
| <b>1940 Act</b>                             | Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended  |
| <b>Board</b>                                | Board of Directors or Trustees  |
| <b>Board Member(s)</b>                      | Director(s) or Trustee(s) of the Board  |
| <b>Calibrated Dividend Growth Fund</b>      | Lord Abbett Calibrated Dividend Growth Fund   |
| <b>CDSC</b>                                 | Contingent deferred sales charge  |
| <b>CEA</b>                                  | Commodity Exchange Act, as amended  |
| <b>Code</b>                                 | Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended   |
| <b>Convertible Fund</b>                     | Lord Abbett Convertible Fund  |
| <b>CPO</b>                                  | Commodity pool operator   |
| <b>Custodian</b>                            | State Street Bank and Trust Company   |
| <b>Declaration</b>                          | Declaration and Agreement of Trust  |
| <b>Distribution Agreement</b>               | Distribution Agreement for each Fund, as described in this SAI  |
| <b>Distribution Fees</b>                    | Fees used to support the Fund's marketing and distribution efforts, such as compensating financial intermediaries, advertising and promotion                        |
| <b>Distributor</b>                          | Lord Abbett Distributor LLC   |
| <b>Emerging Markets Corporate Debt Fund</b> | Lord Abbett Emerging Markets Corporate Debt Fund  |
| <b>Emerging Markets Bond Fund</b>           | Lord Abbett Emerging Markets Bond Fund, <i>formerly Lord Abbett Emerging Markets Currency Fund</i>  |
| <b>Fitch</b>                                | Fitch Ratings, Inc.   |
| <b>Fundamental Equity Fund</b>              | Lord Abbett Fundamental Equity Fund   |
| <b>Fund(s)</b>                              | Each separate investment portfolio of a Lord Abbett Fund or, if a Lord Abbett Fund has only a single investment portfolio, the Lord Abbett Fund                     |
| <b>Fund(s)-of-Funds</b>                     | Collectively, Multi-Asset Balanced Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Global Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Growth Fund, Multi-Asset Income Fund, and Alpha Strategy Fund |
| <b>Global Equity Research Fund</b>          | Lord Abbett Global Equity Research Fund, <i>formerly Global Core Equity Fund</i>  |
| <b>Growth Leaders Fund</b>                  | Lord Abbett Growth Leaders Fund   |
| <b>High Yield Municipal Fund</b>            | Lord Abbett High Yield Municipal Bond Fund  |
| <b>Independent Board Member(s)</b>          | Director(s) or Trustee(s) of the Board who are not "interested"   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | persons” as defined in the 1940 Act, of each Fund  |
| <b>Inflation Focused Fund</b>                        | Lord Abbett Inflation Focused Fund   |
| <b>International Equity Fund</b>                     | Lord Abbett International Equity Fund  |
| <b>Interested Board Member(s)</b>                    | Director(s) or Trustee(s) of the Board who are not Independent Board Members                         |
| <b>International Opportunities Fund</b>              | Lord Abbett International Opportunities Fund   |
| <b>International Value Fund</b>                      | Lord Abbett International Value Fund, <i>formerly Lord Abbett International Dividend Income Fund</i> |
| <b>IRS</b>   | Internal Revenue Service   |
| <b>Micro Cap Growth</b>                              | Lord Abbett Micro Cap Growth Fund  |
| <b>Micro Cap Value</b>                               | Lord Abbett Micro Cap Value Fund   |
| <b>Lord Abbett</b>                                   | Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC   |
| <b>Moody’s</b>                                       | Moody’s Investors Service, Inc.  |
| <b>NASDAQ</b>  | National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations exchange                             |
| <b>NAV</b>   | Net asset value  |
| <b>NRSRO</b>   | Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization  |
| <b>NYSE</b>  | New York Stock Exchange  |
| <b>OTC</b>   | Over-the-counter   |
| <b>Rule 12b-1 Plan</b>                               | Distribution and/or Shareholder Service Plan adopted under Rule 12b-1 (under the 1940 Act)           |
| <b>S&amp;P</b>                                       | S&P Global Ratings   |
| <b>SAI</b>   | Statement of Additional Information  |
| <b>SEC</b>   | United States Securities and Exchange Commission   |
| <b>Short Duration High Yield Municipal Bond Fund</b> | Lord Abbett Short Duration High Yield Municipal Bond Fund  |
| <b>Small Cap Value Fund</b>                          | Lord Abbett Small-Cap Value Series   |
| <b>SWP</b>   | Systematic Withdrawal Plan   |
| <b>Ultra Short Bond Fund</b>                         | Lord Abbett Ultra Short Bond Fund  |
| <b>Underlying Funds</b>                              | Other affiliated mutual funds managed by Lord Abbett in which the Fund(s)-of-Funds may invest        |
| <b>Value Opportunities Fund</b>                      | Lord Abbett Value Opportunities Fund   |

## 2.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS, RISKS, AND TECHNIQUES

This section provides further information on certain types of investments and investment techniques that each Fund may use and some of the risks associated with such investments and techniques. When used in this section, “the Fund” refers to any Fund that can use the investments and techniques described below, as specified in the “Fund Investments” section of the SAI or in the Fund’s prospectus, unless otherwise discussed. The composition of the Fund’s portfolio and the investments and techniques that the Fund uses in seeking its investment objective and employing its investment strategies will vary over time. The Fund may use the investments and techniques described below at all times, at some times, or not at all.

**Direct Investments by Funds-of-Funds.** In the case of the Funds-of-Funds, references to each “Fund” or the “Funds” include each Fund-of-Funds as well as certain or all of the Underlying Funds, to the extent permitted by the applicable Underlying Fund’s respective prospectus and SAI. Funds-of-Funds may invest directly in securities and non-securities consistent with the Fund’s investment objectives, policies, and restrictions.

**Duration.** Duration is a measure of the expected life of a bond or other fixed income instrument on a present value basis. Duration incorporates the bond’s or other fixed income instrument’s yield, coupon interest payments, final maturity, and call features into one measure. Duration allows an investment adviser to make certain predictions as to the effect that changes in the level of interest rates will have on the value of the Fund’s portfolio of bonds or other fixed income instruments. However, various factors, such as changes in anticipated prepayment rates, qualitative considerations, and market supply and demand, can cause particular securities to respond somewhat differently to changes in interest rates. Moreover, in the case of mortgage-backed and other complex securities, duration calculations are estimates and are not precise. This is particularly true during periods of market volatility.

The Fund’s portfolio will have a duration that is equal to the weighted average of the durations of the bonds or other fixed income instruments in its portfolio. The longer the Fund’s portfolio’s duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate risk. The shorter the Fund’s portfolio’s duration, the less sensitive it is to interest rate risk. For example, the value of a portfolio with a duration of five years would be expected to fall approximately five percent if interest rates rose by one percentage point and the value of a portfolio with a duration of two years would be expected to fall approximately two percent if interest rates rose by one percentage point.

Some securities may have periodic interest rate adjustments based upon an index such as the 90-day Treasury Bill rate. This periodic interest rate adjustment tends to lessen the volatility of the security’s price. With respect to securities with an interest rate adjustment period of one year or less, the Fund will, when determining average-weighted duration, treat such a security’s maturity as the amount of time remaining until the next interest rate adjustment.

Instruments such as securities guaranteed by the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”), the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”) and similar securities backed by amortizing loans generally have shorter effective maturities than their stated maturities. This is due to changes in amortization caused by demographic and economic forces such as interest rate movements. These effective maturities are calculated based upon historical payment patterns and, therefore, have a shorter duration than would be implied by their stated final maturity. For purposes of determining the Fund’s average maturity, the maturities of such securities will be calculated based upon the issuing agency’s payment factors using industry accepted valuation models.

**Borrowing Money.** The Fund may borrow money. In addition, as described more fully below under “Interfund Lending,” the Fund (provided applicable criteria are met) may borrow from certain other Funds in interfund lending transactions. If the Fund borrows money and experiences a decline in its NAV, the borrowing will increase the effect of its losses on the value of the Fund’s shares.

**Cash Management Practices.** The Fund receives cash as a result of investments in the Fund’s shares, from the sale of the Fund’s investments, and from any income or dividends generated by its portfolio investments and may

handle that cash in different ways. The Fund may maintain a cash balance pending investments in other securities, payment of dividends or redemptions, or in other circumstances where the Fund's portfolio management team believes additional liquidity is necessary or advisable. To the extent that the Fund maintains a cash balance, that portion of the Fund's portfolio will not be exposed to the potential returns (positive or negative) of the market in which the Fund typically invests. The Fund may invest its cash balance in short-term investments, such as repurchase agreements.

Consistent with its investment objective, policies, and restrictions, however, the Fund also may invest in securities, such as exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), or derivatives related to its cash balance. For example, the Fund may buy index futures with an aggregate notional amount that approximately offsets its cash balance to efficiently provide investment exposure while maintaining liquidity or accumulating cash pending purchases of individual securities. In addition, the Fund may buy or sell futures contracts in response to purchases or redemptions of Fund shares in order to maintain market exposure consistent with the Fund's investment objective and strategies. When investing in this manner, the Fund may maintain a net short position with respect to futures, but would segregate liquid assets to cover its net payment obligations.

These cash management practices are ancillary to, and not part of, the Fund's principal investment strategies. As such, the Fund does not intend to invest substantially in this manner under normal circumstances.

**Bank Loans.** The Fund may invest in direct debt instruments, which are interests in amounts owed to lenders or lending syndicates, to suppliers of goods or services, or to other parties by a corporate, governmental, or other borrower. Accordingly, the Fund may invest in senior loans and other bank loans and loan interests. Senior loans primarily include senior floating rate loans, first and second lien loans, and secondarily senior floating rate debt obligations (including those issued by an asset-backed pool), and interests therein. Loan interests may take the form of direct interests acquired during a primary distribution and also may take the form of assignments of, novations of, or participations in, a bank loan acquired in secondary markets. The loans the Fund generally invests in are originated, negotiated, and structured by a U.S. or foreign commercial bank, insurance company, finance company, or other financial institution (collectively, the "Agent") for a group of loan investors ("Loan Investors"). The Agent typically administers and enforces the loan on behalf of the other Loan Investors in the syndicate. In addition, an institution, typically but not always the Agent, holds any collateral on behalf of the Loan Investors.

Purchasers of forms of direct indebtedness, such as senior loans and other bank loans, depend primarily upon the creditworthiness of the corporate or other borrower for payment of principal and interest, and adverse changes in the creditworthiness of the borrower may affect its ability to pay principal and interest. Investment in the indebtedness of borrowers with low creditworthiness involves substantially greater risks, and may be highly speculative. In the event of non-payment of interest or principal, loans that are secured by collateral offer the Fund more protection than comparable unsecured loans. However, no assurance can be given that the collateral for a secured loan can be liquidated or that the proceeds will satisfy the borrower's obligation.

Senior loans and interests in other bank loans may not be readily marketable and may be subject to restrictions on resale. Senior loans and other bank loans may not be considered "securities," and investors in these loans may not be entitled to rely on anti-fraud and other protections under the federal securities laws. In some cases, negotiations involved in disposing of indebtedness may require weeks to complete. Consequently, some indebtedness may be difficult or impossible to dispose of readily at what Lord Abbett believes to be a fair price. In addition, valuation of illiquid indebtedness involves a greater degree of judgment in determining the Fund's NAV than if that value were based on available market quotations, and could result in significant variations in the Fund's daily NAV. At the same time, some loan interests are traded among certain financial institutions and accordingly may be deemed liquid. Further, the settlement period (the period between the execution of the trade and the delivery of cash to the purchaser) for some senior loans and other bank loans transactions may be significantly longer than the settlement period for other investments, and in some case may take longer than seven days. Requirements to obtain the consent of the borrower and/or Agent can delay or impede the Fund's ability to sell loans and can adversely affect the price that can be obtained. As a result, it is possible the Fund may not receive the proceeds from a sale of a loan for a significant period of time, which may affect the Fund's ability to repay

debt, to fund redemptions, to pay dividends, to pay expenses, or to take advantage of new investment opportunities.

**Prepayment.** Senior loans may require or permit, in addition to scheduled payments of interest and principal, the prepayment of the senior loan from free cash flow. The degree to which borrowers prepay senior loans, whether as a contractual requirement or at their election, is unpredictable. Upon a prepayment, either in part or in full, the actual outstanding debt on which the Fund derives interest income will be reduced, and the Fund may decide to invest in lower yielding investments. However, the Fund may receive both a prepayment penalty fee from the prepaying borrower and a facility fee upon the purchase of a new senior loan with the proceeds from the prepayment of the former. The effect of prepayments on the Fund's performance may be mitigated by the receipt of prepayment fees and the Fund's ability to reinvest prepayments in other senior loans that have similar or identical yields.

**Bridge Loans.** Bridge loans are short-term loan arrangements (typically 12 to 18 months) usually made by a Borrower in anticipation of receipt of intermediate-term or long-term permanent financing. Most bridge loans are structured as floating-rate debt with "step-up" provisions under which the interest rate on the bridge loan rises (or "steps up") the longer the loan remains outstanding. In addition, bridge loans commonly contain a conversion feature that allows the bridge Loan Investor to convert its interest to senior exchange notes if the loan has not been prepaid in full on or before its maturity date. Bridge loans may be subordinate to other debt and may be secured or undersecured.

**Assignments.** An investor in senior loans typically purchases "Assignments" from the Agent or other Loan Investors and, by doing so, typically becomes a Loan Investor under the loan agreement with the same rights and obligations as the assigning Loan Investor. Assignments may, however, be arranged through private negotiations between potential assignees and potential assignors, and the rights and obligations acquired by the purchaser of an Assignment may differ from, and be more limited than, those held by the assigning Loan Investor.

**Participations.** "Participations" in a Loan Investor's portion of a senior loan typically will result in the investing Fund having a contractual relationship only with such Loan Investor, rather than with the borrower. As a result, the Fund may have the right to receive payments of principal, interest, and any fees to which it is entitled only from the Loan Investor selling the Participation and only upon receipt by such Loan Investor of such payments from the borrower. 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 and the Fund may not directly benefit from the collateral supporting the senior loan in which it has purchased the Participation. As a result, the Fund may assume the credit risk of both the borrower and the Loan Investor selling the Participation. If a Loan Investor selling a Participation becomes insolvent, the Fund may be treated as a general creditor of such Loan Investor.

**Revolving Credit Facility Loans.** For some loans, such as revolving credit facility loans ("revolvers"), a Loan Investor may be obligated under the loan agreement to, among other things, make additional loans in certain circumstances. The Fund generally will place assets in reserve for these contingent obligations by segregating or otherwise designating a sufficient amount of permissible liquid assets. Delayed draw term loans are similar to revolvers, except that, once drawn upon by the borrower during the commitment period, they remain permanently drawn and become term loans. A prefunded letter of credit (L/C) term loan is a facility created by the borrower in conjunction with an Agent, with the loan backed by letters of credit. Each participant in a prefunded L/C term loan fully funds its commitment amount to the Agent for the facility.

**Convertible Securities.** Convertible securities are preferred stocks or debt obligations that may be converted into or exchanged for shares of common stock (or cash or other securities) of the same or a different issuer at a stated price or exchange ratio. Convertible securities generally rank senior to common stock in a corporation's capital structure but usually are subordinated to comparable non-convertible securities. A convertible security entitles the holder to receive a dividend or interest that generally is paid or accrued on the underlying security until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted, or exchanged. While convertible securities generally do not participate directly in any dividend increases or decreases of the underlying securities, market prices of convertible securities may be affected by such dividend changes or other changes in the underlying securities. In

addition, if the market price of the common stock underlying a convertible security approaches or exceeds the conversion price of the convertible security, the convertible security tends to reflect the market price of the underlying common stock. Alternatively, a convertible security may lose much or all of its value if the value of the underlying common stock falls below the conversion price of the security.

Convertible securities have both equity and fixed income risk characteristics. A significant portion of convertible securities have below investment grade credit ratings and are subject to increased credit and liquidity risks. A convertible security may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the convertible security's governing instrument. If a convertible security held by the Fund is called for redemption, the Fund will be required to convert it into the underlying common stock, sell it to a third party, or permit the issuer to redeem the security. Any of these actions could have an adverse effect on the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective, which, in turn, could result in losses to the Fund.

***Synthetic Convertible Securities.*** Synthetic convertible securities are derivative instruments comprising two or more securities whose combined investment characteristics resemble those of a convertible security. A typical convertible security combines fixed income securities or preferred stock with an equity component, such as a warrant, which offers the potential to own the underlying equity security. The value of a synthetic convertible security may respond differently to market fluctuations than the value of a traditional convertible security in response to the same market fluctuations.

***Contingent Convertible Securities ("CoCos").*** CoCos are typically issued by non-U.S. issuers and are subordinated instruments that are designed to behave like bonds or preferred equity in times of economic health yet absorb losses when a pre-determined trigger event occurs. CoCos are either convertible into equity at a predetermined share price or written down in value based on the specific terms of the individual security if a pre-specified trigger event occurs. Trigger events vary by instrument and are defined by the documents governing the contingent convertible security. Such trigger events may include a decline in the issuer's capital below a specified threshold level, an increase in the issuer's risk-weighted assets, the share price of the issuer falling to a particular level for a certain period of time and certain regulatory events. In addition, CoCos have no stated maturity and have fully discretionary coupons.

***Credit Rating Agencies.*** Credit rating agencies are companies that assign credit ratings, which operate as a preliminary evaluation of the credit risk of a prospective debtor. Credit rating agencies include, but are not limited to, S&P, Moody's, and Fitch. Credit ratings are provided by credit rating agencies that specialize in evaluating credit risk, but there is no guarantee that a highly rated debt instrument will not default or be downgraded. Credit ratings issued by these agencies are designed to evaluate the safety of principal and interest payments of rated securities. They do not evaluate the market risk and, therefore, may not fully reflect the true risks of an investment. In addition, credit rating agencies may not make timely changes in a rating to reflect changes in the economy or in the conditions of the issuer that affect the market value of the security. Consequently, credit ratings are used only by Lord Abbett, the Fund's investment adviser, as a preliminary indicator of investment quality. Lord Abbett may use any NRSRO when evaluating investment quality. Each agency applies its own methodology in measuring creditworthiness and uses a specific rating scale to publish its ratings opinions. More information on credit rating agency ratings is located in Appendix D.

***Debt Securities.*** Debt securities are used by issuers to borrow money. The issuer usually pays a fixed, variable, or floating rate of interest and typically must repay the amount borrowed at the maturity of the instrument. Debt securities include, but are not limited to, bonds, debentures, government obligations, commercial paper, repurchase agreements, and pass-through instruments. A debt security is typically considered "investment grade" if it is rated BBB/Baa or higher by a rating agency or if Lord Abbett determines the security to be of comparable quality. For a discussion of the specific risks associated with debt securities not considered "investment grade," please see "High-Yield or Lower-Rated Debt Securities" below.

***Risks Affecting Debt Securities.*** Prices of debt securities fluctuate and, in particular, are subject to several key risks including, but not limited to, interest rate risk, credit risk, prepayment risk, extension risk, and spread risk.

When interest rates rise or the issuer's or the counterparty's financial condition worsens or is perceived by the market to be at greater risk, the value of debt securities typically declines. Investments in debt securities may face a heightened level of interest rate risk, especially because the Federal Reserve Board has begun to raise rates after a period of historically low rates. While fixed income securities with longer final maturities often have higher yields than those with shorter maturities, their prices are usually more sensitive to changes in interest rates and other factors.

Credit risk, also known as default risk, represents the possibility that an issuer may be unable to meet scheduled interest and principal payment obligations. If the market perceives a deterioration in the creditworthiness of an issuer, the value and liquidity of debt securities issued by that issuer may decline. Spread risk is the potential for the value of the Fund's debt security investments to fall due to the widening of spreads. Debt securities generally compensate for greater credit risk by paying interest at a higher rate. The difference (or "spread") between the yield of a security and the yield of a benchmark, such as a U.S. Treasury security with a comparable maturity, measures the additional interest paid for such greater credit risk. As the spread on a security widens (or increases), the price (or value) of the security falls. Spread widening may occur, among other reasons, as a result of market concerns over the stability of the market, excess supply, general credit concerns in other markets, security- or market-specific credit concerns, or general reductions in risk tolerance.

Prepayment risk, also known as call risk, arises due to the issuer's ability to prepay all or most of the debt security before the stated final maturity date. Prepayments generally rise in response to a decline in interest rates as debtors take advantage of the opportunity to refinance their obligations. This risk often is associated with mortgage securities where the underlying mortgage loans can be refinanced, although it also can be present in corporate or other types of bonds with call provisions. When a prepayment occurs, the Fund may be forced to reinvest in lower yielding debt securities. Extension risk is the chance that, during periods of rising interest rates, certain debt obligations will be paid off substantially more slowly than originally anticipated, and the value of those securities may fall. Extension risk generally is low for short-term bond funds, moderate for intermediate-term bond funds, and high for long-term bond funds.

Debt securities trade on an OTC basis in which parties buy and sell securities through bilateral transactions. While the total amount of assets invested in debt markets has grown in recent years, the capacity for traditional dealer counterparties to engage in debt trading has not kept pace and has decreased, in part due to regulations and capital requirements applicable to these entities. As a result, because market makers provide stability to a market through their intermediary services, a significant reduction in dealer inventories has decreased liquidity and potentially could increase volatility in the debt markets. Such issues may be exacerbated during periods of economic uncertainty or market volatility.

Economic, political, and other events also may affect the prices of broad debt markets, although the risks associated with such events are transmitted to the market via changes in the prevailing levels of interest rates, credit risk, prepayment risk, or spread risk.

Many debt securities use or may use a floating rate based on the London Interbank Offered Rate, or "LIBOR," which is the offered rate for short-term Eurodollar deposits between major international banks. On July 27, 2017, the head of the United Kingdom's ("UK") 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 the Fund or the debt securities or other instruments in which the Fund invests cannot yet be determined.

**Depository Receipts.** The Fund may invest in American Depository Receipts ("ADRs"), Global Depository Receipts ("GDRs"), and similar depository receipts. ADRs typically are trust receipts issued by a U.S. bank or trust company or other financial institution (a "depository") that evidence an indirect interest in underlying securities issued by a foreign entity and deposited with the depository. Prices of ADRs are quoted in U.S. dollars, and ADRs are listed and traded in the United States. GDRs typically are issued by non-U.S. banks or financial institutions (a "foreign depository") to evidence an interest in underlying securities issued by either a U.S. or a non-U.S. entity and deposited with the foreign depository. Ownership of ADRs and GDRs entails similar investment risks to direct

ownership of foreign securities traded outside the United States, including increased market, liquidity, currency, political, information, and other risks. To the extent the Fund acquires depositary receipts through banks that do not have a contractual relationship to issue and service unsponsored depositary receipts with the foreign issuer of the underlying security underlying the depositary receipts, there is an increased possibility that the Fund will not become aware of, and, thus, be able to respond to, corporate actions such as stock splits or rights offerings involving the issuer in a timely manner. In addition, the lack of information may affect the accuracy of the valuation of such instruments. The market value of depositary receipts is dependent upon the market value of the underlying securities and fluctuations in the relative value of the currencies in which the depositary receipts and the underlying securities are quoted. However, by investing in certain depositary receipts, such as ADRs, which are quoted in U.S. dollars, the Fund may avoid currency risks during the payment and delivery (“settlement”) period for purchases and sales.

**Defaulted Bonds and Distressed Debt.** Defaulted bonds are subject to greater risk of loss of income and principal than higher rated securities and are considered speculative. In the event of a default, the Fund may incur additional expenses to seek recovery. The repayment of defaulted bonds is subject to significant uncertainties, and, in some cases, there may be no recovery of repayment. Further, defaulted bonds might be repaid only after lengthy workout or bankruptcy proceedings, during which the issuer might not make any interest or other payments. Workout or bankruptcy proceedings typically result in only partial recovery of cash payments or an exchange of the defaulted bond for other securities of the issuer or its affiliates. Often, the securities received are illiquid or speculative. Investments in securities following a workout or bankruptcy proceeding typically entail a higher degree of risk than investments in securities that have not recently undergone a reorganization or restructuring. Moreover, these securities can be subject to heavy selling or downward pricing pressure after the completion of a workout or bankruptcy proceeding. If the Fund’s evaluation of the anticipated outcome of an investment should prove inaccurate, the Fund could experience a loss. Such securities obtained in exchange may include, but are not limited to, equity securities, warrants, rights, participation interests in sales of assets, and contingent interest obligations.

The Fund may hold securities of issuers that are, or are about to be, involved in reorganizations, financial restructurings, or bankruptcy (also known as “distressed debt”). Defaulted bonds and distressed debt securities are speculative and involve substantial risks in addition to the risks of investing in junk bonds. To the extent that the Fund holds distressed debt, that Fund will be subject to the risk that it may lose a portion or all of its investment in the distressed debt and may incur higher expenses trying to protect its interests in distressed debt. The prices of distressed bonds are likely to be more sensitive to adverse economic changes or individual issuer developments than the prices of higher rated securities. During an economic downturn or substantial period of rising interest rates, distressed security issuers may experience financial stress that would adversely affect their ability to service their principal and interest payment obligations, to meet their projected business goals, or to obtain additional financing. The Fund may invest in additional securities of a defaulted issuer to retain a controlling stake in any bankruptcy proceeding or workout. Even if the Fund invests in tax-exempt bonds, it may receive taxable bonds in connection with the terms of a restructuring deal, which could result in taxable income to investors. In addition, any distressed securities or any securities received in exchange for such securities may be subject to restrictions on resale. In any reorganization or liquidation proceeding, the Fund may lose its entire investment or may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than its original investment. Moreover, it is unlikely that a liquid market will exist for the Fund to sell its holdings in distressed debt securities.

**Derivatives.** The Fund may invest in, or enter into, derivatives for a variety of reasons, including to hedge certain market or interest rate risks, to provide a substitute for purchasing or selling particular securities, or to increase potential returns. Generally, derivatives are financial contracts whose values depend upon, or are derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index, and may relate to stocks, bonds, interest rates, currencies or currency exchange rates, commodities and other assets, and related indices. Examples of derivative instruments the Fund may use include options contracts, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forward contracts, forward currency contracts, structured notes, swap agreements, and credit derivatives. Derivatives may provide a cheaper, quicker, or more efficient or specifically focused way for the Fund to invest or to hedge than “traditional” securities would. The Fund’s portfolio management team, however, may decide not to employ some or all of these

strategies. Similarly, suitable derivatives transactions may not be available or available on the terms desired, and derivatives transactions may not perform as intended. There is no assurance that any derivatives strategy used by the Fund will succeed.

Derivatives can be volatile and involve various types and degrees of risk, depending upon the characteristics of the particular derivative and the portfolio as a whole. Derivatives permit the Fund to increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, to which its portfolio is exposed in much the same way as the Fund can increase or decrease the level of risk, or change the character of the risk, of its portfolio by making investments in specific securities. However, derivatives may entail investment exposures that are greater than their cost or notional value would suggest, meaning that a small investment in derivatives could have a large potential impact on the Fund's performance. The Fund's notional derivatives exposure and/or the percentage of total investment exposure may be greater than the total value of its assets, which would have the result of leveraging the Fund.

If the Fund invests in derivatives at inopportune times or judges market conditions incorrectly, such investments may lower the Fund's return or result in a loss. The Fund also could experience losses if its derivatives were poorly correlated with its other investments (or not correlated as expected), or if the Fund were unable to liquidate its position because of an illiquid secondary market. The market for many derivatives is, or suddenly can become, illiquid. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid, and unpredictable changes in the prices for derivatives.

Derivatives may be purchased on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions (referred to as "OTC derivatives"). Exchange-traded derivatives generally are guaranteed by the clearing agency that is the issuer or counterparty to such derivatives. This guarantee usually is supported by a daily variation margin system operated by the clearing agency in order to reduce overall credit risk. As a result, unless the clearing agency defaults, there is relatively little counterparty credit risk associated with derivatives purchased on an exchange. In contrast, many OTC derivatives are not guaranteed by a clearing agency and are therefore not subject to the same level of credit evaluation and regulatory oversight as are centrally cleared derivatives. Accordingly, each party to an OTC derivative that is not centrally cleared bears the risk that the counterparty will default. Accordingly, Lord Abbett will consider the creditworthiness of counterparties to non-centrally cleared OTC derivatives in the same manner as it would review the credit quality of a security to be purchased by the Fund. OTC derivatives generally are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives.

New requirements also may result in increased uncertainty about counterparty credit risk, and they also may limit the flexibility of the Fund to protect its interests in the event of an insolvency of a derivatives counterparty. In the event of a counterparty's (or its affiliate's) insolvency, the Fund's ability to exercise remedies, such as the termination of transactions, netting of obligations and realization of collateral, could be stayed or eliminated under new special resolution regimes adopted in the United States, the European Union and various other jurisdictions. Such regimes provide government authorities with broad authority to intervene when a financial institution is experiencing financial difficulty and may prohibit the Fund from exercising termination rights based on the financial institution's insolvency. In particular, with respect to counterparties who are subject to such proceedings in the European Union, the liabilities of such counterparties to the Fund could be reduced, eliminated, or converted to equity in such counterparties (sometimes referred to as a "bail in").

**Asset Coverage.** The Fund will be required to "set aside" liquid assets (often referred to as "asset segregation"), or engage in other SEC staff-approved measures (such as entering into offsetting transactions) to "cover" open positions with respect to certain kinds of derivatives. The amount and type of assets set aside will depend on the nature and type of the transaction, the Fund's current and potential obligations under the transaction, and other factors considered by Lord Abbett, and may not equal the amount of the derivative's full notional value. To the extent the Fund sets aside assets equal to only its net obligations under a derivative, the Fund may be employing leverage to a greater extent than if the Fund were to segregate assets equal to the full notional value of such transactions. The Fund reserves the right to modify its asset segregation policies in the future.

**Regulatory and Market Considerations.** New U.S. and non-U.S. rules and regulations could, among other things, further restrict the Fund's ability to engage in, or increase the cost to the Fund of, derivatives transactions by, for example, making some types of derivatives no longer available to the Fund or making them less liquid. The

implementation of the clearing requirement has increased the costs of derivatives transactions for the Fund, because the Fund has to pay fees to its clearing members and is typically required to post more margin for cleared derivatives than it has historically posted for bilateral derivatives. The costs of derivatives transactions are expected to increase further as clearing members raise their fees to cover the costs of additional capital requirements and other regulatory changes applicable to the clearing members. These rules and regulations are new and evolving, so their potential impact on the Fund and the financial system are not yet known. While the new rules and regulations and central clearing of some derivatives transactions are designed to reduce systemic risk (*i.e.*, the risk that the interdependence of large derivatives dealers could cause them to suffer liquidity, solvency, or other challenges simultaneously), there is no assurance that they will achieve that result, and, in the meantime, central clearing and related requirements expose the Fund to new kinds of costs and risks.

**Credit Derivatives.** The Fund may engage in credit derivative transactions, such as those involving default price risk derivatives and market spread derivatives. Default price risk derivatives are linked to the price of reference securities or loans after a default by the issuer or borrower, respectively. Market spread derivatives are based on the risk that changes in certain market factors, such as credit spreads, can cause a decline in the value of a security, loan, or index. There are three basic transactional forms for credit derivatives: swaps, options, and structured instruments. The use of credit derivatives is a highly specialized activity that involves strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio security transactions. If Lord Abbett is incorrect in its forecasts of default risks, market spreads, or other applicable factors, the investment performance of the Fund would diminish compared with what it would have been if these techniques were not used. Moreover, even if Lord Abbett is correct in its forecasts, there is a risk that a credit derivative position may correlate imperfectly with the price of the asset or liability being hedged. The Fund's risk of loss in a credit derivative transaction varies with the form of the transaction. For example, if the Fund purchases a default option on a security, and, if no default occurs, with respect to the security, the Fund's loss is limited to the premium it paid for the default option. In contrast, if there is a default by the grantor of a default option, the Fund's loss will include both the premium it paid for the option and the decline in value of the underlying security that the default option hedged. If the Fund "writes" (sells) protection, it may be liable for the entire value of the security underlying the derivative. For more information about the Fund's investments in credit default swaps, please see "Credit Default Swaps and Similar Instruments" below.

**Combined Transactions.** The Fund may enter into multiple transactions, including multiple options transactions, multiple futures transactions, multiple currency transactions including forward currency contracts and multiple interest rate transactions, swaps, structured notes, and any combination of futures, options, swaps, currency, and interest rate transactions ("component transactions"), instead of a single transaction, as part of a single or combined strategy when, in the opinion of Lord Abbett, it is in the best interests of the Fund to do so. A combined transaction will usually contain elements of risk that are present in each of its component transactions. Although combined transactions normally are entered into based on Lord Abbett's judgment that the combined strategies will reduce risk or otherwise more effectively achieve the desired portfolio management goal, it is possible that the combination instead will increase such risks or hinder achievement of the portfolio management objective.

**Commodity-Related Investments.** Commodity-related investments provide exposure to the investment returns of the commodities markets, without investing directly in physical commodities. Commodities include assets that have tangible properties, such as oil, metals, and agricultural products. Commodity-related investments include, for example, commodity index-linked notes, swap agreements, commodity options, futures, and options on futures. Commodity-related investments may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities, particularly if the instruments involve leverage. The value of commodity-related investments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, embargoes, tariffs, and international economic, political, and regulatory developments. Use of leveraged commodity-related investments creates the possibility for greater loss (including the likelihood of greater volatility of the Fund's NAV), and there can be no assurance that the Fund's use of leverage will be successful. Tax considerations and position limits established by the commodities exchanges may limit the Fund's ability to pursue investments in commodity-related investments.

**Options Contracts on Securities and Securities Indices.** The Fund may purchase call and put options and write covered call and put option contracts. A call option gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and obligates the writer to sell, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period or at a specific date depending on the terms of the option. Conversely, a put option gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying security or securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period or at a specific date depending on the terms of the option. The Fund also may enter into “closing purchase transactions” in order to terminate its obligation to deliver the underlying security. A closing purchase transaction is the purchase of a call option (at a cost that may be more or less than the premium received for writing the original call option) on the same security, with the same exercise price and call period as the option previously written. If the Fund is unable to enter into a closing purchase transaction, it may be required to hold a security that it otherwise might have sold to protect against depreciation. Certain “European” options only permit exercise on the exercise date. Options that are not exercised or closed out before their expiration date will expire worthless.

A “covered call option” written by the Fund is a call option with respect to which the Fund owns the underlying security. A put option written by the Fund is covered when, among other things, the Fund segregates permissible liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option to fulfill the obligation undertaken or otherwise covers the transaction. The principal reason for writing covered call and put options is to realize, through the receipt of premiums, a greater return than would be realized on the underlying securities alone. The Fund receives a premium from writing covered call or put options, which it retains whether or not the option is exercised. However, the Fund also may realize a loss on the transaction greater than the premium received.

There is no assurance that sufficient trading interest to create a liquid secondary market on a securities exchange will exist for any particular option or at any particular time, and, for some options, no such secondary market may exist. A liquid secondary market in an option may cease to exist for a variety of reasons. In the past, for example, higher than anticipated trading activity or order flow, or other unforeseen events, at times have rendered certain of the clearing facilities inadequate and resulted in the institution of special procedures, such as trading rotations, restrictions on certain types of orders, trading halts, or suspensions in one or more options. Similar events, or events that may otherwise interfere with the timely execution of customers’ orders, may recur in the future. In such event, it might not be possible to effect closing transactions in particular options. If, as a covered call option writer, the Fund is unable to effect a closing purchase transaction in a secondary market, it will not be able to sell the underlying security until the option expires or it delivers the underlying security upon exercise, or it otherwise covers its position.

The securities exchanges generally have established limits on the maximum number of options an investor or group of investors acting in concert may write. The Fund, Lord Abbett, and other funds advised by Lord Abbett may constitute such a group. These limits could restrict the Fund’s ability to purchase or write options on a particular security.

**Specific Options Transactions.** Examples of the types of options the Fund may purchase and sell include call and put options in respect of specific securities (or groups or “baskets” of specific securities) such as U.S. Government securities, mortgage-related securities, asset-backed securities, foreign sovereign debt, corporate debt securities, equity securities (including convertible securities), and Eurodollar instruments that are traded on U.S. or foreign securities exchanges or in the OTC market, or securities indices, currencies, or futures.

An option on an index is similar to an option in respect of specific securities, except that settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. Instead, the option holder receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the option is based is greater than in the case of a call, or less than in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. Thus, the effectiveness of purchasing or writing index options will depend upon price movements in the level of the index rather than the price of a particular security.

The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options on foreign currencies. These options convey the right to buy or sell the underlying currency at a price that is expected to be lower or higher than the spot price of the currency at the time the option is exercised or expires.

Successful use by the Fund of options and options on futures will be subject to Lord Abbett's ability to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual securities, the relevant securities market generally, foreign currencies, or interest rates. To the extent Lord Abbett's predictions are incorrect, the Fund may incur losses. The use of options also can increase the Fund's transaction costs.

**OTC Options.** OTC options contracts ("OTC options") differ from exchange-traded options in several respects. OTC options are transacted directly with dealers and not with a clearing corporation and there is a risk of nonperformance by the dealer as a result of the insolvency of the dealer or otherwise, in which event the Fund may experience material losses. Because there is no exchange, pricing normally is done by reference to information from the counterparty or other market participants.

In the case of OTC options, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option at any given time. Consequently, the Fund may be able to realize the value of an OTC option it has purchased only by exercising it or entering into a closing sale transaction with the dealer that issued it. Similarly, when the Fund writes an OTC option, generally it can close out that option before its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer to which the Fund originally wrote it. If a covered call option writer cannot effect a closing transaction, it cannot sell the underlying security until the option expires or the option is exercised. Therefore, a covered call option writer of an OTC option may not be able to sell an underlying security even though it otherwise might be advantageous to do so. Likewise, a put writer of an OTC option may be unable to sell the securities segregated to cover the put for other investment purposes while it is obligated as a put writer. Similarly, a purchaser of such put or call option also might find it difficult to terminate its position on a timely basis in the absence of a secondary market.

**Foreign Currency Options.** The Fund may take positions in options on foreign currencies. For example, if the Fund were to enter into a contract to purchase securities denominated in a foreign currency, it effectively could fix the maximum U.S. dollar cost of the securities by purchasing call options on that foreign currency. Similarly, if the Fund held securities denominated in a foreign currency and anticipated a decline in the value of that currency against the U.S. dollar, it could hedge against such a decline by purchasing a put option on the currency involved. The Fund's ability to establish and close out positions in such options is subject to the maintenance of a liquid secondary market. There can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for a particular option at any specific time. In addition, options on foreign currencies are affected by all of those factors that influence foreign exchange rates and investments generally. Option markets may be closed while non-U.S. securities markets or round-the-clock interbank currency markets are open, and this can create price and rate discrepancies.

The value of a foreign currency option depends on, among other factors, the value of the underlying currency, relative to the U.S. dollar. Other factors affecting the value of an option are the time remaining until expiration, the relationship of the exercise price to market price, the historical price volatility of the underlying currency and general market conditions. As a result, changes in the value of an option position may have no relationship to the investment merit of the foreign currency. Whether a profit or loss is realized on a closing transaction depends on the price movement of the underlying currency and the market value of the option.

There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to liquidate an option at a favorable price at any time before expiration. In the event of insolvency of the counterparty, the Fund may be unable to liquidate a foreign currency option. Accordingly, it may not be possible to effect closing transactions with respect to certain options, with the result that the Fund would have to exercise those options that it had purchased in order to realize any profit.

**Yield Curve Options.** Options on the yield spread or differential between two securities are commonly referred to as "yield curve" options. In contrast to other types of options, a yield curve option is based on the difference between the yields of designated securities, rather than the prices of the individual securities, and is settled through cash payments. Accordingly, a yield curve option is profitable to the holder if this differential widens (in

the case of a call) or narrows (in the case of a put), regardless of whether the yields of the underlying securities increase or decrease.

The trading of yield curve options is subject to all of the risks associated with the trading of other types of options. In addition, such options present a risk of loss even if the yield of one of the underlying securities remains constant, or if the spread moves in a direction or to an extent that was not anticipated.

**Forward Contracts.** A forward contract is a contract to buy or sell an underlying security or currency at a pre-determined price on a specific future date. The initial terms of the contract are set so that the contract has no value at the outset. Forward prices are obtained by taking the spot price of a security or currency and adding it to the cost of carry. No money is transferred upon entering into a forward contract and the trade is delayed until the specified date when the underlying security or currency is exchanged for cash. As the price of the underlying security or currency moves, the value of the contract also changes, generally in the same direction. A relatively small price movement in a forward contract may result in substantial losses to the Fund, exceeding the amount of the margin paid. Forward contracts increase the Fund's risk exposure to the underlying references and their attendant risks, including but not limited to, credit, market, foreign currency and interest rate risks, while also exposing the Fund to correlation, counterparty, hedging, leverage, liquidity, pricing, and volatility risks.

Forward contracts generally involve the same characteristics and risks as futures contracts, except for several differences. Forward contracts are generally OTC contracts, meaning they are not market traded, and are not necessarily marked to market on a daily basis. They settle only at the pre-determined settlement date, which can result in deviations between forward prices and futures prices, especially in circumstances where interest rates and futures prices are positively correlated. In addition, in the absence of exchange trading and involvement of clearing houses, there are no standardized terms for forward contracts. As a result, the parties are free to establish such settlement times and underlying amounts of a security or currency as desirable, which may vary from the standardized terms available through any futures contract. Lastly, forward contracts, as two-party obligations for which there is no secondary market, involve counterparty credit risk that is not present with futures. For more information about forward currency contracts, please see "Foreign Currency Transactions" below.

**Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.** As discussed under "Cash Management Practices," the Fund may buy and sell index futures contracts to manage cash. For example, the Fund may gain exposure to an index or to a basket of securities by entering into futures contracts rather than buying securities in a rising market.

In addition to investing in futures for cash management purposes, the Fund may engage in futures and options on futures transactions in accordance with its investment objective and policies, for example, to hedge risk or to efficiently gain desired investment exposure. Futures are standardized, exchange-traded contracts to buy or sell a specified quantity of an underlying reference instrument at a specified price at a specified future date. In most cases, the contractual obligation under a futures contract may be offset or "closed out" before the settlement date so that the parties do not have to make or take delivery. The Fund usually closes out a futures contract by buying or selling, as the case may be, an identical, offsetting futures contract. This transaction, which is effected through an exchange, cancels the obligation to make or take delivery of the underlying reference instrument. An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right (and the writer of the option the obligation) to assume a position in a futures contract at a specified exercise price within a specified period of time. In the United States, a clearing organization associated with the exchange on which futures are traded assumes responsibility for closing out transactions and guarantees that, as between the clearing members of an exchange, the sale and purchase obligations will be performed with regard to all positions that remain open at the termination of the contract. Thus, each holder of such a futures contract bears the credit risk of the clearinghouse (and has the benefit of its financial strength) rather than that of a particular counterparty.

When the Fund enters into a futures contract or writes an option, it generally must deposit collateral or "initial margin" equal to a percentage of the contract value. Each day thereafter until the futures contract or option is closed out, matures, or expires, the Fund will pay or receive additional "variation margin" depending on, among other factors, changes in the price of the underlying reference instrument. When the futures contract is closed out, if the Fund experiences a loss equal to or greater than the margin amount, the Fund will pay the margin amount

plus any amount in excess of the margin amount. If the Fund experiences a loss of less than the margin amount, the Fund receives the difference. Likewise, if the Fund experiences a gain, the Fund receives the margin amount and any gain in excess of the margin amount.

Although some futures contracts call for making or taking delivery of the underlying securities, commodities, or other assets, generally these obligations are closed out before delivery by offsetting purchases or sales of matching futures contracts (same exchange, delivery month, and underlying security, asset, or index). Certain futures contracts may permit cash settlement. If an offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Fund realizes a gain, or if it is more, the Fund realizes a loss. Conversely, if an offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Fund realizes a gain, or if it is less, the Fund realizes a loss. The Fund will also incur transaction costs.

The Fund may enter into futures contracts in U.S. domestic markets or on exchanges located outside the United States. Foreign markets may offer advantages such as trading opportunities or arbitrage possibilities not available in the United States. Foreign markets, however, may have greater risk potential than domestic markets. For example, some foreign exchanges are principal markets so that no common clearing facility exists and an investor may look only to the broker for performance of the contract. In addition, adverse changes in the currency exchange rate could eliminate any profits that the Fund might realize in trading and could cause the Fund to incur losses.

Futures contracts and options on futures contracts present substantial risks, including the following:

- Unanticipated market movements may cause the Fund to experience substantial losses.
- There may be an imperfect correlation between the change in the market value of the underlying reference instrument and the price of the futures contract.
- The loss that the Fund may incur in entering into futures contracts and in writing call options on futures is potentially unlimited and may exceed the amount of the premium received.
- Futures markets are highly volatile, and the use of futures may increase the volatility of the Fund's NAV.
- Because of low initial margin requirements, futures and options on futures trading involve a high degree of leverage. As a result, a relatively small price movement in a contract can cause substantial losses to the Fund.
- There may not be a liquid secondary trading market for a futures contract or related options, limiting the Fund's ability to close out a contract when desired.
- The clearinghouse on which a futures contract or option on a futures contract is traded may fail to perform its obligations.

***Index and Interest Rate Futures Transactions.*** An index future obligates the Fund to pay or receive an amount of cash equal to a fixed dollar amount specified in the futures contract multiplied by the difference between the settlement price of the contract on the contract's last trading day and the value of the index based on the prices of the securities that comprise the index at the opening of trading in such securities on the next business day.

The market value of a stock index futures contract is based primarily on the value of the underlying index. Changes in the value of the index will cause roughly corresponding changes in the market price of the futures contract. If a stock index is established that is made up of securities whose market characteristics closely parallel the market characteristics of the securities in the Fund's portfolio, then the market value of a futures contract on that index should fluctuate in a way closely resembling the market fluctuation of the portfolio. Thus, for example, if the Fund sells futures contracts, a decline in the market value of the portfolio will be offset by an increase in the value of the short futures position to the extent of the hedge (*i.e.*, the size of the futures position). However, if the market

value of the portfolio were to increase, the Fund would lose money on the futures contracts. Stock index futures contracts are subject to the same risks as other futures contracts.

An interest rate future generally obligates the Fund to purchase or sell an amount of a specific debt security. Such purchase or sale will take place at a future date at a specific price established by the terms of the futures contract.

**Participation Notes.** Participation notes (“P-notes”), which are a type of structured note, are instruments that may be used by a Fund to provide exposure to equity or debt securities, currencies, or markets. P-notes are typically used when a direct investment in the underlying security is either unpermitted or restricted due to country-specific regulations or other restrictions. Generally, local banks and broker-dealers associated with non-U.S.-based brokerage firms buy securities listed on certain foreign exchanges and then issue P-notes which are designed to replicate the performance of certain issuers and markets. The performance results of P-notes will not replicate exactly the performance of the issuers or markets that the notes seek to replicate due to transaction costs and other expenses. P-notes are similar to depositary receipts except that: (1) broker-dealers, not U.S. banks, are depositories for the securities; and (2) noteholders may remain anonymous to market regulators.

The price, performance, and liquidity of the P-note are all linked directly to the underlying securities. If a P-note were held to maturity, the issuer would pay to, or receive from, the purchaser the difference between the nominal value of the underlying instrument at the time of purchase and that instrument’s value at maturity. The holder of a P-note that is linked to a particular underlying security or instrument may be entitled to receive any dividends paid in connection with that underlying security or instrument, but typically does not receive voting rights as it would if it directly owned the underlying security or instrument. P-notes involve transaction costs. Investments in P-notes involve the same risks associated with a direct investment in the underlying security or instrument that they seek to replicate. The foreign investments risk associated with P-notes is similar to those of investing in depositary receipts. However, unlike depositary receipts, P-notes are subject to counterparty risk based on the uncertainty of the counterparty’s (i.e., the broker’s) ability to meet its obligations.

In addition to providing access to otherwise closed or restricted markets, P-notes also can provide a less expensive option to direct investment, where ownership by foreign investors is permitted, by reducing registration and transaction costs in acquiring and selling local registered shares. P-notes can offer greater liquidity in markets that restrict the ability of a Fund to dispose of an investment by either restricting transactions by size or requiring registration and/or regulatory approvals.

Additionally, while P-notes may be listed on an exchange, there is no guarantee that a liquid market will exist or that the counterparty or issuer of a P-note will be willing to repurchase such instrument when a Fund wishes to sell it. Therefore, the Fund may be exposed to the risks of mispricing or improper valuation and to the extent a P-note is determined to be illiquid, it would be subject to the Fund’s limitation on investments in illiquid securities.

**Swap Agreements.** The Fund may enter into interest rate, equity index, credit default, currency, Consumer Price Index (“CPI”), total return, municipal default, and other types of swap agreements. The Fund may also enter into swaptions (options on swaps). A swap transaction involves an agreement between two parties to exchange different types of cash flows based on a specified or “notional” amount. The cash flows exchanged in a specific transaction may be, among other things, payments that are the equivalent of interest on a principal amount, payments that would compensate the purchaser for losses on a defaulted security or basket of securities, or payments reflecting the performance of one or more specified securities, currencies, or indices. The Fund may enter into OTC swap transactions and may also enter into swaps that are traded on exchanges and are subject to central clearing. OTC swaps are subject to the credit risk of the counterparty, as well as the risks associated with the swap itself.

#### ***Specific Types of Swaps.***

**Interest Rate Swaps.** In an interest rate swap, the Fund may agree to either make or receive payments that are equivalent to a fixed rate of interest on the specified notional amount in exchange for payments that are equivalent to a variable rate of interest (based on a specified index) on the same notional amount. Interest rate

swaps may enable the Fund to either increase or reduce its interest rate risk or adjust the duration of its bond portfolio.

**Credit Default Swaps and Similar Instruments.** In a credit default swap, one party agrees to make one or more premium payments in exchange for the agreement of its counterparty to pay an amount equal to the decrease in value of a specified bond or a basket of debt securities upon the occurrence of a default or other “credit event” relating to the issuers of the specified bond or debt. In such transactions, the first party effectively acquires protection from default by the issuer. The Fund also may be the protection buyer or seller in a credit default swap. A credit default swap is a type of credit derivative. For more information about the Fund’s investments in credit derivatives, please see “Credit Derivatives” above.

**Currency Swaps.** Currency swaps involve the exchange of cash flows on a notional amount of two or more currencies based on their relative future values.

**CPI Swaps.** A CPI swap is a contract in which one party agrees to pay a fixed rate in exchange for a variable rate, which is the rate of change in the CPI during the life of the contract. Payments generally are based on a notional amount of principal. Some CPI swaps are on a zero coupon basis, meaning that the floating rate will be based on the cumulative CPI during the life of the contract, and the fixed rate will compound until the swap’s maturity date, at which point the payments are netted. The Fund also may enter into CPI swaps on a year-over-year basis, in which one party pays an annual fixed rate on some notional amount at specified intervals (*e.g.*, monthly, annually, etc.), while the other party pays the annual year-over-year inflation rate at specified intervals.

**Total Return Swaps.** In a total return swap, the Fund may agree to make payments in exchange for the right to receive payments equivalent to any appreciation in the value of an underlying security, index, or other asset, as well as payments equivalent to any distributions made on that asset, over the term of the swap. If the value of the asset underlying a total return swap declines over the term of the swap, the Fund also may be required to pay an amount equal to that decline in value to its counterparty. The Fund also may be the seller of a total return swap, in which case it would receive premium payments and an amount equal to any decline in value of the underlying asset over the term of the swap, but it would be obligated to pay its counterparty an amount equal to any appreciation.

**Municipal Default Swaps.** In a municipal default swap, the Fund agrees to make one or more premium payments in exchange for the agreement of its counterparty to pay an amount equal to the decrease in value of a specified bond or a basket of debt securities upon the occurrence of a default or other “credit event” relating to the issuers of the debt. In such transactions, the Fund effectively acquires protection from the municipal default swap counterparty from decreases in the creditworthiness of the debt issuers. In addition to investing in municipal default swaps, the Fund also may invest in an index whose underlying (or reference) assets are municipal default swaps.

**Swaptions.** The Fund also may purchase and write options contracts on swaps, commonly known as “swaptions.” A swaption is an option to enter into a swap agreement. As with other types of options, the buyer of a swaption pays a non-refundable premium for the option and obtains the right, but not the obligation, to enter into an underlying swap on agreed upon terms. The seller of a swaption receives the premium in exchange for the obligation to enter into the agreed upon underlying swap if the option is exercised.

**Interest Rate Caps, Floors, and Collars.** The Fund also may purchase or sell interest rate caps, floors, and collars. The purchaser of an interest rate cap is entitled to receive payments only to the extent that a specified index exceeds a predetermined interest rate. The purchaser of an interest floor is entitled to receive payments only to the extent that a specified index is below a predetermined interest rate. A collar effectively combines a cap and a floor so that the purchaser receives payments only when market interest rates are within a specified range of interest rates.

**Additional Risks Associated with Swaps.** The use of swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks that are different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. If Lord

Abbett is incorrect in its forecasts of the interest rates, currency exchange rates, or market values, or its assessments of the credit risks, the investment performance of the Fund may be less favorable than it would have been if the Fund had not entered into them. Because many of these arrangements are bilateral agreements between the Fund and its counterparty, each party is exposed to the risk of default by the other. In addition, they may involve a small investment of cash compared to the risk assumed with the result that small changes may produce disproportionate and substantial gains or losses to the Fund. The Fund's obligations under swap agreements generally are collateralized by cash or government securities based on the amount by which the value of the payments that the Fund is required to make exceeds the value of the payments that its counterparty is required to make. Conversely, the Fund requires its counterparties to provide collateral on a comparable basis, except in those instances in which Lord Abbett is satisfied with the claims-paying ability of the counterparty without such collateral.

**Future Developments.** The Fund may take advantage of opportunities in options, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, and any other derivatives, including derivatives that are not presently contemplated for use by the Fund and derivatives that are not currently available but that may be developed, to the extent such opportunities are both consistent with the Fund's investment objective and legally permissible for the Fund.

**Equity Securities.** Equity securities generally represent equity or ownership interests in an issuer. These include common stocks, preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks, warrants, and similar instruments. The value of equity securities fluctuates based on changes in a company's financial condition, and on market, economic, and political conditions, as well as changes in inflation and consumer demand.

**Common Stocks.** Common stocks represent an ownership interest in a company. The prices of common stocks generally fluctuate more than the prices of other securities and reflect changes in, among other things, a company's financial condition and in overall market, economic, and political conditions, changes in inflation, and consumer demand. A company's common stock generally is a riskier investment than its fixed income securities, and it is possible that the Fund may experience a substantial or complete loss on an individual equity investment.

**Initial Public Offering ("IPO").** The Fund may purchase securities of companies that are offered pursuant to an IPO. IPOs are typically new issues of equity and fixed income securities. IPOs have many of the same risks as small company stocks and bonds. IPOs do not have trading history, and information about the company may be available only for recent periods. The Fund's purchase of shares or bonds issued in IPOs also exposes it to the risks inherent in those sectors of the market where these new issuers operate. The market for IPO issuers has been volatile and share and bond prices of newly priced companies have fluctuated in significant amounts over short periods of time. The Fund may be limited in the quantity of IPO and secondary offering shares and bonds that it may buy at the offering price, or the Fund may be unable to buy any shares or bonds of an IPO or secondary offering at the offering price. The Fund's investment return earned during a period of substantial investment in IPOs may not be sustained during other periods when the Fund makes more limited, or no, investments in IPOs. As the size of the Fund increases, the impact of IPOs on the Fund's performance generally would decrease; conversely, as the size of the Fund decreases, the impact of IPOs on the Fund's performance generally would increase.

**Preferred Stocks.** Preferred stocks are securities that evidence ownership in a corporation and pay a fixed or variable stream of dividends. These stocks represent an ownership interest and provide the holder with claims on the issuer's earnings and assets, which generally come before common stockholders but after bond holders and other creditors. The obligations of an issuer of preferred stock, including dividend and other payment obligations, typically may not be accelerated by the holders of such preferred stock on the occurrence of an event of default or other non-compliance by the issuer. Investments in preferred stock are also subject to market and liquidity risks. The value of a preferred stock may be highly sensitive to the economic condition of the issuer, and markets for preferred stock may be less liquid than the market for the issuer's common stock.

**Warrants and Rights.** Warrants and rights are types of securities that give a holder a right to purchase shares of common stock. Warrants are options to buy from the issuer a stated number of shares of common stock at a specified price, usually higher than the market price at the time of issuance, until a stated expiration date. Rights represent a privilege offered to holders of record of issued securities to subscribe (usually on a pro rata basis) for

additional securities of the same class, of a different class or of a different issuer, usually at a price below the initial offering price of the common stock and before the common stock is offered to the general public. The holders of warrants and rights have no voting rights, receive no dividends and have no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer. Warrants and rights may be transferable. The value of a warrant or right may not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities. The risk of investing in a warrant or a right is that the warrant or the right may expire before the market value of the common stock exceeds the price specified by the warrant or the right. If not exercised before their stated expiration date, warrants and rights cease to have value and may result in a total loss of the money invested. Investments in warrants and rights are considered speculative.

**Foreign Currency Transactions.** The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions for a variety of purposes, including: to fix in U.S. dollars, between trade and settlement date, the value of a security the Fund has agreed to buy or sell; to hedge the U.S. dollar value of securities the Fund already owns, particularly if it expects a decrease in the value of the currency in which the foreign security is denominated; or to gain or reduce exposure to the foreign currency for investment purposes.

The Fund also may invest directly in foreign currencies or hold financial instruments that provide exposure to foreign currencies or may invest in securities that trade in, or receive revenues in, foreign currencies. To the extent the Fund invests in such currencies, it will be subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. Fund assets that are denominated in foreign currencies may be devalued against the U.S. dollar, resulting in a loss. A U.S. dollar investment in depositary receipts or shares of foreign issuers traded on U.S. exchanges may be impacted differently by currency fluctuations than would an investment made in a foreign currency on a foreign exchange in shares of the same issuer. Foreign currencies also are subject to the risks described under “Foreign and Emerging Market Company Risk” and/or “Foreign Currency Risk” in the applicable Fund’s prospectus, such as inflation, interest and taxation rates, budget deficits and low savings rates, political factors, and government control.

The Fund may engage in “spot” (cash or currency) transactions and also may use forward contracts. For more information about forward contracts, generally, please see “Forward Contracts” above. A forward contract on foreign currencies, which is also known as a forward currency contract, involves obligations of one party to purchase, and another party to sell, a specific currency at a future date (which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties), at a price set at the time the contract is entered into. These contracts typically are traded in the OTC derivatives market and entered into directly between financial institutions or other currency traders and their customers. The cost to the Fund of engaging in forward currency contracts varies with factors such as the currencies involved, the length of the contract period, and the market conditions then prevailing, among others. The use of forward currency contracts does not eliminate fluctuations in the prices of the underlying securities the Fund owns or intends to acquire, but it does fix a rate of exchange in advance. In addition, although forward currency contracts limit the risk of loss due to a decline in the value of the hedged currencies, at the same time they limit any potential gain that might result should the value of the currencies increase.

The Fund may enter into forward currency contracts with respect to specific transactions. For example, when the Fund enters into a contract for the purchase or sale of a security denominated in a foreign currency, or when the Fund anticipates the receipt in a foreign currency of dividend or interest payments on a security that it holds, the Fund may desire to “lock in” the U.S. dollar price of the security or the U.S. dollar equivalent of the payment, by entering into a forward currency contract for the purchase or sale, for a fixed amount of U.S. dollars or foreign currency, of the amount of foreign currency involved in the underlying transaction. If the transaction went as planned, the Fund would be able to protect itself against a possible loss resulting from an adverse change in the relationship between the currency exchange rates during the period between the date on which the security is purchased or sold, or on which the payment is declared, and the date on which such payments are made or received.

The Fund also may use forward currency contracts in connection with existing portfolio positions to lock in the U.S. dollar value of those positions, to increase the Fund's exposure to foreign currencies that Lord Abbett believes may rise in value relative to the U.S. dollar, or to shift the Fund's exposure to foreign currency fluctuations from one country to another. For example, when Lord Abbett believes that the currency of a particular foreign country may suffer a substantial decline relative to the U.S. dollar or another currency, it may enter into a forward currency contract to sell the former foreign currency. This investment practice generally is referred to as "cross-hedging" if two non- U.S. currencies are used. However, the Fund's foreign currency transactions are not limited to transactions that involve a sale or purchase of a security.

The Fund may also enter into forward currency contracts that are contractually required to, or may, settle in cash, including non-deliverable forward currency contracts ("NDFs"). Cash-settled forward currency contracts, including NDFs, generally require the netting of the parties' liabilities. Under a cash-settled forward currency contract that requires netting, the Fund or its counterparty to the contract is required only to deliver a cash payment in the amount of its net obligation in settlement of the contract. Forward currency contracts are marked-to-market on a daily basis, and the Fund may be required to post collateral to a counterparty pursuant to the terms of a forward currency contract if the Fund has a net obligation under the contract. Likewise, the Fund may be entitled to receive collateral under the terms of a forward contract if the counterparty has a net obligation under the contract. A forward contract generally requires the delivery of initial margin by the Fund. Forward currency contracts, including NDFs, typically have maturities of approximately one to three months but may have maturities of up to six months or more.

The precise matching of the forward currency contract amounts and the value of the securities involved generally will not be possible because the future value of such securities in foreign currencies will change as a consequence of market movements in the value of those securities between the date the forward currency contract is entered into and the date it matures. Accordingly, it may be necessary for the Fund to purchase additional foreign currency on the spot market (and bear the expense of such purchase) if the market value of the security is less than the amount of foreign currency the Fund is obligated to deliver and if a decision is made to sell the security and make delivery of the foreign currency. Conversely, it may be necessary to sell on the spot market some of the foreign currency received upon the sale of the portfolio security if its market value exceeds the amount of foreign currency the Fund is obligated to deliver. The projection of short-term currency market movements is extremely difficult, and the successful execution of a short-term hedging strategy is highly uncertain. Forward currency contracts involve the risk that anticipated currency movements may not be accurately predicted, causing the Fund to sustain losses on these contracts and transaction costs. At or before the maturity date of a forward currency contract that requires the Fund to sell a currency, the Fund may either sell a portfolio security and use the sale proceeds to make delivery of the currency or retain the security and offset its contractual obligation to deliver the currency by purchasing a second contract pursuant to which the Fund will obtain, on the same maturity date, the same amount of the currency that it is obligated to deliver. Similarly, the Fund may close out a forward currency contract requiring it to purchase a specified currency by entering into a second contract entitling it to sell the same amount of the same currency on the maturity date of the first contract. The Fund would realize a gain or loss as a result of entering into such an offsetting forward currency contract under either circumstance to the extent the exchange rate between the currencies involved moved between the execution dates of the first and second contracts. On the delivery date, a forward currency contract can be settled by physical delivery.

There is no systematic reporting of last sale information for foreign currencies or any regulatory requirement that quotations be firm or revised on a timely basis. Quotation information generally is representative of very large transactions in the interbank market and may not reflect smaller transactions where rates may be less favorable.

**Foreign Securities.** Investment in foreign securities may involve special risks that typically are not associated with investments in U.S. securities. Foreign investment risks may be greater in developing and emerging markets than in developed markets. The risks associated with foreign securities include, among other things, the following:

- The prices of foreign securities may be adversely affected by changes in currency exchange rates, changes in foreign or U.S. laws or restrictions applicable to foreign securities, and changes in exchange control

regulations (*i.e.*, currency blockage). A decline in the exchange rate of the foreign currency in which a portfolio security is quoted or denominated relative to the U.S. dollar would reduce the U.S. dollar value of the portfolio security. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time, for a number of reasons.

- Brokerage commissions, custodial services, and other costs relating to investment in foreign securities markets generally are more expensive than in the United States.
- Clearance and settlement procedures may be different in foreign countries and, in certain markets, such procedures may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, thus making it difficult to conduct such transactions.
- Issuers of non-U.S. securities are subject to different, often less comprehensive, accounting, custody, reporting, and disclosure requirements than U.S. issuers, and Funds investing in foreign securities may be affected by delayed settlements in some non-U.S. markets. Additionally, there may be less publicly available information about a foreign issuer than about a comparable U.S. issuer.
- There generally is less government regulation of foreign markets, companies, and securities dealers than in the United States. Consequently, the investor protections that are in place may be less stringent than in the United States.
- Foreign securities markets may have substantially less trading volume than U.S. securities markets, and securities of many foreign issuers are less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable domestic issuers.
- Foreign securities may trade on days when the Fund does not sell shares. As a result, the value of the Fund's portfolio securities may change materially on days an investor may not be able to purchase or redeem Fund shares. For information about "time zone arbitrage," please see "Excessive Trading and Market Timing" in the prospectus.
- With respect to certain foreign countries, there is a possibility of nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition of withholding or other taxes on dividend or interest payments (or, in some cases, capital gains), limitations on the removal of funds or other assets of the Fund, and political or social instability, diplomatic developments, or the imposition of economic sanctions, or other government restrictions that could adversely affect investments tied economically to those countries.

Markets and economies throughout the world are becoming increasingly interconnected, and conditions or events in one market, country or region may adversely impact investments or issues in another market, country or region. Many countries throughout the world are dependent on a healthy U.S. economy and are adversely affected when the U.S. economy weakens or its markets decline. Additionally, many foreign country economies are heavily dependent on international trade and are adversely affected by protective trade barriers and economic conditions of their trading partners. In addition, voters in the United Kingdom recently voted to leave the European Union ("EU"), creating economic and political uncertainty with respect to, among other things, the timing of the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the effects such withdrawal will have on the Euro, European economies, and the global markets.

The foregoing is a general discussion of "Foreign Securities." The Fund may define foreign securities (and emerging market securities) differently than other Funds for purposes of its investment restrictions. Please see the applicable Fund's prospectus for more information.

**Emerging Market Securities.** The risks described above apply to an even greater extent to investments in emerging markets, which may be considered speculative. Emerging markets may develop unevenly or may never fully develop and are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations, which may be sudden and significant. In addition, the securities and currencies of many of emerging market countries may have far lower

trading volumes and less liquidity than those of developed nations. If the Fund's investments need to be liquidated quickly, the Fund could sustain significant transaction costs.

Securities and issuers in emerging countries tend to be subject to less extensive and frequent accounting, financial, and other reporting requirements than securities and issuers in more developed countries. Government enforcement of existing securities regulations is limited, and any such enforcement may be arbitrary and the results may be difficult to predict. Further, investing in securities of issuers located in certain emerging market countries may present a greater risk of loss resulting from problems in security registration and custody.

Many emerging market countries have histories of political instability and abrupt changes in policies. As a result, their governments may be more likely to take actions that are hostile or detrimental to foreign investment than those of more developed countries, such as expropriation, confiscatory taxation, and nationalization of assets and securities. Certain emerging market countries also may face other significant internal or external risks, including a heightened risk of war, and ethnic, religious, and racial conflicts, and the imposition of economic sanctions or other measures by the United States or other governments. The economies of emerging countries may be predominantly based on only a few industries or dependent on revenues from particular commodities. In addition, governments in many emerging market countries participate to a significant degree in their economies and securities markets, which may impair investment and economic growth, and which may, in turn, diminish the value of their currencies. If a company's economic fortunes are linked to emerging markets, then a security it issues generally will be subject to these risks even if the security is principally traded on a non-emerging market exchange.

**High-Yield or Lower-Rated Debt Securities.** Debt securities are typically considered "non-investment grade" (also referred to as "high-yield debt securities," "lower-rated debt securities," or "junk bonds") if they are rated BB/Ba or lower by a rating agency (or unrated by rating agencies but determined by Lord Abbett, the Funds' investment adviser, to be of comparable quality). Non-investment grade debt securities may pay a higher yield, but entail greater risks, than investment grade debt securities, and are considered speculative. When compared to investment grade debt securities, high-yield debt securities:

- have a higher risk of default and their prices can be much more volatile due to lower liquidity;
- tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes;
- are susceptible to negative perceptions of the junk markets generally; and
- pose a greater risk that exercise of any of their redemption or call provisions in a declining market may result in their replacement by lower yielding bonds.

The risk of loss from default for the holders of high-yield debt securities is significantly greater than is the case for holders of other debt securities because such high-yield securities generally are unsecured, often are subordinated to the rights of other creditors of the issuers of such securities, and are issued by issuers with weaker financials.

An economic downturn could severely affect the ability of highly leveraged issuers of junk bond investments to service their debt obligations or to repay their obligations upon maturity. If an issuer of high-yield securities in which the Fund is invested defaults, the Fund may incur additional expenses to seek recovery. Investment by the Fund in already defaulted securities poses an additional risk of loss should nonpayment of principal and interest continue for such securities. Even if such securities are held to maturity, the Fund's recovery of its initial investment and any anticipated income or appreciation is uncertain. The Fund may be required to liquidate other portfolio securities to satisfy annual distribution obligations of the Fund in respect of accrued interest income on securities that are subsequently written off, even though the Fund has not received any cash payments of such interest.

Because the risk of default is higher among high-yield debt securities, Lord Abbett's research and analysis are important factors in the selection of such securities. Through portfolio diversification, good credit analysis, and

attention to current developments and trends in interest rates and economic conditions, the Fund seeks to reduce this risk. There can be no assurance, however, that this risk will, in fact, be reduced and that losses will not occur.

The secondary market for high-yield debt securities is not as liquid as, and is more volatile than, the secondary market for higher rated securities. In addition, market trading volume for lower-rated securities generally is lower and the secondary market for such securities could shrink or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse market or economic conditions, independent of any specific adverse changes in the condition of a particular issuer. Because of the lack of sufficient market liquidity, the Fund may incur losses because it may be required to effect sales at a disadvantageous time and then only at a substantial drop in price. These factors may have an adverse effect on the market price and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular portfolio investments when needed to meet redemption requests or other liquidity needs. A less liquid secondary market also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain precise valuations of lower-rated securities in its portfolio. Legislative and regulatory developments such as those discussed under "Debt Securities" above have adversely affected the secondary market for high-yield debt securities and the financial condition of issuers of these securities.

High-yield debt securities also present risks based on payment expectations. High-yield debt securities frequently contain "call" or buy-back features that permit the issuer to call or repurchase the security from its holder. If an issuer exercises such a "call option" and redeems the security, the Fund may have to replace such security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased return for investors.

Factors having an adverse impact on the market value of high-yield securities will have an adverse effect on the Fund's NAV to the extent the Fund holds such investments. In addition, if the Fund experiences net redemptions of its shares, it may be forced to sell its higher rated securities, resulting in a decline in the overall credit quality of its portfolio and increasing its exposure to the risks of high-yield securities.

**Illiquid Securities.** An illiquid security is a security that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in then-current market conditions in seven (7) calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the security.

The purchase price and subsequent valuation of restricted and illiquid securities normally reflect a discount, which may be significant, from the market price of comparable securities for which a liquid market exists. The amount of the discount from the prevailing market price varies depending upon the type of security, the character of the issuer, the party who will bear the expenses of registering the restricted securities (if needed), and prevailing supply and demand conditions.

The Fund may not be able to readily liquidate its investment in illiquid securities and may have to sell other investments if necessary to raise cash to meet its obligations. In this event, illiquid securities would become an increasingly larger percentage of the Fund's portfolio. The lack of a liquid secondary market for illiquid securities may make it more difficult for the Fund to assign a value to those securities for purposes of valuing its portfolio and calculating its NAV.

In October 2016, the SEC adopted a liquidity risk management rule that will require all Funds except Money Market Fund to establish liquidity risk management programs. The impact the rule will have on the Funds, and on the open-end fund industry in general, is not fully known, but the rule could impact the Funds' performances and their abilities to achieve their investment objective(s).

**144A Securities.** The Fund also may invest in illiquid securities that are governed by Rule 144A under the 1933 Act. These securities may be resold under certain circumstances to other institutional buyers. Specifically, 144A Securities may be resold to a qualified institutional buyer ("QIB") without registration and without regard to whether the seller originally purchased the security for investment. Investing in 144A Securities may decrease the liquidity of the Fund's portfolio to the extent that QIBs become, for a time, uninterested in purchasing these securities. 144A Securities may be treated as liquid under procedures approved by the Board of the Fund. 144A securities may be illiquid or hard to value.

**Inflation-Indexed Securities.** Inflation-indexed securities are fixed income securities whose principal value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation. Two structures are common. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers use a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Many other issuers pay out the CPI accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Treasury (“TIPS”) have maturities of five, ten, or thirty years, although it is possible that securities with other maturities will be issued in the future. TIPS pay interest on a semiannual basis, equal to a fixed percentage of the inflation-adjusted principal amount. For example, if the Fund purchased an inflation-indexed bond with a par value of \$1,000 and a 3% real rate of return coupon (payable 1.5% semiannually), and inflation over the first six months was 1%, the mid-year par value of the bond would be \$1,010 and the first semiannual interest payment would be \$15.15 (\$1,010 times 1.5%). If inflation during the second half of the year resulted in the whole year’s inflation equaling 3%, the end-of-year par value of the bond would be \$1,030 and the second semiannual interest payment would be \$15.45 (\$1,030 times 1.5%).

If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of the inflation-indexed bonds will be adjusted downward, and, consequently, the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. At maturity, TIPS are redeemed at the greater of their inflation-adjusted principal and the par amount at original issue. If an inflation-indexed bond does not provide a guarantee of principal at maturity, the adjusted principal amount of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal amount. Other types of inflation-indexed bonds may be adjusted in response to changes in the rate of inflation by different mechanisms (such as by changes in the rates of interest paid on their principal amounts).

The values of inflation-indexed bonds are expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates, which are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. For example, if inflation were to rise at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates would likely decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed bonds. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates would likely rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed bonds.

While these securities, if held to maturity, are expected to be protected to some extent from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If nominal interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates or an expansion of non-inflationary economic activity), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond’s inflation measure.

The periodic inflation adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed bonds is tied to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (“CPI-U”), which is calculated monthly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-U is a measurement of price changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation, and energy. Inflation-indexed bonds issued by a foreign government generally are adjusted to reflect a comparable inflation index, calculated by that government. There can be no assurance that the CPI-U or any foreign inflation index will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Moreover, there can be no assurance that the rate of inflation in a foreign country will be correlated to the rate of inflation in the United States. Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed bond will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

**Interfund Lending.** The Fund’s investment restrictions and an SEC exemptive order permit the Fund to participate in an interfund lending program with other Funds in the Lord Abbett Funds. This program allows the Funds to borrow money from and lend money to each other for temporary or emergency purposes, such as to satisfy redemption requests or to cover unanticipated cash shortfalls. Currently, under an SEC exemptive order permitting the Fund to participate in an interfund lending program, the Fund may, to the extent permitted by its investment objective, strategies, and policies, (1) lend uninvested cash to other Lord Abbett Funds in an amount up to 15% of its net assets at the time of the loan (including lending up to 5% of its net assets to any single Lord Abbett Fund) and (2) borrow money from other Lord Abbett Funds provided that total outstanding borrowings from all sources do not exceed 33 1/3% of its total assets. The Fund may borrow through the interfund lending program on an unsecured basis (*i.e.*, without posting collateral) if its aggregate borrowings from all sources immediately after the

interfund borrowing total 10% or less of the Fund's total assets. However, if the Fund's aggregate borrowings from all sources immediately after the interfund borrowing exceed 10% of the Fund's total assets, the Fund may borrow through the interfund lending program on a secured basis only. The Fund also is required to secure an interfund loan if it has outstanding secured borrowings from other sources at the time the loan is requested.

Any loan made through the interfund lending program always would be more beneficial to a borrowing Fund (*i.e.*, at a lower interest rate) than borrowing from a bank and more beneficial to a lending Fund (*i.e.*, at a higher rate of return) than an alternative short-term investment. The term of an interfund loan is limited to the time required to receive payment for securities sold, but in no event more than seven days. In addition, an interfund loan is callable with one business day's notice.

The limitations discussed above, other conditions of the SEC exemptive order, and related policies and procedures implemented by Lord Abbett are designed to minimize the risks associated with interfund lending for both borrowing Funds and lending Funds. However, no borrowing or lending activity is without risk. When the Fund borrows money from another Fund, there is a risk that the loan could be called on one business day's notice or not renewed, in which case the Fund may need to borrow from a bank at higher rates if an interfund loan were not available from another Fund. Furthermore, a delay in repayment to a lending Fund could result in a lost investment opportunity or additional lending costs.

**Investments in Other Investment Companies.** Subject to the limitations prescribed by the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder, the Fund may invest in other investment companies, including, but not limited to, money market funds, ETFs, closed-end funds, and other pooled vehicles. (Each Fund (other than the Funds-of-Funds), however, may not invest in other funds in reliance on Sections 12(d)(1)(F) or (G) of the 1940 Act.) These limitations prohibit the Fund from acquiring more than 3% of the voting shares of any one other investment company, and prohibit the Fund investing more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any one other investment company or more than 10% of its total assets in securities of other investment companies in the aggregate. The percentage limitations above apply to investments in any investment company. (However, pursuant to certain SEC rules, these percentage limitations do not apply to the Fund's investments in certain registered money market funds.) The Fund's investments in another investment company will be subject to the risks of the purchased investment company's portfolio securities. The Fund's shareholders must bear not only their proportionate share of the Fund's fees and expenses, but they also must bear indirectly the fees and expenses of the other investment company.

**Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs").** ETFs are investment companies whose shares are listed on a securities exchange and trade like a stock throughout the day. Certain ETFs use a "passive" investment strategy and will not attempt to take defensive positions in volatile or declining markets. A "passive" investing strategy may have the potential to increase security price correlations and volatility. As "passive" strategies generally buy or sell securities based simply on inclusion and representation in an index, securities prices will have an increasing tendency to rise or fall based on whether money is flowing into or out of passive strategies rather than based on an analysis of the prospects and valuation of individual securities. This may result in increased market volatility if and to the extent more money is invested through passive strategies. Other ETFs are actively managed (*i.e.*, they do not seek to replicate the performance of a particular index).

Investments in ETFs are subject to a variety of risks, including risks of a direct investment in the underlying securities that the ETF holds. For example, the general level of stock prices may decline, thereby adversely affecting the value of the underlying common stock investments of the ETF and, consequently, the value of the ETF. Moreover, the market value of the ETF may differ from the value of its portfolio holdings because the market for ETF shares and the market for underlying securities are not always identical. Also, ETFs that track particular indices typically will be unable to match the performance of the index exactly due to the ETF's operating expenses and transaction costs, among other things. Similar to investments in other investment companies, the Fund's shareholders must bear not only their proportionate share of the Fund's fees and expenses, but they also must bear indirectly the fees and expenses of the ETF.

**Other Risks.** The Fund may invest in foreign countries through investment companies, including closed-end funds. Some emerging market countries have laws and regulations that currently preclude direct foreign investments in the securities of their companies. However, indirect foreign investment in the securities of such countries is permitted through investment companies that have been specifically authorized to make such foreign investments. These investments are subject to the risks of investing in foreign (including emerging market) securities.

Because closed-end funds do not issue redeemable securities and, thus, do not need to maintain liquidity to meet daily shareholder redemptions, such funds may invest in less liquid portfolio securities. Moreover, the Fund's investment in a closed-end fund is exposed to the risk that a secondary market for such shares may cease to exist. Accordingly, the Fund's investment in closed-end fund shares is subject to increased liquidity risk.

**Leverage.** Consistent with its investment objectives and policies, a Fund may engage in transactions or purchase instruments that give rise to forms of leverage. Such transactions and instruments may include, among others, the use of reverse repurchase agreements, credit default swaps, when-issued, delayed delivery and forward commitment transactions, dollar rolls, borrowings, such as through bank loans, loans of portfolio securities, and derivatives. A Fund's use of short sales also may give rise to forms of leverage.

Leverage may cause the value of a Fund's shares to be more volatile than if the Fund did not use leverage. Leverage increases a Fund's losses when the value of its investments (including derivatives) declines. In addition, interest and other leverage-related expenses are ultimately borne by a Fund's shareholders and result in a reduction of the net asset value of the Fund's shares. The use of leverage may also cause a Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it would not be advantageous to do so in order to satisfy its related obligations, among other reasons.

**Market Risk.** The increasing popularity of passive index-based investing may have the potential to increase security price correlations and volatility. As passive strategies generally buy or sell securities based on inclusion and representation in an index, securities prices may have an increasing tendency to rise or fall based on whether money is flowing into or out of passive strategies rather than based on an analysis of the prospects and valuation of individual securities.

**Mortgage-Related and Asset-Backed Securities and Other Collateralized Obligations.** Mortgage-related securities are interests in pools of residential or commercial mortgage loans, including mortgage loans made by savings and loan institutions, mortgage bankers, commercial banks and others. Pools of mortgage loans are assembled as securities for sale to investors by various governmental, government-related, and private organizations.

**Mortgage Pass-Through Securities.** Interests in pools of mortgage-related securities differ from other forms of debt securities, since debt securities normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Instead, mortgage-related securities provide a monthly payment that consists of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments are a "pass-through" of the monthly payments made by individual borrowers on their residential or commercial mortgage loans, net of any fees paid to the issuer or guarantor of such securities. Additional payments are caused by prepayments of principal resulting from the sale of the underlying property, refinancing, or foreclosure, net of fees or costs that may be incurred. These differences can result in significantly greater price and yield volatility than is the case with traditional fixed income or debt securities. The timing and level of prepayments is unpredictable. A predominant factor affecting the prepayment rate on a pool of mortgage loans is the difference between the interest rates on outstanding mortgage loans and prevailing mortgage loan interest rates. Generally, prepayments on mortgage loans will increase during a period of falling mortgage interest rates and decrease during a period of rising mortgage interest rates. Accordingly, the amounts of prepayments available for reinvestment by the Fund are likely to be greater during a period of declining mortgage interest rates. When the Fund reinvests the proceeds of a prepayment in these circumstances, it will likely receive a rate of interest that is lower than the rate on the security that was prepaid. To the extent that the Fund purchases asset-backed securities at a premium, prepayments may result in a loss to the extent of the premium paid. If the Fund buys such securities at a discount, both scheduled payments and unscheduled prepayments should increase current income and total returns and unscheduled

prepayments will also accelerate the recognition of income which, when distributed to shareholders, will be taxable as ordinary income. In a period of rising interest rates, prepayments of the underlying assets may occur at a slower than expected rate, with the result that the average life of mortgage pass-through securities held by the Fund may be lengthened (maturity extension risk). This particular risk may effectively change a security that was considered short- or intermediate-term at the time of purchase into a longer-term security. Since the value of longer-term securities generally fluctuates more widely in response to changes in interest rates than does the value of shorter term securities, maturity extension risk could increase the price and yield volatility of mortgage-related securities held by the Fund. In the past, in certain market environments, the value and liquidity of many mortgage pass-through securities declined sharply. There can be no assurance that such declines will not recur. Investments in mortgage-backed securities may be subject to a high degree of credit risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. These risks may be even higher with mortgage pass-through securities supported by subprime mortgages.

***Guarantors of Mortgage-Backed Securities.*** The principal governmental guarantor of mortgage-related securities is Ginnie Mae. Ginnie Mae is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, the timely payment of principal and interest on securities issued by institutions approved by Ginnie Mae (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks and mortgage bankers) and backed by pools of mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (the “FHA”), or guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (the “VA”).

Government-related guarantors of securities not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government include Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Both are government sponsored corporations owned entirely by private stockholders. In September 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that the government would be taking over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and placing the companies into a conservatorship. In addition, the U.S. Treasury announced additional steps that it intended to take with respect to the debt and mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in order to support the conservatorship. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are continuing to operate as going concerns while in conservatorship and each remains liable for all of its respective obligations, including its guaranty obligations, associated with its mortgage-backed securities. No assurance can be given that these arrangements will continue, and it is possible that these entities will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. From time to time, proposals have been introduced before Congress for the purpose of restricting or eliminating federal sponsorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Fund cannot predict what legislation, if any, may be proposed in the future in Congress regarding such sponsorship or which proposals, if any, might be enacted. Such proposals, if enacted, might materially and adversely affect the availability of government guaranteed mortgage-backed securities and the liquidity and value of the Fund’s portfolio. Government-related guarantors may also issue Participation Certificates (“PCs”), which represent interests in conventional mortgages from Freddie Mac’s national portfolio. Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.

***Private Mortgage-Backed Securities.*** Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-related securities. Pools created by such non-governmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools because they are not guaranteed by any government or agency. In addition, mortgage-related securities issued by these non-governmental issuers may experience higher rates of default on the underlying mortgages since these mortgage loans often do not meet the underwriting standards of government and government-related issuers. However, timely payment of interest and principal of these pools may be supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance, and letters of credit, which may be issued by governmental entities, private insurers, or the mortgage poolers. Such insurance and guarantees, and the creditworthiness of the issuers thereof will be considered in determining whether a mortgage-related security meets the Fund’s investment quality standards. Upon a breach of any representation or warranty that materially and adversely affects the interests of the related certificate holders in a mortgage loan, the seller or servicer

generally will be obligated either to cure the breach in all material respects, to repurchase the mortgage loan or, if the related agreement so provides, to substitute in its place another qualifying mortgage loan. Such a repurchase or substitution obligation may constitute the sole remedy available for the material breach of any such representation or warranty by the seller or servicer. There can be no assurance that the private insurers or guarantors can meet their obligations under the insurance policies or guarantee arrangements. These securities may be illiquid.

Mortgage-backed securities that are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, are not subject to Fund industry concentration restrictions. In the case of privately issued mortgage-related securities, the Fund takes the position that mortgage-related securities do not represent interests in any particular “industry” or group of industries. In the case of privately issued mortgage-related securities whose underlying assets are neither U.S. Government securities nor U.S. Government insured mortgages, to the extent that real properties securing such assets may be located in the same geographical region, the security may be subject to a greater risk of default than other comparable securities in the event of adverse economic, political, or business developments that may affect such region and, ultimately, the ability of residential homeowners to make payments of principal and interest on the underlying mortgages.

***Collateralized Mortgage Obligations and Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (“CMOs”).*** A CMO is a hybrid between a mortgage-backed bond and a mortgage pass-through security. Similar to a bond, interest and prepaid principal is paid, in most cases, on a monthly basis. CMOs may be collateralized by whole mortgage loans, but are more often collateralized by portfolios of mortgage pass-through securities and their income streams. Some CMOs are directly supported by other CMOs, which, in turn, are supported by mortgage pools.

CMOs are issued in multiple classes, often referred to as “tranches,” with each tranche having a specific fixed or floating coupon rate and stated maturity or final distribution date. Payments of principal normally are applied to the CMO classes in the order of their respective stated maturities, so that no principal payments will be made on a CMO class until all other classes having an earlier stated maturity date are paid in full. Under the traditional CMO structure, the cash flows generated by the mortgages or mortgage pass-through securities in the collateral pool are used to first pay interest and then pay principal to the holders of the CMOs. Subject to the various provisions of individual CMO issues, the cash flow generated by the underlying collateral (to the extent it exceeds the amount required to pay the stated interest) is used to retire the bonds. The differing structures of CMO classes may create a wide variety of investment characteristics, such as yield, effective maturity, and interest rate sensitivity. As market conditions change, however, and particularly during periods of rapid or unanticipated changes in market interest rates, the attractiveness of the CMO classes and the ability of the structure to provide the anticipated investment characteristics may be significantly reduced. These changes can result in volatility in the market value, and, in some instances, reduced liquidity of the CMO class. A risk of CMOs is the uncertainty of the timing of cash flows that results from the rate of prepayments on the underlying mortgages serving as collateral and from the structure of the particular CMO transaction (that is, the priority of the individual tranches). An increase or decrease in prepayment rates (resulting from a decrease or increase in mortgage interest rates) may cause the CMOs to be retired substantially earlier than their stated maturities or final distribution dates and will affect the yield and price of CMOs. In addition, if the collateral securing CMOs or any third party guarantees are insufficient to make payments, the Fund could sustain a loss.

Securities may be backed by mortgage insurance, letters of credit, or other credit enhancing features. Although payment of the principal of, and interest on, the underlying collateral securing privately issued CMOs may be guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities, these CMOs represent obligations solely of the private issuer and are not insured or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, or its agencies and instrumentalities.

New types of CMO tranches have evolved and will likely continue to evolve. For example, CMOs may include floating rate CMOs, inverse floating rate CMOs, parallel pay CMOs, planned amortization classes, accrual bonds, and CMO residuals. These newer structures affect the amount and timing of principal and interest received by each tranche from the underlying collateral. Under certain of these newer structures, certain classes of CMOs have

priority over others with respect to the receipt of prepayments on the mortgages. Therefore, depending on the type of CMOs in which the Fund invests, the investment may be subject to a greater or lesser risk of prepayment than other types of MBS. CMOs may include real estate investment conduits, which are private entities formed for the purpose of holding a fixed pool of mortgages secured by an interest in real property.

**Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Commercial mortgage-backed securities include securities that reflect an interest in, and are secured by, mortgage loans on commercial real property. Many of the risks of investing in commercial mortgage-backed securities reflect the risks of investing in the real estate securing the underlying mortgage loans. These risks reflect the effects of local and other economic conditions on real estate markets, the ability of tenants to make loan payments, and the ability of a property to attract and retain tenants. Commercial mortgage-backed securities may be less liquid and exhibit greater price volatility than other types of mortgage- or asset-backed securities. They are typically not backed by any government or government agency or instrumentality.

**Other Mortgage-Related Securities.** Other mortgage-related securities include securities other than those described above that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property, including mortgage dollar rolls, or stripped mortgage-backed securities.

Mortgage dollar rolls are instruments in which the Fund sells securities for delivery in the current month and simultaneously contracts with the same counterparty to repurchase similar (same type, coupon, and maturity) but not identical securities on a specified future date. During the roll period, the Fund loses the right to receive principal (including prepayments of principal) and interest paid on the securities sold. However, the Fund may benefit from the interest earned on the cash proceeds of the securities sold until the settlement date of the forward purchase.

The Fund is generally subject to the risks associated with the purchased security, such as credit risk and interest rate risk. In addition, if the broker-dealer to whom the Fund sells the security becomes insolvent, the Fund's right to purchase or repurchase the mortgage-related securities subject to the mortgage dollar roll may be restricted. Also, the instrument that the Fund is required to repurchase may be worth less than an instrument that the Fund originally held. Successful use of mortgage dollar rolls will depend upon Lord Abbett's ability to manage the Fund's interest rate and mortgage prepayments exposure. For these reasons, there is no assurance that mortgage dollar rolls can be successfully employed. The use of this technique may diminish the investment performance of the Fund compared with what such performance would have been without the use of mortgage dollar rolls.

**To Be Announced ("TBA") Sale or Purchase Commitments.** The Fund may enter into TBA sale commitments to sell mortgage-backed securities that it owns under delayed delivery arrangements. Proceeds of TBA sale commitments are not received until the contractual settlement date. During the time a TBA sale commitment is outstanding, equivalent deliverable securities or an offsetting TBA purchase commitment deliverable on or before the sale commitment date are held as "cover" for the transaction. Unsettled TBA sale commitments are valued at the current market value of the underlying securities, according to the Fund's valuation procedures. The contract is adjusted to market value daily and the change in market value is recorded by the Fund as unrealized appreciation (depreciation). Recently finalized FINRA rules include mandatory margin requirements for the TBA market with limited exceptions. TBA trades historically have not been required to be collateralized. The collateralization of TBA trades is intended to mitigate counterparty credit risk between trade and settlement, but could increase the cost of TBA transactions and impose added operational complexity.

**Stripped Mortgage-Backed Securities ("SMBS").** SMBS are derivative multi-class mortgage securities. SMBS may be issued by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, or by private originators of, or investors in, mortgage loans, including savings and loan associations, mortgage banks, commercial banks, investment banks, and special purpose entities of the foregoing. SMBS are usually structured with two classes that receive different proportions of the interest and principal distributions on a pool of mortgage assets. A common type of SMBS will have one class receiving some of the interest and most of the principal from the mortgage assets, while the other class will receive most of the interest and the remainder of the principal. In the most extreme case, one class will receive all of the interest (the interest-only or "IO" class), while the other class will receive all of the principal (the

principal-only or "PO" class). The value of an IO class is extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments (including prepayments) on the related underlying mortgage assets, and a rapid rate of principal payments may cause the Fund to lose money. The value of a PO class generally increases as interest rates decline and prepayment rates rise. Some IOs and POs are structured to have special protections against the effects of prepayments. These structural protections, however, normally are effective only within certain ranges of prepayment rates and, thus, will not protect investors in all circumstances. The price of these securities typically is more volatile than that of coupon-bearing bonds of the same maturity.

**Other Asset-Backed Securities.** The Fund, in accordance with its investment objectives and policies, may invest in asset-backed securities (unrelated to mortgage loans). Asset-backed securities are securities whose principal and interest payments are collateralized by pools of assets such as auto loans, credit card receivables, leases, installment contracts, and personal property. In addition to prepayment and extension risks, these securities present credit risks that are not inherent in mortgage-related securities because asset-backed securities generally do not have the benefit of a security interest in collateral that is comparable to mortgage assets. Credit card receivables generally are unsecured and the debtors on such receivables are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. Automobile receivables generally are secured, but by automobiles rather than residential real property. Most issuers of automobile receivables permit the loan servicers to retain possession of the underlying obligations. If the servicer were to sell these obligations to another party, there is a risk that the purchaser would acquire an interest superior to that of the holders of the asset-backed securities. In addition, because of the large number of vehicles involved in a typical issuance and technical requirements under state laws, the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have a proper security interest in the underlying automobiles. Therefore, if the issuer of an asset-backed security defaults on its payment obligations, there is the possibility that, in some cases, the Fund will be unable to possess and sell the underlying collateral and that the Fund's recoveries on repossessed collateral may not be available to support payments on these securities.

**Credit-Linked Notes ("CLNs").** The Fund may invest in CLNs. CLNs are a type of structured note. For more information about the Fund's investments in structured notes, generally, please see "Structured Notes" below. CLNs are privately negotiated obligations whose returns are linked to the returns of one or more designated securities or other instruments that are referred to as "reference securities." A CLN is generally issued by one party, typically a trust or a special purpose vehicle, with investment exposure or risk that is linked to a second party. The CLN's price or coupon is linked to the performance of the reference security of the second party.

The Fund has the right to receive periodic interest payments from the CLN issuer at an agreed upon interest rate and, if there has been no default or other applicable declines in credit quality, a return of principal at the maturity date. The cash flows are dependent on specified credit-related events. Should the second party default or declare bankruptcy, the CLN holder will generally receive an amount equivalent to the recovery rate. The Fund also is exposed to the credit risk of the CLN issuer up to the full CLN purchase price, and CLNs are often not secured by the reference securities or other collateral. CLNs are also subject to the credit risk of the reference securities. If a reference security defaults or suffers certain other applicable declines in credit quality, the Fund may, instead of receiving repayment of principal, receive the security that has defaulted.

As with most derivative investments, valuation of a CLN may be difficult due to the complexity of the security. The market for CLNs may suddenly become illiquid. The other parties to the transactions may be the only investors with sufficient understanding of the CLN to be interested in bidding for it. Changes in liquidity may result in significant, rapid, and unpredictable changes in CLN prices. In certain cases, a CLN's market price may not be available or the market may not be active.

**Other Collateralized Obligations.** In addition to the collateralized obligations described above, the Fund may invest in collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs"), collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs"), and collateralized bond obligations ("CBOs").

A CLO is a type of structured product that issues securities collateralized by a pool of loans, which may include, among others, domestic and foreign senior secured loans, senior unsecured loans, second lien loans, and subordinate corporate loans. The underlying loans may be rated below investment grade by a rating agency. A CLO is not merely a conduit to a portfolio of loans; it is a pooled investment vehicle that may be actively managed by the collateral manager. Therefore, an investment in a CLO can be viewed as investing in (or through) another investment adviser and is subject to the layering of fees associated with such an investment.

The cash flows from a CLO are divided into two or more classes called “tranches,” each having a different risk-reward structure in terms of the right (or priority) to receive interest payments from the CLO. The risks of an investment in a CLO depend largely on the type of the collateral held in the CLO portfolio and the tranche of securities in which the Fund invests. Generally, the risks of investing in a CLO can be summarized as a combination of economic risks of the underlying loans combined with the risks associated with the CLO structure governing the priority of payments. In addition to the general risks associated with fixed income securities and structured products discussed elsewhere in this SAI and in the prospectus, CLOs carry additional risks including but not limited to the following:

- **Subordination and Risk of Default:** Lower tranche CLOs provide subordination and enhancement to higher tranches, and, therefore, lower tranches are subject to a higher risk of defaults in the underlying collateral. Although supported by the lower tranches, defaults or losses above certain levels could reduce or eliminate all current cash flow to the highest tranche and entail loss of principal. Among other things, defaults, downgrades, and principal losses with respect to CLO collateral can trigger an event of default under the terms of the CLO structure, which could result in the liquidation of the collateral and accelerate the payments of the Fund’s investments in the CLO, which may be at a loss.
- **Transparency Risk:** Collateral managers of CLOs may actively manage the portfolio. Accordingly, the collateral and the accompanying risks underlying a CLO in which the Fund invests will change, and will do so without transparency. Therefore, the Fund’s investment in a CLO will not benefit from detailed or ongoing due diligence on the underlying collateral.
- **Credit Risk:** CLO collateral is subject to credit and liquidity risks, as substantially all of the collateral held by CLOs will be rated below investment grade or be unrated. Because of the lack of transparency, the credit and liquidity risk of the underlying collateral can change without visibility to the CLO investors.
- **Lack of Liquidity:** CLOs typically are privately offered and sold, and, thus, are not registered under the federal securities laws and subject to transfer restrictions. As a result, the Fund may characterize investments in CLOs as illiquid. Certain securities issued by a CLO (typically the highest tranche) may have an active dealer market and, if so, the Fund may deem such securities to be liquid.
- **Interest Rate Risk:** The CLO portfolio may have exposure to interest rate fluctuations as well as mismatches between the interest rate on the underlying bank loans and the CLO securities.
- **Prepayment Risk:** CLO securities may pay earlier than expected due to defaults (triggering liquidation) or prepayments on the underlying collateral, optional redemptions, or refinancing, or forced sale in certain circumstances.
- **Documentation Risk:** CLO documentation is highly complex and can contain inconsistencies or errors, creating potential risk and requiring significant interpretational expertise, disputes with issuers, or unintended investment results.

A CDO is a security backed by pools of corporate or sovereign bonds, bank loans to corporations, or a combination of bonds and loans, many of which may be unsecured. A CBO is an obligation of a trust or other special purpose vehicle backed by a pool of fixed income securities, which are often a diversified pool of securities that are high risk and below investment grade. These securities are collateralized by many different types of fixed income securities, including high-yield debt, trust preferred securities, and emerging market debt, which are subject to

varying degrees of credit and counterparty risk. CDOs and CBOs are structured similarly to CLOs and carry additional risks that include, but are not limited to, the risks of investing in CLOs described above and the risks associated with the pool of underlying securities.

**Other Risks of Mortgage-Backed and Asset-Backed Securities.** Mortgage-backed, mortgage-related, and other asset-backed securities are subject to risks in addition to those described above. These securities are often extremely complex and their documentation may be unclear, ambiguous, or poorly understood, which could lead to a misunderstanding or incorrect application of the securities' terms, and may also lead to disputes. More junior securities are often illiquid and hard to value, and even senior securities may become so during periods of market stress or if there are issues relating to the underlying collateral. Regulatory issues relating to the underlying collateral may have unforeseen effects on the value of the securities and may cause them to decrease in value. In addition, servicers or trustees may not always act in the best interests of the holders of securities or of certain tranches of securities.

**Municipal Bonds.** In general, municipal bonds are debt obligations issued by or on behalf of states, territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and their political subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities. Municipal bonds are issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of bridges, highways, housing, hospitals, mass transportation, schools, streets, and water and sewer works. They may be used, for example, to refund outstanding obligations, to obtain funds for general operating expenses, or to obtain funds to lend to other public institutions and facilities and in anticipation of the receipt of revenue or the issuance of other obligations. In addition, the term "municipal bonds" may include certain types of "private activity" bonds, including industrial development bonds issued by public authorities to obtain funds to provide privately operated housing facilities, sports facilities, convention or trade show facilities, airport, mass transit, port or parking facilities, air or water pollution control facilities, and certain facilities for water supply, gas, electricity, or sewerage or solid waste disposal. Under the Tax Reform Act of 1986, as amended, substantial limitations were imposed on new issues of municipal bonds to finance privately operated facilities. From time to time, proposals have been introduced before Congress to restrict or eliminate the federal income tax exemption for interest on municipal bonds. Similar proposals may be introduced in the future. If any such proposal were enacted, it might have a negative impact on the value of those bonds.

The two principal classifications of municipal bonds are "general obligation" and limited obligation or "revenue" bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the pledge of the faith, credit, and taxing authority of the municipality for the payment of principal and interest. The taxes or special assessments that can be levied for the payment of debt service may be limited or unlimited as to rate or amount. Revenue bonds are not backed by the credit and taxing authority of the issuer, and are payable only from the revenues derived from a particular facility or class of facilities or, in some cases, from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source. Nevertheless, the obligations of the issuer of a revenue bond may be backed by a letter of credit, guarantee, or insurance. "Private activity" bonds are, in most cases, revenue bonds and generally do not constitute the pledge of the faith, credit, or taxing authority of the municipality. The credit quality of such municipal bonds usually is directly related to the credit standing of the user of the facilities. There are variations in the security of municipal bonds, both within a particular classification and between classifications, depending on numerous factors. General obligation and revenue bonds may be issued in a variety of forms, including, for example, commercial paper, fixed, variable, and floating rate securities, tender option bonds, auction rate bonds, zero coupon bonds, deferred interest bonds, and capital appreciation bonds.

Other examples of municipal bonds include municipal leases, certificates of participation, and "moral obligation" bonds. A municipal lease is an obligation issued by a state or local government to acquire equipment or facilities. Certificates of participation represent interests in municipal leases or other instruments, such as installment purchase agreements. Moral obligation bonds are supported by a moral commitment but not a legal obligation of a state or local government. Municipal leases, certificates of participation, and moral obligation bonds frequently involve special risks not normally associated with general obligation or revenue bonds. In particular, these instruments permit governmental issuers to acquire property and equipment without meeting constitutional and statutory requirements for the issuance of debt. If, however, the governmental issuer does not periodically

appropriate money to enable it to meet its payment obligations under these instruments, it cannot be legally compelled to do so. If a default occurs, the collateral securing the lease obligation may be difficult to dispose of and the Fund may suffer significant losses.

**Tender Option Bonds.** The Fund may invest in trust certificates issued in tender option bond programs. Tender option bonds are trust investments that create leverage by borrowing from third party investors to invest in municipal bonds. In a tender option bond transaction, a tender option bond trust issues a floating rate certificate (“TOB Floater”), which is a short-term security, and a residual interest certificate (“TOB Residual”), which is a longer-term security. Using the proceeds of such issuance, the tender option bond trust purchases a fixed rate municipal bond. The TOB Floater is generally issued to a third party investor (typically a money market fund) and the TOB Residual is generally issued to the Fund that sold or identified the fixed rate municipal bond. The Fund may invest in TOB Floaters and/or TOB Residuals.

The TOB Residual may be less liquid than other comparable municipal bonds. Generally, the TOB Residual holder bears the underlying fixed rate bond’s investment risk. The holder also benefits from any appreciation in the value of the underlying fixed rate bond. Investments in a TOB Residual will typically involve greater risk than investments in fixed rate bonds.

An institution may not be obligated to accept tendered bonds in the event of certain defaults or a significant downgrading in the credit rating assigned to the issuer of the bond. The tender option will be taken into account in determining the maturity of the tender option bonds and the applicable Fund’s duration. There is a risk that the Fund will not be considered the owner of a tender option bond for federal income tax purposes, and, thus, will not be entitled to treat such interest as exempt from federal income tax.

**Additional Risks of Municipal Bonds.** Municipal bonds and issuers of municipal bonds may be more susceptible to downgrade, default, and bankruptcy as a result of recent periods of economic stress. Factors contributing to the economic stress may include lower property tax collections as a result of lower home values, lower sales tax revenue as a result of reduced consumer spending, lower income tax revenue as a result of higher unemployment rates, and budgetary constraints of local, state, and federal governments upon which issuers of municipal securities may be relying for funding. In addition, as certain municipal bonds may be secured or guaranteed by banks and other institutions, the risk to the Fund could increase if the banking, insurance, or other parts of the financial sector suffer an economic downturn and/or if the credit ratings of the institutions issuing the guarantee are downgraded or at risk of being downgraded by a national rating organization. Such a downgrade or risk of being downgraded may have an adverse effect on the market prices of bonds and, thus, the value of the Fund’s investment. Further, a state, municipality, public authority, or other issuers of municipal bonds may file for bankruptcy, which may significantly affect the value of the bonds issued by such issuers and, therefore, the value of the Fund’s investment. As a result of recent turmoil in the municipal bond market, several municipalities filed for bankruptcy protection or indicated that they may seek bankruptcy protection in the future. Municipal bonds may be illiquid or hard to value, especially in periods of economic stress.

Municipal bonds also are subject to the risk that the perceived increase in the likelihood of default or downgrade among municipal issuers as a result of recent market conditions could result in increased illiquidity, volatility, and credit risk. In addition, certain municipal issuers may be unable to access the market to sell bonds or, if able to access the market, may be forced to issue securities at much higher rates. Should these municipal issuers fail to sell bonds at the time intended and at the rates projected, these entities could experience significantly increased costs and a weakened overall cash position in the current fiscal year and beyond. These events also could result in decreased investment opportunities for the Fund and lower investment performance.

The yields on municipal bonds depend on a variety of factors, including general market conditions, supply and demand, general conditions of the municipal bond market, size of a particular offering, the maturity of the obligation, and the rating of the issue. Municipal bonds with the same maturity, coupon, and rating may have different yields when purchased in the open market, while municipal bonds of the same maturity and coupon with different ratings may have the same yield.

**Credit Enhancements.** Some municipal bonds feature credit enhancements, such as lines of credit, municipal bond insurance, and standby bond purchase agreements (“SBPAs”). There is no assurance that any of the municipal bonds purchased by the Fund will have any credit enhancements. Lines of credit are issued by a third party, usually a bank, to ensure repayment of principal and any accrued interest if the underlying municipal bond should default. Municipal bond insurance, which usually is purchased by the bond issuer from a private, nongovernmental insurance company, guarantees that the insured bond’s principal and interest will be paid when due. Neither insurance nor a line of credit guarantees the price of the bond or the share price of the Fund. The credit rating of an insured bond reflects the credit rating of the insurer, based on its claims-paying ability. The obligation of a municipal bond insurance company to pay a claim extends over the life of each insured bond. There is no assurance that a municipal bond insurer or line of credit provider will pay a claim or meet the obligations. A higher than expected default rate could strain the insurer’s loss reserves and adversely affect its ability to pay claims to bondholders. The number of municipal bond insurers is relatively small, and not all of them have the highest credit rating. An SBPA can include a liquidity facility that is provided to pay the purchase price of any bonds that cannot be remarketed. The obligation of the liquidity provider (usually a bank) is only to advance funds to purchase tendered bonds that cannot be remarketed and does not cover principal or interest under any other circumstances. The liquidity provider’s obligations under the SBPA usually are subject to numerous conditions, including the continued creditworthiness of the underlying borrower, bond issuer, or bond insurer.

**Non-U.S. Government and Supranational Debt Securities.** Debt securities of governmental (or supranational) issuers in all non-U.S. countries, including emerging market countries, may include, among others:

- fixed income securities issued or guaranteed by governments, governmental agencies or instrumentalities, and political subdivisions located in non-U.S. (including emerging market) countries;
- fixed income securities issued by government owned, controlled, or sponsored entities located in non-U.S. (including emerging market) countries;
- interests in entities organized and operated for the purpose of restructuring the investment characteristics of instruments issued by any of the above issuers;
- Brady Bonds (which are described below);
- participations in loans between non-U.S. (including emerging market) governments and financial institutions; and
- fixed income securities issued by supranational entities such as the World Bank or the European Economic Community. A supranational entity is a bank, commission, or company established or financially supported by the national governments of one or more countries to promote reconstruction or development.

Investment in the debt securities of foreign governments can involve a high degree of risk. The governmental entity that controls the repayment of debt may not be able or willing to repay the principal and/or interest when due in accordance with the terms of such debt. A governmental entity’s willingness or ability to repay principal and interest due in a timely manner may be affected by many factors. A country whose exports are concentrated in a few commodities could be vulnerable to a decline in the international price of such commodities, and increased protectionism on the part of a country’s trading partners, or political changes in those countries, could also adversely affect its exports. Such events could diminish the credit standing of a particular local government or agency.

Governmental entities may be dependent on expected disbursements from other foreign governments, multilateral agencies, and others abroad to reduce principal and interest arrearages on their debt. The commitment on the part of these governments, agencies, and others to make such disbursements may be conditioned on the implementation of economic reforms and/or economic performance and the timely service of such governmental entity’s obligations. Failure to adhere to any such requirements may result in the cancellation

of such other parties' commitments to lend funds to the governmental entity, which may further impair such debtor's ability or willingness to timely service its debts, and, consequently, governmental entities may default on their debt. In addition, a holder of foreign government obligations (including the Fund) may be requested to participate in the rescheduling of such debt and to extend further loans to governmental entities, and such holder's interests could be adversely affected in the course of those restructuring arrangements. Obligations arising from past restructuring agreements may affect the economic performance and political and social stability of certain issuers of sovereign debt. In the event of a default by a governmental entity, there may be few or no effective legal remedies for collecting on such debt. The sovereign debt of many non-U.S. governments, including their subdivisions and instrumentalities, is rated below investment grade. The risks associated with non-U.S. Government and supranational debt securities may be greater for debt securities issued or guaranteed by emerging and/or frontier countries.

Foreign investment in certain sovereign debt is restricted or controlled to varying degrees, which may at times limit or preclude foreign investment in such sovereign debt and increase the Fund's costs and expenses. Certain countries in which the Fund may invest (i) require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons; (ii) limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular issuer; (iii) limit investment by foreign persons to only a specific class of securities of an issuer that may have less advantageous rights than the classes available for purchase by domiciliaries of the countries; or (iv) impose additional taxes on foreign investors. Further, certain issuers may require governmental approval for the repatriation of investment income, capital, or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors, and a government could impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. The Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, any required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to the Fund of any restrictions on investments. Investing in local markets may require the Fund to adopt special procedures, seek local government approvals, and/or take other actions, each of which may involve additional costs.

Sovereign debt securities include Brady Bonds, which are securities created through the exchange of existing commercial bank loans to public and private entities for new bonds in connection with a debt restructuring plan for emerging market countries announced by former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas F. Brady. Brady Bonds arose from an effort in the 1980s to reduce the debt held by less developed countries that were frequently defaulting on loans. Brady Bonds may be collateralized or uncollateralized, are issued in various currencies (primarily the U.S. dollar), and are traded in the OTC secondary market. Certain Brady Bonds are collateralized in full as to principal due at maturity by zero coupon obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities having the same maturity. Brady Bonds are not, however, considered to be securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities. Brady Bonds do not have a long payment history and are subject to, among other things, the risk of default. In light of the history of defaults by the issuers of Brady Bonds, investments in Brady Bonds may be viewed as speculative regardless of the current credit rating of the issuer. The valuation of Brady Bonds generally depends on the following components: the collateralized repayment of principal at final maturity; the collateralized interest payments; the uncollateralized interest payments; and any uncollateralized repayment of principal at maturity.

**Cash/Short-Term Instruments and Money Market Investments.** Cash/short-term instruments and money market investments include bank certificates of deposit, time deposits, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper, repurchase agreements, and other short-term corporate debt securities. For more information about bank certificates of deposit, time deposits, bankers' acceptances, and commercial paper, please see "Temporary Defensive Investments (all Funds except Money Market Fund)" below. The value of such securities may fluctuate based on changes in interest rates and the issuer's financial condition. When interest rates rise or the issuer's financial condition worsens or is perceived by the market to be at greater risk, the value of debt securities tends to decline.

**Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs").** REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in either real estate or real estate-related loans. REITs generally derive their income from rents on the underlying properties or interest on the underlying loans, and the value of a REIT is affected by changes in the value of the properties owned by the REIT or securing mortgage loans held by the REIT or changes in interest rates affecting the

underlying loans owned by the REIT. The affairs of REITs are managed by the REIT's sponsor or management and, as such, the performance of the REIT is dependent on the management skills of the REIT's sponsor or management. REITs are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the qualification of the REITs under applicable regulatory requirements for favorable income tax treatment. REITs also are subject to risks generally associated with investments in real estate including possible declines in the value of real estate, general and local economic conditions, environmental problems, changes in interest rates, decreases in market rates for rents, increases in competition, property taxes, capital expenditures or operating expenses, and other economic, political, or regulatory occurrences affecting the real estate industry. To the extent that assets underlying a REIT are concentrated geographically, by property type, or in certain other respects, these risks may be heightened. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses, including management fees, paid by a REIT in which it invests.

**Repurchase Agreements.** A repurchase agreement is a transaction by which the Fund acquires a security (or basket of securities) and simultaneously commits to resell that security to the seller (typically, a bank or securities dealer) at an agreed upon date on an agreed upon price, which represents the Fund's cost plus interest. The resale price reflects the purchase price plus an agreed upon market rate of interest that is unrelated to the coupon rate or date of maturity of the purchased security. The Fund requires at all times that the repurchase agreement be collateralized by cash, investment grade debt securities, asset-backed securities, municipal bonds, foreign sovereign debt, or U.S. Government Securities (as defined in Section 2(a)(16) of the 1940 Act) having a value equal to, or in excess of, the value of the repurchase agreement (including accrued interest).

Repurchase agreements are considered a form of lending under the 1940 Act. A repurchase agreement with more than seven days to maturity is considered an illiquid security.

The use of repurchase agreements involves certain risks. For example, if the seller of the agreement defaults on its obligation to repurchase the underlying securities at a time when the value of these securities has declined, the Fund may incur a loss upon disposition of them. In addition, if the seller should be involved in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings, the Fund may incur delay and costs in selling the underlying security or may suffer a loss of principal and interest if the Fund is treated as an unsecured creditor and required to return the underlying collateral to the seller's estate. Even though the repurchase agreements may have maturities of seven days or less, they may lack liquidity, especially if the issuer encounters financial difficulties. To reduce credit risk and counterparty risk, the Fund intends to limit repurchase agreements to transactions with dealers and financial institutions believed by Lord Abbett, as the investment adviser, to present minimal credit risks. Lord Abbett will monitor the creditworthiness of the repurchase agreement sellers on an ongoing basis.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreements.** In a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund sells a security to a securities dealer or bank for cash and also agrees to repurchase the same security at an agreed upon price on an agreed upon date. Reverse repurchase agreements expose the Fund to credit risk (that is, the risk that the counterparty will fail to resell the security to the Fund). Engaging in reverse repurchase agreements also may involve the use of leverage, in that the Fund may reinvest the cash it receives in additional securities. The Fund will attempt to minimize this risk by managing its duration.

**Short Sales.** The Fund may make short sales of securities or maintain a short position if, at all times when a short position is open, the Fund owns, or has the right to acquire at no added cost, securities or currencies identical to those sold short. This is commonly referred to as a "short sale against the box." The Fund may engage in such a transaction, for example, to lock in a sales price for a security the Fund does not wish to sell immediately. If the Fund sells securities short against the box, it may protect itself from loss if the price of the securities declines in the future, but will lose the opportunity to profit on such securities if the price rises. The Fund may not engage in any other type of short selling. This restriction does not apply to the Fund's use of short positions in futures contracts, including U.S. Treasury note futures, securities index futures, other security futures, and/or forward currency contracts for bona fide hedging or cash management purposes or to pursue risk management strategies.

**Structured Notes and Other Hybrid Instruments.** The Fund may invest in structured notes and other hybrid instruments to pursue a variety of investment strategies, including currency hedging, duration management, and increased total return.

**Structured Notes.** Structured notes are types of derivative securities whose value is determined by reference to changes in the value of specific securities, currencies, interest rates, commodities, indices, or other financial indicators (the “Reference Instrument”), or the relative change in two or more Reference Instruments. The interest rate or the principal amount payable upon maturity or redemption may be increased or decreased depending upon changes in the applicable Reference Instrument(s). Structured notes may be positively or negatively indexed, so the appreciation of the Reference Instrument may produce an increase or decrease in the interest rate or value of the security at maturity. The terms of the instrument may be “structured” by the purchaser and the borrower issuing the note. For example, the terms of a structured note may provide that, in certain circumstances, no principal is due at maturity and, therefore, may result in a loss of invested capital. Structured notes may present additional risks that are different from those associated with a direct investment in fixed income or equity securities because the investor bears the risk of the Reference Instrument(s). For example, structured notes may be more volatile, less liquid, and more difficult to price accurately and subject to additional credit risks. A Fund that invests in structures notes could lose more than the principal amount invested. CLNs are a type of structured note. For more information about the Fund’s investments in CLNs, please see “Credit-Linked Notes (“CLNs”)” above.

**Other Hybrid Instruments.** Hybrid instruments include indexed or structured instruments, combining the elements of futures contracts or options with those of debt, preferred equity or a depositary instrument. A hybrid instrument may be a debt security, preferred stock, warrant, convertible security, certificate of deposit or other evidence of indebtedness on which a portion or all of its interest payments, and/or the principal or stated amount payable at maturity, redemption or retirement is determined by changes in the applicable Reference Instrument(s). As with other derivatives, the value of a hybrid instrument may be a multiple of a Reference Instrument and, as a result, may be leveraged and move (up or down) more steeply and rapidly than the Reference Instrument. These Reference Instruments may be sensitive to economic and political events, such as commodity shortages and currency devaluations, which cannot be readily foreseen by the purchaser of a hybrid. A hybrid instrument may not bear interest or pay dividends, and under certain conditions, the redemption value of a hybrid instrument could be zero. Thus, an investment in a hybrid instrument may entail significant market risks that are not associated with a similar investment in a traditional stock or bond. The purchase of hybrid instruments also exposes the Fund to the credit risk of the issuer of the hybrid instruments. These risks may cause significant fluctuations in the NAV of the Fund.

**U.S. Government Securities.** U.S. Government securities are obligations of the U.S. Government and its agencies and instrumentalities, including Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and certificates of indebtedness that are issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by the U.S. Treasury or U.S. Government sponsored enterprises. The U.S. Government is under no legal obligation, in general, to purchase the obligations of or provide financial support to its agencies, instrumentalities, or sponsored enterprises. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government will purchase the obligations of or provide financial support to U.S. Government agencies, instrumentalities, or sponsored enterprises in the future, and the U.S. Government may be unable or unwilling to pay debts when due. For more information, please see the “*Guarantors of Mortgage-Backed Securities*” above and the “*Securities of Government Sponsored Enterprises*” section below.

**Securities of Government Sponsored Enterprises.** The Fund may invest in securities issued or guaranteed by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government, such as Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Federal Home Loan Banks (“FHL Banks”), Federal Farm Credit Bank, and Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (“Farmer Mac”). Ginnie Mae is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, the timely payment of principal and interest on securities issued by institutions approved by Ginnie Mae (such as savings and loan institutions, commercial banks, and mortgage bankers) and backed by pools of mortgages insured or guaranteed by the FHA, the VA, the Rural Housing Service, or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Federal Farm Credit Bank, and Farmer Mac are federally chartered public

corporations owned entirely by their shareholders; the FHL Banks are federally chartered corporations owned by their member financial institutions. Although U.S. Government sponsored enterprises may be chartered or sponsored by Congress, many such enterprises are not funded by Congressional appropriations, their securities are not issued by the U.S. Treasury, and their obligations are not supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, so investments in their securities or obligations issued by them involve greater risk than investments in other types of U.S. Government securities. For example, although Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Farmer Mac, Federal Farm Credit Bank, and the FHL Banks guarantee the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal with respect to the securities they issue, their securities are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. The value of such securities therefore may vary with the changing prospects of future support from the U.S. Government, as reflected in anticipated legislative or political developments. In the absence of support from the U.S. Government, money market fixed income securities, including asset-backed securities that may have diminished collateral protection from underlying mortgages or other assets, are subject to the risk of default. Although such securities commonly provide the Fund with a higher yield than direct U.S. Treasury obligations, they are also subject to the risk that the Fund will fail to recover additional amounts (*i.e.*, premiums) paid for securities with higher interest rates, resulting in an unexpected capital loss upon their sale.

Like most fixed income securities, the value of the money market instruments held by the Fund generally will fall when interest rates rise. In the case of a security that is issued or guaranteed by a government sponsored enterprise and backed by mortgages or other instruments with prepayment or call features, rising interest rates may cause prepayments to occur at a slower-than-expected rate, reducing the security's value. In contrast, falling interest rates may cause prepayments to occur at a faster-than-expected rate, depriving the Fund of income payments above market rates prevailing at the time of the prepayment.

**When-Issued or Forward Transactions.** When-issued or forward transactions involve a commitment by the Fund to purchase securities, with settlement to take place in the future. When-issued purchases and forward transactions are negotiated directly with the other party, and such commitments are not traded on exchanges. The value of fixed income securities to be delivered in the future will fluctuate as interest rates vary. Securities purchased or sold on a when-issued or forward commitment basis involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines before the settlement date or if the value of the security to be sold increases before the settlement date. At the time the Fund makes the commitment to purchase a security on a when-issued basis, it will record the transaction and reflect the liability for the purchase and the value of the security in determining its NAV. The Fund also generally is required to identify on its books cash and liquid assets in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price unless the Fund's obligations are otherwise covered. The Fund generally will purchase securities on a when-issued basis or purchase or sell securities on a forward commitment basis only with the intention of completing the transaction and actually purchasing or selling the securities. If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, however, the Fund may dispose of or negotiate a commitment after entering into it. The Fund also may sell securities it has committed to purchase before the commitment's settlement date.

The Fund may purchase new issues of municipal bonds, which generally are offered on a when-issued basis, with delivery and payment normally taking place approximately one month after the purchase date. However, the payment obligation and the interest rate to be received by the Fund are each fixed on the purchase date.

**Zero Coupon, Deferred Interest, Pay-In-Kind, and Capital Appreciation Bonds.** Zero coupon, deferred interest, and capital appreciation bonds are issued at a discount from their face value because interest payments typically are postponed until maturity. These securities also may take the form of debt securities that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves, or receipts or certificates representing interests in such stripped debt obligations or coupons. Pay-in-kind bonds allow the issuer, at its option, to make current interest payments on the bonds either in cash or in additional bonds. Similar to zero coupon bonds and deferred interest bonds, pay-in-kind securities are designed to give an issuer flexibility in managing cash flow. Pay-in-kind securities that are debt securities can be either senior or subordinated debt.

As the buyer of these types of securities, the Fund will recognize a rate of return determined by the gradual appreciation of the security, which is redeemed at face value on a specified maturity date. The discount varies

depending on the time remaining until maturity, as well as market interest rates, liquidity of the security, and the issuer's perceived credit quality. The discount in the absence of financial difficulties of the issuer typically decreases as the final maturity date approaches. Moreover, unlike securities that periodically pay interest to maturity, zero coupon, deferred interest, capital appreciation, and pay-in-kind securities involve the additional risk that the Fund will realize no cash until a specified future payment date unless a portion of such securities is sold and, if the issuer of such securities defaults, the Fund may obtain no return at all on its investment.

The values of zero-coupon and pay-in-kind bonds are more volatile in response to interest rate changes than debt obligations of comparable maturities that make regular distributions of interest. Taxable income from these types of securities is accrued by the Fund without receiving regular interest payments in cash. As a result, the Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to pay a dividend depending, among other things, upon the proportion of shareholders who elect to receive dividends in cash rather than reinvesting dividends in additional shares of the Fund.

**Temporary Defensive Investments (all Funds except Money Market Fund).** As described in the prospectus, the Fund is authorized to temporarily invest a substantial amount, or even all, of its assets in various short-term fixed income securities to take a defensive position. Temporary defensive securities include:

- **Short-Term Taxable Securities.** The Fund may invest in bonds, the interest on which is subject to federal income tax, and the Fund may be exempt from its state's (if applicable) and, in the case of Lord Abbett New York Tax-Free Income Fund, New York City's personal income tax.
- **U.S. Government securities.** U.S. Government securities include securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies, or government sponsored enterprises, including Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and certificates of indebtedness that are issued or guaranteed as to principal or interest by the U.S. Treasury or U.S. Government sponsored enterprises.
- **Commercial paper.** Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations to finance short-term credit needs. Commercial paper is issued in bearer form with maturities generally not exceeding nine months. Commercial paper obligations may include variable amount master demand notes.
- **Bank certificates of deposit and time deposits.** Certificates of deposit are certificates issued against funds deposited in a bank or a savings and loan. They are issued for a definite period of time and earn a specified rate of return.
- **Bankers' acceptances.** Bankers' acceptances are short-term credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft that has been drawn on it by a customer. These instruments reflect the obligations both of the bank and of the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity. They primarily are used to finance the import, export, transfer, or storage of goods. They are "accepted" when a bank guarantees their payment at maturity.
- **Repurchase agreements with maturities of less than seven days.**
- **Registered money market funds.** Certain money market funds may impose a fee upon the sale of shares or may temporarily suspend the ability of investors to redeem shares if such fund's liquidity falls below required minimums.
- **Comparable foreign fixed income securities.**

**Temporary Defensive Investments (Money Market Fund only).** As described in the prospectus, the Fund may temporarily invest all or substantially all of its assets in cash to respond to adverse economic, market, or other unfavorable conditions, to meet regulatory liquidity requirements, to accommodate unusually large cash inflows, to satisfy redemption requests, or under other unusual circumstances.

### 3.

#### DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The policy of the Funds is to protect the confidentiality of each Fund's portfolio holdings and to prevent inappropriate selective disclosure of those holdings. The Board has adopted policies and procedures that are designed to manage conflicts of interest that may arise from the selective disclosure of portfolio holdings and prevent potential misuse of such information. The Funds' policies and procedures governing these arrangements may be modified at any time with material amendments requiring the approval of the Board. The Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures are attached to this SAI as Appendix A.

**Fund Portfolio Information Recipients.** The Funds may disclose portfolio holdings to certain third parties when the disclosure of portfolio holdings is determined to be warranted by a legitimate business purpose. In these situations, the Funds will take appropriate precautions designed to safeguard the confidentiality of this information and prevent potential misuse of such information. Attached to this SAI as Appendix B is a list of the third parties that are eligible to receive portfolio holdings information pursuant to ongoing arrangements under the circumstances described in the Funds' portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures.

4.

**MANAGEMENT OF THE FUNDS**

The Board is responsible for the management of the business and affairs of each Lord Abbett Fund, in accordance with the laws of the States of Delaware or Maryland, as applicable. The Board elects officers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of each Fund and who execute policies authorized by the Board. As generally discussed in each Funds’ annual or semiannual report to shareholders, the Board also approves an investment adviser to each Fund and monitors the cost and quality of the services the investment adviser provides, and annually considers whether to renew the contract with the investment adviser. Generally, each Board Member holds office until his/her successor is elected and qualified or until his/her earlier resignation or removal, as provided in each Lord Abbett Fund’s organizational documents.

Lord Abbett, a Delaware limited liability company, is each Fund’s investment adviser. Designated Lord Abbett personnel are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Funds.

For information on compensation paid to the Board Members, please see the “Board Members” section of Part I.

**Board Leadership Structure**

The Board currently has nine Board Members, eight of whom are Independent Board Members. James L.L. Tullis, an Independent Board Member, serves as the Chairman of the Board. The Board has determined that its leadership structure is appropriate in light of the composition of the Board and its committees and Mr. Tullis’ long tenure with the Board. The Board believes that its leadership structure enhances the effectiveness of the Board’s oversight role.

The Board generally meets six times a year, and may hold additional special meetings to address specific matters that arise between regularly scheduled meetings. The Independent Board Members also meet regularly without the presence of management and are advised by independent legal counsel.

As discussed more fully below, the Board has delegated certain aspects of its oversight function to committees comprised solely of Independent Board Members. The committee structure facilitates the Board’s timely and efficient consideration of matters pertinent to the Funds’ business and affairs and their associated risks.

**Board Members**

The following individuals are Board Members of each Lord Abbett Fund. Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each Interested Board Member is Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC, 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302, and the address of each Independent Board Member is Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC, c/o Legal Dept., 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

| <b>Name<br/>(Year of Birth)</b>  | <b>Position Held</b> | <b>Year Elected as<br/>Board Member</b> | <b>Principal Occupation(s)<br/>During Past 5 Years</b>  | <b>Other Directorships<br/>Held During Past 5<br/>Years</b>     |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Interested Board Member</b>   |                      |   |   |   |
| Douglas B. Sieg<br>(1969)        | Board Member         | 2016                                    | Managing Partner of Lord Abbett, (since 2018) and was formerly Head of Client Services, joined Lord Abbett in 1994. | None  |
| <b>Independent Board Members</b> |                      |   |   |   |
| Eric C. Fast<br>(1949)           | Board Member         | 2014                                    | Chief Executive Officer of Crane Co., an industrial products company (2001-2014).                                   | Currently serves as director of Automatic Data Processing, Inc. |

| <b>Name<br/>(Year of Birth)</b> | <b>Position Held</b>                   | <b>Year Elected as<br/>Board Member</b> | <b>Principal Occupation(s)<br/>During Past 5 Years</b>   | <b>Other Directorships<br/>Held During Past 5<br/>Years</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
|                                 |  |   |  | (since 2007), and Regions Financial Corporation (since 2010). Previously served as a director of Crane Co. (1999-2014). |
| Evelyn E. Guernsey (1955)       | Board Member                           | 2011                                    | None   | None  |
| Julie A. Hill (1946)            | Board Member                           | 2004                                    | Owner and CEO of The Hill Company, a business consulting firm (since 1998).  | Currently serves as director of Anthem, Inc., a health benefits company (since 1994).                                   |
| Kathleen M. Lutito (1963)       | Board Member                           | 2017                                    | President and Chief Investment Officer of CenturyLink Investment Management Company (since 2006).  | None  |
| James M. McTaggart (1947)       | Board Member                           | 2012                                    | Independent management advisor and consultant (since 2012).  | Blyth, Inc., a home products company (2004-2015).   |
| Karla M. Rabusch (1959)         | Board Member                           | 2017                                    | President and Director of Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC (2003 -2017); President of Wells Fargo Funds (2003 – 2016).                    | None  |
| Mark A. Schmid (1959)           | Board Member                           | 2016                                    | Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the University of Chicago (since 2009).   | None  |
| James L.L. Tullis (1947)        | Chairman (since 2017) and Board Member | 2006                                    | CEO of Tullis-Dickerson and Co. Inc., a venture capital management firm (1990-2016); CEO of Tullis Health Investors - FL LLC (since 2012). | Currently serves as director of Crane Co. (since 1998), Alphatec Spine (since 2018), and electroCore Inc. (since 2018). |

## Officers

No officer listed below has received compensation from the Funds. All officers of the Funds also may be officers of the other Funds and maintain offices at 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302. Unless otherwise indicated, the position(s) and title(s) listed under the “Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years” column indicates each officer’s position(s) and title(s) with Lord Abbett. Each officer serves for an indefinite term (*i.e.*, until his or her death, resignation, retirement, or removal).

| Name<br>(Year of Birth)      | Position Held   | Lord Abbett Funds                              | Year<br>Elected | Principal Occupation(s) During<br>Past 5 Years   |
|------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Douglas B. Sieg<br>(1969)    | President<br>Chief Executive<br>Officer                         | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2018            | Managing Partner of Lord Abbett, (since 2018) and was formerly Head of Client Services, joined Lord Abbett in 1994.  |
| Jackson C. Chan<br>(1964)    | AML<br>Compliance<br>Officer                                    | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2018            | Deputy Chief Compliance Officer and Director of Regulatory Affairs, joined Lord Abbett in 2014 and was formerly Director at UBS Global Asset Management (2005–2014).                 |
| Pamela P. Chen<br>(1978)     | Vice President<br>and Assistant<br>Secretary<br>Privacy Officer | All Lord Abbett Funds<br>All Lord Abbett Funds | 2018<br>2019    | Associate General Counsel, joined Lord Abbett in 2017 and was formerly Special Counsel at Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP (2005–2017).   |
| John T. Fitzgerald<br>(1975) | Vice President<br>and Assistant<br>Secretary                    | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2018            | Deputy General Counsel, joined Lord Abbett in 2018 and was formerly Deputy Head of U.S. Funds Legal, Executive Director and Assistant General Counsel at JPMorgan Chase (2005-2018). |
| Vito A. Fronda<br>(1969)     | Treasurer   | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2018            | Partner and Director of Taxation, joined Lord Abbett in 2003.  |
| Bernard J. Grzelak<br>(1971) | Chief Financial<br>Officer and Vice<br>President                | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2017            | Partner, Chief Operating Officer, Global Funds and Risk, joined Lord Abbett in 2003.   |
| Linda Y. Kim<br>(1980)       | Vice President<br>and Assistant<br>Secretary                    | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2016            | Counsel, joined Lord Abbett in 2015 and was formerly an Associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP (2007-2015).  |
| Joseph M. McGill<br>(1962)   | Chief<br>Compliance<br>Officer                                  | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2014            | Partner and Chief Compliance Officer, joined Lord Abbett in 2014 and was formerly Managing Director and the Chief Compliance Officer at UBS Global Asset Management (2003-2013).     |
| Amanda S. Ryan<br>(1978)     | Vice President<br>and Assistant<br>Secretary                    | All Lord Abbett Funds                          | 2018            | Counsel, joined Lord Abbett in 2016 and was formerly a Director and Corporate Counsel at PGIM Investments (2012-2016).   |

| <b>Name<br/>(Year of Birth)</b> | <b>Position Held</b>                                       | <b>Lord Abbett Funds</b> | <b>Year<br/>Elected</b> | <b>Principal Occupation(s) During<br/>Past 5 Years</b>      |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Lawrence B. Stoller<br>(1963)   | Vice President,<br>Secretary and<br>Chief Legal<br>Officer | All Lord Abbett Funds    | 2007                    | Partner and General Counsel,<br>joined Lord Abbett in 2007. |
|                                 |  | All Lord Abbett Funds    | 2019                    |   |

### **Qualifications of Board Members**

The individual qualifications of each Board Member are noted below. These qualifications, along with the experience noted above under “Board Members,” led to the conclusion that each Board Member should serve as a Board Member for the Funds. In addition to individual qualifications, the following characteristics are among those qualifications applicable to each existing Board Member and are among the qualifications that the Nominating and Governance Committee will consider for any future nominees:

- Reputation for integrity, honesty, and high ethical standards;
- Skills in disciplines deemed by the Nominating and Governance Committee to be relevant to the role of Independent Board Member, including business acumen, experience relevant to the financial services industry generally and the investment industry particularly, and ability to exercise sound judgment in matters relating to the current and long-term objectives of the Funds;
- Understanding and appreciation of the important role occupied by an Independent Board Member in the regulatory structure governing registered investment companies;
- Willingness and ability to contribute positively to the decision-making process for the Funds, including appropriate interpersonal skills to work effectively with other Independent Board Members;
- Desire and availability to serve as an Independent Board Member for a substantial period of time;
- Absence of conflicts that would interfere with qualifying as an Independent Board Member; and
- Diversity of background.

### **Interested Board Member:**

- **Douglas B. Sieg.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2016), financial services industry experience, chief executive officer experience, leadership experience, corporate governance experience, and civic/community involvement.

### **Independent Board Members:**

- **Eric C. Fast.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2014), financial services industry experience, chief executive officer experience, corporate governance experience, and civic/community involvement.
- **Evelyn E. Guernsey.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2011), financial services industry experience, chief executive officer experience, marketing experience, corporate governance experience, and civic/community involvement.
- **Julie A. Hill.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2004), business management and marketing experience, chief executive officer experience, entrepreneurial background, corporate governance experience, service in academia, and civic/community involvement.
- **Kathleen M. Lutito.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2017), financial services industry experience, financial expertise, leadership experience, and corporate governance experience.

- **James M. McTaggart.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2012), financial services industry experience, chief executive officer experience, entrepreneurial background, corporate governance experience, financial expertise, marketing experience, and civic/community involvement.
- **Karla M. Rabusch.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2017), chief executive officer experience, mutual fund industry experience, financial expertise, and corporate governance experience.
- **Mark A. Schmid.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2016), financial services industry experience, leadership experience, corporate governance experience, service in academia, financial expertise, and civic/community involvement.
- **James L.L. Tullis.** Board tenure with the Funds (since 2006), financial services industry experience, chief executive officer experience, corporate governance experience, financial expertise, and civic/community involvement.

### Committees

The standing committees of the Board are the Audit Committee, the Proxy Committee, the Nominating and Governance Committee, and the Contract Committee. The table below provides information about each committee's composition, functions, and responsibilities.

| Committee                           | Committee Members  | Description  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Audit Committee                     | Evelyn E. Guernsey<br>James M. McTaggart<br>Karla M. Rabusch<br>Mark A. Schmid   | The Audit Committee is comprised solely of Independent Board Members. The Audit Committee provides assistance to the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to accounting matters, the reporting practices of the Funds, and the quality and integrity of each Fund's financial reports. Among other things, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the performance and independence of the Funds' independent registered public accounting firm and considering violations of the Funds' Code of Ethics to determine what action should be taken. The Audit Committee meets at least quarterly.   |
| Proxy Committee                     | Eric C. Fast<br>Julie A. Hill<br>Kathleen M. Lutito<br>James L.L. Tullis   | The Proxy Committee is comprised of at least two Independent Board Members, and also may include one or more Board Members who are partners or employees of Lord Abbett. Currently, the Proxy Committee is comprised solely of Independent Board Members. The Proxy Committee (i) monitors the actions of Lord Abbett in voting securities owned by the Funds; (ii) evaluates the policies of Lord Abbett in voting securities; and (iii) meets with Lord Abbett to review the policies in voting securities, the sources of information used in determining how to vote on particular matters, and the procedures used to determine the votes in any situation where there may be a conflict of interest. |
| Nominating and Governance Committee | Eric C. Fast<br>Evelyn E. Guernsey<br>Julie A. Hill<br>Kathleen M. Lutito<br>James M. McTaggart<br>Karla M. Rabusch<br>Mark A. Schmid<br>James L.L. Tullis | The Nominating and Governance Committee is comprised of all Independent Board Members. Among other things, the Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for (i) evaluating and nominating individuals to serve as Independent Board Members and as committee members; and (ii) periodically reviewing Board Member compensation. The Nominating and Governance Committee has adopted policies for its consideration of any individual recommended by the Funds' shareholders to serve as an Independent Board Member. A shareholder may submit a   |

| <b>Committee</b>   | <b>Committee Members</b>   | <b>Description</b>  |
|--------------------|--|---|
|                    |  | nomination to the Board by following the procedures detailed under “Shareholder Communications” below.  |
| Contract Committee | Eric C. Fast<br>Evelyn E. Guernsey<br>Julie A. Hill<br>Kathleen M. Lutito<br>James M. McTaggart<br>Karla M. Rabusch<br>Mark A. Schmid<br>James L.L. Tullis | The Contract Committee is comprised of all Independent Board Members. The Contract Committee conducts much of the factual inquiry undertaken by the Board Members in connection with the Board’s annual consideration of whether to renew the management and other contracts with Lord Abbett and the Distributor. During the year, the Committee meets with Lord Abbett management and portfolio management to monitor ongoing developments involving Lord Abbett and each Fund’s portfolio. |

### **Board Oversight of Risk Management**

Managing the investment portfolios and the operations of the Funds, like all mutual funds, involves certain risks. Lord Abbett (and other Fund service providers, subject to oversight by Lord Abbett) is responsible for day-to-day risk management for the Funds. The Board oversees the Funds’ risk management as part of its general management oversight function. The Board, either directly or through committees, regularly receives and reviews reports from Lord Abbett about the elements of risk that affect or may affect the Funds, including investment risk, operational risk, compliance risk, and legal risk, among other elements of risk related to the operations of the Funds and Lord Abbett, and the steps Lord Abbett takes to mitigate those risks. The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer, who oversees the implementation and testing of the Funds’ compliance program and reports to the Board at least quarterly regarding compliance matters for the Funds, Lord Abbett, and the Funds’ service providers. The Board also has appointed a Chief Legal Officer, who is responsible for overseeing internal reporting requirements imposed under rules adopted by the SEC pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which are designed to ensure that credible indications of material violations of federal securities laws or breaches of fiduciary duty are investigated and are adequately and appropriately resolved.

In addition to the Board’s direct oversight, the Audit Committee and the Contract Committee play important roles in overseeing risk management on behalf of the Funds. The Audit Committee oversees the risk management efforts for financial reporting, pricing and valuation, and liquidity risk and meets regularly with the Funds’ Chief Financial Officer and independent auditors, as well as with members of management, to discuss financial reporting and audit issues, including risks related to financial controls. The Contract Committee meets regularly with the Funds’ portfolio managers and Lord Abbett’s Chief Investment Officer to discuss investment performance achieved by the Funds and the investment risks assumed by the Funds to achieve that performance.

While Lord Abbett has (and the Funds’ service providers have) implemented a number of measures intended to mitigate risk effectively to the extent practicable, it is not possible to eliminate all of the risks that are inherent in the operations of the Funds. Some risks are beyond Lord Abbett’s and/or a service provider’s control and not all risks that may affect the Funds can be identified before the risk arises or before Lord Abbett or a service provider, as applicable, develops processes and controls to eliminate the occurrence or mitigate the effects of such risks.

### **Shareholder Communications**

Shareholders who want to communicate with the Board or any individual Board Member(s) should write the Funds directed to the attention of the Secretary of the Funds, at 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302. Communications to the Board must be signed by the shareholder and must specify (1) the shareholder’s name and address, (2) the Fund(s) in which the shareholder owns shares, (3) the number of Fund shares owned by the shareholder, and (4) for shares held in “street name,” the name of the financial intermediary that holds Fund shares in its name for the shareholder’s benefit. The Secretary will forward such communications to the Board or the applicable Board member(s) at the next regularly scheduled meeting, if practicable, or promptly after receipt if the Secretary determines that the communications require more immediate attention.

**Code of Ethics**

The directors, trustees, and officers of the Funds, together with the partners and employees of Lord Abbett, are permitted to purchase and sell securities for their personal investment accounts. In engaging in personal securities transactions, however, such persons are subject to requirements and restrictions contained in the Lord Abbett Funds', Lord Abbett's, and the Distributor's Code of Ethics, which complies, in substance, with Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act. Among other things, the Code of Ethics requires, with limited exceptions, that Lord Abbett partners and employees obtain advance approval before buying or selling securities, submit confirmations and quarterly transaction reports, and obtain approval before becoming a director of any company; and it prohibits such persons from (1) investing in a security seven days before or after any Fund or Lord Abbett-managed account considers a trade or trades in such security, (2) transacting in a security that the person covers as an analyst or with respect to which the person has participated in a non-public investor meeting with company management within the six months preceding the requested transaction, (3) profiting on trades of the same security within 60 days, (4) trading on material and non-public information, and (5) engaging in market timing activities with respect to the Funds. The Code of Ethics also includes certain requirements imposed by the 1940 Act that are applicable to the Independent Board Members of each Lord Abbett Fund.

**Proxy Voting**

The Funds have delegated proxy voting responsibilities to the Funds' investment adviser, Lord Abbett, subject to the Proxy Committee's general oversight. Lord Abbett has adopted its own proxy voting policies and procedures for this purpose. A copy of Lord Abbett's proxy voting policies and procedures is attached as Appendix C.

In addition, the Funds are required to file Form N-PX, with their complete proxy voting records for the twelve months ended June 30th, no later than August 31st of each year. The Funds' Form N-PX filing is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The Funds also have made this information available, without charge, on Lord Abbett's website at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com).

## 5.

### INVESTMENT ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES, FEES, AND EXPENSES

#### Investment Adviser

As described under “Management and Organization of the Funds” in each Fund’s prospectus, Lord Abbett is each Fund’s investment adviser.

**Exclusion From Definition of CPO.** Lord Abbett has filed notices to claim an exclusion from the definition of the term CPO under the CEA for each of the Funds, other than Inflation Focused Fund and Emerging Markets Bond Fund, and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a CPO with regard to these Funds under the CEA. Lord Abbett is subject to registration and regulation as a CPO with regard to Inflation Focused Fund and Emerging Markets Bond Fund.

Please see the “Investment Advisory and Other Services, Fees, and Expenses” section of Part I for more information on expenses and fees paid by the Funds.

#### Administrative Services

Pursuant to an Administrative Services Agreement with the Funds, Lord Abbett provides certain administrative services such as Fund accounting, financial reporting, tax, shareholder servicing, technology, legal, compliance, and Blue Sky services. Under the Administrative Services Agreement, each Fund pays Lord Abbett a monthly fee, based on its average daily net assets for each month, at an annual rate of 0.04%. The administrative services fee is allocated to each class of shares of a Fund based upon the relative proportion of each Fund’s net assets represented by that class.

#### Distributor

The Distributor, a New York limited liability company and subsidiary of Lord Abbett, 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302, serves as the principal underwriter for the Funds. Each Lord Abbett Fund, on behalf of its Funds, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Distributor, under which the Distributor is obligated to use its best efforts to find purchasers for the shares of each Fund, and to make reasonable efforts to sell Fund shares on a continuous basis, so long as, in the Distributor’s judgment, a substantial distribution can be obtained by reasonable efforts.

#### Rule 12b-1 Plan

Each Fund, except Series Fund, has adopted an Amended and Restated Joint Distribution Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act for all of the Funds’ share classes except Class F3, I, R5, and R6. The principal features of the Rule 12b-1 Plan are described in the prospectus; however, this SAI contains additional information that may be of interest to investors. The Rule 12b-1 Plan is a compensation plan, allowing each applicable class to pay a fixed fee to the Distributor that may be more or less than the expenses the Distributor actually incurs for using reasonable efforts to secure purchasers of Fund shares. These efforts may include, but neither are required to include nor are limited to, the following: (a) making payments to authorized institutions in connection with sales of shares and/or servicing of accounts of shareholders holding shares; (b) providing continuing information and investment services to shareholder accounts not serviced by authorized institutions receiving a service fee from the Distributor hereunder and encouraging shareholder accounts to remain invested in the shares; and (c) otherwise rendering services to the Funds, including paying and financing the payment of sales commissions, service fees, and other costs of distributing and selling shares. In adopting the Rule 12b-1 Plan and in approving its continuance, the Board has concluded that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Rule 12b-1 Plan will benefit each applicable class and its shareholders. The expected benefits include greater sales and lower redemptions of class shares, which should allow each class to maintain a consistent cash flow, and a higher quality of service to shareholders by authorized institutions than would otherwise be the case. Under the Rule 12b-1 Plan, each applicable class compensates the Distributor for financing activities primarily intended to sell shares of the applicable Fund. These activities include, but are not limited to, the preparation and distribution of advertising material and sales literature and other marketing activities. The Distributor also uses amounts received under the Rule 12b-1 Plan, as described in the prospectus, for payments to dealers and other agents for (i) providing

continuous services to shareholders, such as answering shareholder inquiries, maintaining records, and assisting shareholders in making redemptions, transfers, additional purchases, and exchanges and (ii) their assistance in distributing shares of the Funds.

The following table shows the maximum payments for each Fund that may be authorized by the Board pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 Plan. However, pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 Plan, the Board shall from time to time determine the actual amounts, subject to the maximum amounts described in the table, that a Fund may pay the Distributor. Information on the level of payments authorized by the Board under the Rule 12b-1 Plan for each Fund is available in each Fund's prospectus. All Class C shareholders of a Fund will bear fees under a Rule 12b-1 Plan at the same blended rate, regardless of how long they hold their particular shares. The Rule 12b-1 Plan does not permit any payments for Class F3, I, R5, or R6 shares. The Funds may not pay compensation where tracking data is not available for certain accounts or where the authorized institution waives part of the compensation. In such cases, the Funds will not require payment of any otherwise applicable CDSC.

|          | <b>Maximum Payments for Each Fund<br/>except Money Market Fund</b> | <b>Maximum Payments for<br/>Money Market Fund</b> |
|----------|--|---|
| Class A  | 0.50%  | 0.15%   |
| Class C  | 1.00%  | 1.00%   |
| Class F  | 1.00%  | N/A <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Class P  | 0.75%  | N/A <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Class R2 | 1.00%  | N/A <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Class R3 | 1.00%  | N/A <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| Class R4 | 0.50%  | N/A <sup>1</sup>                                  |

<sup>1</sup> N/A: share class not offered by the Fund

The Rule 12b-1 Plan requires the Board to review, on a quarterly basis, written reports of all amounts expended pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 Plan for each class, the purposes for which such expenditures were made, and any other information the Board reasonably requests to enable it to make an informed determination of whether the Rule 12b-1 Plan should be continued. The Rule 12b-1 Plan shall continue in effect only if its continuance is specifically approved at least annually by vote of the Board Members, including a majority of the Independent Board Members, who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Rule 12b-1 Plan or in any agreements related to the Rule 12b-1 Plan, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Rule 12b-1 Plan. The Rule 12b-1 Plan may not be amended to increase materially above the limits set forth therein the amount spent for distribution expenses thereunder for each class without approval by a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the applicable class and the approval of a majority of the Board Members, including a majority of the Independent Board Members, who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Rule 12b-1 Plan or in any agreements related to the Rule 12b-1 Plan. As long as the Rule 12b-1 Plan is in effect, the selection or nomination of Independent Board Members is committed to the discretion of the Independent Board Members.

Mr. Sieg is the Managing Member of Lord Abbett, which is the sole member of the Distributor, and as such is deemed to have a financial interest in the Rule 12b-1 Plan.

Payments made pursuant to the Rule 12b-1 Plan are subject to any applicable limitations imposed by rules of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. The Rule 12b-1 Plan terminates automatically if it is assigned. In addition, the Rule 12b-1 Plan may be terminated with respect to a class at any time by vote of a majority of the Independent Board Members (excluding any Independent Board Member who has a direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Rule 12b-1 Plan or in any agreements related to the Rule 12b-1 Plan) or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the applicable class.

#### **Custodian and Accounting Agent**

State Street Bank and Trust Company, One Lincoln Street, Boston, MA 02111, is each Fund's custodian. The Custodian pays for and collects proceeds of securities bought and sold by the Funds and attends to the collection

of principal and income. The Custodian may appoint domestic and foreign subcustodians from time to time to hold certain securities purchased by a Fund in foreign countries and to hold cash and currencies for each Fund. In accordance with the requirements of Rule 17f-5 under the 1940 Act, the Board has approved arrangements permitting each Fund's foreign assets not held by the Custodian or its foreign branches to be held by certain qualified foreign banks and depositories. In addition, the Custodian performs certain accounting and recordkeeping functions relating to portfolio transactions and calculates each Fund's NAV.

**Transfer Agent**

DST Systems, Inc., 210 West 10th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105, serves as the Funds' transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent pursuant to an Agency Agreement.

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Deloitte & Touche LLP, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, is the Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm of the Funds and must be approved at least annually by the Board to continue in such capacity. Deloitte & Touche LLP performs audit services for the Funds, including the examination of financial statements included in the Funds' annual reports to shareholders.

6.  
**PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

The Funds are managed by experienced portfolio managers responsible for investment decisions together with a team of investment professionals who provide issuer, industry, sector, and macroeconomic research and analysis. Please see “Portfolio Manager Information” in Part I for names of the portfolio managers, other accounts managed, and their holdings.

The table in the “Portfolio Management Information – Other Accounts Managed” section of Part I sets forth the following for each Fund as of the date indicated (1) the number of other accounts managed by each portfolio manager who is identified in the prospectus within certain categories of investment vehicles; and (2) the total net assets in such accounts managed within each category. For each of the categories, a footnote to the table also provides the number of accounts and the total net assets in the accounts with respect to which the management fee is based on the performance of the account, if applicable.

**Conflicts of Interest**

Conflicts of interest may arise in connection with the portfolio managers’ management of the investments of the Funds and the investments of the other accounts included in the table in “Portfolio Management Information – Other Accounts Managed” in Part I. Such conflicts may arise with respect to the allocation of investment opportunities among the Funds and other accounts with similar investment objectives and policies. A portfolio manager potentially could use information concerning a Fund’s transactions to the advantage of other accounts and to the detriment of that Fund. To address these potential conflicts of interest, Lord Abbett has adopted and implemented a number of policies and procedures. Lord Abbett has adopted Policies and Procedures Relating to Client Brokerage and Soft Dollars, as well as Evaluation of Proprietary Research Policy and Procedures. The objective of these policies and procedures is to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of transactions and allocation of investment opportunities on behalf of all accounts managed by Lord Abbett. In addition, Lord Abbett’s Code of Ethics sets forth general principles for the conduct of employee personal securities transactions in a manner that avoids any actual or potential conflicts of interest with the interests of Lord Abbett’s clients, including the Funds. Moreover, Lord Abbett’s Insider Trading and Receipt of Material Non-Public Information Policy and Procedure sets forth procedures for personnel to follow when they have material non-public information. Lord Abbett is not affiliated with a full service broker-dealer and, therefore, does not execute any portfolio transactions through such an entity, a structure that could give rise to additional conflicts. Lord Abbett does not conduct any investment banking functions and does not manage any hedge funds. Lord Abbett does not believe that any material conflicts of interest exist in connection with the portfolio managers’ management of the investments of the Funds and the investments of the other accounts in the table referenced above.

**Compensation of Portfolio Managers**

When used in this section, the term “fund” refers to the Funds, as well as any other registered investment companies, pooled investment vehicles, and accounts managed by a portfolio manager. Each portfolio manager receives compensation from Lord Abbett consisting of a salary, bonus, and profit-sharing plan contributions. The level of base compensation takes into account the portfolio manager’s experience, reputation, and competitive market rates, as well as the portfolio manager’s leadership and management of the investment team.

Fiscal year-end bonuses, which can be a substantial percentage of overall compensation, are determined after an evaluation of various factors. These factors include the portfolio manager’s investment results and style consistency, the dispersion among funds with similar objectives, the risk taken to achieve the returns, and similar factors. In considering the portfolio manager’s investment results, Lord Abbett’s senior management may evaluate the Fund’s performance against one or more benchmarks from among the Fund’s primary benchmark and any supplemental benchmarks as disclosed in the prospectus, indices disclosed as performance benchmarks by the portfolio manager’s other accounts, and other indices within one or more of the Fund’s peer groups (as defined from time to time by third party investment research companies), as well as the Fund’s peer group. In particular, investment results are evaluated based on an assessment of the portfolio manager’s one-, three-, and five-year investment returns on a pre-tax basis versus the benchmark. Finally, there is a component of the bonus that

rewards leadership and management of the investment team. The evaluation does not follow a formulaic approach, but rather is reached following a review of these factors. No part of the bonus payment is based on the portfolio manager's assets under management, the revenues generated by those assets, or the profitability of the portfolio manager's team. In addition, Lord Abbett may designate a bonus payment of a manager for participation in the firm's senior incentive compensation plan, which provides for a deferred payout over a five-year period. The plan's earnings are based on the overall asset growth of the firm as a whole. Lord Abbett believes this incentive focuses portfolio managers on the impact their Fund's performance has on the overall reputation of the firm as a whole and encourages exchanges of investment ideas among investment professionals managing different mandates.

Lord Abbett provides a 401(k) profit-sharing plan for all eligible employees. Contributions to a portfolio manager's profit-sharing account are based on a percentage of the portfolio manager's total base and bonus paid during the fiscal year, subject to a specified maximum amount.

### **Holdings of Portfolio Managers**

The "Portfolio Manager Information – Holdings of Portfolio Managers" section of Part I includes a table that indicates for each Fund the dollar range of shares beneficially owned by each portfolio manager who is identified in the prospectus, as of the date indicated. The table includes the value of shares beneficially owned by such portfolio managers through 401(k) plans and certain other plans or accounts, if any.

## 7.

### BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES

**Investment and Brokerage Discretion.** Each Fund's Management Agreement authorizes Lord Abbett to place orders for the purchase and sale of portfolio securities. In doing so, Lord Abbett seeks to obtain "best execution" on all portfolio transactions. This means that Lord Abbett seeks to achieve the most favorable results it can reasonably attain under the circumstances for a Fund's portfolio transactions, considering all costs of the transaction, including brokerage commissions, and taking into account the full range and quality of the broker-dealers' services. To the extent consistent with obtaining best execution, a Fund may pay a higher commission than some broker-dealers might charge on the same transaction. Lord Abbett is not obligated to obtain the lowest commission rate available for a portfolio transaction exclusive of price, service, and qualitative considerations.

**Selection of Brokers and Dealers.** The policy on best execution governs the selection of broker-dealers and selection of the market and/or trading venue in which to execute a transaction. Normally, traders who are employees of Lord Abbett select broker-dealers. These traders are responsible for seeking best execution. They also conduct trading for the accounts of other Lord Abbett investment management clients, including investment companies, institutions, and individuals. To the extent permitted by law, a Fund may purchase from or sell to another Fund or client without the intervention of any broker-dealer if Lord Abbett deems the transaction to be in the best interests of the Fund and the other participating accounts and at a price that Lord Abbett has determined by reference to independent market indicators. A Fund's selection of broker-dealers is subject to the restrictions of the EU's updated Markets in Financial Instruments Directive ("MiFID II"), if applicable.

**Fixed Income Securities.** To the extent a Fund purchases or sells fixed income securities, the Fund generally will deal directly with the issuer or through a broker-dealer acting as principal on a net basis. When dealing with a broker-dealer, a Fund pays no brokerage commission, but the price, which reflects the spread between the bid and ask prices of the security, usually includes undisclosed compensation and may involve the designation of selling concessions. A Fund also may purchase fixed income securities from underwriters at prices that include underwriting fees.

**Equity Securities.** Transactions in equity securities involve the payment of brokerage commissions. In the U.S., these commissions are negotiated. Traditionally, commission rates have not been negotiated on stock markets outside the U.S. While an increasing number of overseas stock markets have adopted a system of negotiated rates or ranges of rates, a small number of markets continue to be subject to a non-negotiable schedule of minimum rates. To the extent a Fund invests in equity securities, it ordinarily will purchase such securities in its primary trading markets, whether such securities are traded OTC or listed on a stock exchange, and purchase listed securities in the OTC market if such market is deemed the primary market. A Fund may purchase newly issued securities from underwriters, and the price of such transaction usually will include a concession paid to the underwriter. When purchasing from dealers serving as market makers in the OTC market, there may be no stated commission, and a Fund's purchase price may include an undisclosed commission or markup.

**Evaluating the Reasonableness of Brokerage Commissions Paid.** Each Fund pays a commission rate that Lord Abbett believes is appropriate under the circumstances. While Lord Abbett seeks to pay competitive commission rates, a Fund will not necessarily be paying the lowest possible commissions on particular trades if Lord Abbett believes that the Fund has obtained best execution and the commission rates paid by the Fund are reasonable in relation to the value of the services received. Such services include, but are not limited to, showing the Fund trading opportunities, a willingness and ability to take principal positions in securities, knowledge of a particular security or market-proven ability to handle a particular type of trade, providing and/or facilitating Lord Abbett's use of proprietary and third party research, confidential treatment, promptness and reliability. Lord Abbett may view the value of these services in terms of either a particular transaction or Lord Abbett's overall responsibility to a Fund and the other accounts Lord Abbett manages.

Lord Abbett continuously seeks to determine what levels of commission rates are reasonable in the marketplace for transactions executed on behalf of a Fund. In evaluating the reasonableness of commission rates, Lord Abbett may consider any or all of the following: (a) the services listed above; (b) rates quoted by broker-dealers; (c) the

size of a particular transaction, in terms of the number of shares, dollar amount, and number of clients involved; (d) the complexity of a particular transaction in terms of both execution and settlement; (e) the level and type of business done with a particular firm over a period of time; (f) the extent to which the broker-dealer has capital at risk in the transaction; (g) historical commission rates; and (h) rates paid by other institutional investors based on available public information.

**Trade Allocation and Rotation.** Lord Abbett generally allocates securities purchased or sold in a batched transaction among participating client accounts in proportion to the size of the order placed for each account (*i.e.*, pro rata). In certain situations, however, a pro rata allocation of the securities or proceeds may not be possible or desirable. In these cases, Lord Abbett will decide how to allocate the securities or proceeds according to each account's particular circumstances and needs and in a manner that Lord Abbett believes is fair and equitable to clients over time in light of factors based on a good faith assessment of the investment opportunity relative to the objectives, limitations, and requirements of each eligible client account. Relevant factors may include, without limitation, client-specific considerations, type of account, number of securities relative to size and expected future size of the client account, availability of other appropriate investment opportunities, rebalancing needs, minimum denomination of increments and round lot considerations, tax considerations, and/or purchases for newly established accounts for which Lord Abbett is seeking to fully invest as promptly as possible. In addition, if Lord Abbett is unable to execute fully a batched transaction and determines that it would be impractical to allocate a small number of securities on a pro rata basis among the participating accounts, Lord Abbett allocates the securities in a manner it determines to be fair to all accounts over time. Thus, in some cases it is possible that the application of the factors described herein may result in allocations in which certain client accounts participating in a batched transaction may receive an allocation when other accounts do not. Non-proportional allocations may occur frequently in the fixed income portfolio management area, in many instances because multiple appropriate or substantially similar investments are not available in fixed income strategies, as well as for other reasons. Non-proportional allocations also could occur in other investment strategies.

At times, Lord Abbett is not able to batch purchases and sales for all accounts or products it is managing, such as when an individually managed account client directs it to use a particular broker for a trade (sometimes referred to herein as "directed accounts") or when a client restricts Lord Abbett from selecting certain brokers to execute trades for such account (sometimes referred to herein as "restricted accounts"). When it does not batch purchases and sales among products, Lord Abbett usually uses a rotation process for placing equity transactions on behalf of the different groups of accounts or products with respect to which equity transactions are communicated to the trading desk at or about the same time.

When transactions for all products using a particular investment strategy are communicated to the trading desk at or about the same time, Lord Abbett generally will place trades first for transactions on behalf of the Funds and non-directed, unrestricted, individually managed institutional accounts; second for restricted accounts; third for managed accounts by sponsor or consultant/financial advisor ("MA"); and finally for directed accounts. Communication of changes to portfolio holdings information for certain model portfolio MA programs is handled separately near the end of the trading day and generally after the completion of transactions for MA. Lord Abbett may determine in its sole discretion to place transactions for one group of accounts (*e.g.*, directed accounts, restricted accounts, or MA) before or after the remaining accounts based on a variety of factors, including size of overall trade, the broker-dealer's commitment of capital, liquidity or other conditions of the market, or confidentiality. Most often, however, transactions are communicated to the trading desk first for the Funds and institutional accounts and then for other relevant accounts. In those instances, Lord Abbett normally will place transactions in the same order as when transactions are communicated to the trading desk at or about the same time.

**Policies on Broker-Dealer Brokerage and Research Services and Soft Dollars.** Lord Abbett may select broker-dealers that furnish Lord Abbett with proprietary and third party brokerage and research services in connection with commissions paid on transactions it places for client accounts to the extent that Lord Abbett believes that the commissions paid are reasonable in relation to the value of the services received. "Commissions," as defined through applicable guidance issued by the SEC, include fees paid to brokers for trades conducted on an agency

basis, and certain mark-ups, mark-downs, commission equivalents, and other fees received by dealers in riskless principal transactions. The brokerage and research services Lord Abbett receives are within the eligibility requirements of Section 28(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (“Section 28(e)”), and, in particular, provide Lord Abbett with lawful and appropriate assistance in the provision of investment advice to client accounts. Brokerage and research services (collectively referred to herein as “Research Services”) include (1) furnishing advice relating to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities, and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities; (2) furnishing analyses and reports concerning issuers, industries, securities, economic factors and trends, portfolio strategy, and the performance of accounts; and (3) effecting securities transactions and performing functions incidental to securities transactions (such as clearance, settlement, and custody). Such services may come in the form of research reports via electronic delivery or print, online data services, oral discussions with researchers and other experts, attendance at conferences, and meetings with company representatives. The provisions of MiFID II may limit the ability of Lord Abbett to pay for research services using soft dollars in various circumstances, if applicable.

**Research Services.** Lord Abbett has entered into “Client Commission Arrangements” with a number of broker-dealers that are involved from time to time in executing, clearing, or settling securities transactions on behalf of clients (“Executing Brokers”). Such Client Commission Arrangements provide for the Executing Brokers to pay a portion of the commissions paid by eligible client accounts for securities transactions to providers of Research Services (“Research Providers”). Such Research Providers shall produce and/or provide Research Services for the benefit of Lord Abbett. If a Research Provider plays no role in executing client securities transactions, any Research Services prepared by such Research Provider constitute third party research. Research Services that are proprietary to the Executing Broker or are otherwise produced by the Executing Broker or its affiliates are referred to herein as proprietary Research Services. Lord Abbett initiates a significant percentage, including perhaps all, of a client’s equity transactions with Executing Brokers pursuant to Client Commission Arrangements. Lord Abbett also will receive complimentary and customary Research Services from various broker-dealers, including broker-dealers through which Fund portfolio transactions are executed in accordance with Lord Abbett’s best execution obligations.

Executing Brokers may provide Research Services to Lord Abbett in written form or through direct contact with individuals, including telephone contacts and meetings with securities analysts and/or management representatives from portfolio companies, and may include information concerning particular companies and securities, as well as market, economic, or other information that assists in the evaluation of investments. Examples of Research Services that Executing Brokers may provide to Lord Abbett include research reports and other information on the economy, industries, groups of securities, individual companies, statistical information, political developments, technical market action, pricing and appraisal services, credit analysis, risk measurement analysis, performance, and other analysis. Broker-dealers typically make proprietary research available to investment advisers on the basis of their placement of transactions with the broker-dealer. Some broker-dealers will not sell their proprietary research to investment advisers on a “hard dollar” (or “unbundled”) basis. Executing Brokers may provide Lord Abbett with proprietary Research Services, at least some of which are useful to Lord Abbett in its overall responsibilities with respect to client accounts that Lord Abbett manages. In addition, Lord Abbett may purchase third party research with its own resources.

Lord Abbett believes that access to independent investment research is beneficial to its investment decision-making processes and, therefore, to its clients. Receipt of independent investment research allows Lord Abbett to supplement its own internal research and analysis and makes available the views of, and information from, individuals and the research staffs of other firms. The receipt of Research Services from broker-dealers therefore does not tend to reduce the need for Lord Abbett to maintain its own research personnel. Further, Lord Abbett values the receipt of independent, supplemental viewpoints and analyses. Any investment advisory or other fees paid by clients to Lord Abbett are not reduced as a result of Lord Abbett’s receipt of Research Services from broker-dealers. Also, the expenses of Lord Abbett would be increased substantially if it attempted to generate such additional information through its own staff, or if it paid for these products or services itself. To the extent that Research Services of value are provided by or through such broker-dealers, Lord Abbett will not have to pay for such services itself. In addition, Lord Abbett will, at times, select broker-dealers that provide Research Services in

order to ensure the continued receipt of such Research Services that Lord Abbett believes are useful in its investment decision-making process. Lord Abbett has an incentive to execute trades through certain of such broker-dealers with which it has negotiated more favorable Client Commission Arrangements, rather than executing through a broker-dealer with an arrangement that is less favorable to Lord Abbett. To the extent that Lord Abbett uses brokerage commissions paid in connection with client portfolio transactions to obtain Research Services, the brokerage commissions paid by such clients will exceed those that would otherwise be paid for execution only. These circumstances give rise to actual and potential conflicts of interest. In order to manage such conflicts of interest, Lord Abbett has adopted internal procedures designed to ensure that (1) the value, type, and quality of any products or services it receives from broker-dealers are permissible under applicable law and (2) investment transactions are placed based solely on best execution considerations.

Lord Abbett does not attempt to allocate to any particular client account the relative costs or benefits of Research Services received from a broker-dealer. Rather, Lord Abbett believes that any Research Services received from a broker-dealer are, in the aggregate, of assistance to Lord Abbett in fulfilling its overall responsibilities to its clients. Accordingly, Research Services received for a particular client's brokerage commissions may be useful to Lord Abbett in the management of that client's account, but may also be useful in Lord Abbett's management of other clients' accounts, including accounts that do not generate eligible Section 28(e) brokerage commissions or generate less than a proportionate share of such eligible commissions to pay for Research Services; similarly, the research received for the commissions of other client accounts may be useful in Lord Abbett's management of that client account. Thus, Lord Abbett uses Research Services received from broker-dealers in servicing any or all of its accounts, and not all of such services will necessarily be used by Lord Abbett in connection with its management of every client account. Such products and services may disproportionately benefit certain clients relative to others based on the amount of brokerage commissions paid by the client account. For example, Lord Abbett uses Research Services obtained through soft dollar arrangements, including Client Commission Arrangements, in its management of certain directed accounts and managed accounts and accounts of clients who may have restricted Lord Abbett's use of soft dollars, regardless of the fact that brokerage commissions paid by such accounts are not used to obtain Research Services.

In some cases, Lord Abbett receives from a broker-dealer a product or service that has both a "research" and a "non-research" use. When this occurs, Lord Abbett makes a good faith allocation between the research and non-research uses of the product or service. The percentage of the product or service Lord Abbett uses for research purposes will generally be paid for with client commissions, while Lord Abbett will use its own funds to pay for the percentage of the product or service that it uses for non-research purposes. In making this good faith allocation, Lord Abbett faces a potential conflict of interest, but Lord Abbett believes that its allocation procedures are reasonably designed to ensure that it appropriately allocates the anticipated use of such products or services to their research and non-research uses.

Lord Abbett periodically assesses the contributions of the Research Services provided by broker-dealers and creates a ranking of broker-dealers reflecting these assessments, as determined by Lord Abbett's investment staff. Lord Abbett's investment personnel evaluate the Research Services they receive from broker-dealers and make judgments relating to the value and quality of such services. These assessments are intended to affect the extent to which Lord Abbett trades with a broker-dealer, although the actual amount of transactions placed with a particular broker-dealer may not directly reflect its ranking in the voting process. Lord Abbett monitors the allocation of equity trading among broker-dealers through periodic reviews. Lord Abbett's arrangements for proprietary and third party Research Services do not involve any commitment by Lord Abbett regarding the allocation of brokerage business to or among any particular broker-dealer. Rather, Lord Abbett executes portfolio transactions only when they are dictated by investment decisions to purchase or sell portfolio securities.

From time to time, Lord Abbett prepares a relative categorization and ranking of research providers that it considers to provide valuable Research Services as determined through evaluations and other feedback provided by Lord Abbett's investment staff.

Lord Abbett uses the ranking as a guide for evaluating and determining payments to research providers for Research Services, including proprietary Research Services provided to Lord Abbett by executing broker-dealers. Lord Abbett may use commissions generated pursuant to a Client Commission Arrangement to pay a research provider, including an executing broker-dealer who provides proprietary Research Services to Lord Abbett. Alternatively, Lord Abbett may make cash payments from its own resources to pay research providers for Research Services. From time to time, Lord Abbett will use commissions generated pursuant to a Client Commission Arrangement to pay for a significant portion of the Research Services that it receives.

Lord Abbett's arrangements for Research Services do not involve any commitment by Lord Abbett or a Fund regarding the allocation of brokerage business to or among any particular broker-dealer. Rather, Lord Abbett executes portfolio transactions only when they are dictated by investment decisions to purchase or sell portfolio securities. However, Lord Abbett may establish designated trading targets with one or more alternative trading systems that permit Lord Abbett to specify the broker-dealer for commission credit purposes and from which Research Services can be received, while ensuring best execution for portfolio trades. A Fund is prohibited from compensating a broker-dealer for promoting or selling Fund shares by directing the Fund's portfolio transactions to the broker-dealer or directing any other remuneration to the broker-dealer, including commissions, mark-ups, mark-downs, or other fees, resulting from a Fund's portfolio transactions executed by a different broker-dealer. A Fund is permitted to effect portfolio transactions through broker-dealers that also sell shares of the Funds, provided that Lord Abbett does not consider sales of shares of the Funds as a factor in the selection of broker-dealers to execute portfolio transactions. Thus, whether a particular broker-dealer sells shares of the Funds is not a factor considered by Lord Abbett when selecting broker-dealers for portfolio transactions, and any such sales neither qualifies nor disqualifies the broker-dealer from executing portfolio transactions for a Fund.

Lord Abbett selects broker-dealers that provide Research Services in order to ensure the continued receipt of such Research Services that Lord Abbett believes are useful in its investment decision-making process. Further, Lord Abbett has an incentive to execute trades through certain of such broker-dealers with which it has negotiated more favorable arrangements for Lord Abbett to receive Research Services. To the extent that Lord Abbett uses brokerage commissions paid in connection with client portfolio transactions to obtain Research Services, the brokerage commissions paid by such clients would exceed those that might otherwise be paid for execution only. In order to manage these conflicts of interest, Lord Abbett has adopted internal procedures that are designed to ensure that its primary objective in the selection of a broker-dealer is to seek best execution for the portfolio transaction.

All accounts included in a batched transaction executed through a broker-dealer pursuant to a Client Commission Arrangement pay the same commission rate, regardless of whether one or more accounts within the batched order has prohibited Lord Abbett from receiving any credit toward such services from its commissions. Some broker-dealers who have negotiated an arrangement with Lord Abbett for the provision of Research Services may offer a lower commission rate for client accounts not participating in such an arrangement. It is Lord Abbett's policy, however, to seek to include nonparticipating accounts in a batched trade, as Lord Abbett believes these nonparticipating accounts would receive overall better execution, notwithstanding the fact that the nonparticipating account may be able to pay a lower commission rate if it were not included in the batched trade.

**Cross-Subsidization.** Client Commission Arrangements generally do not apply to fixed income transactions. The fixed income securities market is an OTC market where commissions are not paid and soft dollars are not produced. Dealers generate revenue through the bid-ask spread of the securities in which they make markets. Lord Abbett receives complimentary and customary investment research from various broker-dealers, including, in addition to broker-dealers that execute equity trades, broker-dealers through which fixed income trades are executed in accordance with Lord Abbett's best execution obligations. The receipt of such research, however, is not contingent on specific trades. In addition, the investment personnel managing fixed income accounts, including Money Market Fund, will benefit from, or be "cross-subsidized" by, Research Services received by Lord Abbett through soft dollars, even though some fixed income accounts do not generate eligible Section 28(e) brokerage commissions or generate less than a proportionate share of such eligible commissions to pay for such Research Services.

Some fixed income strategies employed by Lord Abbett also invest in equity securities. Therefore, in addition to making use of soft dollar Research Services obtained by Lord Abbett's equity investment personnel, the fixed income investment team also will obtain Research Services directly using soft dollars.

## 8. CLASSES OF SHARES

Each Fund offers investors different classes of shares, which are described in each Fund's prospectus and SAI. The different classes of shares of each Fund represent investments in the same portfolio of securities but are subject to different expenses and will likely have different share prices. Investors should read this section carefully together with the corresponding section in the relevant Fund's prospectus to determine which class represents the best investment option for their particular situations.

All classes of shares have equal noncumulative voting rights and equal rights with respect to dividends, assets and liquidation, except for certain class-specific expenses. They are fully paid and nonassessable when issued and have no preemptive or conversion rights, except as described in the prospectus and this SAI. Additional classes or funds may be added in the future. The 1940 Act requires that where more than one class or fund exists, each class or fund must be preferred over all other classes or funds in respect of assets specifically allocated to such class or fund.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required to be submitted, by the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law, or otherwise, to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company shall not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each class affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that a class shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless the interests of each class or fund in the matter are substantially identical or the matter does not affect any interest of such class or fund. However, Rule 18f-2 exempts the selection of the independent registered public accounting firm, the approval of a contract with a principal underwriter, and the election of board members from the separate voting requirements.

**Equity Trust, Investment Trust, and Securities Trust (each, a "Trust" and collectively, the "Trusts") only:**

Each Trust is a Delaware statutory trust. The Trusts are not required to hold shareholder meetings each year. However, as stated in each Trust's Declaration, shareholder meetings may be called at any time by certain officers of the Trust, the Chairman of the Board, or by a majority of the Board, to let shareholders take action on the following:

- a matter that requires the approval or authorization of shareholders as provided for in the Trust's Declaration;
- a matter that requires shareholder approval or authorization under the 1940 Act or other applicable law, regulation, or SEC or state order; or
- other matters determined to be necessary or desirable.

In addition, under each Trust's Declaration, special shareholder meetings may also be called upon the written request from shareholders who hold at least 25% of the outstanding shares of the Trust that would be entitled to vote at the special shareholder meeting.

Under each Declaration, the Board may, without shareholder approval, merge or consolidate the Trust into, or sell and convey some or all of, the Trust's assets to one or more other entities, so long as the surviving entity is an open-end management investment company that will succeed to or assume the Trust's registration statement. The Board may also, without shareholder approval, incorporate the Trust under Delaware law. Further, the Board may, without shareholder approval, cause the Trust to organize a new entity, in which the Trust will have an interest, to take over some or all of the Trust's property or carry on the Trust's business.

Shareholders owning 50% or more of the then outstanding shares of the applicable Trust may bring derivative actions on behalf of the Trust, *provided* that the shareholders have requested that the Board take such action and the Board failed or refused to act for at least 60 days.

**Shareholder Liability.** Delaware law provides that each Trust's shareholders shall be entitled to the same limitations of personal liability extended to stockholders of private for profit corporations. However, this protection is not guaranteed. The courts of some states may decline to apply Delaware law on this point, which could result in different limitations of personal liability for shareholders. Each Declaration contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for the acts, obligations, or affairs of the Trust. In addition, each Declaration requires that each agreement that the Trust enters into includes a disclaimer of shareholder liability for the acts, obligations, or affairs of the Trust. Further, each Declaration indemnifies any shareholder or former shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss on account of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which Delaware law does not apply, no contractual limitation of liability was in effect, and the portfolio is unable to meet its obligations. Lord Abbett believes that, in view of the above, the risk of personal liability to shareholders is extremely remote.

**Affiliated Fund, Bond Debenture Fund, Developing Growth Fund, Global Fund, Mid Cap Stock Fund, Municipal Income Fund, Research Fund, Series Fund, and Money Market Fund (each, a "Company" and collectively, the "Companies") only:**

Each Company is incorporated under Maryland law. Each Company's By-Laws provide that no annual shareholder meetings will be held except under the following circumstances:

- the Company's shareholders are required by the 1940 Act to vote on the election of directors;
- the majority of the Board requests a meeting; or
- upon the written request by shareholders holding at least 25% of the outstanding stock of the Company entitled to vote at the meeting.

Each Company's By-Laws provide that a special shareholder meeting may be called for any purpose. A special meeting will be held under the following circumstances:

- upon the request of the Chairman of the Board or the President or by a majority of the Board; or
- upon the written request by shareholders holding at least 25% of the outstanding stock of the Company entitled to vote at the meeting.

**The following sections apply to all Funds, as applicable:**

The Funds offer investors different classes of shares. Each Fund's prospectus and SAI describes the classes of shares the Fund currently offers and each class' availability to investors. Presently, the Funds, with the exception of Series Fund, may offer Class A, C, F, F3, I, P, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 shares. Series Fund has two classes of shares, the Variable Contract Class (VC Shares) and Pension Class, though the Pension Class is not currently offered. More information on the various classes of shares offered by each Fund is available in the Fund's prospectus and on the cover page of this SAI. Below is additional information on certain share classes offered by the Funds, though, as stated, each Fund may not offer each share class.

**Class A, C, F, F3, I, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 Shares.** Class A, C, F, F3, I, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 shares of each Fund are subject to the applicable sales charge (if any), fees, expenses, reductions and waivers described in each Fund's prospectus.

**Conversions of Class C Shares.** Class C shares will convert automatically into Class A shares ten years after the date of purchase. When Class C shares that a shareholder acquired through a purchase or exchange convert, any other Class C shares that the shareholder acquired as reinvested dividends and distributions also will convert into Class A shares on a pro rata basis. Class C shares held through a financial intermediary in an omnibus account will be converted into Class A shares only if the intermediary can document that the shareholder has met the required holding period. It is the financial intermediary's (and not the Fund's) responsibility to keep records and to ensure that the shareholder is credited with the proper holding period. Not all financial intermediaries are able to track purchases to credit individual shareholders' holding periods. In particular, group retirement plans held through

third party intermediaries that hold Class C shares in an omnibus account may not track participant level share lot aging. Please consult with your financial intermediary about your eligibility to exercise this conversion privilege.

**Class P Shares.** Class P shares of each Fund are subject to the applicable fees, expenses, reductions, and waivers described in each Fund's prospectus. For Funds that offer Class P shares, Class P shares are closed to substantially all new investors and are offered only on a limited basis as described in the applicable Fund's prospectus. However, shareholders that held Class P shares as of October 1, 2007 may continue to hold their Class P shares and may make additional purchases.

**Class VC Shares.** Class VC shares are not offered directly to the public. Rather, Class VC shares of the Funds currently are offered only to separate accounts of certain insurance companies. Class VC shares are subject to the applicable fees, expenses, reductions, and waivers described in the applicable Fund's prospectus. Class VC shares are not subject to a CDSC.

**The following sections do not apply to Series Fund:**

**CDSC.** A CDSC applies upon early redemption of shares for certain classes. The classes of shares of each Fund that are subject to a CDSC (if any) are described in the applicable Fund's prospectus. A CDSC (i) will be assessed on the lesser of the NAV of the shares at the time of the redemption or the NAV when the shares originally were purchased; and (ii) will not be imposed on the amount of your account value represented by the increase in NAV over the initial purchase price (including increases due to the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions) and upon early redemption of shares. In the case of Class A shares, this increase is represented by shares having an aggregate dollar value in your account. In the case of Class C shares, this increase is represented by that percentage of each share redeemed where the NAV exceeded the initial purchase price. The applicability and amount and nature of a CDSC, as it applies to a Fund's Class A or C shares, is described in the applicable Fund's prospectus. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for more information.

**Eligible Mandatory Distributions.** If Class A or C shares represent a part of an individual's total IRA or 403(b) investment, the CDSC for the applicable share class will be waived only for that part of a mandatory distribution that bears the same relation to the entire mandatory distribution as the investment in that class bears to the total investment.

**General.** There is no CDSC charged on Class F, F3, I, P, R2, R3, R4, R5, or R6 shares; however, financial intermediaries may charge additional fees or commissions other than those disclosed in the prospectus and SAI, such as a transaction-based fee or other fee for its service, and may categorize and disclose these arrangements differently than the discussion here or in the prospectus. You may ask your financial intermediary about any payments it receives from Lord Abbett or the Funds, as well as about fees and/or commissions it charges.

A CDSC will not be imposed at the time of certain transfers or for certain transactions. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for information about the transfers and transactions for which sales charge reductions or waivers may apply. In the case of Class A shares, the CDSC is received by the Distributor and is intended to reimburse all or a portion of the amount paid by the Distributor if the shares are redeemed before the Funds have had an opportunity to realize the anticipated benefits of having a long-term shareholder account in the Funds. In the case of Class C shares, the CDSC is received by the Distributor and is intended to reimburse its expenses of providing distribution-related services to the Funds (including recoupment of the commission payments made) in connection with the sale of Class C shares before the Distributor has had an opportunity to realize its anticipated reimbursement by having such a long-term shareholder account subject to the Class C shares Distribution Fee.

In no event will the percentage used to calculate CDSCs for Class A and C shares (as described in each Fund's prospectus, when applicable) exceed the lesser of (i) the NAV of the shares redeemed or (ii) the original cost of such shares (or of the exchanged shares for which such shares were acquired). No CDSC will be imposed when the investor redeems (i) shares representing an aggregate dollar amount of his or her account, in the case of Class A shares, (ii) that percentage of each share redeemed, in the case of Class C shares, derived from increases in the value of the shares above the total cost of shares being redeemed due to increases in NAV, (iii) shares with respect to which no Fund paid fees under a Rule 12b-1 Plan, or (iv) shares that, together with exchanged shares, have been

held continuously (a) until the first day of the month in which the one year anniversary of the original purchase falls (in the case of Class A shares), and (b) for one year or more (in the case of Class C shares). In determining whether a CDSC is payable, (i) shares not subject to the CDSC will be redeemed before shares subject to the CDSC and (ii) of the shares subject to a CDSC, those held the longest will be the first to be redeemed.

**Shares Offered Through Retirement and Benefit Plans or Fee-Based Programs.** Certain share classes of the Funds may be offered as investment options in retirement and benefit plans and fee-based programs. Financial intermediaries may provide some of the shareholder servicing and account maintenance services with respect to these accounts and their participants, including transfers of registration, dividend payee changes, and generation of confirmation statements, and may arrange for third parties to provide other investment or administrative services. Retirement and benefit plan participants may be charged fees for these and other services and fee-based program participants generally pay an overall fee that, among other things, covers the cost of these services. These fees and expenses are in addition to those paid by the Funds, and could reduce your ultimate investment return in Fund shares. For questions about such accounts, contact your sponsor, employee benefits office, plan administrator, or other appropriate organization.

9.

**PURCHASES, REDEMPTIONS, PRICING, AND PAYMENTS TO DEALERS**

**Pricing of Fund Shares.** Information concerning how Fund shares are valued and the method for determining the public offering price is contained in the applicable Fund's prospectus.

Under normal circumstances, we calculate the NAV per share for each class of the Funds as of the close of the NYSE on each day that the NYSE is open for trading by dividing the total net assets of the class by the number of shares of the class outstanding at the time of calculation. The NYSE is closed on Saturdays and Sundays and on days when it observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The NYSE may change its holiday schedule or hours of operation at any time.

**The following paragraphs do not apply to Money Market Fund:**

Portfolio securities are valued at market value as of the close of the NYSE. Market value will be determined as follows: securities listed or admitted to trading privileges on any national or foreign securities exchange, or on the NASDAQ National Market System are valued at the market closing price on the exchange or system on which they are principally traded on the valuation date. If there is no trading on the principal exchange or system on the valuation date, the closing price on the secondary exchange or system on which the security is most actively traded is used. Unlisted equity securities are valued at the last transaction price, or if there were no transactions that day, at the mean between the last bid and asked prices. Unlisted fixed income securities (other than those with remaining maturities of 60 days or less) are valued at prices supplied by independent pricing services, which prices are valuations supplied by broker-dealers or evaluated or "matrix" prices based on electronic data processing techniques. Such valuations are based on the mean between the bid and asked prices, when available, and are based on the bid price when no asked price is available. Unlisted fixed income securities having remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at their amortized cost. The principal markets for non-U.S. securities and U.S. fixed income securities also generally close prior to the close of the NYSE. Consequently, values of non-U.S. investments and U.S. fixed income securities will be determined as of the earlier closing of such exchanges and markets unless a Fund prices such a security at its fair value. Securities for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair market value under procedures approved by the Board, as described in the prospectus.

All assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies will be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates of such currencies against U.S. dollars provided by an independent pricing service as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE. If such exchange rates are not available, the rate of exchange will be determined in accordance with policies established by the Board.

**The following paragraph applies to Money Market Fund only:**

The Fund has adopted a policy to invest 99.5% or more of its total assets in cash, U.S. Government securities, and/or repurchase agreements that are collateralized fully (*i.e.*, collateralized by cash and/or U.S. Government securities) in order to qualify as a "government money market fund" under Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act. As a "government money market fund" under Rule 2a-7, the Fund will be permitted to use the amortized cost method of valuation to seek to maintain a \$1.00 share price. We attempt to maintain a NAV of \$1.00 per share for all classes for purposes of sales and redemptions, but there is no assurance that we will be able to do so. The Fund's Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders to value the Fund's portfolio securities under the amortized cost method of securities valuation pursuant to Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act, so long as that method fairly reflects the Fund's market-based NAV. Rule 2a-7 contains certain maturity, diversification, quality, and liquidity requirements that apply to any fund employing the amortized cost method in reliance on the Rule and to any registered investment company that, like the Fund, holds itself out as a money market fund.

**The following sections do not apply to Series Fund:**

**NAV Purchases of Class A Shares.** Class A shares of some Funds may be purchased at NAV with no sales charge at the time of purchase under certain circumstances as described in each Fund's prospectus. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for further information.

In addition to the circumstances described in each applicable Fund's prospectus, Class A shares may be purchased at NAV by the Board Members, officers of each Fund, and employees and partners of Lord Abbett (including retired persons who formerly held such positions and family members of such persons). Class A shares also may be purchased at NAV (i) by employees, partners, and owners of unaffiliated consultants and advisors to Lord Abbett, the Distributor, or the Funds who consent to such purchase if such persons provide service to Lord Abbett, the Distributor, or the Funds on a continuing basis and are familiar with the Funds, (ii) in connection with a merger, acquisition, or other reorganization, (iii) by employees of our shareholder servicing agent, or (iv) by the trustees or custodians under any pension or profit-sharing plan or payroll deduction IRA established for the benefit of the Board Members, employees of Lord Abbett, or employees of our shareholder service agents. Shares are offered at NAV to these investors for the purpose of promoting goodwill with employees and others with whom the Distributor and/or the Funds have a business relationship.

In addition, Class A shares may be acquired without a front-end sales charge in certain exchange transactions. Please see "Exchanges" below. Also, a front-end sales charge may not be imposed when acquiring Class A shares of a Fund through certain conversions and transfers. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for further information.

**Exchanges.** To the extent offers and sales may be made in your state, you may exchange some or all of your shares of any class of a Fund for (i) Funds currently offered to the public with a sales charge (front-end, back-end, or level) or (ii) Money Market Fund. The exchange privilege is not available to an investor for any share class of a Fund that would not be offered to the investor if he or she was seeking a new purchase in the applicable share class. Shareholders in other Funds, with the exception of Series Fund, generally have the same right to exchange their shares for the corresponding class of a Fund's shares.

Each Fund, other than Ultra Short Bond Fund and Money Market Fund, is not designed for short-term investors and is not designed to serve as a vehicle for frequent trading in response to short-term swings in the market. Each Fund reserves the right to modify, restrict, or reject any purchase order or exchange request if the Fund or the Distributor determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. In addition, each Fund may revoke or modify the privilege for all shareholders upon 60 days' written notice.

You should read the prospectus of the other Fund before exchanging. In establishing a new account by exchange, shares of the Fund being exchanged must have a value equal to at least the minimum initial investment required for the other Fund into which the exchange is made.

An exchange transaction is based on the relative NAVs of the shares being exchanged. The exchange is executed at the NAVs next determined after a Fund or its authorized agent receives your exchange order in proper form. Exchanges of a Fund's shares for shares of another Fund generally will be treated as a sale of the Fund's shares and any gain on the transaction may be subject to federal income tax. In the case of an exchange of shares that have been held for 90 days or less where no sales charge is payable on the exchange, the original sales charge incurred with respect to the exchanged shares will be taken into account in determining gain or loss on the exchange only to the extent such charge exceeds the sales charge that would have been payable on the acquired shares, had they been acquired for cash rather than by exchange. The portion of the original sales charge not so taken into account will increase the basis of the acquired shares.

No sales charges are imposed on exchanges, except in the case of exchanges out of Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund. Exchanges of Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund shares for shares of any Fund (not including shares described under "Div-Move" below) are subject to a sales charge in accordance with the prospectus of that Fund unless a sales charge (front-end, back-end, or level) was paid on the initial investment in shares of a Fund and those shares subsequently were exchanged for the shares of Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund that are currently being exchanged for shares of another Fund. No CDSC will be charged on an exchange of shares of the same class between Funds. Upon redemption of shares out of a Fund, the applicable CDSC will be charged. Thus, if shares of a Fund are tendered in exchange ("Exchanged Shares") for shares of the same class of another fund and the Exchanged Shares are subject to a CDSC, the CDSC will carry over to the shares being acquired (including shares of Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund) ("Acquired Shares"). Any CDSC that is carried over to Acquired Shares is calculated as if the holder of the Acquired Shares had held those shares

from the date on which he or she became the holder of the Exchanged Shares. Acquired Shares held in Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund that are subject to a CDSC will be credited with the time these shares are held in Ultra Short Bond Fund or Money Market Fund.

Shares of one class of a Fund, with the exception of Money Market Fund, may be converted into (*i.e.*, reclassified as) shares of a different class of the Fund in certain circumstances. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for further information.

**Redemptions.** A redemption order is in good order when it contains all of the information and documentation required by the order form or otherwise by the Distributor or a Fund to carry out the order. You should read the applicable Fund's prospectus for more information regarding the Fund's procedures for submitting redemption requests.

As described in the applicable Fund's prospectus, redemptions may be suspended or payment postponed in certain circumstances. Redemptions, even when followed by repurchases, are generally taxable transactions for shareholders that are subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Money Market Fund, as a government money market fund under Rule 2a-7, will not be subject to a liquidity fee and/or a redemption gate on Fund redemptions, but the Fund's Board has reserved its ability to change this policy with respect to liquidity fees and/or redemption gates. However, such change would only become effective after shareholders have been provided with specific advance notice of a change in its policy and have been provided with the opportunity to redeem their shares in accordance with Rule 2a-7 before the policy change became effective.

**Div-Move.** Under the Div-Move service described in the prospectus, you can invest the dividends paid on your account of any class into an existing account of the same class in any other Fund available for purchase. The account must either be your account, a joint account for you and your spouse, a single account for your spouse, or a custodial account for your minor child under the age of 21. You should read the prospectus of the other Fund before investing.

**Invest-A-Matic.** The Invest-A-Matic method of investing in the Funds and/or any other Eligible Fund (as defined in the prospectus) is described in each Fund's prospectus. To avail yourself of this method you must complete the application form, selecting the time and amount of your bank checking account withdrawals and the funds for investment, include a voided, unsigned check, and complete the bank authorization.

**SWP.** The SWP is described in each Fund's prospectus. The SWP involves the planned redemption of shares on a periodic basis by receiving either fixed or variable amounts at periodic intervals. Because the value of shares redeemed may be more or less than their cost, gain or loss may be recognized for income tax purposes on each periodic payment. Normally, you may not make regular investments at the same time you are receiving systematic withdrawal payments because it is not in your interest to pay a sales charge on new investments when, in effect, a portion of that new investment is soon withdrawn. The minimum investment accepted while a withdrawal plan is in effect is \$1,000. The SWP may be terminated by you or by us at any time by written notice.

**Retirement Plans.** Each Fund's prospectus indicates the types of retirement plans for which Lord Abbett provides forms and explanations. The forms name UMB Bank, N.A. as custodian and contain specific information about the plans, excluding 401(k) plans. Financial intermediaries may provide some of the shareholder servicing and account maintenance services with respect to these plans and their participants, including transfers of registration, dividend payee changes, and generation of confirmation statements, and may arrange for third parties to provide other investment or administrative services. Retirement and benefit plan participants may be charged fees for these and other services and explanations of the eligibility requirements, annual custodial fees and other fees, and allowable tax advantages and penalties are set forth in the relevant plan documents. These fees and expenses are in addition to those paid by the Funds, and could reduce your ultimate investment return in Fund shares. Adoption of any of these plans should be on the advice of your legal counsel or qualified tax advisor.

**The following section does not apply to Money Market Fund or Series Fund:**

**Rights of Accumulation.** As stated in each Fund's prospectus, Purchasers (as defined in the prospectus) may aggregate their investments in certain share classes of any Eligible Fund to reduce the sales charge on a new purchase of Class A shares of any Eligible Fund.

To the extent your financial intermediary is able to do so, the value of Class A, C, F, and P shares of Eligible Funds, determined for the purpose of reducing the sales charge of a new purchase under the Rights of Accumulation, will be calculated at the higher of (1) the aggregate current maximum offering price of your existing Class A, C, F, and P shares of Eligible Funds ("Market Value") determined as of the time your new purchase order is processed or (2) the aggregate amount you invested in such shares (including reinvestments of dividend and capital gain distributions but excluding capital appreciation) less any redemptions ("Investment Value"). Depending on the way in which the registration information is recorded for the account in which your shares are held, the value of your holdings in that account may not be eligible for calculation at the Investment Value. For example, shares held in accounts maintained by financial intermediaries in nominee or street name may not be eligible for calculation at Investment Value. In such circumstances, the value of the shares may be calculated at Market Value for purposes of the Rights of Accumulation.

You should retain any information and account records necessary to substantiate the historical amounts you and any related Purchasers have invested in Eligible Funds. In certain circumstances, unless you provide documentation (or your financial intermediary maintains records) that substantiates a different Investment Value, your shares will be assigned an initial Investment Value for purposes of Rights of Accumulation. Specifically, Class A, C, F, and P shares of Eligible Funds acquired in calendar year 2007 or earlier will be assigned an initial Investment Value equal to the Market Value of those holdings as of the last business day of December 31, 2007. Similarly, Class A, C, F, and P shares of Eligible Funds transferred to an account with another financial intermediary will be assigned an initial Investment Value equal to the Market Value of such shares on the transfer date. Thereafter, the Investment Value of such shares will increase or decrease according to your actual investments, reinvestments, and redemptions. You must contact your financial intermediary or the Fund if you have additional information that is relevant to the calculation of the Investment Value of your holdings for purposes of reducing sales charges pursuant to the Rights of Accumulation.

**The following sections apply to all Funds:**

**Purchases through Financial Intermediaries.** The Funds and/or the Distributor have authorized one or more agents, who may designate other intermediaries, to receive purchase and redemption orders on the Funds' or the Distributor's behalf. A Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized agent or, if applicable, an agent's authorized designee, receives the order. The order will be priced at the NAV next computed after it is received by the Fund's authorized agent, or, if applicable, the agent's authorized designee. A financial intermediary may charge transaction fees on the purchase and/or sale of Fund shares.

**Payments Made to Financial Intermediaries.** Financial intermediaries may be entitled to receive compensation for selling Fund shares and may receive different compensation for selling one class than for selling another class. A financial intermediary's receipt of additional compensation may create conflicts of interest between the financial intermediary and its clients. In some circumstances, these payments may create an incentive for the financial intermediary or its investment professionals to recommend or sell Fund shares to you over another mutual fund or to recommend or sell a particular share class to you over another share class. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for more information.

**Revenue Sharing and Other Payments to Dealers and Financial Intermediaries.** As described in the prospectus, Lord Abbett or the Distributor, in its sole discretion, at its own expense and without cost to the Funds or shareholders, also may make payments to dealers and other firms authorized to accept orders for Fund shares (collectively, "Dealers") in connection with marketing and/or distribution support for Dealers, shareholder servicing, entertainment, training and education activities for the Dealers, their investment professionals and/or their clients or potential clients, and/or the purchase of products or services from such Dealers. Some of these payments may be referred to as revenue sharing payments. As of April 1, 2019, the Dealers to whom Lord Abbett

or the Distributor has agreed to make revenue sharing payments (not including payments for entertainment, and training and education activities for the Dealers, their investment professionals and/or their clients or potential clients) with respect to the Funds were as follows:

ADP Broker-Dealer Inc.  
AIG Advisor Group, Inc. (f/k/a Woodbury Financial Services, Inc.)  
Allstate Life Insurance Company  
Allstate Life Insurance Company of New York  
American Enterprise Investment Services Inc.  
American United Life Insurance Company  
Ascensus, Inc.  
AXA Advisors, LLC  
AXA Equitable Life Insurance Company  
B.C. Ziegler and Company  
Bodell Overcash Anderson & Co., Inc.  
Business Men's Assurance Company of America/RBC Insurance  
Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc.  
Cambridge Investment Research, Inc.  
Cetera Advisor Networks LLC  
Cetera Advisors LLC  
Cetera Financial Specialists LLC  
Cetera Investment Services LLC  
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.  
Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.  
Commonwealth Financial Network  
CRI Securities, LLC  
CUSO Financial Services, L.P.  
Delaware Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York  
Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P.  
Envestnet Asset Management, Inc.  
Family Investors Company  
Fidelity Brokerage Services, LLC  
First Allied Securities, Inc. (Cetera)  
First Security Benefit Life Insurance and Annuity Company  
First SunAmerica Life Insurance Company  
Forethought Life Insurance Company  
Genworth Life & Annuity Insurance Company  
Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York  
Girard Securities, Inc. (Cetera)  
GWFS Equities, Inc.  
Goldman Sachs  
Hartford Life and Annuity Insurance Company  
Hartford Life Insurance Company  
HighTower Holding LLC  
Investacorp, Inc.  
Investors Capital Corporation (Cetera)  
James I. Black & Co.  
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC  
John Hancock Life Insurance Company (U.S.A.)  
John Hancock Life Insurance Company of New York  
Kestra Investment Services, Inc.  
KMS Financial Services, Inc.  
Leumi Investment Services Inc.

Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp.  
Lincoln Financial Securities Corp.  
Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
Linsco/Private Ledger Corp. (LPL Financial Services, Inc.)  
Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company  
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (and/or certain of its affiliates)  
MML Investors Services  
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC  
National Planning Holdings, Inc.  
Nationwide Investment Services Corporation  
Nationwide Life Insurance Company/Nationwide Life and Annuity Insurance Company  
Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.  
Pacific Life & Annuity Company  
Pacific Life Insurance Company  
PHL Variable Insurance Company  
Phoenix Life and Annuity Company  
Phoenix Life Insurance Company  
PNC Investment LLC  
Principal Life Insurance Company  
Principal National Life Insurance Company  
Protective Life Insurance Company  
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.  
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.  
RBC Capital Markets Corporation (f/k/a RBC Dain Rauscher)  
RBC Capital Markets, LLC  
RBC Insurance d/b/a Liberty Life Insurance  
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated  
Santander Securities Corporation  
Securian Financial Services, Inc.  
Securities America, Inc.  
Securities Service Network, Inc.  
Security Benefit Life Insurance Company  
Sorrento Pacific Financial, LLC  
Summit Brokerage Services, Inc. (Cetera)  
SunAmerica Annuity Life Assurance Company  
TFS Securities, Inc.  
The Prudential Insurance Company of America  
The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company  
TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC  
Transamerica Advisors Life Insurance Company  
Transamerica Advisors Life Insurance Company of New York  
Triad Advisors, Inc.  
UBS Financial Services Inc.  
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.  
Voya Financial Advisors, Inc.  
VSR Financial Services, Inc. (Cetera)  
Waddell & Reed, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC  
Wells Fargo Investments LLC

Additional Dealers may receive revenue sharing or other payments after April 1, 2019 and in future years. Any additions, modifications, or deletions to the list of Dealers identified above that have occurred since April 1, 2019

are not reflected. You can ask your Dealer about any payments it receives from Lord Abbett and its affiliates. For more specific information about any revenue sharing payments made to your Dealer, you should contact your investment professional. See the applicable Fund's prospectus for further information.

The Funds understand that, in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor, retirement and benefit plans, sponsors of qualified retirement plans, and/or recordkeepers may be required to use the fees they (or, in the case of recordkeepers, their affiliates) receive for the benefit of the retirement and benefit plans or the investors. This may take the form of recordkeepers passing the fees through to their clients or reducing the clients' charges by the amount of fees the recordkeeper receives from mutual funds.

**Redemptions in Kind.** Under circumstances in which it is deemed detrimental to the best interests of a Fund's shareholders to make redemption payments wholly in cash, the Fund may pay any portion of a redemption in excess of the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Fund's net assets by a distribution in kind of readily marketable securities in lieu of cash. If a Fund pays redemption proceeds by distributing securities in-kind, you could incur brokerage or other charges and tax liability, and you will bear market risks until the distributed securities are converted into cash.

**10.**  
**TAXATION OF THE FUNDS**

Each Fund has elected, or intends to elect, and intends to qualify each year, for the special tax treatment afforded regulated investment companies under the Code. Because each Fund is treated as a separate entity for federal income tax purposes, the status of each Fund as a regulated investment company is determined separately by the IRS. If a Fund qualifies for such tax treatment, the Fund will not be liable for U.S. federal income taxes on income and capital gains that the Fund timely distributes to its shareholders. If, in any taxable year, a Fund fails to so qualify, but is eligible for statutory relief, the Fund may be required to pay penalty taxes (or interest charges in the nature of a penalty) and/or to dispose of certain assets in order to continue to qualify for such tax treatment. If a Fund is not so eligible or if a Fund does not choose to avail itself of such relief, all of the Fund's taxable income will be taxed to the Fund at regular corporate rates, and such income generally will be further taxed at the shareholder level when it is distributed. Assuming a Fund continues to qualify for the favorable tax treatment afforded to a regulated investment company, it will generally be subject to a 4% non-deductible excise tax on certain amounts that are not distributed or treated as having been distributed on a timely basis each calendar year. The Funds of Series Fund (collectively, the "Variable Funds") are generally subject to this excise tax only if more than \$250,000 of seed capital is invested in shares of the Fund. Each Fund intends to distribute to its shareholders each year an amount adequate to avoid the imposition of this excise tax, if applicable. References herein to investments by a Fund include investments by Underlying Funds. Each Fund contemplates declaring and paying as dividends each year substantially all of its net investment income, net capital gains, and exempt-interest income (if any).

In order to qualify for the special tax treatment accorded regulated investment companies and their shareholders, each Fund must, among other things (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from (i) dividends, interest, payments with respect to certain securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities, or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures, or forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in such stock, securities, or currencies and (ii) net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships; (b) diversify its holdings so that, at the end of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's total assets consists of cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities limited in respect of any one issuer to a value not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets and not more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, (x) in the securities (other than those of the U.S. Government or other regulated investment companies) of any one issuer or of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are engaged in the same, similar, or related trades or businesses, or (y) in the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships; and (c) distribute with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of the sum of its investment company taxable income (as that term is defined in the Code without regard to the deduction for dividends paid - generally taxable ordinary income and the excess, if any, of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses) and net tax-exempt income for such year.

While Inflation Focused Fund believes that its investment strategies with respect to derivatives, including CPI swaps, will generate qualifying income under current U.S. federal income tax law, the Fund's use of these instruments is accompanied by the risk that the U.S. Treasury Department would determine that such gain is non-qualifying income. Inflation Focused Fund may limit certain investments, especially commodity-related investments, in order to continue to qualify for favorable tax treatment under the Code.

While each of Emerging Markets Corporate Debt Fund and Emerging Markets Bond Fund believes that the income derived by such Fund from its investment strategies with respect to foreign currencies will generate qualifying income under current U.S. federal income tax law, the Code expressly provides the U.S. Treasury Department with authority to issue regulations that would exclude foreign currency gains from qualifying income if such gains are not directly related to the Fund's business of investing in stock or securities (or options and futures with respect thereto). To date, the U.S. Treasury Department has not exercised this regulatory authority. However, there can be no assurance that the U.S. Treasury Department will not issue regulations in the future (possibly with retroactive

effect) that would treat some or all of the Fund's foreign currency gains as nonqualifying income. The Emerging Markets Bond Fund previously submitted to the IRS a request for a private letter ruling to confirm that income from its foreign currency-related investments would be qualifying income. The IRS declined to issue such a ruling on the ground that it has an internal policy of not ruling on issues when the IRS is considering the possibility of initiating a regulations project addressing the same subject matter. The IRS has not, however, included such a regulations project on any of its subsequent Priority Guidance Plans.

Each Fund intends to declare and pay as dividends each year substantially all of its net income from investments. Dividends, other than exempt-interest dividends, paid by a Fund from its ordinary income or net realized short-term capital gains are generally taxable to you as ordinary income; however, qualified dividend income, if any, that a Fund receives and distributes to an individual shareholder may be subject to a reduced tax rate if the shareholder meets certain holding period and other requirements. Other than with respect to Affiliated Fund, Calibrated Dividend Growth Fund, Convertible Fund, Fundamental Equity Fund, Global Equity Research Fund, Growth Leaders Fund, Growth Opportunities Fund, International Equity Fund, International Value Fund, International Opportunities Fund, Mid Cap Stock Fund, Micro Cap Growth Fund, Micro Cap Value Fund, Multi-Asset Balanced Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Global Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Growth Fund, Multi-Asset Income Fund, Small Cap Value Fund, and Value Opportunities Fund, each Fund's income is derived primarily from sources that do not pay qualified dividend income, and, therefore, distributions from such Fund's net investment income generally are not expected to qualify for taxation at the reduced rates available to individuals on qualified dividend income.

In general, a dividend will not be taxable as qualified dividend income (at either the Fund or shareholder level) (1) if the dividend is received with respect to any share of the Fund held for fewer than 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date such shares became "ex-dividend" with respect to the dividend income, (2) if the shareholder elects to have the dividend income treated as investment income for purposes of the limitation on deductibility of investment interest, (3) to the extent that the shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, or (4) if the dividend is received from a foreign corporation that is (a) not eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (with the exception of dividends paid on stock of such a foreign corporation readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States) or (b) treated as a passive foreign investment company. If a Fund-of-Funds receives dividends from an Underlying Fund, and the Underlying Fund reports such dividends as qualified dividend income, then the Fund is permitted, in turn, to report a portion of its distributions as qualified dividend income, *provided* the Fund meets the holding period and other requirements with respect to shares of the Underlying Fund.

Pursuant to proposed regulations on which a Fund may rely, distributions by a Fund to its shareholders that the Fund properly reports as "section 199A dividends," as defined and subject to certain conditions described below, are treated as qualified REIT dividends in the hands of non-corporate shareholders. Non-corporate shareholders are permitted a federal income tax deduction equal to 20% of qualified REIT dividends received by them, subject to certain limitations. Very generally, a "section 199A dividend" is any dividend or portion thereof that is attributable to certain dividends received by the regulated investment company from REITs, to the extent such dividends are properly reported as such by the regulated investment company in a written notice to its shareholders. A section 199A dividend is treated as a qualified REIT dividend only if the shareholder receiving such dividend holds the dividend-paying regulated investment company shares for at least 46 days of the 91-day period beginning 45 days before the shares become ex-dividend, and is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to a position in substantially similar or related property. A Fund is permitted to report such part of its dividends as section 199A dividends as are eligible, but is not required to do so.

Dividends paid by a Fund to corporate shareholders may qualify for the dividends-received deduction to the extent they are derived from dividends paid to the Fund by domestic corporations. In general, a dividend received by a Fund will not be treated as a dividend eligible for the dividends-received deduction (1) if it has been received with respect to any share of stock that the Fund has held for less than 46 days (91 days in the case of certain preferred stock) during the 91-day period beginning on the date that is 45 days before the date on which such share becomes ex-dividend with respect to such dividend (during the 181-day period beginning 90 days before such date

in the case of certain preferred stock) or (2) to the extent that the Fund is under an obligation (pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Moreover, the dividends-received deduction may otherwise be disallowed or reduced (1) if the corporate shareholder fails to satisfy the foregoing requirements with respect to its shares of a Fund or (2) by application of various provisions of the Code (for instance, the dividends-received deduction is reduced in the case of a dividend received on debt-financed portfolio stock (generally, stock acquired with borrowed funds)). If a Fund-of-Funds receives dividends from an Underlying Fund, and the Underlying Fund reports such dividends as eligible for the dividends-received deduction, then the Fund is permitted, in turn, to report a portion of its distributions as eligible for the dividends-received deduction, *provided* the Fund meets the holding period and other requirements with respect to shares of the Underlying Fund.

Other than with respect to Affiliated Fund, Calibrated Dividend Growth Fund, Convertible Fund, Fundamental Equity Fund, Global Equity Research Fund, Growth Leaders Fund, Growth Opportunities Fund, Micro Cap Growth Fund, Micro Cap Value Fund, Mid Cap Stock Fund, Multi-Asset Balanced Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Global Opportunity Fund, Multi-Asset Growth Fund, Multi-Asset Income Fund, Small Cap Value Fund, and Value Opportunities Fund, each Fund's income is derived primarily from sources other than dividends of domestic corporations, and, therefore, dividends from such Fund generally will not qualify for the dividends-received deduction that might otherwise be available to corporate shareholders.

Distributions paid by a Fund from its net realized long-term capital gains that are properly reported to you by a Fund as "capital gain dividends" are taxable to you as long-term capital gains, regardless of the length of time you have owned Fund shares. The maximum federal income tax rate applicable to long-term capital gains depends on the taxable income and status of the shareholder. You also should be aware that the benefits of the long-term capital gains and qualified dividend income rates may be reduced if you are subject to the alternative minimum tax. Capital gains recognized by corporate shareholders are subject to tax at the ordinary income tax rates applicable to corporations. All dividends are taxable regardless of whether they are received in cash or reinvested in Fund shares. Money Market Fund does not expect to make distributions that will be eligible for treatment as capital gain dividends.

While a Fund's net capital losses for any year cannot be passed through to you, any such losses incurred by a Fund in a taxable year of the Fund commencing prior to December 23, 2010, if any, can be carried forward for a period of up to eight years to offset the Fund's capital gains in those years, and any such losses incurred by a Fund in taxable years commencing on or after such date may be carried forward indefinitely to offset future capital gains of the Fund. Pursuant to an ordering rule, however, net capital losses incurred in taxable years of a Fund beginning before December 23, 2010 may not be used to offset the Fund's future capital gains until all net capital losses incurred in taxable years of the Fund beginning after December 22, 2010 have been utilized. As a result of the application of this rule, certain net capital losses incurred in taxable years of a Fund beginning before December 23, 2010 may expire unutilized. To the extent capital gains are offset by such losses, they do not result in tax liability to a Fund and are not expected to be distributed to you.

Under current law, a Fund is permitted to treat the portion of redemption proceeds paid to redeeming shareholders that represents the redeeming shareholders' pro rata share of the Fund's accumulated earnings and profits as a dividend on the Fund's tax return. This practice, which involves the use of tax equalization, will reduce the amount of income and gains that the Fund is required to distribute as dividends to shareholders in order for the Fund to avoid U.S. federal income tax and excise tax, which may include reducing the amount of distributions that otherwise would be required to be paid to non-redeeming shareholders. A Fund's NAV generally will not be reduced by the amount of any undistributed income or gains allocated to redeeming shareholders under this practice and, thus, the total return on a shareholder's investment generally will not be reduced as a result of this practice.

A 3.8% Medicare tax also is imposed on the net investment income of certain U.S. individuals, estates, and trusts whose income exceeds certain thresholds. For this purpose, "net investment income" does not include exempt-interest dividends, but generally includes taxable dividends (including capital gain dividends) and capital gains

recognized from sales, redemptions, or exchanges of shares of mutual funds, such as the Funds. This 3.8% Medicare tax is in addition to the income taxes that are otherwise imposed on ordinary income, qualified dividend income, and capital gains (if any) as discussed above.

Because the ultimate tax characterization of a Fund's distributions cannot be determined until after the end of a tax year, there is a possibility that a Fund may make distributions to shareholders that exceed the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits for a tax year. Any such distributions will not be treated as taxable dividends but instead, will be treated as a return of capital and reduce the tax basis of your Fund shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the tax basis of your Fund shares, the excess amounts will be treated as gain from the sale of the shares.

If a Fund invests in equity securities of a REIT, the Fund may receive distributions from the REIT that are in excess of the REIT's earnings. In such case, if the Fund distributes such amounts, this could result in a return of capital to Fund shareholders as discussed above. Dividends received by a Fund from a REIT also will not qualify for the dividends-received deduction and generally will not constitute qualified dividend income.

If an Underlying Fund of a Fund-of-Funds invests in equity securities of a REIT, such Underlying Fund may receive distributions from the REIT that are in excess of the REIT's earnings. In such case, if the Underlying Fund distributes such amounts to the Fund-of-Funds and the Fund-of-Funds distributes such amounts to its shareholders, this could result in a return of capital to such Fund-of-Funds' shareholders as discussed above. Dividends received by the Fund-of-Funds attributable to an Underlying Fund's investment in a REIT also will not qualify for the dividends-received deduction and generally will not constitute qualified dividend income.

Ordinarily, you are required to take distributions by a Fund into account in the year in which they are made. However, a distribution declared as of a record date in October, November, or December of any year and paid during the following January is treated as received by shareholders on December 31 of the year in which it is declared. Each Fund will send you annual information concerning the tax treatment of dividends and other distributions paid to you by the Fund.

At the time of your purchase of Fund shares, a portion of the purchase price may be attributable to unrealized appreciation in the Fund's portfolio or to realized but undistributed taxable income or gains of the Fund. Consequently, subsequent distributions by a Fund with respect to these shares from such appreciation or income may be taxable to you even if the NAV of your shares is, as a result of the distributions, reduced below your cost for such shares and the distributions economically represent a return of a portion of your investment.

Sales, redemptions, and exchanges of Fund shares for shares of another fund generally are taxable events for shareholders that are subject to tax. In general, if Fund shares are sold, exchanged, or redeemed, you will recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale, exchange, or redemption and your adjusted basis in the shares. Such gain or loss generally will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares were held for more than one year, and otherwise generally will be treated as short-term capital gain or loss. However, if your holding period in your Fund shares is six months or less, any capital loss realized from a sale, exchange, or redemption of such shares must be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gain dividends received with respect to such shares.

Additionally, in the case of a Fund eligible to pay exempt-interest dividends (as discussed below), if your holding period in your Fund shares is six months or less, any capital loss realized from a sale, exchange, or redemption of such shares may be disallowed to the extent of the amount of any exempt-interest dividends you received with respect to such shares. However, this loss disallowance rule will not apply to a shareholder's disposition of a Fund's shares with respect to a regular exempt-interest dividend paid by the Fund if the Fund declares daily and distributes at least monthly exempt-interest dividends in an amount equal to 90% or more of its net tax-exempt interest.

In addition, capital gains recognized from sales, redemptions, or exchanges of Fund shares generally will be included in the calculation of “net investment income” for purposes of the 3.8% Medicare tax applicable to certain U.S. individuals, estates, and trusts as discussed above.

Losses on the sale, exchange, or redemption of Fund shares may be disallowed to the extent that, within a period beginning 30 days before the date of the sale, exchange, or redemption and ending 30 days after the date of the sale, exchange, or redemption, you acquire other shares in the same Fund (including pursuant to reinvestment of dividends and/or capital gain distributions) unless, in the case of Money Market Fund, you change to the NAV method of accounting for your shares in such Fund. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your ability to deduct any such losses. In addition, if shares in a Fund that have been held for less than 91 days are redeemed and the proceeds are reinvested on or before January 31 of the calendar year following the year of the redemption in shares of the same Fund or another fund pursuant to the Reinvestment Privilege, or if shares in a Fund that have been held for less than 91 days are exchanged for the same class of shares in another fund at NAV pursuant to the exchange privilege, all or a portion of any sales charge paid on the shares that are redeemed or exchanged will not be included in the tax basis of such shares under the Code to the extent that a sales charge that would otherwise apply to the shares received is reduced. However, such sales charge will be included in the tax basis of the subsequently acquired shares to the extent the sales charge is not included in the tax basis of the exchanged shares in the Fund.

If your Fund shares are redeemed by a distribution of securities, you will be taxed as if you had received cash equal to the fair market value of the securities. Consequently, you will have a fair market value basis in the securities received.

In addition to reporting gross proceeds from redemptions, exchanges, or other sales of mutual fund shares, federal law requires mutual funds, such as each of the Funds, to report to the IRS and shareholders the “cost basis” of shares acquired by shareholders on or after January 1, 2012 (“covered shares”) that are redeemed, exchanged, or otherwise sold on or after such date. These requirements generally do not apply to investments through a tax-deferred arrangement or to certain types of entities (such as C corporations). S corporations, however, are not exempt from these rules. Also, if you hold Fund shares through a broker (or another nominee), please contact that broker (nominee) with respect to the reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

If you hold Fund shares directly, you may request that your cost basis be calculated and reported using any one of a number of IRS-approved alternative methods. Please contact the Fund to make, revoke, or change your election. If you do not affirmatively elect a cost basis method, the Fund will use the average cost basis method as its default method for determining your cost basis.

Please note that you will continue to be responsible for calculating and reporting the cost basis, as well as any corresponding gains or losses, of Fund shares that were purchased prior to January 1, 2012 that are subsequently redeemed, exchanged, or sold. You are encouraged to consult your tax advisor regarding the application of the cost basis reporting rules to you and, in particular, which cost basis calculation method you should elect. In addition, because the Funds are not required to, and in many cases do not possess the information to, take into account all possible basis, holding period, or other adjustments in reporting cost basis information to you, you also should carefully review the cost basis information provided to you by the Fund and make any additional basis, holding period, or other adjustments that are required when reporting these amounts on your federal income tax return.

Shareholders that are exempt from U.S. federal income tax, such as retirement plans that are qualified under Section 401 of the Code, generally are not subject to U.S. federal income tax on Fund dividends or distributions or on sales, exchanges or redemptions of Fund shares. However, a tax-exempt shareholder may recognize unrelated business taxable income if (1) the acquisition of Fund shares was debt financed within the meaning of Code Section 514(b) or (2) a Fund recognizes certain “excess inclusion income” derived from direct or indirect investments (including from an investment in a REIT) in (a) residual interests in a real estate mortgage investment conduit or (b) equity interests in a taxable mortgage pool if the amount of such income that is recognized by the Fund exceeds the Fund’s investment company taxable income (after taking into account the deductions for dividends paid by the

Fund). Furthermore, if Fund shares are held through a non-qualified deferred compensation plan, Fund dividends and distributions received by the plan and sales and exchanges of Fund shares by the plan generally are taxable to the employer sponsoring such plan in accordance with the U.S. federal income tax laws governing deferred compensation plans.

A plan participant whose retirement plan invests in a Fund, whether such plan is qualified or not, generally is not taxed on Fund dividends or distributions received by the plan or on sales or exchanges of Fund shares by the plan for U.S. federal income tax purposes. However, distributions to plan participants from a retirement plan account generally are taxable as ordinary income, and special tax treatment, including penalties on certain excess contributions and deferrals, certain pre-retirement and post-retirement distributions, and certain prohibited transactions, is accorded to accounts maintained as qualified retirement plans. Shareholders and plan participants should consult their tax advisors for more information.

Under Treasury regulations, if you are an individual and recognize a loss with respect to Fund shares of \$2 million or more or, if you are a corporation, a loss of \$10 million or more in any single taxable year (or greater amounts over a combination of years), you may be required to file a disclosure statement with the IRS on Form 8886. A shareholder who fails to make the required disclosure may be subject to substantial penalties.

Gains and losses realized by a Fund in connection with certain transactions involving foreign currency-denominated debt securities, certain options, and futures, or forward contracts (or similar instruments) relating to foreign currencies or payables or receivables denominated in a foreign currency are subject to Section 988 of the Code, which generally causes such gains and losses to be treated as ordinary income and losses and may affect the amount, timing, and character of distributions to shareholders. U.S. Treasury regulations authorized by the Code to be promulgated in the future may limit the future ability of a Fund or Underlying Fund to engage in such transactions if they are not directly related to the Fund's investment in securities.

Certain options written or purchased by a Fund or Underlying Fund and futures contracts purchased on certain securities, indices, and foreign currencies, as well as certain forward foreign currency contracts, may cause a Fund or Underlying Fund to recognize gains or losses from marking-to-market even though such options may not have lapsed, been closed out, or exercised, or such futures or forward contracts may not have been performed or closed out. Any gains or losses recognized on such options, futures, or forward contracts generally are considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term gains or losses.

Additionally, a Fund or Underlying Fund may be required to recognize gain if an option, futures contract, short sale, or other transaction that is not subject to the mark-to-market rules is treated as a "constructive sale" of an "appreciated financial position" held by the Fund or Underlying Fund under Section 1259 of the Code. Any net mark-to-market gains and/or gains from constructive sales also may have to be distributed to satisfy the distribution requirements referred to above even though a Fund or Underlying Fund may receive no corresponding cash amounts, possibly requiring the Fund or Underlying Fund to dispose of portfolio securities or to borrow to obtain the necessary cash.

Losses on certain options, futures contracts, and/or offsetting positions (portfolio securities or other positions with respect to which a Fund's or Underlying Fund's risk of loss is substantially diminished by one or more options, futures contracts, or other positions) also may be deferred under the tax straddle rules of the Code, which also may affect the characterization of capital gains or losses from straddle positions and certain successor positions as long-term or short-term. Certain tax elections may be available that would enable a Fund or Underlying Fund to ameliorate some adverse effects of the tax rules described in this paragraph. The tax rules applicable to options, futures contracts, forward contracts, short sales, swaps, structured securities, foreign currencies, and straddles may affect the amount, timing, and character of the Fund's income and gains or losses and, hence, its distributions to shareholders. Rules governing the tax aspects of these types of transactions are still developing and are not entirely clear in certain respects. While the Funds intend to account for such transactions in an appropriate manner, there is no guarantee that the IRS will concur with such treatment. The Funds intend to monitor developments in this area in order to maintain their qualification as regulated investment companies. An adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be

retroactive) may affect whether a Fund has made sufficient distributions, and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements, to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid a Fund-level tax.

To the extent, in accordance with its investment objectives and policies, a Fund may invest up to a substantial portion of its net assets in debt obligations that are in the lowest rating categories or are unrated, including debt obligations of issuers not currently paying interest or who are in default. Investments in debt obligations that are at risk of, or in default, present special tax issues for a Fund. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as when a Fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount, or market discount, when and to what extent deductions may be taken for bad debts or worthless securities, how payments received on obligations in default should be allocated between principal and interest, and whether exchanges of debt obligations in a workout context are taxable. These and other issues will be addressed by each Fund, in the event it invests in such obligations, in order to seek to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its status as a regulated investment company and does not become subject to U.S. federal income or excise tax.

If a Fund or an Underlying Fund invests in certain pay-in-kind securities, zero coupon securities, deferred interest securities, or, in general, any other securities with original issue discount (or, in certain cases as discussed below with market discount, the Fund or Underlying Fund generally must accrue income on such investments for each taxable year, which generally will be prior to the receipt of the corresponding cash payments. However, each Fund and each Underlying Fund must distribute, at least annually, all or substantially all of its investment company taxable and tax-exempt interest income (if any), including such accrued income, to shareholders to qualify as a regulated investment company under the Code and avoid U.S. federal income and excise taxes. Therefore, a Fund or an Underlying Fund may have to dispose of its portfolio securities under disadvantageous circumstances to generate cash, or may have to borrow the cash, to satisfy distribution requirements.

Some debt obligations with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance that are acquired by a Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having “market discount.” Very generally, market discount is the excess of the stated redemption price of a debt obligation (or in the case of an obligation issued with OID, its “revised issue price”) over the purchase price of such obligation. Subject to the discussion below regarding Section 451 of the Code, (i) generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the “accrued market discount” on such debt security, (ii) alternatively, a Fund may elect to accrue market discount currently, in which case the Fund will be required to include the accrued market discount in the Fund’s income (as ordinary income) and thus distribute it over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, upon partial or full repayment or disposition of the debt security, and (iii) the rate at which the market discount accrues, and thus is included in a Fund’s income, will depend upon which of the permitted accrual methods a Fund elects. Notwithstanding the foregoing, effective for taxable years beginning after 2017, Section 451 of the Code generally requires any accrual method taxpayer to take into account items of gross income no later than the time at which such items are taken into account as revenue in the taxpayer’s financial statements. The application of Section 451 to the accrual of market discount is currently unclear; however, the Treasury Department has issued a notice stating that it intends to issue proposed regulations providing that Section 451 does not apply to the accrued market discount. Subject to the issuance of any such regulations, if Section 451 were to apply to the accrual of market discount, a Fund would be required to include in income any market discount as it takes the same into account on its financial statements.

Income, proceeds, and gains received by a Fund from sources within foreign countries may, in some cases, be subject to foreign withholding or other taxes, which would reduce the yield on such investments. Tax treaties between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes in some cases. You may be eligible to claim federal income tax credits or deductions for your pro rata portion of qualified foreign income taxes paid by a Fund if more than 50 percent of the value of such Fund’s total assets at the close of the tax year consists of stock or securities in foreign corporations and the Fund makes an election to pass through to you the right to take the credit or deduction for such foreign taxes (not in excess of the actual tax liability). Owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies (together, “Variable Contracts”) investing in a Variable Fund will not be

eligible to take such credit or deduction and will bear the costs of any foreign withholding or other taxes. If an Underlying Fund that is invested in by a Fund-of-Funds qualifies to pass through a federal income tax credit or deduction to its shareholders for its foreign taxes paid, a Fund-of-Funds may, in certain circumstances, also be eligible to elect to pass through the Fund's allocable amount of such tax credit or deduction to its shareholders *provided* that at the close of each quarter of each taxable year at least 50 percent of the value of the Fund-of-Fund's total assets is represented by interests in other regulated investment companies.

If a Fund is eligible to and makes such an election, you will be required to include such taxes in your gross income (in addition to dividends and distributions you actually receive), treat such taxes as foreign taxes paid by you, and may be entitled to a tax deduction for such taxes or a tax credit, subject to a holding period requirement and other limitations under the Code. However, if you do not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes, you will not be able to deduct your pro rata portion of qualified foreign taxes paid by the Fund, although you will be required to include your share of such taxes in gross income if the Fund makes the election described above, but you still will be able to claim a tax credit. Solely for purposes of determining the amount of federal income tax credits or deductions for foreign income taxes paid, your distributive share of the foreign taxes paid by the Fund or an Underlying Fund plus the portion of any dividends the Fund pays to you that are derived from foreign sources will be treated as income from foreign sources in your hands. Generally, however, distributions derived from the Fund's long-term and short-term capital gains will not be treated as income from foreign sources. If such an election is made, the Fund will send an annual written notice to you indicating the amount that you may treat as the proportionate share of foreign taxes paid and income derived from foreign sources. Shareholders that are not subject to U.S. federal income tax, and those who invest in a Fund through tax-advantaged accounts (including those who invest through individual retirement accounts or other tax-advantaged retirement plans), generally will receive no benefit from any tax credit or deduction passed through by the Fund.

If a Fund acquires any equity interest (under proposed Treasury regulations, generally including not only stock but also an option to acquire stock such as is inherent in a convertible bond) in certain foreign corporations that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties, or capital gains) or that hold at least 50% of their assets in investments producing such passive income ("passive foreign investment companies"), the Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and additional interest charges on "excess distributions" received from such companies or on gain from the sale of stock in such companies, even if all income or gain actually received by the Fund is timely distributed to its shareholders. The Fund would not be able to pass through to its shareholders any credit or deduction for such a tax. Elections generally may be available that would ameliorate these adverse tax consequences, but such elections could require the Fund to recognize taxable income or gain (subject to tax distribution requirements) without the concurrent receipt of cash. If a Fund-of-Funds indirectly invests in passive foreign investment companies by virtue of the Fund-of-Funds' investment in Underlying Funds, it may not make such elections; rather, the Underlying Funds directly investing in the passive foreign investment companies would decide whether to make such elections. Investments in passive foreign investment companies also could result in the treatment of capital gains from the sale of stock of such companies as ordinary income. Each Fund may limit and/or manage its holdings in passive foreign investment companies to limit its tax liability or maximize its return from these investments. Because it is not always possible to identify a foreign corporation as a passive foreign investment company, a Fund may incur the tax and interest charges described above in some instances.

U.S. persons who own (either directly or indirectly) more than 50% of the vote or value of a mutual fund, such as the Funds, could be required to report each year their "financial interest" in such fund's "foreign financial accounts," if any, on FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts ("FBAR"). Shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the applicability of this reporting requirement to their individual circumstances.

You may be subject to a withholding tax on taxable dividends, capital gain distributions, and redemption payments ("backup withholding"). Generally, you will be subject to backup withholding if a Fund does not have your social security number or other certified taxpayer identification number on file, or, to the Fund's knowledge, the number that you have provided is incorrect or backup withholding is applicable as a result of your previous underreporting

of interest or dividend income. When establishing an account, you must certify under penalties of perjury that your social security number or other taxpayer identification number is correct and that you are not otherwise subject to backup withholding. Subject to certain exceptions, distributions by a Fund to shareholders that are not “U.S. persons” within the meaning of the Code (“foreign shareholders”) properly reported by the Fund as (1) capital gain dividends, (2) interest-related dividends, (3) short-term capital gain dividends, and (4) exempt-interest dividends (if any) generally are not subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax. A Fund is permitted to report such part of its dividends as interest-related and/or short-term capital gain dividends as are eligible, but is not required to do so. In the case of shares held through an intermediary, the intermediary may withhold even if a Fund reports all or a portion of a payment as an interest-related or short-term capital gain dividend to shareholders. Foreign shareholders should contact their intermediaries regarding the application of these rules to their accounts.

Distributions by a Fund to foreign shareholders other than capital gain dividends, interest-related dividends, short-term capital gain dividends, and exempt-interest dividends (if any) (*e.g.*, dividends attributable to dividend and foreign-source interest income or to short-term capital gains or U.S. source interest income to which the exception from withholding described above does not apply) are generally subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate).

While none of the Funds expects its shares will constitute U.S. real property interests, if a Fund’s direct and indirect investments in U.S. real property (which includes investments in REITs and certain other regulated investment companies that invest in U.S. real property) were to exceed certain levels, a portion of the Fund’s distributions may be attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of U.S. real property interests. In such case, if a non-U.S. shareholder were to own more than 5% of a class of the Fund’s shares within a one year period prior to such a distribution, the non-U.S. shareholder would be (1) subject to a 35% U.S. federal withholding tax on the portion of the Fund’s distributions attributable to such gain, (2) required to file a U.S. federal income tax return to report such gain, and (3) subject to certain “wash sale” rules if the shareholder disposes of Fund shares just prior to a distribution and reacquires Fund shares shortly thereafter. If a non-U.S. shareholder were to own 5% or less of each class of the Fund’s shares at all times within such one year period, any such distribution by the Fund would not be subject to these requirements, but would be treated as an ordinary dividend regardless of whether it might otherwise have been reported as a capital gain dividend or short-term capital gain dividend and would be subject to the applicable rate of non-resident alien U.S. withholding tax.

Under Sections 1471-1474 of the Code and the U.S. Treasury and IRS guidance issued thereunder (collectively, “FATCA”), a Fund may be required to withhold 30% from payments of dividends and gross redemption proceeds by the Fund to (1) certain foreign financial institutions unless they (i) enter into an agreement with the IRS to determine which (if any) of its accounts are U.S. accounts and comply with annual information reporting with respect to such accounts, (ii) comply with an applicable intergovernmental agreement (“IGA”) entered into with respect to FATCA, or (iii) demonstrate that they are otherwise exempt from reporting under FATCA, and (2) certain other foreign entities unless they (i) certify certain information about their direct and indirect U.S. owners, or (ii) demonstrate that they are otherwise exempt from reporting under FATCA. If a shareholder fails to provide the requested information or otherwise fails to comply with FATCA or an IGA, a Fund may be required to withhold under FATCA at a rate of 30% with respect to that shareholder on ordinary dividends it pays. The IRS and the Department of Treasury have issued proposed regulations providing that these withholding rules will not apply to the gross proceeds of share redemptions or capital gain dividends a Fund pays. If a payment by a Fund is subject to FATCA withholding, the Fund is required to withhold even if such payment would otherwise be exempt from withholding under the rules applicable to foreign shareholders described above (*e.g.*, short-term capital gain dividends and interest-related dividends). The scope of these requirements is potentially subject to material change and shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisers regarding the potential applicability of FATCA to their own situation.

**Funds-of-Funds.** Because each Fund-of-Funds will invest principally in shares of Underlying Funds, their distributable income and gains will normally consist substantially of distributions from Underlying Funds and gains and losses on the disposition of shares of Underlying Funds. To the extent that an Underlying Fund realizes net

losses on its investments for a given taxable year, a Fund-of-Funds will not be able to benefit from those losses until and only to the extent that (i) the Underlying Fund realizes gains that it can reduce by those losses, or (ii) the Fund-of-Funds recognizes its share of those losses (so as to offset distributions of capital gains from other Underlying Funds) when it disposes of shares of the Underlying Fund in a transaction qualifying for sale or exchange treatment. Moreover, even when a Fund-of-Funds does make such a disposition, a portion of its loss may be recognized as a long-term capital loss, which will not be treated as favorably for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a short-term capital loss or an ordinary deduction. In particular, the Fund-of-Funds will not be able to offset any capital losses from its dispositions of Underlying Fund shares against its ordinary income (including distributions derived from net short-term capital gains realized by an Underlying Fund).

In addition, in certain circumstances, the “wash sale” rules under Section 1091 of the Code may apply to a Fund-of-Funds’ sales of Underlying Fund shares that have generated losses. A wash sale occurs if shares of an Underlying Fund are sold by a Fund-of-Funds at a loss and the Fund-of-Funds acquires additional shares of that same Underlying Fund 30 days before or after the date of the sale. The wash sale rules could defer losses in the hands of a Fund-of-Funds on sales of Underlying Fund shares (to the extent such sales are wash sales) for extended (and, in certain cases, potentially indefinite) periods of time.

As a result of the foregoing rules, and certain other special rules, it is possible that the amounts of net investment income and net capital gain that a Fund-of-Funds will be required to distribute to shareholders will be greater than such amounts would have been had the Fund-of-Funds invested directly in the securities held by the Underlying Funds, rather than investing in shares of the Underlying Funds. For similar reasons, the amount or timing of distributions from a Fund-of-Funds qualifying for treatment as a particular character (*e.g.*, long-term capital gain, exempt interest, eligibility for dividends-received deduction, etc.) will not necessarily be the same as it would have been had a Fund-of-Funds invested directly in the securities held by the Underlying Funds.

If a Fund-of-Funds were to own 20% or more of the voting interests of an Underlying Fund, subject to a safe harbor in respect of certain fund-of-funds arrangements, the Fund-of-Funds would be required to “look through” the Underlying Fund to its holdings and combine the appropriate percentage (as determined pursuant to the applicable Treasury Regulations) of the Underlying Fund’s assets with the Fund-of-Funds’ assets for purposes of satisfying the 25% diversification test described above.

**Tax Treatment of Municipal Income Funds.** Assuming that a Fund qualifies for the special tax treatment afforded to a regulated investment company, if at the close of each quarter of a taxable year of the Fund at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets consists of certain obligations, the interest on which is excludible from gross income under Section 103(a) of the Code (“tax-exempt securities”), the Fund will qualify to pay “exempt-interest” dividends to its shareholders. Those dividends constitute the portion of aggregate dividends (excluding capital gains) as reported to you by a Fund, equal to the excess of the Fund’s excludible interest over certain amounts disallowed as deductions. Exempt-interest dividends paid by each Fund are generally exempt from regular federal income tax; however, the amount of such dividends must be reported on the recipient’s federal income tax return. If, at the close of each quarter of a Fund-of-Fund’s taxable year, at least 50 percent of the value of a Fund-of-Funds total assets is represented by interests in other regulated investment companies, a Fund-of-Fund is permitted to distribute exempt-interest dividends and thereby pass through to its shareholders the tax-exempt character of any exempt-interest dividends it receives from Underlying Funds in which it invests, or interest on any tax-exempt obligations in which it directly invests, if any.

While each Fund of Municipal Income Fund (collectively, the “Municipal Income Funds”) endeavors to purchase only bona fide tax-exempt securities, there are risks that (i) a security issued as tax-exempt may be reclassified by the IRS, or a state tax authority, as taxable and/or (ii) future legislative, administrative, or court actions could adversely impact the qualification of income from a tax-exempt security as tax-free. Such reclassifications or actions could cause interest from a security to become taxable, possibly with retroactive effect, subjecting you to increased tax liability. In addition, such reclassifications or actions could cause the value of a security, and, therefore, the value of a Fund, to decline.

Each Municipal Income Fund (other than High Yield Municipal Fund and Short Duration High Yield Municipal Bond Fund) may invest up to 20% of its net assets in certain “private activity bonds” that generate interest that constitute items of tax preference that are subject to the U.S. federal alternative minimum tax for individuals or entities that are subject to such tax. High Yield Municipal Fund and Short Duration High Yield Municipal Bond Fund may invest up to 100% of their net assets in these private activity bonds. Exempt-interest dividends paid by a Fund may result in or increase a corporate shareholder’s liability for the federal alternative minimum tax for taxable years beginning prior to 2018, regardless of whether the dividends are a tax preference item.

All dividends, other than exempt-interest dividends, are taxable whether a shareholder takes them in cash or reinvests them in additional shares of a Fund. Each Municipal Income Fund may invest a portion of its portfolio in short-term taxable obligations and may engage in transactions generating gains or income that is not tax-exempt, such as selling or lending portfolio securities, purchasing non-municipal securities, acquiring debt obligations at a market discount, or entering into options and futures transactions. Dividends paid by a Fund from such taxable net investment income or net realized short-term capital gains are taxable to you as ordinary income. Since none of Municipal Income Funds’ income is derived primarily from sources that pay “qualified dividend income,” distributions from each Fund’s taxable net investment income generally will not qualify for taxation at the reduced tax rates available to individuals on qualified dividend income. In addition, Municipal Income Funds generally do not expect that any of a Fund’s dividends will qualify for a dividends-received deduction that might otherwise be available to corporate shareholders.

Interest on indebtedness incurred by a shareholder to purchase or carry shares of a Municipal Income Fund may not be deductible, in whole or in part, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The IRS may deem indebtedness to have been incurred for the purpose of acquiring or carrying shares of a Fund even though the borrowed funds may not be directly traceable to the purchase of shares.

Municipal Income Fund shares may not be an appropriate investment for “substantial users” of facilities financed by industrial development bonds, or persons related to such “substantial users.” Such persons should consult their tax advisors before investing in Fund shares.

Exempt-interest dividends are taken into account when determining the taxable portion of your social security or railroad retirement benefits.

Certain investment practices that Municipal Income Funds may utilize, such as investing in options, futures, interest rate swaps, credit swaps, total return swaps, and options on swaps and interest rate caps, floors, and collars, may affect the amount, character, and timing of the recognition of gains and losses by the Funds. Such transactions may, in turn, affect the amount and character of Municipal Income Fund distributions and may result in the distribution of taxable income to you.

Although interest from tax-exempt bonds is generally not excludible from income for state and local income tax purposes, many states allow you to exclude the percentage of dividends derived from interest income on obligations of the state or its political subdivisions and instrumentalities if you are a resident of that state.

Many states also allow you to exclude from your state taxable income the percentage of dividends derived from certain federal obligations, including interest on some federal agency obligations.

Certain states, however, may require that a specific percentage of a Fund’s income be derived from state and/or federal obligations before such dividends may be excluded from state taxable income. Each Fund intends to provide to you on an annual basis information to permit you to determine whether Fund dividends derived from interest on state and/or federal obligations may be excluded from state taxable income.

**Tax Treatment of Variable Funds.** Special rules apply to insurance company separate accounts and the Variable Funds in which such insurance company separate accounts invest. For federal income tax purposes, the insurance company separate accounts that invest in a Variable Fund will be treated as receiving the income from the Variable Fund’s distributions to such accounts, and holders of Variable Contracts generally will not be taxed currently on

income or gains realized with respect to such contracts, *provided* that certain diversification and “investor control” requirements are met. In order for owners of Variable Contracts to receive such favorable tax treatment, diversification requirements in Section 817(h) of the Code (“Section 817(h)”) must be satisfied. To determine whether such diversification requirements are satisfied, an insurance company that offers Variable Contracts generally may “look through” to the assets of a regulated investment company in which it owns shares if, among other requirements, (1) all the shares of the regulated investment company are held by segregated asset accounts of insurance companies and (2) public access to such shares is only available through the purchase of a variable contract, in each case subject to certain limited exceptions. This provision permits a segregated asset account to invest all of its assets in shares of a single regulated investment company without being considered nondiversified, *provided* that the regulated investment company meets the Section 817(h) diversification requirements. This “look through” treatment typically increases the diversification of the account, because a portion of each of the assets of the Underlying Fund is considered to be held by the segregated asset account. Because each Variable Fund expects that this look-through rule will apply in determining whether the Section 817(h) diversification requirements are satisfied with respect to the variable contracts invested in the insurance company separate accounts that own shares in the Fund, each Variable Fund intends to comply with the Section 817(h) diversification requirements. If a Variable Fund failed to qualify as a regulated investment company, the insurance company separate accounts investing in the Variable Fund would no longer be permitted to look through to the Variable Fund’s investments and, thus, would likely fail to satisfy the Section 817(h) diversification requirements.

A Variable Fund can generally satisfy the Section 817(h) diversification requirements in one of two ways. First, the requirements will be satisfied if each Variable Fund invests not more than 55 percent of the total value of its assets in the securities of a single issuer; not more than 70 percent of the value of its total assets in the securities of any two issuers; not more than 80 percent of the value of its total assets in the securities of any three issuers; and not more than 90 percent of the value of its total assets in the securities of any four issuers. Alternatively, the diversification requirements will be satisfied with respect to Variable Fund shares owned by insurance companies as investments for variable contracts if (i) no more than 55 percent of the value of the Variable Fund’s total assets consists of cash, cash items (including receivables), U.S. Government securities, and securities of other regulated investment companies, and (ii) the Variable Fund satisfies the additional diversification requirements for qualification as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Code discussed above. For purposes of the Section 817(h) diversification rule, all securities of the same issuer are considered a single investment. In the case of government securities, each United States government agency or instrumentality is generally treated as a separate issuer. In addition, to the extent any security is guaranteed or insured by the U.S. or an instrumentality of the U.S., it will be treated as having been issued by the U.S. or the instrumentality, as applicable.

A Variable Fund will be considered to be in compliance with the Section 817(h) diversification requirements if it is adequately diversified on the last day of each calendar quarter. A Variable Fund that meets the diversification requirements as of the close of a calendar quarter will not be considered nondiversified in a subsequent quarter because of a discrepancy between the value of its assets and the diversification requirements unless the discrepancy exists immediately after the acquisition of any asset and is attributable, in whole or in part, to such acquisition.

If the segregated asset account investing in the Variable Fund is not adequately diversified at the required time and the correction procedure described below is not available, a Variable Contract based on the account during the specified time will not be treated as an annuity or life insurance contract within the meaning of the Code and all income accrued on the Variable Contract for the current and all prior taxable years will be subject to current federal taxation at ordinary income rates to the holders of such contracts. The Variable Contract will also remain subject to a current taxation for all subsequent tax periods regardless of whether the Fund or separate account becomes adequately diversified in future periods.

In certain circumstances, an inadvertent failure to satisfy the Section 817(h) diversification requirements can be corrected, but generally will require the payment of a penalty to the IRS. The amount of such penalty will be based on the tax the contract holders would have incurred if they were treated as receiving the income on the contract

for the period during which the diversification requirements were not satisfied. Any such failure also could result in adverse tax consequences for the insurance company issuing the contracts.

In addition to the Section 817(h) diversification requirements, “investor control” limitations also are imposed on owners of Variable Contracts. The IRS has issued rulings addressing the circumstances in which a Variable Contract holder’s control of the investments of the insurance company separate account may cause the holder, rather than the insurance company, to be treated as the owner of the assets held by the separate account. If the holder is considered the owner of the securities underlying the separate account, income, and gains produced by those securities would be included currently in the holder’s gross income. In determining whether an impermissible level of investor control is present, one factor the IRS considers is whether a Variable Fund’s investment strategies are sufficiently broad to prevent a Variable Contract holder from being deemed to be making particular investment decisions through its investment in the separate account. For this purpose, current IRS guidance indicates that typical fund investment strategies, even those with a specific sector or geographical focus, are generally considered sufficiently broad. Most, although not necessarily all, of the Variable Funds have objectives and strategies that are not materially narrower than the investment strategies held not to constitute an impermissible level of investor control in recent IRS rulings (such as large company stocks, international stocks, small company stocks, mortgage-backed securities, money market securities, telecommunications stocks, and financial services stocks).

The above discussion addresses only one of several factors that the IRS considers in determining whether a Variable Contract holder has an impermissible level of investor control over a separate account. Variable Contract holders should consult with their own tax advisors, as well as the prospectus relating to their particular Variable Contract, for more information concerning this investor control issue.

In the event that there is a legislative change or the IRS or Treasury Department issues rulings, regulations, or other guidance, there can be no assurance that a Variable Fund will be able to operate as currently described, or that a Variable Fund will not have to change its investment objective or investment policies. While a Variable Fund’s investment objective is fundamental and may be changed only by a vote of a majority of its outstanding shares, the investment policies of the Variable Funds may be modified as necessary to prevent any prospective rulings, regulations, or legislative change from causing Variable Contract owners to be considered the owners of the shares of a Variable Fund.

For a discussion of the tax consequences to owners of Variable Contracts of Variable Fund distributions to insurance company separate accounts, please see the prospectus provided by the insurance company for your Variable Contract. Because of the unique tax status of Variable Contracts, you also should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of owning Variable Contracts under the federal, state, and local tax rules that apply to you.

**Additional Tax Information Applicable to All Funds.** The foregoing discussion addresses only the U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to shareholders who are subject to U.S. federal income tax, hold their shares as capital assets, and are U.S. persons (generally, U.S. individual citizens or residents (including certain former citizens and former long-term residents), domestic corporations or domestic entities taxed as corporations for U.S. tax purposes, estates the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, and trusts if (i) a court within the U.S. is able to exercise primary supervision over their administration and at least one U.S. person has the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trusts or (ii) the trust has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person). The treatment of the owner of an interest in an entity that is a pass-through entity for U.S. tax purposes (*e.g.*, partnerships and disregarded entities) and that owns Fund shares generally will depend upon the status of the owner and the activities of the pass-through entity. Except as otherwise provided, this description does not address the special tax rules that may be applicable to particular types of investors, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, securities dealers, or tax-exempt or tax-deferred plans, accounts, or entities. If you are not a U.S. person or are the owner of an interest in a pass-through entity that owns Fund shares, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the U.S. and foreign tax consequences of the ownership of Fund shares, including the applicability of U.S. gift and estate taxes.

The tax rules of the various states of the U.S. and their local jurisdictions with respect to distributions from a Fund can differ from the U.S. federal income tax rules described above.

Because everyone's tax situation is unique, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the treatment of distributions under the federal, state, local, and foreign tax rules that apply to you, as well as the tax consequences of gains or losses from the sale, exchange, or redemption of your Fund shares.

## APPENDIX A

### Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC Lord Abbett Funds

#### DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

#### POLICY AND PROCEDURES

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##### I. Scope

Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC (“Lord Abbett”) has adopted this policy and procedures (the “Policy”) with respect to its investment advisory clients (“Clients”), including the Lord Abbett Family of Funds (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), to ensure that “Portfolio Holdings” (as defined below) are disclosed in a manner that is consistent with applicable legal requirements and Lord Abbett’s fiduciary duties.

##### II. Policy

Lord Abbett owes a fiduciary duty to each of its Clients and must act in each Client’s best interest. Inappropriate disclosure of Portfolio Holdings could enable a third party to engage in trading activity that negatively impacts Clients. Therefore, Lord Abbett will not release Portfolio Holdings in a manner that is inconsistent with Client interests or otherwise in conflict with this Policy.

Lord Abbett will address the disclosure of Portfolio Holdings in accordance with the following principles:

- A. Unless an exception is available under the Policy, Lord Abbett will not prematurely provide Portfolio Holdings to any third party.
- B. Subject to the exceptions listed below, Lord Abbett will not disclose any information related to its potential interest in buying or selling securities or other instruments on behalf of Client accounts.
- C. Neither Lord Abbett nor any affiliate, or any Fund, may receive compensation in connection with the disclosure of Portfolio Holdings. Lord Abbett, however, may receive compensation from sponsors of managed account programs for providing data and constructing model portfolios.

##### III. Portfolio Holdings Defined

The term “Portfolio Holdings” refers to any information that identifies one or more investments currently held by a Client account. Portfolio Holdings include any information that identifies the issuer of the securities or other instrument even if the security type (*e.g.*, common stock or bond) or size of the position is not disclosed. Portfolio Holdings also includes the holdings of a model account.

##### IV. Permitted Disclosure

###### A. Seasoned Portfolio Holdings

Concerns about the materiality of Portfolio Holdings recede over time and the ability of a third party to misuse this information to the disadvantage of Lord Abbett and its Clients dissipates. Therefore, Lord Abbett may freely

provide Portfolio Holdings as of any date and for any period in accordance with the following schedule (“Schedule”):

| TYPE OF STRATEGY                                       | LIST OF TOP 10 PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS    | COMPLETE LIST OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Equity and Fixed Income (except as noted below)</b> | 15 day delay                         | 30 day delay  |
| <b>Micro Cap Growth and Micro Cap Value</b>            | 15 day delay                         | Until the public release of the Portfolio Holdings in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report;</li> <li>• Semi-Annual Report; or</li> <li>• Form N-Q</li> </ul> |
| <b>Each Fund-of-Funds</b>                              | No delay                             | No delay  |
| <b>Money Market</b>                                    | 1 day after reporting date or period | 1 day after reporting date or period  |

For purposes of the Policy, and Schedule above, the “Top 10 Portfolio Holdings” may include up to ten issues or issuers, compiled or ranked according to any objective criteria, including (but not limited to):

- Portfolio asset weighting;
- Overweight or underweight in the portfolio relative to an index or other benchmark; or
- Contribution to, or detraction from, portfolio performance, whether absolute or relative to an index or other benchmark.

Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings of each Fund-of-Funds is limited to the Fund’s investments in the underlying Funds. Disclosure of the indirect Portfolio Holdings of a Fund-of-Fund’s (*i.e.*, the Portfolio Holdings of the underlying Funds that are indirectly held by an Asset Allocation Fund) is subject to the appropriate restrictions.

**B. Aggregate, Composite or Descriptive Information**

Lord Abbett may freely disclose aggregate, composite or descriptive information about Portfolio Holdings without violation of this Policy, as long as the release of this information will not disadvantage Clients. Examples of this information include the following:

1. Performance attribution information based on industry, sector or geographic exposure;
2. Allocation among asset classes, regions, countries, industries or sectors;
3. Portfolio statistical information, such as price-to-earnings ratio, yield, duration, or credit quality information; and
4. Portfolio risk characteristics, such as standard deviation or Sharpe ratio.

**V. Authorized Exceptions**

Following is a list of circumstances in which Portfolio Holdings can be disclosed in advance of the Schedule above.

A. Portfolio Holdings Provided to Financial Intermediaries and Service Providers, and Portfolio Evaluators and Data Providers

Lord Abbett may provide Portfolio Holdings in advance of their general public availability under the Schedule if such advance disclosure is provided to:

1. Financial intermediaries with whom the Funds' or the Funds' principal underwriter, Lord Abbett Distributor LLC, has an agreement in connection with the purchase, redemption, and/or exchange of Fund shares. Lord Abbett may not provide Portfolio Holdings to such financial intermediaries more frequently than monthly, with a one day lag period.
2. Any Fund service provider with such frequency and delay as the officers of the Fund, in consultation with Lord Abbett's General Counsel or Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), or their respective designees, deem appropriate to the service being provided to the Fund. Such service providers include the Funds' custodian, independent registered public accounting firm, legal counsel, financial printer, independent legal counsel for the Funds' Independent Directors/Trustees, and proxy voting services vendor.
3. Portfolio evaluators, such as Morningstar, Inc. and Lipper Analytical Services, Inc. ("Portfolio Evaluators"), which receive Portfolio Holdings and publish information regarding relative Fund performance and Portfolio Holdings.
4. Data providers, such as Bloomberg ("Data Providers"), which are a source of statistical information, including Portfolio Holdings, to the securities markets generally.

In each case described: (a) there must be a legitimate business purpose for releasing Portfolio Holdings in advance of Lord Abbett's release of such information to the public generally; (b) the relevant third party must have entered into a confidentiality agreement or another agreement including confidentiality provisions ("Confidentiality Agreement") that meets the requirements of this Policy or be subject to a professional duty to maintain the confidentiality of client information; and (c) in the case of Portfolio Evaluators and Data Providers, the firm must have agreed in writing not to release Portfolio Holdings prior to this information becoming available to the general public under the Schedule above.

B. Portfolio Holdings Provided to Advisory Clients and Related Parties

Lord Abbett may provide Portfolio Holdings of an institutional separate account Client or program sponsor of a separately managed or model-based account program ("Sponsor") to the following:

1. A Client (with respect to that Client's Portfolio Holdings, or a model or representative account based on the same strategy);
2. A consultant or other advisor to such Client ("Consultant") pursuant to written Client direction;
3. A Sponsor of a separately managed account program (excluding model-based managed account programs) and the financial consultants representing the Sponsor of such program, but only with respect to an actual account or accounts managed by Lord Abbett or a model portfolio that is the basis for Lord Abbett's management of accounts in the Sponsor's program;
4. A Sponsor of a model-based account program (*e.g.*, Unified Management Account program) and the financial consultants representing the Sponsor of such program, but only with respect to the model portfolio maintained by Lord Abbett and delivered to such Sponsor; and

5. An investment adviser or its written designee responsible for hiring Lord Abbett as a sub-adviser with respect to the Portfolio Holdings of the sub-advised account.

Lord Abbett expects each Sponsor to protect the confidentiality of the portfolio information it receives by not disclosing this information to the Sponsor's potential clients or other third parties until the Portfolio Holdings of the related investment strategy are publicly available in accordance with the Schedule.

C. Portfolio Holdings Provided by Investment Personnel

To the extent consistent with applicable regulatory requirements, Lord Abbett's portfolio managers, securities analysts, and traders (collectively, "Investment Personnel") may provide Portfolio Holdings in advance of the general public availability of the Portfolio Holdings under the Schedule, *provided that*:

1. The Investment Personnel provide Portfolio Holdings solely to persons who are bona fide sources of securities or market analytical information, or broker-dealers with which Lord Abbett engages in portfolio trades (each, an "Authorized Recipient");
2. The Portfolio Holdings are provided solely to enhance the information and/or services provided by the Authorized Recipient, or to assist in the execution of trades and the implementation of portfolio transactions for Clients;
3. To the extent Investment Personnel provide to an Authorized Recipient a list of 10 or more issuers representing Portfolio Holdings ("Watch List"), the following conditions are met:
  - i. The Watch List is comprised solely of issuer names, tickers, or other issuer identifiers, and includes an equal or greater number of securities/issuers that are *not* Portfolio Holdings (but may be of interest to Lord Abbett); *or*
  - ii. The Authorized Recipient has entered into a Confidentiality Agreement; and
4. Lord Abbett's Chief Investment Officer (or his designee) appropriately supervises the disclosure of Portfolio Holdings in accordance with this Section V. C.

D. Portfolio Holdings Provided to Potential Clients and their Advisors

Potential Clients, and their advisors, including Sponsors of separately managed and model-based account programs, may request recent Portfolio Holdings for purposes of determining whether to engage Lord Abbett as investment adviser, sub-adviser or model account provider. Firms that request this type of information understand the need to maintain the confidentiality of the information and to restrict the ability of employees and third parties from acting on this information in an inappropriate manner. Lord Abbett therefore may provide such information, provided that the Potential Client and/or advisor, as the case may be, has entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.

E. Portfolio Holdings Provided to Transition Managers

In connection with new and terminating accounts, or significant cash flows to and from existing Client accounts, Clients may choose to employ a "transition manager." A transition manager helps to assist institutional investors with new manager assignments or significant cash flows with respect to existing relationships so as to achieve the desired portfolio exposure in a timely, risk controlled and cost effective manner. To achieve their objective, transition managers need to obtain current Portfolio Holdings. Firms that provide transition management services understand that they will receive sensitive information and recognize the need to maintain the privacy of this information and to have in place policies and procedures to avoid the misuse of this information. Therefore, Lord

Abbett may provide Portfolio Holdings to transition managers in connection with advisory assignments or significant cash flows for existing Clients provided that the transition manager has entered into a Confidentiality Agreement.

F. Disclosures Required by Law or Regulation

Nothing contained herein is intended to prevent the disclosure of Portfolio Holdings that is required by applicable law or regulation. For example, Lord Abbett may file any report required by applicable law or regulation, and respond to requests from any court, or law enforcement or regulatory agency, with appropriate jurisdiction.

G. Other Disclosure

There may be situations in which Portfolio Holdings could be disclosed in a manner that is consistent with but not specifically contemplated by the Policy. Lord Abbett may provide Portfolio Holdings in these situations provided that such disclosure is consistent with the principles of this Policy and has been approved in advance by the General Counsel or the CCO, or their respective designees. In determining whether to approve such disclosure, the General Counsel and CCO (and their respective designees) shall consider: (a) whether there is a legitimate business purpose in providing this information on a selective basis; (b) the nature of the recipient of the information and whether the recipient recognizes the need or has a fiduciary or professional duty to avoid premature disclosure of this information to another third party; (c) whether it is necessary to require the recipient to enter into a Confidentiality Agreement to protect the interests of Clients; (d) the extent to which the recipient has adopted procedures to ensure that such information remains confidential and is not misused; and (e) whether such disclosure is consistent with the interests of Clients. In making these determinations, the General Counsel and CCO (and their respective designees) shall consult to the extent necessary with any Lord Abbett partner or employee.

VI. Confidentiality Agreements

When Lord Abbett provides Portfolio Holdings pursuant to a Confidentiality Agreement under this Policy, the agreement must require that, among other things, neither the recipient nor any of its officers, employees or agents may or will take any inappropriate action based on the Portfolio Holdings provided by Lord Abbett. The Confidentiality Agreement must be executed by an authorized officer of the Fund or an authorized member of Lord Abbett, as the case may be. The Legal Department shall be responsible for reviewing and approving all Confidentiality Agreements, for maintaining these agreements and the list of parties receiving Portfolio Holdings pursuant to such agreements, and for any related disclosure of this information.

VII. Periodic Compliance Review

The Compliance Department shall establish such procedures and conduct such oversight in assessing compliance with this Policy as the CCO deems appropriate.

VIII. Reports to the Board

The CCO shall promptly report any material issues that may arise under this Policy to the Funds' Boards of Directors/Trustees at the next appropriate Board meeting.

IX. Integration with other Lord Abbett Policies

This Policy is intended to be read in connection with all applicable Lord Abbett policies, including the following:

A. Media Policy

Designated representatives from Lord Abbett's Marketing Department and Investments Department may engage in discussions with representatives of the press or the media regarding general information about Lord Abbett's investment outlook, including general information about a particular issuer, *provided* that any such discussions with the media comply with all applicable advertising, anti-fraud, and other rules and requirements. When speaking with the media, Lord Abbett representatives shall not disclose Lord Abbett's current or intended trading activity and shall refrain from making any statements that are prohibited under Lord Abbett's Media Policy.

B. Insider Trading and Receipt of Material Non-Public Information Policy and Procedures.

Lord Abbett personnel that receive a third party's confidential information including, but not limited to, such third party's non-public portfolio holdings and/or current trading intentions, Lord Abbett and/or the Lord Abbett employee may be prevented from trading on such information pursuant to the terms of Lord Abbett's "Insider Trading and Receipt of Material Non-Public Information Policy and Procedure."

Effective Date: January 29, 2014 (revised Policy)

## APPENDIX B

### Fund Portfolio Information Recipients

The following is a list of the third parties that are eligible to receive portfolio holdings or related information pursuant to ongoing arrangements under the circumstances described above under “Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings” in Part II:

|  | Portfolio Holdings <sup>1</sup> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Abel/Noser Corp.   | Monthly                         |
| Base-Two Investment Systems, Inc.                                    | Daily                           |
| Becker, Burke Associates   | Monthly                         |
| Berthel Schutter   | Monthly                         |
| Bloomberg L.P.   | Daily                           |
| Callan Associates Inc.   | Monthly                         |
| Cambridge Associates LLC   | Monthly                         |
| Citigroup/The Yield Book, Inc.                                       | Daily                           |
| CJS Securities, Inc.   | Daily                           |
| CL King & Associates   | Monthly                         |
| Concord Advisory Group Ltd.  | Monthly                         |
| CTVglobemedia f/k/a Bell GlobeMedia Publishing Co.                   | Monthly                         |
| Curcio Webb  | Monthly                         |
| Deloitte & Touche LLP  | As Requested                    |
| Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P.  | Monthly                         |
| Evaluation Associates, LLC   | Monthly                         |
| FactSet Research Systems, Inc.                                       | Daily                           |
| Financial Model Co. (FMC)  | Daily                           |
| Hartland & Co.   | Monthly                         |
| Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc. (ISS)                       | Daily                           |
| Investment Technology Group (ITG)                                    | Daily                           |
| Jeffrey Slocum & Associates, Inc.                                    | Monthly                         |
| JP Morgan Securities, Inc.   | Monthly                         |
| Lipper Inc., a Reuters Company                                       | Monthly                         |
| Longbow Research   | Monthly                         |
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated                  | Monthly                         |
| Morningstar Associates, Inc., Morningstar, Inc.                      | Daily                           |
| MSCI Barra   | Daily                           |
| Muzea Insider Consulting Services                                    | Weekly                          |
| Nock, Inc.   | Daily                           |
| Pierce Park Group  | Monthly                         |
| Reuters America LLC  | Daily                           |
| Rocaton Investment Advisors, LLC                                     | Monthly                         |
| Rogerscasey  | Monthly                         |
| Ropes & Gray LLP   | As Requested                    |
| SG Constellation LLC   | Daily                           |
| State Street Corporation   | Daily                           |
| Sungard Expert Solutions, Inc.                                       | Daily                           |
| The Marco Consulting Group   | Monthly                         |
| Towers Watson Investment Services, Inc. f/k/a Watson Wyatt Worldwide | Monthly                         |
| Wall Street Source   | Daily                           |

<sup>1</sup> Each Fund may provide its portfolio holdings to (a) third parties that render services to the Funds relating to such holdings (*i.e.*, pricing vendors, ratings organizations, custodians, external administrators, independent registered public accounting firms, counsel, etc.) as appropriate to the service being provided to the Funds, on a daily, monthly, calendar quarterly or annual basis, and (b) third party consultants on a daily, monthly, or calendar quarterly basis for the purpose of performing their own analyses with respect to the Fund within one day following each calendar period end.

## APPENDIX C

### PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THE LORD ABBETT FAMILY OF FUNDS LORD, ABBETT & CO. LLC

#### 1. Introduction

Under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, Lord, Abnett & Co. LLC (“Lord Abnett” or “we”) acts as a fiduciary that owes each of its clients’ duties of care and loyalty with respect to all services undertaken on the client’s behalf, including proxy voting. This means that Lord Abnett is required to vote proxies in the manner we believe is in the best interests of each client, including the Lord Abnett Funds (the “Funds”) and their shareholders. We take a long-term perspective in investing our clients’ assets and employ the same perspective in voting proxies on their behalf. Accordingly, we tend to support proxy proposals that we believe are likely to maximize shareholder value over time, whether such proposals were initiated by a company or its shareholders.

#### 2. Proxy Voting Process Overview

Lord Abnett has a Proxy Group (the “Proxy Group”) that oversees proxy voting mechanics on a day-to-day basis and provides Lord Abnett’s Proxy Policy Committee (the “Proxy Policy Committee”) and Investment Department personnel with information regarding proxy voting. The Proxy Policy Committee comprises Lord Abnett’s Chief Investment Officer and members of its Investment, Operations, and Legal and Compliance Departments. Proxy voting decisions are made by the Investment Department in accordance with these policies and procedures and are carried out by the Proxy Group.

Lord Abnett has implemented the following approach to the proxy voting process:

- In cases where we deem any client’s position in a company to be material,<sup>1</sup> the relevant investment team is responsible for determining how to vote the security. Once a voting decision has been made, the investment team provides instructions to the Proxy Group, which is responsible for submitting Lord Abnett’s vote.
- In cases where we deem all clients’ positions in a company to be non-material, a member of Investment Administration is responsible for determining how to vote the security. Investment Administration may seek guidance from the relevant investment team, the Proxy Policy Committee or any of its members, the Proxy Service Provider (defined below), or other sources to determine how to vote. Once a voting decision has been made, Investment Administration provides instructions to the Proxy Group, which is responsible for submitting Lord Abnett’s vote.
- Lord Abnett has identified certain types of proxy proposals that it considers purely administrative in nature and as to which it always will vote in the same manner. The Proxy Group is authorized to vote on such proposals without receiving instructions from the Investment Department, regardless of the materiality of any client’s position. Lord Abnett presently considers the following specific types of proposals to fall within this category: (1) proposals to change a company’s name, as to which Lord Abnett always votes in favor; (2) proposals regarding formalities of shareholder meetings (namely, changes to a meeting’s date, time, or location), as to which Lord Abnett always votes in favor; and (3) proposals to allow shareholders to transact other business at a meeting, as to which Lord Abnett always votes against.

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<sup>1</sup> We presently consider a position in a particular company to be material if: (1) it represents more than 1% of any client’s portfolio holdings *and* all clients’ positions in the company together represent more than 1% of the company’s outstanding shares; *or* (2) all clients’ positions in the company together represent more than 5% of the company’s outstanding shares. For purposes of determining materiality, we exclude shares held by clients with respect to which Lord Abnett does not have authority to vote proxies. We also exclude shares with respect to which Lord Abnett’s vote is restricted or limited due to super-voting share structures (where one class of shares has super-voting rights that effectively disenfranchise other classes of shares), vote limitation policies, and other similar measures. This definition of materiality is subject to change at our discretion.

- When multiple investment teams manage one or more portfolios that hold the same voting security, the investment team that manages the largest number of shares of the security will be considered to have the dominant position. Lord Abbett will vote all shares on behalf of all clients that hold the security in accordance with the vote determined by the investment team with the dominant position.

### **3. Retention and Oversight of Proxy Service Provider**

Lord Abbett has retained an independent third party service provider (the “Proxy Service Provider”) to analyze proxy issues and recommend how to vote on those issues, and to provide assistance in the administration of the proxy process, including maintaining complete proxy voting records.<sup>2</sup> While Lord Abbett takes into consideration the information and recommendations of the Proxy Service Provider, Lord Abbett votes all proxies based on its own proxy voting policies, including Lord Abbett’s conclusions regarding the best interests of the Funds, their shareholders, and other advisory clients, rather than basing decisions solely on the Proxy Service Provider’s recommendations.

Lord Abbett monitors the Proxy Service Provider’s capacity, competency, and conflicts of interest to ensure that Lord Abbett continues to vote proxies in the best interests of its clients. As part of its ongoing oversight of the Proxy Service Provider, Lord Abbett performs periodic due diligence on the Proxy Service Provider. Such due diligence may be conducted in Lord Abbett’s offices or at the Proxy Service Provider’s offices. The topics included in these due diligence reviews include conflicts of interest, methodologies for developing vote recommendations, and resources, among other things.

### **4. Conflicts of Interest**

Lord Abbett is an independent, privately held firm with a singular focus on the management of money. Although Lord Abbett does not face the conflicts of interest inherent in being part of a larger financial institution, conflicts of interest nevertheless may arise in the proxy voting process. Such a conflict may exist, for example, when a client’s account holds shares of a company that also is a client of Lord Abbett. We have adopted safeguards designed to ensure that conflicts of interest are identified and resolved in our clients’ best interests rather than our own. These safeguards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lord Abbett has implemented special voting measures with respect to companies for which one of the Funds’ independent directors/trustees also serves on the board of directors or is a nominee for election to the board of directors. If a Fund owns stock in such a company, Lord Abbett will notify the Funds’ Proxy Committees<sup>3</sup> (the “Proxy Committees”) and seek voting instructions from the Committees only in those situations where Lord Abbett proposes not to follow the Proxy Service Provider’s recommendations. In these instances, if applicable, the independent director/trustee will abstain from any discussions and voting by the Funds’ Proxy Committees regarding the company.
- Lord Abbett also has implemented special voting measures with respect to any company (including any subsidiary of a company or retirement plan sponsored by a company) that has a significant business relationship with Lord Abbett. For this purpose, a “significant business relationship” means: (1) a broker dealer firm that is responsible for one percent or more of the Funds’ total dollar amount of shares sold for the last 12 months; (2) a firm that is a sponsor firm with respect to Lord Abbett’s separately managed account business; (3) an institutional account client that has an investment management agreement with

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<sup>2</sup> Lord Abbett currently retains Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. as the Proxy Service Provider.

<sup>3</sup> The Boards of Directors and Trustees of the Funds have delegated oversight of proxy voting to separate Proxy Committees comprised solely of independent directors and/or trustees, as the case may be. Each Proxy Committee is responsible for, among other things: (1) monitoring Lord Abbett’s actions in voting securities owned by the related Fund; (2) evaluating Lord Abbett’s policies in voting securities; and (3) meeting with Lord Abbett to review the policies in voting securities, the sources of information used in determining how to vote on particular matters, and the procedures used to determine the votes in any situation where there may be a conflict of interest.

Lord Abbett; (4) an institutional investor that, to Lord Abbett's knowledge, holds at least \$5 million in shares of the Funds; and (5) a retirement plan client that, to Lord Abbett's knowledge, has at least \$5 million invested in the Funds.

If a Fund owns shares of a company with such a business relationship ("Conflict Shares") and Lord Abbett seeks to vote contrary to the Proxy Service Provider's recommendation, then Lord Abbett will notify the Funds' Proxy Committees and seek voting instructions from the Committee members. Lord Abbett generally will vote conflict proposals pursuant to the instruction of a majority of Committee members, but will act on the instructions of less than a majority if less than a majority respond and all responding members approve Lord Abbett's proposed votes on such proposals. In all other cases, Lord Abbett will vote the Funds' Conflict Shares in accordance with the Proxy Service Provider's recommendation. Lord Abbett periodically will report to the Funds' Proxy Committees its record of voting the Funds' Conflict Shares in accordance with Committee member instructions.

Absent explicit instructions from an institutional account client to resolve proxy voting conflicts in a different manner, Lord Abbett will vote each such client's Conflict Shares in the manner it votes the Funds' Conflict Shares.

- To serve the best interests of a client that holds a given voting security, Lord Abbett generally will vote proxies without regard to other clients' investments in different classes or types of securities or instruments of the same issuer that are not entitled to vote. Accordingly, when the voting security in one account is from an issuer whose other, non-voting securities or instruments are held in a second account in a different strategy, Lord Abbett will vote without input from members of the Investment Department acting on behalf of the second account. Investment Administration, members of an investment team, members of the Proxy Policy Committee, and members of the Proxy Group may seek guidance from Lord Abbett's Investment Conflicts Committee with respect to any potential conflict of interest arising out of the holdings of multiple clients.

## **5. Proxy Voting Guidelines**

A general summary of the guidelines that we normally follow in voting proxies appears below. These voting guidelines reflect our general views. We reserve the flexibility to vote in a manner contrary to our general views on particular issues if we believe doing so is in the best interests of our clients, including the Funds and their shareholders. Many different specific types of proposals may arise under the broad categories discussed below, and it is not possible to contemplate every issue on which we may be asked to vote. Accordingly, we will vote on proposals concerning issues not expressly covered by these guidelines based on the specific factors that we believe are relevant. For institutional accounts managed on behalf of multi-employer pension or benefit plans, commonly referred to as "Taft-Hartley plans," Lord Abbett generally will vote proxies in accordance with the Proxy Voting Guidelines issued by the AFL-CIO rather than the guidelines described below unless instructed otherwise by the client.

### **5.1 Auditors**

Auditors are responsible for examining, correcting, and verifying the accuracy of a company's financial statements. Lord Abbett believes that companies normally are in the best position to select their auditors and, therefore, we generally support management's recommendations concerning the ratification of the selection of auditors. However, we may evaluate such proposals on a case-by-case basis due to concerns about impaired independence, accounting irregularities, or failure of the auditors to act in shareholders' best economic interests, among other factors we may deem relevant.

### **5.2 Directors**

#### **5.2.1 Election of directors**

The board of directors of a company oversees all aspects of the company's business. Companies and, under certain circumstances, their shareholders, may nominate directors for election by shareholders. Lord Abbett believes that the independent directors currently serving on a company's board of directors (or a nominating committee comprised of such independent directors) generally are in the best position to identify qualified director nominees. Accordingly, we normally vote in accordance with management's recommendations on the election of directors. In evaluating a director nominee's candidacy, however, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the nominee's experience, qualifications, attributes, and skills, as disclosed in the company's proxy statement; (2) the composition of the board and its committees; (3) whether the nominee is independent of company management; (4) the nominee's board meeting attendance; (5) the nominee's history of representing shareholder interests on the company's board or other boards; (6) the nominee's investment in the company; (7) the company's long-term performance relative to a market index; and (8) takeover activity. In evaluating a compensation committee nominee's candidacy, Lord Abbett may consider additional factors including the nominee's record on various compensation issues such as tax gross-ups, severance payments, options repricing, and pay for performance, although the nominee's record as to any single compensation issue alone will not necessarily be determinative. Lord Abbett may withhold votes for some or all of a company's director nominees on a case-by-case basis.

### **5.2.2 Majority voting**

Under a majority voting standard, director nominees must be elected by an affirmative majority of the votes cast at a meeting. Majority voting establishes a higher threshold for director election than plurality voting, in which nominees who receive the most votes are elected, regardless of how small the number of votes received is relative to the total number of shares voted. Lord Abbett generally supports proposals that seek to adopt a majority voting standard.

### **5.2.3 Board classification**

A "classified" or "staggered" board is a structure in which only a portion of a company's board of directors (typically one-third) is elected each year. A company may employ such a structure to promote continuity of leadership and thwart takeover attempts. Lord Abbett generally votes against proposals to classify a board, absent special circumstances indicating that shareholder interests would be better served by such a structure. In evaluating a classified board proposal, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the company's long-term strategic plan; (2) the extent to which continuity of leadership is necessary to advance that plan; and (3) the need to guard against takeover attempts.

### **5.2.4 Independent board and committee members**

An independent director is one who serves on a company's board but is not employed by the company or affiliated with it in any other capacity. While company boards may apply different standards in assessing director independence, including any applicable standards prescribed by stock exchanges and the federal securities laws, a director generally is determined to qualify as independent if the director does not have any material relationship with the company (either directly or indirectly) based on all relevant facts and circumstances. Material relationships can include employment, business, and familial relationships, among others. Lord Abbett believes that independent board and committee membership often helps to mitigate the inherent conflicts of interest that arise when a company's executive officers also serve on its board and committees. Therefore, we generally support the election of board or committee nominees if such election would cause a majority of a company's board or committee members to be independent. However, a nominee's effect on the independent composition of the board or any committee is one of many factors Lord Abbett considers in voting on the nominee and will not necessarily be dispositive.

### **5.2.5 Independent board chairman**

Proponents of proposals to require independent board chairmen (formerly often referred to as "separation of chairman and chief executive officer" proposals) seek to enhance board accountability and mitigate a company's risk-taking behavior by requiring that the role of the chairman of the company's board of directors be filled by an independent director. We generally vote with management on proposals that call for independent board

chairmen. We may vote in favor of such proposals on a case-by-case basis, despite management opposition, if we believe that a company's governance structure does not promote independent oversight through other means, such as a lead director, a board composed of a majority of independent directors, and/or independent board committees. In evaluating independent chairman proposals, we will focus in particular on the presence of a lead director, which is an independent director designated by a board with a non-independent chairman to serve as the primary liaison between company management and the independent directors and act as the independent directors' spokesperson.

### **5.3 Compensation and Benefits**

#### **5.3.1 General**

In the wake of recent corporate scandals and market volatility, shareholders increasingly have scrutinized the nature and amount of compensation paid by a company to its executive officers and other employees. Lord Abbett believes that because a company has exclusive knowledge of material information not available to shareholders regarding its business, financial condition, and prospects, the company itself usually is in the best position to make decisions about compensation and benefits. Accordingly, we generally vote with management on such matters. However, we may oppose management on a case-by-case basis if we deem a company's compensation to be excessive or inconsistent with its peer companies' compensation, we believe a company's compensation measures do not foster a long-term focus among its executive officers and other employees, or we believe a company has not met performance expectations, among other reasons. Discussed below are some specific types of compensation-related proposals that we may encounter.

#### **5.3.2 Incentive compensation plans**

An incentive compensation plan rewards an executive's performance through a combination of cash compensation and stock awards. Incentive compensation plans are designed to align an executive's compensation with a company's long-term performance. As noted above, Lord Abbett believes that management generally is in the best position to assess executive compensation levels and, therefore, generally votes with management on proposals relating to incentive compensation plans. In evaluating such a proposal, however, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the executive's expertise and the value he or she brings to the company; (2) the company's performance, particularly during the executive's tenure; (3) the percentage of overall compensation that consists of stock; (4) whether and/or to what extent the incentive compensation plan has any potential to dilute the voting power or economic interests of other shareholders; (5) the features of the plan and costs associated with it; (6) whether the plan provides for repricing or replacement of underwater stock options; and (7) quantitative data from the Proxy Service Provider regarding compensation ranges by industry and company size. We also scrutinize very closely the proposed repricing or replacement of underwater stock options, taking into consideration the stock's volatility, management's rationale for the repricing or replacement, the new exercise price, and any other factors we deem relevant.

#### **5.3.3 Say on pay**

"Say on pay" proposals give shareholders a nonbinding vote on executive compensation. These proposals are designed to serve as a means of conveying to company management shareholder concerns, if any, about executive compensation. Lord Abbett believes that management generally is in the best position to assess executive compensation. Thus, we generally vote with management on say on pay proposals unless we believe that compensation has been excessive or direct feedback to management about compensation has not resulted in any changes. We also generally vote with management on proposals regarding the frequency of say on pay votes. However, any particular vote will be based on the specific facts and circumstances we deem relevant.

#### **5.3.4 Pay for performance**

"Pay for performance" proposals are shareholder proposals that seek to achieve greater alignment between executive compensation and company performance. Shareholders initiating these proposals tend to focus on board compensation committees' accountability, the use of independent compensation consultants, enhanced disclosure of compensation packages, and perquisites given to executives. Because Lord Abbett believes that

management generally is in the best position to assess executive compensation, we generally follow management's voting recommendations regarding pay for performance proposals. However, we may evaluate such proposals on a case-by-case basis if we believe a company's long-term interests and its executives' financial incentives are not properly aligned or if we question the methodology a company followed in setting executive compensation, among other reasons.

### **5.3.5 Clawback provisions**

A clawback provision allows a company to recoup or "claw back" incentive compensation paid to an executive if the company later determines that the executive did not actually meet applicable performance goals. For example, such provisions might be used when a company calculated an executive's compensation based on materially inaccurate or fraudulent financial statements. Some clawback provisions are triggered only if the misalignment between compensation and performance is attributable to improper conduct on the part of the executive. Shareholder proponents of clawback proposals believe that they encourage executive accountability and mitigate a company's risk-taking behavior. Because Lord Abbett believes that management generally is in the best position to assess executive compensation, we generally vote with management on clawback proposals. We may, however, evaluate such a proposal on a case-by-case basis due to concerns about the amount of compensation paid to the executive, the executive's or the company's performance, or accounting irregularities, among other factors we may deem relevant.

### **5.3.6 Anti-gross-up policies**

Tax "gross-ups" are payments by a company to an executive intended to reimburse some or all of the executive's tax liability with respect to compensation, perquisites, and other benefits. Because the gross-up payment also is taxable, it typically is inflated to cover the amount of the tax liability and the gross-up payment itself. Critics of such payments argue that they often are not transparent to shareholders and can substantially enhance an executive's overall compensation. Thus, shareholders increasingly are urging companies to establish policies prohibiting tax gross-ups. Lord Abbett generally favors adoption of anti-tax gross-up policies themselves, but will not automatically vote against a compensation committee nominee solely because the nominee approved a gross-up.

### **5.3.7 Severance agreements and executive death benefits**

Severance or so-called "golden parachute" payments sometimes are made to departing executives after termination or upon a company's change in control. Similarly, companies sometimes make executive death benefit or so-called "golden coffin" payments to an executive's estate. Both practices increasingly are coming under shareholder scrutiny. While we generally vote with management on compensation matters and acknowledge that companies may have contractual obligations to pay severance or executive death benefits, we scrutinize cases in which such benefits are especially lucrative or are granted despite the executive's or the company's poor performance, and may vote against management on a case-by-case basis as we deem appropriate. We also generally support proposals to require that companies submit severance agreements and executive death benefits for shareholder ratification.

### **5.3.8 Executive pay limits**

Lord Abbett believes that a company's flexibility with regard to its compensation practices is critical to its ability to recruit, retain, and motivate key talent. Accordingly, we generally vote with management on shareholder proposals that seek to impose limits on executive compensation.

### **5.3.9 Employee stock purchase plans**

Employee stock purchase plans permit employees to purchase company stock at discounted prices and, under certain circumstances, receive favorable tax treatment when they sell the stock. Lord Abbett generally follows management's voting recommendation concerning employee stock purchase plans, although we generally do not support plans that are dilutive.

## **5.4 Corporate Matters**

### **5.4.1 Charter amendments**

A company's charter documents, which may consist of articles of incorporation or a declaration of trust and bylaws, govern the company's organizational matters and affairs. Lord Abbett believes that management normally is in the best position to determine appropriate amendments to a company's governing documents. Some charter amendment proposals involve routine matters, such as changing a company's name or procedures relating to the conduct of shareholder meetings. Lord Abbett believes that such routine matters do not materially affect shareholder interests and, therefore, we vote with management with respect to them in all cases. Other types of charter amendments, however, are more substantive in nature and may impact shareholder interests. We consider such proposals on a case-by-case basis to the extent they are not explicitly covered by these guidelines.

### **5.4.2 Changes to capital structure**

A company may propose amendments to its charter documents to change the number of authorized shares or create new classes of stock. We generally support proposals to increase a company's number of authorized shares when the company has articulated a clear and reasonable purpose for the increase (for example, to facilitate a stock split, merger, acquisition, or restructuring). However, we generally oppose share capital increases that would have a dilutive effect. We also generally oppose proposals to create a new class of stock with superior voting rights.

### **5.4.3 Reincorporation**

We generally follow management's recommendation regarding proposals to change a company's state of incorporation, although we consider the rationale for the reincorporation and the financial, legal, and corporate governance implications of the reincorporation. We will vote against reincorporation proposals that we believe contravene shareholders' interests.

### **5.4.4 Mergers, acquisitions, and restructurings**

A merger or acquisition involves combining two distinct companies into a single corporate entity. A restructuring involves a significant change in a company's legal, operational, or structural features. After these kinds of transactions are completed, shareholders typically will own stock in a company that differs from the company whose shares they initially purchased. Thus, Lord Abbett views the decision to approve or reject a potential merger, acquisition, or restructuring as being equivalent to an investment decision. In evaluating such a proposal, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the anticipated financial and operating benefits; (2) the offer price; (3) the prospects of the resulting company; and (4) any expected changes in corporate governance and their impact on shareholder rights. We generally vote against management proposals to require a supermajority shareholder vote to approve mergers or other significant business combinations. We generally vote for shareholder proposals to lower supermajority vote requirements for mergers and acquisitions. We also generally vote against charter amendments that attempt to eliminate shareholder approval for acquisitions involving the issuance of more than 10% of a company's voting stock.

## **5.5 Anti-Takeover Issues and Shareholder Rights**

### **5.5.1 Proxy access**

Proxy access proposals advocate permitting shareholders to have their nominees for election to a company's board of directors included in the company's proxy statement in opposition to the company's own nominees. Proxy access initiatives enable shareholders to nominate their own directors without incurring the often substantial cost of preparing and mailing a proxy statement, making it less expensive and easier for shareholders to challenge incumbent directors. Lord Abbett evaluates proposals that seek to allow proxy access based on the merits of each situation.

### **5.5.2 Shareholder rights plans**

Shareholder rights plans or “poison pills” are a mechanism of defending a company against takeover efforts. Poison pills allow current shareholders to purchase stock at discounted prices or redeem shares at a premium after a takeover, effectively making the company more expensive and less attractive to potential acquirers. Companies may employ other defensive tactics in combination with poison pills, such as golden parachutes that take effect upon a company’s change in control and therefore increase the cost of a takeover. Because poison pills can serve to entrench management and discourage takeover offers that may be attractive to shareholders, we generally vote in favor of proposals to eliminate poison pills and proposals to require that companies submit poison pills for shareholder ratification. In evaluating a poison pill proposal, however, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the duration of the poison pill; (2) whether we believe the poison pill facilitates a legitimate business strategy that is likely to enhance shareholder value; (3) our level of confidence in management; (4) whether we believe the poison pill will be used to force potential acquirers to negotiate with management and assure a degree of stability that will support good long-range corporate goals; and (5) the need to guard against takeover attempts.

### **5.5.3 Chewable pill provisions**

A “chewable pill” is a variant of the poison pill that mandates a shareholder vote in certain situations, preventing management from automatically discouraging takeover offers that may be attractive to shareholders. We generally support chewable pill provisions that balance management’s and shareholders’ interests by including: (1) a redemption clause allowing the board to rescind a pill after a potential acquirer’s holdings exceed the applicable ownership threshold; (2) no dead-hand or no-hand pills, which would allow the incumbent board and their approved successors to control the pill even after they have been voted out of office; (3) sunset provisions that allow shareholders to review and reaffirm or redeem a pill after a predetermined time frame; and (4) a qualifying offer clause, which gives shareholders the ability to redeem a poison pill when faced with a bona fide takeover offer.

### **5.5.4 Anti-greenmail provisions**

An anti-greenmail provision is a special charter provision that prohibits a company’s management from buying back shares at above market prices from potential acquirers without shareholder approval. We generally support such provisions, provided that they are not bundled with other measures that serve to entrench management or discourage attractive takeover offers.

### **5.5.5 Fair price provisions**

A fair price provision is a special charter provision that requires that all selling shareholders receive the same price from a buyer. Fair price provisions are designed to protect shareholders from inequitable two-tier stock acquisition offers in which some shareholders may be bought out on disadvantageous terms. We generally support such provisions, provided that they are not bundled with other measures that serve to entrench management or discourage attractive takeover offers.

### **5.5.6 Rights to call special shareholder meetings**

Proposals regarding rights to call special shareholder meetings normally seek approval of amendments to a company’s charter documents. Lord Abbett generally votes with management on proposals concerning rights to call special shareholder meetings. In evaluating such a proposal, Lord Abbett may consider the following factors, among others: (1) the stock ownership threshold required to call a special meeting; (2) the purposes for which shareholders may call a special meeting; (3) whether the company’s annual meetings offer an adequate forum in which shareholders may raise their concerns; and (4) the anticipated economic impact on the company of having to hold additional shareholder meetings.

### **5.5.7 Supermajority vote requirements**

A proposal that is subject to a supermajority vote must receive the support of more than a simple majority in order to pass. Supermajority vote requirements can have the effect of entrenching management by making it more difficult to effect change regarding a company and its corporate governance practices. Lord Abbett normally

supports shareholders' ability to approve or reject proposals based on a simple majority vote. Thus, we generally vote for proposals to remove supermajority vote requirements and against proposals to add them.

#### **5.5.8 Cumulative voting**

Under cumulative or proportional voting, each shareholder is allotted a number of votes equal to the number of shares owned multiplied by the number of directors to be elected. This voting regime strengthens the voting power of minority shareholders because it enables shareholders to cast multiple votes for a single nominee. Lord Abbett believes that a shareholder or group of shareholders using this technique to elect a director may seek to have the director represent a narrow special interest rather than the interests of the broader shareholder population. Accordingly, we generally vote against cumulative voting proposals.

#### **5.5.9 Confidential voting**

In a confidential voting system, all proxies, ballots, and voting tabulations that identify individual shareholders are kept confidential. An open voting system, by contrast, gives management the ability to identify shareholders who oppose its proposals. Lord Abbett believes that confidential voting allows shareholders to vote without fear of retribution or coercion based on their views. Thus, we generally support proposals that seek to preserve shareholders' anonymity.

#### **5.5.10 Reimbursing proxy solicitation expenses**

Lord Abbett generally votes with management on shareholder proposals to require a company to reimburse reasonable expenses incurred by one or more shareholders in a successful proxy contest, and may consider factors including whether the board has a plurality or majority vote standard for the election of directors, the percentage of directors to be elected in the contest, and shareholders' ability to cumulate their votes for the directors.

#### **5.5.11 Transacting other business**

Lord Abbett believes that proposals to allow shareholders to transact other business at a meeting deprive other shareholders of sufficient time and information to carefully evaluate the relevant business issues and determine how to vote with respect to them. Therefore, Lord Abbett always votes against such proposals.

### **5.6 Environmental, Social and Governance Issues**

Proposals relating to environmental, social and governance ("ESG") issues typically are initiated by shareholders and urge a company to disclose certain information or change certain business practices. Lord Abbett believes ESG factors may have an impact on long-term financial performance and can represent significant risks and costs to a business. We believe that well developed policies and disclosures can help identify and mitigate risks and costs associated with ESG issues. We encourage companies to be transparent about ESG issues and adopt policies and processes to assist in managing risks associated with these factors. Lord Abbett generally favors the disclosure of material data and metrics related to the risks and opportunities associated with these ESG factors, including detailed disclosure of internal ESG policies. We believe companies that are best positioned to manage the risks and opportunities associated with these ESG factors will increase their potential to deliver superior long-term shareholder value.

Lord Abbett evaluates all proposals based on their potential effect on shareholder value. We generally follow management's recommendation on proposals involving ESG matters and tend to vote against proposals that we believe are unduly burdensome or impose substantial costs on a company with no countervailing economic benefits to the company's shareholders, but may support proposals that ask for useful disclosure. However, we evaluate proposals involving ESG matters on a case-by-case basis, understanding that ESG risks and opportunities can vary greatly by industry and company. As a result, Lord Abbett may vote similar proposals differently based on the particular facts and circumstances. We pay particular attention to highly controversial issues, as well as instances where management has failed repeatedly to take corrective actions with respect to an issue.

### **5.7 Share Blocking**

Certain foreign countries impose share blocking restrictions that would prohibit Lord Abbett from trading a company's stock during a specified period before the company's shareholder meeting. Lord Abbett believes that in these situations, the benefit of maintaining liquidity during the share blocking period outweighs the benefit of exercising our right to vote. Therefore, it is Lord Abbett's general policy to not vote securities in cases where share blocking restrictions apply.

#### **6. Document Revision History**

Amended: March 20, 2019

#### History of Amendments to the Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

Adopted: September 17, 2009  
Amended: September 14, 2010  
March 10, 2011  
September 13, 2012  
September 19, 2014  
September 17, 2015  
February 25, 2016  
September 15, 2016  
September 20, 2017  
February 28, 2018  
September 20, 2018  
March 20, 2019

## APPENDIX D

### Description of Corporate Bond Ratings

#### Moody's Long-Term Rating Scale

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| Aaa | Obligations rated Aaa are judged to be of the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk.   |
| Aa  | Obligations rated Aa are judged to be of high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.   |
| A   | Obligations rated A are judged to be upper-medium grade and are subject to low credit risk.  |
| Baa | Obligations rated Baa are judged to be medium-grade and subject to moderate credit risk and as such may possess certain speculative characteristics. |
| Ba  | Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.  |
| B   | Obligations rated B are considered speculative and are subject to high credit risk.  |
| Caa | Obligations rated Caa are judged to be speculative of poor standing and are subject to very high credit risk.  |
| Ca  | Obligations rated Ca are highly speculative and are likely in, or very near, default, with some prospect of recovery of principal and interest.      |
| C   | Obligations rated C are the lowest rated and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.                   |

Note: Moody's appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category. Additionally, a "(hyb)" indicator is appended to all ratings of hybrid securities issued by banks, insurers, finance companies, and securities firms. By their terms, hybrid securities allow for the omission of scheduled dividends, interest, or principal payments, which can potentially result in impairment if such an omission occurs. Hybrid securities may also be subject to contractually allowable write-downs of principal that could result in impairment. Together with the hybrid indicator, the long-term obligation rating assigned to a hybrid security is an expression of the relative credit risk associated with that security.

#### Moody's Short-Term Rating Scale

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| P-1 | Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-1 have a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations. |
| P-2 | Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.   |
| P-3 | Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-3 have an acceptable ability to repay short-term obligations.   |
| NP  | Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Not Prime do not fall within any of the Prime rating categories.      |

#### S&P Long-Term Issue Credit Ratings

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| AAA | An obligation rated 'AAA' has the highest rating assigned by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.       |
| AA  | An obligation rated 'AA' differs from the highest rated obligations only to a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is very strong. |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| A                         | An obligation rated 'A' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.  |
| BBB                       | An obligation rated 'BBB' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.   |
| BB<br>B<br>CCC<br>CC<br>C | Obligations rated 'BB', 'B', 'CCC', 'CC', and 'C' are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. 'BB' indicates the least degree of speculation and 'C' the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions.   |
| BB                        | An obligation rated 'BB' is less vulnerable to nonpayment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major ongoing uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation  |
| B                         | An obligation rated 'B' is more vulnerable to nonpayment than obligations rated 'BB', but the obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. Adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair the obligor's capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.   |
| CCC                       | An obligation rated 'CCC' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation. In the event of adverse business, financial, or economic conditions, the obligor is not likely to have the capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.   |
| CC                        | An obligation rated 'CC' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment. The CC rating is used when a default has not yet occurred but S&P Global Ratings expects default to be a virtual certainty, regardless of the anticipated time to default.   |
| C                         | An obligation rated 'C' is currently highly vulnerable to nonpayment, and the obligation is expected to have lower relative seniority or lower ultimate recovery compared to obligations that are rated higher.   |
| D                         | An obligation rated 'D' is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within five business days in the absence of a stated grace period or within the earlier of the stated grace period or 30 calendar days. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer. |
| NR                        | This indicates that no rating has been requested, or that there is insufficient information on which to base a rating, or that S&P Global Ratings does not rate a particular obligation as a matter of policy.  |

The ratings from 'AA' to 'CCC' may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

#### **S&P Short-Term Issue Credit Ratings**

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| A-1 | A short-term obligation rated 'A-1' is rated in the highest category by S&P Global Ratings. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is strong. Within this category, certain obligations are designated with a plus sign (+). This indicates that the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on these obligations is extremely strong. |
|-----|---|

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| A-2 | A short-term obligation rated 'A-2' is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is satisfactory.   |
| A-3 | A short-term obligation rated 'A-3' exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.   |
| B   | A short-term obligation rated 'B' is regarded as vulnerable and has significant speculative characteristics. The obligor currently has the capacity to meet its financial commitments; however, it faces major ongoing uncertainties which could lead to the obligor's inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitments.   |
| C   | A short-term obligation rated 'C' is currently vulnerable to nonpayment and is dependent upon favorable business, financial, and economic conditions for the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.  |
| D   | A short-term obligation rated 'D' is in default or in breach of an imputed promise. For non-hybrid capital instruments, the 'D' rating category is used when payments on an obligation are not made on the date due, unless S&P Global Ratings believes that such payments will be made within any stated grace period. However, any stated grace period longer than five business days will be treated as five business days. The 'D' rating also will be used upon the filing of a bankruptcy petition or the taking of a similar action and where default on an obligation is a virtual certainty, for example due to automatic stay provisions. An obligation's rating is lowered to 'D' if it is subject to a distressed exchange offer. |

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#### **Fitch Long-Term Corporate Finance Obligations Credit Rating Scale**

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| AAA | Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in cases of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.          |
| AA  | Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate a very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.  |
| A   | High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings. |
| BBB | Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that expectations of credit risk are currently low. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse business or economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.                        |
| BB  | Speculative. 'BB' ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.       |
| B   | Highly speculative. 'B' ratings indicate that material credit risk is present.   |
| CCC | Substantial credit risk. 'CCC' ratings indicate that substantial credit risk is present.   |
| CC  | Very high levels of credit risk. 'CC' ratings indicate very high levels of credit risk.  |
| C   | Exceptionally high levels of credit risk. 'C' indicates exceptionally high levels of credit risk.  |

Defaulted obligations typically are not assigned 'RD' or 'D' ratings, but are instead rated in the 'B' to 'C' rating categories, depending upon the recovery prospects and other relevant characteristics. This approach better aligns obligations that have comparable overall expected loss but varying vulnerability to default and loss.

Notes: The modifiers + or - may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the 'AAA' obligation rating category, or to corporate finance obligation ratings in the categories below 'CCC'.

The subscript 'emr' is appended to a rating to denote embedded market risk that is beyond the scope of the rating. The designation is intended to make clear that the rating solely addresses the counterparty risk of the issuing bank. It is not meant to indicate any limitation in the analysis of the counterparty risk, which in all other respects follows published Fitch criteria for analyzing the issuing financial institution. Fitch does not rate these instruments where the principal is to any degree subject to market risk.

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#### Fitch Short-Term Ratings Assigned to Issuers and Obligations

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|    |   |
|----|---|
| F1 | Highest short-term credit quality. Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added + to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.               |
| F2 | Good short-term credit quality. Good intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments.  |
| F3 | Fair short-term credit quality. The intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate.   |
| B  | Speculative short-term credit quality. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus heightened vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.           |
| C  | High short-term default risk. Default is a real possibility.  |
| RD | Restricted default. Indicates an entity that has defaulted on one or more of its financial commitments, although it continues to meet other financial obligations. Typically applicable to entity ratings only. |
| D  | Default. Indicates a broad-based default event for an entity, or the default of a short-term obligation.  |

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