

HUSSMAN STRATEGIC TOTAL RETURN FUND  
TICKER SYMBOL: HSTRX

An Investment Portfolio of

**HUSSMAN INVESTMENT TRUST**

Statement of Additional Information

November 1, 2017

This Statement of Additional Information is not a Prospectus, but should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus for Hussman Strategic Total Return Fund dated November 1, 2017, which may be supplemented from time to time. This Statement of Additional Information is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the Prospectus. Copies of the Prospectus, the Annual Report or the Semi-Annual Report may be obtained without charge, upon request, by writing Hussman Investment Trust at 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, or by calling toll-free 1-800-HUSSMAN (1-800-487-7626).

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## **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Hussman Investment Trust (the “Trust”) is an open-end management investment company which currently offers four diversified investment portfolios, Hussman Strategic Total Return Fund, Hussman Strategic Growth Fund (the “Growth Fund”), Hussman Strategic International Fund (the “International Fund”) and Hussman Strategic Value Fund (the “Value Fund”). This Statement of Additional Information applies only to Hussman Strategic Total Return Fund (the “Fund”). For information on the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund, please call 1-800-487-7626. The Trust was organized and its Agreement and Declaration of Trust was filed with the State of Ohio on June 1, 2000.

### **FUND OBJECTIVE, INVESTMENTS, STRATEGIES AND RISKS**

#### **Investment Objective**

The Fund seeks to achieve long-term total return from income and capital appreciation. The Fund invests primarily in fixed-income securities and places added emphasis on capital appreciation during favorable market conditions and on capital preservation during unfavorable market conditions.

#### **Additional Information on Portfolio Investments, Strategies and Risks**

Information contained in this Statement of Additional Information expands upon information contained in the Fund’s Prospectus. No investment in shares of the Fund should be made without first reading the Prospectus.

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

U.S. Government securities are obligations of, or guaranteed by, the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities. The U.S. Government does not guarantee the net asset value of the Fund’s shares. Some U.S. Government securities, such as Treasury bills, notes and bonds, and securities guaranteed by the Government National Mortgage Association (“GNMA”), are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S.; others, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; others, such as those of the Federal National Mortgage Association (“FNMA”), are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agency’s obligations; and still others, such as those of the Student Loan Marketing Association, are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality. In the case of securities not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S., the investor must look principally to the agency issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment.

The total public debt of the U.S. as a percentage of gross domestic product has grown rapidly since the beginning of the 2008-2009 financial downturn. Certain government agencies project that the U.S. will continue to maintain high debt levels for the foreseeable future. Although high debt levels do not necessarily indicate or cause economic problems, they may create certain systematic risks if sound debt management practices are not implemented. A high

national debt level may increase market pressures to meet government funding needs, which may drive debt costs higher and cause the U.S. Treasury to sell additional debt with shorter maturity periods, thereby increasing refinancing risk. A high national debt also raises concerns that the U.S. Government will not be able to make principal or interest payments when they are due. In August 2011, S&P Global Ratings (“S&P”) lowered the long-term sovereign credit rating of U.S. Government securities from AAA to AA+ and also downgraded the long-term credit ratings of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises. In explaining the downgrade, S&P cited, among other reasons, controversy over raising the statutory debt ceiling and growth in public spending. Because of the rising U.S. Government debt burden, it is possible that the U.S. Government may not be able to meet its financial obligations or that securities issued by the U.S. Government may experience further credit downgrades or downgrades by other rating agencies. Such a credit event may result in higher interest rates or cause significant disruption across various financial markets and asset classes. In the worst case, unsustainable debt levels could cause long-term declines in the valuation of the U.S. dollar and prevent the U.S. Government from implementing effective counter-cyclical fiscal policy in economic downturns.

*Zero Coupon Bonds and Treasury STRIPS.* U.S. Government securities include “zero coupon” securities that have no coupons or have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, individual interest coupons from such securities that trade separately, and evidences of receipt of such securities. STRIPS are zero coupon securities that represent U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds that have been issued without interest coupons or stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, interest coupons that have been stripped from such U.S. Treasury securities, and receipts or certificates representing interests in such stripped U.S. Treasury securities and coupons. A STRIPS security pays no interest in cash to its holder during its life although interest is accrued for federal income tax purposes. Its value to an investor consists of the difference between its face value at the time of maturity and the price for which it was acquired, which is generally an amount significantly less than its face value. Investing in STRIPS may help to preserve capital during periods of declining interest rates. In anticipation of an interest rate decline, the Fund might purchase STRIPS, the value of which would be expected to increase when interest rates decline.

STRIPS do not entitle the holder to any periodic payments of interest prior to maturity. Accordingly, such securities usually trade at a deep discount from their face or par value and will be subject to greater fluctuations of market value in response to changing interest rates than debt obligations of comparable maturities that make periodic distributions of interest. On the other hand, because there are no periodic interest payments to be reinvested prior to maturity, STRIPS eliminate the reinvestment risk and lock in a rate of return to maturity. Current federal tax law requires that a holder of a STRIPS security accrue a portion of the discount at which the security was purchased as income each year even though the Fund received no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. Because interest on zero coupon securities is not distributed on a current basis but is, in effect, compounded, zero coupon securities tend to be subject to greater market risk than interest-paying securities with similar maturity and credit qualities.

## **Derivative Instruments**

As discussed in the Prospectus, the Fund may engage in certain transactions in derivative instruments, including interest rate futures contracts or foreign currency futures contracts and related options. The Fund may utilize futures contracts to protect against a decline in the value

of its portfolio or to gain exposure to securities which the Fund otherwise wishes to purchase. Hedging is accomplished when an investor takes a position in the futures market opposite to his cash market position. There are two types of hedges – long (or buying) and short (or selling) hedges. Historically, prices in the futures market have tended to move in concert with cash market prices, and prices in the futures market have maintained a fairly predictable relationship to prices in the cash market. Thus, a decline in the market value of securities in the Fund's portfolio may be protected against by gains realized on futures contracts sales. Similarly, it is possible to protect against an increase in the market price of securities that the Fund may wish to purchase in the future by purchasing futures contracts.

A public market presently exists in currency futures contracts on the Euro, the Australian dollar, the British pound, the Canadian dollar, the Japanese yen, the Mexican peso, the New Zealand dollar, the Swiss franc and the Swedish Krona. A public market presently exists in interest rate futures contracts covering long-term U.S. Treasury bonds, U.S. Treasury notes, three-month U.S. Treasury bills and GNMA certificates. A clearing corporation associated with the exchange or board of trade on which a financial futures contract trades assumes responsibility for the completion of transactions.

A futures contract obligates the seller of the contract to deliver, and the purchaser to take delivery of, the securities or currency called for in the contract at a specified future time and at a specified price. An option on a futures contract gives the purchaser the right to assume a position in the contract (a long position if the option is a call and short position if the option is a put) at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option.

In contrast to the situation when the Fund purchases or sells a security or currency, no security or currency is delivered or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Fund will be required to segregate with its custodian bank an amount of cash and/or liquid assets. This amount is known as initial margin and is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract. The current initial margin deposit required per contract is approximately 5% of the contract amount. Brokers may establish deposit requirements higher than this minimum. Subsequent payments, called variation margin, will be made to and from the account on a daily basis as the price of the futures contract fluctuates. This process is known as marking to market.

The writer of an option on a futures contract is required to deposit margin pursuant to requirements similar to those applicable to futures contracts. Upon exercise of an option on a futures contract, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's margin account. This amount will be equal to the amount by which the market price of the futures contract at the time of exercise exceeds, in the case of a call, or is less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option on the futures contract.

Although futures contracts by their terms call for actual delivery or acceptance of securities or currency, in most cases the contracts are closed out before the settlement date without the making or taking of delivery. Closing out is accomplished by effecting an offsetting transaction. A futures contract sale is closed out by effecting a futures contract purchase for the same aggregate amount of securities and the same delivery date. If the sale price exceeds the offsetting purchase price, the seller immediately would be paid the difference and would realize

a gain. If the offsetting purchase price exceeds the sale price, the seller immediately would pay the difference and would realize a loss. Similarly, a futures contract purchase is closed out by effecting a futures contract sale for the same securities or currency and the same delivery date. If the offsetting sale price exceeds the purchase price, the purchaser would realize a gain, whereas if the purchase price exceeds the offsetting sale price, the purchaser would realize a loss.

The Fund will pay commissions on futures contracts and related options transactions. These commissions may be higher than those that would apply to purchases and sales of securities directly.

*Risks Related to Futures Contracts and Related Options.* Positions in futures contracts and related options may be closed out only on an exchange that provides a secondary market for such contracts or options. The Fund will enter into an option or futures position only if there appears to be a liquid secondary market. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option or futures contract at any specific time. Thus, it may not be possible to close out a futures or related option position. In the case of a futures position, in the event of adverse price movements the Fund would continue to be required to make daily margin payments. In this situation, if the Fund has insufficient cash to meet daily margin requirements, it may have to sell portfolio securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so. In addition, the Fund may be required to take or make delivery of the securities underlying the futures contracts it holds. The inability to close out futures positions also could have an adverse impact on the Fund's ability to hedge its portfolio effectively.

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures contracts as a hedging device. While hedging can provide protection against an adverse movement in market prices, it can also preclude a hedger's opportunity to benefit from a favorable market movement. In addition, investing in futures contracts and options on futures contracts will cause the Fund to incur additional brokerage commissions and may cause an increase in the Fund's portfolio turnover rate.

To the extent market prices remain stable during the period a futures contract or option is held by the Fund or such prices move in a direction opposite to that anticipated, the Fund may realize a loss on the hedging transaction that is not offset by an increase in the value of its portfolio securities. As a result, the return of the Fund for the period may be less than if it had not engaged in the hedging transaction.

The use of futures contracts involves the risk of imperfect correlation in movements in the price of futures contracts and movements in the price of the securities or currencies that are being hedged. If the price of the futures contract moves more or less than the price of the securities or currencies being hedged, the Fund will experience a gain or loss that will not be completely offset by movements in the price of the securities or currencies. It is possible that, where the Fund has sold futures contracts to hedge its portfolio against a decline in the market, the market may advance and the value of securities held in the Fund's portfolio may decline. If this occurred, the Fund would lose money on the futures contract and would also experience a decline in the value of its portfolio securities. Where futures are purchased to hedge against a possible increase in the prices of securities or currencies before the Fund is able to invest its cash (or cash equivalents) in securities (or options) in an orderly fashion, it is possible that the market may decline; if the Fund then determines not to invest in securities (or options) at that time

because of concern as to possible further market decline or for other reasons, the Fund will realize a loss on the futures that would not be offset by a reduction in the price of the securities purchased.

The market prices of futures contracts may be affected if participants in the futures market elect to close their contracts through offsetting transactions rather than to meet margin deposit requirements. In such case, distortions in the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets could result. Price distortions could also result if investors in futures contracts opt to make or take delivery of the underlying securities or currencies rather than to engage in closing transactions due to the resultant reduction in the liquidity of the futures market. In addition, due to the fact that, from the point of view of speculators, the deposit requirements in the futures markets are less onerous than margin requirements in the cash market, increased participation by speculators in the futures market could cause temporary price distortions. Due to the possibility of price distortions in the futures market and because of the imperfect correlation between movements in the prices of securities or currencies and movements in the prices of futures contracts, an investment in a futures contract may not produce the intended benefit to the Fund even if market trends might otherwise favorably affect that transaction.

Compared to the purchase or sale of futures or sale of futures contracts, the purchase of put or call options on futures contracts involves less potential risk because the maximum amount at risk is the premium paid for the options plus transaction costs. Because the value of the option is fixed at the point of sale, there are no daily cash payments by the purchaser to reflect changes in the value of the underlying futures contract. However, there may be circumstances when the purchase of an option on a futures contract would result in a loss to the Fund while the purchase or sale of the futures contract would not have resulted in a loss, such as when there is no movement in the price of the underlying securities or currency.

*Regulatory Matters.* The Fund will comply with and adhere to all limitations on the manner and extent to which it effects transactions in derivative instruments (including futures and options on such futures) imposed by the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”) applicable to the issuance of senior securities. Additionally, the Fund’s investment manager (the “Adviser”), on behalf of the Fund, has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” pursuant to Rule 4.5 under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended (the “CEA”). Therefore, the Fund is not subject to regulation or registration as a commodity pool operator under the CEA. By claiming the exclusion, the Fund is limited in its ability to use certain derivatives, such as futures, certain options and swaps, without the Fund becoming subject to U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) regulation. On an annual basis, the Fund is required to reaffirm its eligibility to continue to claim the exclusion. If the Fund’s use of derivatives would prevent it from claiming the exclusion (or any other exclusion or exemption available under CFTC regulations), then the Adviser may be subject to regulation as a commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor with respect to the Fund, and the Fund may become subject to regulation by the CFTC. The Fund may incur additional expenses in complying with the CFTC’s recordkeeping, reporting and disclosure requirements.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) significantly revised and expanded the rulemaking, supervisory and enforcement authority of federal bank, securities and commodities regulators. While many provisions of the Dodd-Frank

Act have yet to be implemented through rulemaking, it is unclear how regulators will exercise their expanded powers and whether they will undertake rulemaking, supervisory or enforcement actions that would adversely affect the Fund or its investments. In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) has proposed regulations relating to the use of derivative instruments by investment companies. If adopted, these regulations could limit the ability of the Fund to use derivatives as part of its investment program, increase the costs of using these instruments or make their use less effective. Moreover, the adoption of new or revised regulations applicable to counterparties that enter into derivatives transactions with the Fund could adversely affect the ability of the Fund to use derivative instruments or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these instruments or change the availability of certain investments.

### **Foreign Currency Options**

A currency option is the right—but not the obligation—to buy (in the case of a call) or sell (in the case of a put) a set amount of one currency for another at a predetermined time in the future. The two parties to a currency option contract are the option buyer and the option seller/writer. The option buyer may, for an agreed upon price, purchase from the option writer a commitment that the option writer will sell (or purchase) a specified amount of a foreign currency upon demand. The option extends only until the stated expiration date. The rate at which one currency can be purchased or sold is one of the terms of the option and is called the strike price. The total description of a currency option includes the underlying currencies, the contract size, the expiration date, the strike price and whether the option is an option to purchase the underlying currency (a call) or an option to sell the underlying currency (a put).

There are two types of option expirations, American-style and European-style. American-style options can be exercised on any business day prior to the expiration date. European-style options can be exercised at expiration only.

The Fund may use foreign currency options to establish or modify the portfolio’s exposure to non-U.S. dollar-denominated currencies. The expected use of foreign currency options by the Fund will be to simultaneously purchase call options and write put options on currencies which the Fund seeks to own. These option strategies simulate the purchase of a short-term money market instrument denominated in the foreign currency. The benefit to the Fund from purchases of foreign currency options will be reduced by the amount of the premium and related transaction costs. When the Fund uses currency options, it is possible that the Fund may experience a loss in the event of a decline in the value of the underlying foreign currency. Factors which are difficult to predict, such as interest rate differentials between nations and temporary supply/demand imbalances between nations, may have a significant impact on currency option prices. The use of currency options by the Fund may lead to an increase in taxes payable by shareholders.

### **When-Issued, Delayed Delivery and Forward Commitment Transactions**

The Fund may purchase or sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis. These transactions involve a commitment by the Fund to purchase or sell securities for a predetermined price or yield, with payment and delivery taking place more than seven days in the future, or after a period longer than the customary settlement period for that type of security. When delayed delivery purchases are outstanding, the Fund will segregate until the settlement

date assets determined to be liquid by the Adviser in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Trustees in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price. Typically, no income accrues on securities purchased on a delayed delivery basis prior to the time delivery of the securities is made, although the Fund may earn income on segregated securities. When purchasing a security on a delayed delivery basis, the Fund assumes the rights and risks of ownership of the security, including the risk of price and yield fluctuations, and takes such fluctuations into account when determining its net asset value. Because the Fund is not required to pay for the security until the delivery date, these risks are in addition to the risks associated with the Fund's other investments. If the Fund remains substantially fully invested at a time when delayed delivery purchases are outstanding, the delayed delivery purchases may result in a form of leverage. The market value of the securities purchased on a delayed delivery basis may be more or less than the purchase price. When the Fund has sold a security on a delayed delivery basis, the Fund does not participate in future gains or losses with respect to the security. If the other party to a delayed delivery transaction fails to deliver or pay for the securities, the Fund could miss a favorable price or yield opportunity or could suffer a loss. The Fund may dispose of or renegotiate a delayed delivery transaction after it is entered into, and may sell when-issued securities before they are delivered, which may result in a capital gain or loss. There is no percentage limitation on the extent to which the Fund may purchase or sell securities on a delayed delivery basis.

The Fund may make contracts to purchase securities for a fixed price at a future date beyond customary settlement time ("forward commitments") if the Fund either (i) segregates until the settlement date assets determined to be liquid by the Adviser in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Trustees in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price or (ii) enters into an offsetting contract for the forward sale of securities of equal value that it owns. Forward commitments may be considered securities in themselves. They involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date, which risk is in addition to the risk of decline in value of the Fund's other assets. The Fund may dispose of a commitment prior to settlement and may realize short-term profits or losses upon such disposition.

### **Borrowing Money**

The Fund does not intend to borrow money for the purpose of purchasing securities ("leverage"), but may borrow up to one-third of its total assets, including the amount of such borrowing, to maintain necessary liquidity to make payments for redemptions of Fund shares or for temporary emergency purposes; provided that the Fund will not purchase any additional investments, except for bona fide hedging purposes, while such borrowings are outstanding. Borrowing involves the creation of a liability that requires the Fund to pay interest.

The Fund has entered into an unsecured line of credit with its custodian bank under which it may borrow money for purposes of day-to-day settlement of investment and shareholder transactions. The Fund is required to maintain specified asset coverage with respect to such borrowings under requirements of the 1940 Act and the terms of the loan agreement. The Fund did not make any borrowings under its line of credit during the most recently completed fiscal year and intends to borrow only for the limited purposes described above.



The risks of borrowing include a higher volatility of the net asset value of the Fund's shares and the relatively greater effect on the net asset value of the shares caused by declines in the prices of the Fund's investments, adverse market movements and increases in the cost of borrowing. The effect of borrowing in a declining market could be a greater decrease in net asset value per share than if the Fund had not borrowed money. In an extreme case, if the Fund's current investment income were not sufficient to meet the interest expense of borrowing, it could be necessary for the Fund to liquidate certain of its investments at an inappropriate time.

### **Corporate Debt Securities**

The investment return of corporate debt securities reflects interest earnings and changes in the market value of the security. The market value of a corporate debt obligation may be expected to rise and fall inversely with interest rates generally. There also exists the risk that the issuers of the securities may not be able to meet their obligations on interest or principal payments at the time called for by an instrument.

The Fund's investments in U.S. dollar or foreign currency-denominated corporate debt securities of domestic or foreign issuers are limited to corporate debt securities (corporate bonds, debentures, notes and other similar corporate debt instruments) which meet the minimum ratings criteria set forth for the Fund, or, if unrated, are deemed by the Adviser to be comparable in quality to corporate debt securities in which the Fund may invest.

### **Convertible Debt Securities**

A convertible debt security is a debt security that can be converted either at a stated price or rate within a specified period of time into a specified number of shares of common stock. By investing in convertible debt securities, the Fund seeks the opportunity, through the conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the common stock into which the securities are convertible, while investing at a better price than may be available on the common stock or obtaining a higher fixed rate of return than is available on the common stock. The value of a convertible debt security is a function of its "investment value" (determined by its yield in comparison with the yields of other securities of comparable maturity and quality that do not have a conversion privilege) and its "conversion value" (the security's worth, at market value, if converted into the underlying common stock). The credit standing of the issuer and other factors may also affect the investment value of a convertible debt security. The conversion value of a convertible debt security is determined by the market price of the underlying common stock. If the conversion value is low relative to the investment value, the price of the convertible debt security is governed principally by its investment value. To the extent the market price of the underlying common stock approaches or exceeds the conversion price, the price of the convertible debt security will be increasingly influenced by its conversion value. A convertible debt security may be subject to redemption at the option of the issuer at a price established in the instrument governing the convertible debt security. If a convertible debt security held by the Fund is called for redemption, the Fund must permit the issuer to redeem the security, convert it into the underlying common stock or sell it to a third party.

## **Exchange Traded Funds and Other Similar Instruments**

Shares of exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) and other similar instruments may be purchased by the Fund. These investments may be used to adjust the Fund’s exposure to the general market or a particular segment of the bond market or a foreign currency and to manage the Fund’s risk exposure. Generally, an ETF in which the Fund may invest is an investment company that is registered under the 1940 Act that holds a portfolio of securities designed to track the performance of a particular index, index segment or currency. Similar instruments, issued by pools that are not investment companies, offer similar characteristics and may be designed to track the performance of an index or a basket of securities of companies engaged in a particular market or sector. ETFs sell and redeem their shares at net asset value in large blocks (typically 50,000 of its shares) called “creation units.” Shares representing fractional interests in these creation units are listed for trading on national securities exchanges and can be purchased and sold in the secondary market in lots of any size at any time during the trading day.

Investments in ETFs and other similar instruments involve certain inherent risks generally associated with investments in a broadly-based portfolio of bonds (or other underlying index) including: (1) risks that the general level of bond prices may decline, thereby adversely affecting the value of each unit of the ETF or other instrument; (2) an ETF may not fully replicate the performance of its benchmark index because of the temporary unavailability of certain index securities in the secondary market or discrepancies between the ETF and the index with respect to the weighting of securities or number of bonds held; (3) an ETF may also be adversely affected by the performance of the specific index, market sector or group of industries on which it is based; and (4) an ETF may not track an index as well as a traditional index mutual fund because ETFs are valued by the market and, therefore, there may be a difference between the market value and the ETF’s net asset value. The Fund may both purchase and effect short sales of shares of ETFs and may also purchase and sell options on shares of ETFs. A short sale involves the sale of shares that the Fund does not own in anticipation of purchasing those shares in the future at a lower price. If the price of the shares sold short declines (in an amount exceeding transaction costs), the Fund will realize a gain from the transaction. Conversely, if the price of the shares sold short increases, the Fund will realize a loss. The amount of this loss, in theory, is unlimited because there is no limit on the possible increase in market price of the securities sold short. If the Fund effects short sales of ETFs it may offset short positions with long positions in individual securities to limit the potential loss in the event of an increase in market price of the ETFs sold short.

Because ETFs and pools that issue similar instruments incur various fees and expenses, the Fund’s investment in these instruments will involve certain indirect costs, as well as transaction costs, such as brokerage commissions. Fees and expenses incurred by an ETF may include trading costs, operating expenses, licensing fees, trustee fees and marketing expenses. Although expense ratios for ETFs are generally low, frequent trading of ETFs can generate brokerage expenses. The Adviser will consider the expenses associated with an investment in determining whether to invest in an ETF or other instrument. In the case of ETFs that are investment companies, substantially all of their assets are invested in securities in various securities indices or a particular segment of a securities index. Most ETFs are listed and traded on the American Stock Exchange (“AMEX”). The market prices of ETFs are expected to fluctuate in accordance with both changes in the asset values of their underlying indices and supply and demand of an ETF’s shares on the AMEX. ETFs may trade at relatively modest

discounts or premiums to net asset value. Certain ETFs may have a limited operating history and information may be lacking regarding the actual performance and trading liquidity of such shares for extended periods or over complete market cycles. In addition, there is no assurance that the requirements of the AMEX necessary to maintain the listing of ETFs in which the Fund invests will continue to be met or will remain unchanged. There is also a risk that ETFs in which the Fund invests may terminate their operations and liquidate due to extraordinary events. For example, any of the service providers to an ETF, such as the trustee or sponsor, may close or otherwise fail to perform its obligations to the ETF, and the ETF may not be able to find a substitute service provider. ETFs may also be dependent upon licenses to use the various indices as a basis for determining their compositions and/or otherwise to use certain trade names. If these licenses are terminated an ETF may terminate its operations and liquidate. In the event the foregoing substantial market or other disruptions or extraordinary events affecting the shares of ETFs held by the Fund should occur in the future, the liquidity and value of the Fund's shares could also be adversely affected. If such events were to occur, the Fund could be required to reconsider the use of ETFs as part of its investment strategy.

The Fund limits its aggregate investments in ETFs and other similar instruments (*i.e.*, its long positions in ETFs and similar instruments) and will not invest in an ETF (or similar instrument) or enter into a transaction in a bond index option if, as a result of such purchase or transaction, the aggregate "long" exposure of these investment positions would exceed 25% of the Fund's net assets. If, as a result of market movements, these investment positions represent more than 30% of the value of the Fund's net assets, the Adviser will reduce the Fund's positions in an orderly manner, and as soon as practicable, to not more than 30% of the Fund's net assets.

Limitations under the 1940 Act which prohibit the Fund from acquiring more than 3% of the outstanding shares of another investment company ("3% Limitation") may restrict the Fund's ability to purchase shares of certain ETFs. The Fund is subject to the 3% Limitation with respect to an ETF that is registered as an investment company unless (i) the ETF has received an order granting exemptive relief from the 3% Limitation from the SEC to investment companies (such as the Fund) investing in that ETF; and (ii) the ETF and the Fund take appropriate steps to comply with the conditions of such order. The SEC has issued such exemptive orders to several ETFs and their investment advisers, which permit investment companies, including the Fund, to invest in such ETFs ("Exempted ETFs") beyond the 3% Limitation, subject to certain terms and conditions, including that such investment companies enter into an agreement with the Exempted ETF. The Fund has entered into such an agreement with several Exempted ETFs so that the Fund is permitted to invest in such Exempted ETFs in excess of the 3% Limitation. To the extent other ETFs obtain similar exemptive relief from the SEC, the Fund may seek to qualify to invest in such other ETFs in excess of the 3% Limitation. The Fund generally does not purchase shares of "actively managed" ETFs. Since the ETFs in which the Fund invests generally are not actively managed, the Fund is subject to the risk that such ETFs will not be able to take defensive positions in volatile or declining markets.

## **Money Market Funds**

In order to maintain sufficient liquidity to implement investment strategies, or for temporary defensive purposes, the Fund may invest a significant portion of its assets in shares of one or more money market funds. As an investor in money market funds, the Fund indirectly bears additional expenses because such funds pay their own investment advisory fees and incur

various other expenses. An investment in a money market fund is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, entity or person. While investor losses in money market funds have been rare, they are possible. Certain money market funds have floating net asset values per share while others seek to maintain stable net asset values per share (typically, \$1.00 per share). If the liquidity of a money market fund's portfolio deteriorates below certain levels, the money market fund may suspend redemptions (i.e., impose a redemption gate), which would prevent the Fund from redeeming shares of the money market fund, or may impose a liquidity fee of up to 2% of the value of shares that the Fund redeems. These measures may result in a loss to the Fund or prohibit the Fund from redeeming shares when the Adviser would otherwise redeem shares.

### **Commercial Paper**

Commercial paper consists of unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations. Issues of commercial paper normally have maturities of less than 9 months and fixed rates of return. The Fund may invest in commercial paper rated in the highest rating category by any Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO").

### **Negative Interest Rates**

Certain European countries have recently experienced negative interest rates on bank deposits and debt instruments have traded at negative yields. A negative interest rate policy is an unconventional central bank monetary policy tool where nominal target interest rates are set with a negative value (i.e., below zero percent) intended to help create self-sustaining growth in the local economy. Negative interest rates may become more prevalent among non-U.S. issuers, and potentially within the U.S. In a negative interest rate environment, instead of a depositor receiving interest on its bank deposits, the depositor must pay the bank fees to keep money with the bank. These market conditions may increase the Fund's exposures to interest rate risk. To the extent the Fund has a bank deposit or holds a debt instrument with a negative interest rate to maturity, the Fund would generate a negative return on that investment. If negative interest rates become more prevalent in the market, it is expected that investors will seek to reallocate assets to other income-producing assets such as investment grade and high-yield debt instruments or equity investments that pay a dividend. This increased demand for higher yielding assets may cause the price of such instruments to rise while triggering a corresponding decrease in yield and the value of debt instruments over time.

### **Illiquid Securities**

Liquidity risk may result from the lack of an active market, a reduced number of traditional market participants, or the reduced capacity of traditional market participants to make a market in fixed-income securities. The capacity of traditional dealers to engage in fixed-income trading has not kept pace with the bond market's growth. As a result, dealer inventories of corporate bonds, which indicate the ability to make markets, *i.e.*, buy or sell a security at the quoted bid and ask price, respectively, are at or near historic lows relative to market size. Because market makers provide stability to fixed-income markets, the significant reduction in dealer inventories could lead to decreased liquidity and increased volatility, which may become exacerbated during periods of economic or political stress. In addition, liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment in which investor redemptions from fixed-income

mutual funds may be higher than normal; the selling of fixed-income securities to satisfy fund shareholder redemptions may result in an increased supply of such securities during periods of reduced investor demand due to a lack of buyers, thereby impairing the Fund's ability to sell such securities.

The Fund typically does not purchase illiquid securities. However, certain securities purchased by the Fund may become illiquid. To the extent that the Fund holds illiquid securities or other investments, it will not purchase such an investment if, as a result, illiquid securities and other illiquid investments would constitute more than 15% of the Fund's net assets. Illiquid securities and investments generally include (i) private placements and other securities that are subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale or for which there is no readily available market (*e.g.*, when trading in the security is suspended, or, in the case of unlisted securities, when market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers), (ii) over-the-counter derivatives and assets used to cover over-the-counter derivatives, and (iii) repurchase agreements that mature in more than seven days.

Because of the absence of a trading market, the Fund may not be able to sell illiquid securities and other illiquid investments at the times it desires to do so or at prices which are favorable. The sale price of illiquid investments may be lower or higher than the value of those investments as determined by the Fund. Generally, there is less public information available about issuers of securities that are not publicly traded than issuers of publicly traded securities. During the coming year, the Fund does not intend to invest more than 5% of its net assets in illiquid securities. The Adviser will monitor the liquidity of the Fund's investments in illiquid securities and other illiquid investments. Certain securities available for resale pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933 may not be treated as "illiquid" for purposes of this limit on investments in accordance with procedures adopted by the Trust's Board of Trustees.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

The Fund may purchase securities pursuant to repurchase agreements. Under the terms of a repurchase agreement, the Fund acquires securities from a member bank of the Federal Reserve System or a registered broker-dealer which the Adviser deems creditworthy, subject to the seller's agreement to repurchase those securities at a mutually agreed upon date and price. The repurchase price generally equals the price paid by the Fund plus interest negotiated on the basis of current short-term rates, which may be more or less than the rate on the underlying portfolio securities. The seller under a repurchase agreement is obligated to maintain at all times with the Fund's custodian or a sub-custodian the underlying securities as collateral in an amount not less than the repurchase price (including accrued interest). If the seller defaults on its repurchase obligation or becomes insolvent, the Fund has the right to sell the collateral and recover the amount due from the seller. However, the Fund will suffer a loss to the extent that the proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities are less than the repurchase price under the agreement, or to the extent that the disposition of the securities by the Fund is delayed pending court action. Repurchase agreements are considered to be loans by the Fund under the 1940 Act.

## **Lending Portfolio Securities**

In order to generate additional income, the Fund may, from time to time, lend its portfolio securities to broker-dealers, banks or institutional borrowers of securities. The Fund must receive 100% collateral in the form of cash or U.S. Government securities. This collateral must be valued daily and, should the market value of the loaned securities increase, the borrower must furnish additional collateral to the Fund. During the time portfolio securities are on loan, the borrower pays the Fund any dividends or interest paid on such securities. Loans are subject to termination by the Fund or the borrower at any time. While the Fund does not have the right to vote securities on loan, it has the right to terminate the loan and regain the right to vote if that is considered important with respect to the investment. In the event the borrower defaults in its obligation to the Fund, the Fund bears the risk of delay in the recovery of its portfolio securities and the risk of loss of rights in the collateral. The Fund will only enter into loan arrangements with broker-dealers, banks or other institutions which the Adviser has determined are creditworthy under guidelines established by the Trustees.

At such time as the Fund engages in the practice of securities lending, the Trustees will adopt procedures in order to manage the risks of securities lending.

## **Variable and Floating Rate Securities**

Variable and floating rate securities provide for a periodic adjustment in the interest rate paid on the obligations. The terms of such obligations must provide that interest rates are adjusted periodically based upon an interest rate adjustment index as provided in the respective obligations. The adjustment intervals may be regular, and range from daily up to annually, or may be event based, such as based on a change in the prime rate.

The Fund may invest in floating rate debt instruments (“floaters”). The interest rate on a floater is a variable rate which is tied to another interest rate, such as a money-market index or U.S. Treasury bill rate. The interest rate on a floater resets periodically, typically every six months. Because of the interest rate reset feature, floaters provide the Fund with a certain degree of protection against rises in interest rates, but generally do not allow the Fund to participate fully in appreciation resulting from any general decline in interest rates.

The Fund may also invest in inverse floating rate debt instruments (“inverse floaters”). The interest rate on an inverse floater resets in the opposite direction from the market rate of interest to which the inverse floater is indexed. An inverse floater generally will exhibit greater price volatility than a fixed rate obligation of similar credit quality.

## **Mortgage-Related Securities**

The Fund may invest in mortgage-related securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities. 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 and government-related entities. The value of some mortgage-related securities in which the Fund invests may be particularly sensitive to changes in prevailing interest rates, and, like other fixed income

investments, the ability of the Fund to successfully utilize these instruments may depend in part upon the ability of the Adviser to forecast interest rates and other economic factors correctly.

*Mortgage Pass-Through Securities.* Mortgage “pass-through” securities are securities representing interests in “pools” of mortgage loans secured by residential or commercial real property. Interests in pools of mortgage-related securities differ from other forms of debt securities, which normally provide for periodic payment of interest in fixed amounts with principal payments at maturity or specified call dates. Instead, these securities provide a monthly payment which consists of both interest and principal payments. In effect, these payments are a “pass-through” of the monthly payments made by the 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 repayments of principal resulting from the sale of the underlying property, refinancing or foreclosure, net of fees or costs which may be incurred. Some mortgage-related securities (such as securities issued by the GNMA) are described as “modified pass-through.” These securities entitle the holder to receive all interest and principal payments owed on the mortgage pool, net of certain fees, at the scheduled payment dates regardless of whether or not the mortgagor actually makes the payment.

The rate of prepayments on underlying mortgages will affect the price and volatility of a mortgage-related security, and may have the effect of shortening or extending the effective maturity of the security beyond what was anticipated at the time of purchase. Early repayment of principal on some mortgage-related securities (arising from prepayments of principal due to sale of the underlying property, refinancing, or foreclosure, net of fees and costs which may be incurred) may expose the Fund to a lower rate of return upon reinvestment of principal. Also, if a security subject to prepayment has been purchased at a premium, the value of the premium would be lost in the event of prepayment. Like other fixed income securities, when interest rates rise, the value of a mortgage-related security generally will decline; however, when interest rates are declining, the value of mortgage-related securities with prepayment features may not increase as much as other fixed income securities. To the extent that unanticipated rates of prepayment on underlying mortgages increase the effective maturity of a mortgage-related security, the volatility of such security can be expected to increase.

Payment of principal and interest on some mortgage pass-through securities (but not the market value of the securities themselves) may be guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government (in the case of securities guaranteed by the GNMA) or guaranteed by agencies or instrumentalities of the U.S. Government (in the case of securities guaranteed by FNMA or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“FHLMC”). The principal governmental guarantor of mortgage-related securities is the GNMA. GNMA is a wholly-owned U.S. Government corporation within the Department of Housing and Urban Development. GNMA 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 GNMA (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.

Government-related guarantors (*i.e.*, not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government) include the FNMA and the FHLMC. FNMA is a government-sponsored corporation owned entirely by private stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. FNMA purchases conventional (*i.e.*, not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/services which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks, credit unions and mortgage bankers.

Pass-through securities issued by FNMA are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by FNMA but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Instead, they are supported only by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agency's obligations.

FHLMC was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned entirely by private stockholders. FHLMC issues Participation Certificates ("PCs") which represent interests in conventional mortgages from FHLMC's national portfolio. FHLMC 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. Instead, they are supported only by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agency's obligations.

In September 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Housing Finance Agency ("FHFA") announced that FNMA and FHLMC had been placed in conservatorship. Since that time, FNMA and FHLMC have received significant capital support through U.S. Treasury preferred stock purchases, as well as U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve purchases on their mortgage-backed securities. The FHFA and the U.S. Treasury (through its agreement to purchase FNMA and FHLMC preferred stock) have imposed strict limits on the size of their mortgage portfolios. While the mortgage-backed purchase programs ended in 2010, the U. S. Treasury continued its support for the entities' capital as necessary to prevent a negative net worth through at least 2012. As of December 31, 2016, FNMA and FHLMC had drawn a combined \$187.5 billion from the Treasury Department under the preferred stock purchase agreement and the combined remaining funding commitment was \$258.1 billion. Although the U.S. Treasury and other government entities provided significant support to FNMA and FHLMC, there is no guarantee they will do so again. The most recent annual Federal Housing Finance Agency stress test suggested that in a "severely adverse scenario" additional Treasury support of between \$34.8 billion and \$99.6 billion (depending on the treatment of deferred tax assets) might be required. No assurance can be given that the Federal Reserve or U.S. Treasury will ensure that FNMA and FHLMC remain successful in meeting their obligations with respect to the debt and mortgage-backed securities they issue. When S&P downgraded the long-term U.S. government debt in August 2011, the agency also downgraded FNMA's and FHLMC's bond ratings from AAA to AA+, based on their direct reliance on the U.S. Government (although that rating did not directly relate to their mortgage-backed securities).

In addition, the problems faced by FNMA and FHLMC, resulting in their being placed into federal conservatorship and receiving significant U.S. Government support, have sparked serious debate among federal policymakers regarding the continued role of the U.S. Government in providing liquidity for mortgage loans. FNMA and FHLMC continue to operate as going concerns while in conservatorship and each remains liable for all of its obligations, including its guaranty obligations associated with its mortgage-backed securities. Serious discussions among policymakers continue, however, as to whether FNMA and FHLMC should be nationalized,



privatized, restructured or eliminated altogether. FNMA and FHLMC also are the subject of several continuing legal actions and investigations over certain accounting, disclosure or corporate governance matters, which (along with any resulting financial restatements) may continue to have an adverse effect on the guaranteeing entities. The FHFA has the power to repudiate any contract entered into by FNMA and FHLMC prior to FHA's appointment as conservator or receiver, including the guaranty obligations of FNMA and FHLMC. Accordingly, securities issued by FNMA and FHLMC will involve a risk of non-payment of principal and interest.

*FHLMC Collateralized Mortgage Obligations.* FHLMC CMOs are debt obligations of FHLMC issued in multiple classes having different maturity dates which are secured by the pledge of a pool of conventional mortgage loans purchased by FHLMC. Unlike FHLMC PCs, payments of principal and interest on the CMOs are made semi-annually, as opposed to monthly. The amount of principal payable on each semi-annual payment date is determined in accordance with FHLMC's mandatory sinking fund schedule, which in turn, is equal to approximately 100% of FHA prepayment experience applied to the mortgage collateral pool. All sinking fund payments in the CMOs are allocated to the retirement of the individual classes of bonds in the order of their stated maturities. Payment of principal on the mortgage loans in the collateral pool in excess of the amount of FHLMC's minimum sinking fund obligation for any payment date are paid to the holders of the CMOs as additional sinking fund payments. Because of the "pass-through" nature of all principal payments received on the collateral pool in excess of FHLMC's minimum sinking fund requirement, the rate at which principal of the CMOs is actually repaid is likely to be such that each class of bonds will be retired in advance of its scheduled maturity date.

If collection of principal (including prepayments) on the mortgage loans during any semi-annual payment period is not sufficient to meet FHLMC's minimum sinking fund obligation on the next sinking fund payment date, FHLMC agrees to make up the deficiency from its general funds. Criteria for the mortgage loans in the pool backing the FHLMC CMOs are identical to those of FHLMC PCs. FHLMC has the right to substitute collateral in the event of delinquencies and/or defaults.

## **Gold and Precious Metals Shares**

The Fund may invest in securities of companies whose business is related to mining, processing or dealing in gold or other precious metals or in registered investment companies or other companies that invest directly or indirectly in commodities and precious metals. Investments in mining or related precious metals industries are subject to a number of risks. The price of gold and other precious metals can be influenced by a variety of global economic, financial and political factors and may fluctuate substantially over short periods of time and be more volatile than other types of investments. It may be affected by perceptions of value in the commodity markets generally, unpredictable international monetary and political policies, such as currency devaluations or revaluations, economic or social conditions within an individual country, trade imbalances or trade or currency restrictions between countries and world inflation rates and interest rates. The majority of producers of gold and other precious metals are domiciled in a limited number of countries and economic or other conditions affecting one or more of the major sources of such precious metals could have a substantial effect on supply and demand in countries throughout the world. The price of gold and other precious metals, in turn,

is likely to affect the market prices of securities of companies mining, processing or dealing in such precious metals and, accordingly, the value of the Fund's investments in these securities.

The use of gold or Special Drawing Rights (which are also used by members of the International Monetary Fund for international settlements) to settle net deficits and surpluses in trade and capital movements between nations subjects the supply and demand, and therefore the price of gold to a variety of economic factors that normally would not affect other types of commodities. Platinum and palladium are part of the same group of metals and are often found together in mining operations. Companies engaged in the mining of platinum group metals are subject to economic and political risks, given that the world's known supply of platinum group metals are concentrated primarily in Russia and the Republic of South Africa. Any disruptions in these countries may have a marked effect of the prices of platinum or palladium.

The business of mining by nature involves risks of environmental hazards and industrial accidents that can delay production, increase production costs and result in liability to the operator of the mines. Exploration for gold and other precious metals is speculative in nature and frequently is unsuccessful. Substantial expenditures are required to establish reserve properties and to construct mining and processing facilities. As a result of these uncertainties, no assurance can be given that the exploration programs undertaken by a particular mining operation will actually result in any new commercial mining.

## **Foreign Securities**

The Fund may invest in foreign equity securities, including preferred securities of foreign issuers, and U.S. dollar- or foreign currency-denominated obligations of foreign governments. The Fund may also invest in foreign securities that trade domestically as American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"). ADRs are receipts typically issued by an American bank or trust company that evidence ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign corporation. Investing in the securities of foreign issuers involves special risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies. These include: differences in accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, generally higher commission rates on foreign portfolio transactions, the possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations (which may include suspension of the ability to transfer currency from a country), political instability which can affect U.S. investments in foreign countries and potential restrictions on the flow of international capital. In addition, foreign securities and dividends and interest payable on those securities may be subject to foreign taxes, including taxes withheld from payments on those securities. Foreign securities often trade with less frequency and volume than domestic securities and therefore may exhibit greater price volatility. Changes in foreign exchange rates will affect the value of those securities which are denominated or quoted in currencies other than the U.S. dollar.

General economic and financial conditions and events in particular countries or geographic regions may adversely impact the prices of securities held by the Fund. For example, European Union ("EU") member countries that use the Euro as their currency (so-called Eurozone countries) lack the ability to implement an independent monetary policy and may be significantly affected by requirements that limit their fiscal options. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or other regulations on trades, changes in the exchange rate of the Euro, the default or threat of default by one or more EU member countries on its sovereign

debt and/or an economic recession in one or more EU member countries may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of other EU member countries and major trading partners outside Europe. In recent years, the European financial markets have experienced volatility and adverse trends due to concerns about economic downturns, high unemployment rates, rising government debt levels and the possible default of government debt in several European countries, including Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain. Several countries, including Greece and Italy, have agreed to multi-year bailout loans from the European Central Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions. A default or debt restructuring by any European country, such as the restructuring of Greece's outstanding sovereign debt, can adversely impact holders of that country's debt and can affect exposures to other Eurozone countries and their financial companies as well. The manner in which the EU responded to the global recession and sovereign debt issues raised questions about its ability to react quickly to rising borrowing costs and revealed a lack of cohesion in dealing with the fiscal problems of member states. To address budget deficits and public debt concerns, a number of Eurozone countries have imposed strict austerity measures and comprehensive financial and labor market reforms, which could increase political or social instability.

In June 2016, the United Kingdom (the "UK") voted in a referendum to leave the EU, thereby initiating the British exit from the EU (commonly known as "Brexit"). In March 2017, the UK formally invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon to begin the process for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, triggering a two-year period for negotiation of the terms of the withdrawal. However, there remains a significant degree of uncertainty about how negotiations relating to the UK's withdrawal from the EU and new trade agreements will be conducted, as well as uncertainty regarding the potential consequences of and precise timeframe for Brexit. During the negotiating period and beyond, the impact of Brexit on the UK and European economies and the broader global economy could be significant, resulting in negative impacts on currency and financial markets generally, possibly including increased volatility and illiquidity, and lower economic growth, in markets in the UK, Europe and globally. It is possible that measures could be taken to revote on the issue of Brexit or that portions of the UK could seek to separate and remain a part of the EU.

Global economies and financial markets have become increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibility that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in, or foreign exchange rates with, a different country or region. For instance, a significant slowdown in China's economy is adversely affecting worldwide commodity prices and the economies of many countries, especially those that depend heavily on commodity production or trade with China. The severity and duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations. The imposition of sanctions by the U.S. or another government or country could cause disruptions to the country's financial system and economy, which could negatively impact the value of securities issued by that country.

If the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in investments tied economically to (or related to) a particular geographic region, foreign country or particular market, it would have more exposure to regional and country economic risks than a fund that invests throughout the world's economies. A recession, debt crisis, or decline in currency valuation in one country within a region can spread to other countries in that region. Furthermore, to the extent the Fund invests in the securities of companies located in a particular geographic region or foreign

country, it may be particularly vulnerable to events affecting companies located in that region or country because those companies may share common characteristics, are often subject to similar business risks and regulatory burdens, and often react similarly to specific economic, market, political or other developments. Certain of these risks may also apply to securities of U.S. companies that conduct a significant amount of business in non-U.S. markets or rely upon suppliers from non-U.S. markets.

### **Emerging Market Debt**

An “emerging market” is any country that the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation or the United Nations or its authorities has determined to have a low or middle income economy. Investments in debt securities of governments of emerging market countries can involve a high degree of risk. The governmental entity that controls the repayment of sovereign 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, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its foreign reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the economy as a whole, the governmental entity’s policy towards the International Monetary Fund and the political constraints to which a governmental entity may be subject. Governmental entities may also be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments, multilateral agencies and others abroad to reduce principal and interest on their debt. The commitment on the part of these governments, agencies and others to make such disbursements may be conditioned on a governmental entity’s implementation of economic reforms and/or economic performance and the timely service of such debtor’s obligations. Failure to implement such reforms, achieve such levels of economic performance or repay principal or interest when due may result in the cancellation of such third parties’ commitments to lend funds to the governmental entity, which may further impair such debtor’s ability or willingness to service its debts in a timely manner. Consequently, governmental entities may default on their sovereign debt. Holders of sovereign debt (including the Fund) may be requested to participate in the rescheduling of such debt and to extend further loans to governmental agencies. Moreover, certain participants in the secondary market for the sovereign debt may be directly involved in negotiating the terms of these arrangements and may therefore have access to information not available to other market participants, including the Fund. In many cases, governments of emerging market countries continue to exercise significant control over their economies, and government actions relative to the economy, as well as economic developments generally, may affect the capacity of issuers of debt instruments to make payments on their debt obligations, regardless of their financial condition.

The ability of emerging country governmental issuers to make timely payments on their obligations is likely to be influenced strongly by the issuer’s balance of payments, including export performance, and its access to international credits and investments. An emerging country whose exports are concentrated in a few commodities could be vulnerable to a decline in the international prices of one or more of those commodities. Increased protectionism on the part of an emerging country’s trading partners could also adversely affect the country’s exports and tarnish its trade account surplus, if any. To the extent that emerging countries receive payment for their exports in currencies other than dollars or non-emerging country currencies,

the emerging country issuer's ability to make debt payments denominated in dollars or non-emerging market currencies could be affected.

To the extent that an emerging country cannot generate a trade surplus, it must depend on continuing loans from foreign governments, multilateral organizations or private commercial banks, aid payments from foreign governments and on inflows of foreign investment. The access of emerging countries to these forms of external funding may not be certain, and a withdrawal of external funding could adversely affect the capacity of emerging country governmental issuers to make payments on their obligations. In addition, the cost of servicing emerging country debt obligations can be affected by a change in international interest rates since the majority of these obligations carry interest rates that are adjusted periodically based upon international rates.

Another factor bearing on the ability of emerging countries to repay debt obligations is the level of international reserves of a country. Fluctuations in the level of these reserves affect the amount of foreign exchange readily available for external debt payments and thus could have a bearing on the capacity of emerging countries to make payments on these debt obligations.

As a result of the foregoing or other factors, a governmental obligor, especially in an emerging country, may default on its obligations. If such an event occurs, the Fund may have limited legal recourse against the issuer and/or guarantor. Remedies must, in some cases, be pursued in the courts of the defaulting party itself, and the ability of the holder of foreign sovereign debt securities to obtain recourse may be subject to the political climate in the relevant country. In addition, no assurance can be given that the holders of commercial bank debt will not contest payments to the holders of other foreign sovereign debt obligations in the event of default under the commercial bank loan agreements.

## **Management Risk**

As an actively managed investment company, the Fund is subject to management risk. Hussman Strategic Advisors, Inc. (the "Adviser") will apply its investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Fund, but there can be no guarantee that its decisions will produce the desired results. The ability of the Adviser to accurately analyze overall market conditions and utilize strategies for hedging market exposure will be dependent, in part, on the Adviser's ability to correctly assess current market conditions and to manage the Fund's investment position and exposures in a manner that is responsive to pertinent interest rate movements and market risk, none of which can be assured. The Adviser attempts to classify prevailing investment conditions with those historical instances having the greatest similarity and an investment may perform differently than expected due to changes in historical trends. The use of derivative instruments may involve risks different from, and potentially greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other more traditional assets. Even if the Adviser uses these strategies only for hedging purposes, if a transaction is not successful, it could result in a significant loss to the Fund. The amount of loss could be more than the principal amount invested.

## **Economic and Market Events Risk and Geopolitical Risk**

Events in the financial sector may cause an unusually high degree of volatility in the financial markets, both domestic and foreign. These events may include, but are not limited to: bankruptcies, corporate restructurings, and other events related to the sub-prime mortgage crisis in 2008; governmental efforts to limit short selling and high frequency trading; measures to address U.S. federal and state budget deficits; social, political and economic instability in Europe; economic stimulus by the Japanese central bank; steep declines in oil prices; dramatic changes in currency exchange rates; and China's economic slowdown. Interconnected global economies and financial markets increase the possibility that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. Both domestic and foreign equity markets have experienced increased volatility and turmoil, with issuers that have exposure to the real estate, mortgage and credit markets particularly affected, and it is uncertain when these conditions will recur. Banks and financial service companies could suffer losses if interest rates were to rise or economic conditions deteriorate.

Relatively high market volatility and reduced liquidity in credit and fixed income markets may adversely affect many issuers worldwide. Actions taken by the U.S. Federal Reserve or foreign central banks to stimulate or stabilize economic growth, such as interventions in currency markets, could cause high volatility in the equity and fixed-income markets. Reduced liquidity may result in less money being available to purchase raw materials, goods and services from emerging markets, which may result in a decline in the prices of these economic staples. It may also result in emerging market issuers having more difficulty obtaining financing, which may cause a decline in the prices of their securities.

In addition, while interest rates have been unusually low in recent years in the U.S. and abroad, the Federal Reserve's decision to raise the target federal funds rate in 2017, following a similar move the previous year, and the possibility that the Federal Reserve may continue with such rate increases, among other factors, could cause markets to experience high volatility. A significant increase in interest rates may also cause a decline in the market for equity securities. These factors may have an adverse effect on the Fund's investment performance.

Political turmoil within the U.S. may also impact the Fund. Although the U.S. Government has honored its credit obligations, it remains possible that the U.S. could default on its obligations. While it is impossible to predict the consequences of such an unprecedented event, it is likely that a default by the U.S. would be highly disruptive to the U.S. and global securities markets and could significantly impair the value of the Fund's investments. Similarly, political events within the U.S. at times have resulted, and may in the future result, in a shutdown of government services, which could negatively affect the U.S. economy, decrease the value of the Fund's investments and increase uncertainty in or impair the operation of the U.S. and other securities markets. Recently, there have been proposals for legislation that would result in significant new investments in U.S. infrastructure and national defense, as well as legislation to lower federal taxes. Enactment of one or more of these proposals could lead to increased borrowings by the U.S. Government and higher interest rates. While these proposals are going through the political process, the equity and debt markets may react strongly to expectations, which could increase volatility, especially if the market's expectations for changes in government policies are not borne out.

Both in developed and developing countries, crises may arise that have the potential to severely erode the value of investments. These episodes may include instances of default, restructuring, economic pressures introduced by significant commodity price declines or severe devaluations of foreign currency with respect to the U.S. dollar. There is significant market uncertainty regarding the sovereign debt of a number of EU countries and the ramifications of Brexit. Recently, various foreign countries have undergone significant internal conflicts and, in some cases, civil war. Both Taiwan and China still claim sovereignty over one another, and hostile relations continue between North and South Korea. Investments in the Middle East and elsewhere may be exposed to heightened risk relating to the activities of terrorist groups such as ISIL. The range and potential implications of possible political, regulatory, economic and market outcomes, and the impact of these events on the prices of the Fund's investments, are difficult to predict.

In addition, there is a risk that the prices of goods and services in the U.S. and many foreign economies may decline over time, known as deflation. Deflation may have an adverse effect on stock prices and the creditworthiness of issuers and may make defaults on debt more likely. If a country's economy slips into a deflationary pattern, it could last for a prolonged period and be difficult to reverse.

## **Equity Securities**

The value of a company's stock may fall as a result of factors directly relating to that company, such as decisions made by its management or lower demand for the company's products or services. A stock's value also may fall because of factors affecting not just the company, but also companies in the same industry or in a number of different industries, such as increases in production costs. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in securities of a particular industry or sector, the Fund's performance could be negatively affected if that industry or sector performs poorly. The value of a company's stock also may be affected by changes in the financial markets that are relatively unrelated to the company or its industry, such as changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates. The value of a company's stock is also generally subject to the risk of future local, national or global economic disturbances based on unknown weaknesses in the markets in which the Fund invests. In the event of such a disturbance, issuers of securities held by the Fund may experience significant declines in the value of their assets and even cease operations, or may receive government assistance accompanied by increased restrictions on their business operations or other government intervention. Instability in the financial markets has led many governments and regulators, including the U.S. Government, to take a number of unprecedented actions designed to support certain financial institutions and segments of the financial markets that have experienced extreme volatility and, in some cases, a lack of liquidity. It is not certain if the U.S. Government or other governments will intervene in response to a future market disturbance and the effect of any such future intervention cannot be predicted. In addition, political events within the U.S. and abroad, including the U.S. Government's ongoing difficulty agreeing on a long-term budget and deficit reduction plan, uncertainty surrounding the sovereign debt of EU members, the aftermath of the war in Iraq and possible terrorist attacks, could negatively impact financial markets and the Fund's performance.

## **Inflation-Indexed Securities**

The Fund may invest in inflation-indexed securities, which are fixed income securities whose value is periodically adjusted according to the rate of inflation as indicated by the Consumer Price Index (“CPI”). Inflation-index securities may be issued by governments or their agencies and by corporations. There are two common accrual structures for inflation-indexed securities. The U.S. Treasury and some other issuers utilize a structure that accrues inflation into the principal value of the bond. Most other issuers pay out the CPI accruals as part of a semiannual coupon.

Inflation-indexed securities are issued with various maturities. The securities issued by the U.S. Treasury, called Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (“TIPS”), pay interest on a semi-annual 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% semi-annually), and the rate of inflation over the first six months was 1%, the mid-year par value of the bond would be \$1,010 and the first semi-annual 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 semi-annual interest payment would be \$15.45 (\$1,030 times 1.5%).

If the periodic adjustment rate measuring inflation falls, the principal value of inflation-indexed securities will be adjusted downward, and consequently the interest payable on these securities (calculated with respect to a smaller principal amount) will be reduced. Repayment of the original bond principal upon maturity (as adjusted for inflation) is guaranteed in the case of TIPS, even during a period of deflation. However, the current market value of the bonds is not guaranteed and will fluctuate. The Fund may also invest in other inflation-indexed securities which may or may not provide a similar guarantee. If a guarantee of principal is not provided, the adjusted principal value of the bond repaid at maturity may be less than the original principal.

The value of inflation-indexed securities is expected to change in response to changes in real interest rates. Real interest rates in turn are tied to the relationship between nominal interest rates and the rate of inflation. Therefore, if the rate of inflation rises at a faster rate than nominal interest rates, real interest rates might decline, leading to an increase in value of inflation-indexed securities. In contrast, if nominal interest rates increase at a faster rate than inflation, real interest rates might rise, leading to a decrease in value of inflation-indexed securities.

While these securities are expected to be protected from long term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise due to reasons other than inflation (for example, due to changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the bond’s inflation measure. The reasons that interest rates may rise without a corresponding increase in inflation include changes in currency exchange rates, changes in anticipated economic growth, and temporary shortages of credit or liquidity. When interest rates rise without a corresponding increase in inflation, the Fund’s investments in inflation-indexed securities will forego the additional return that could have been earned on a floater.



The periodic adjustment of U.S. inflation-indexed securities 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 changes in the cost of living, made up of components such as housing, food, transportation and energy. Inflation-indexed securities issued by a foreign government are generally 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 U.S.

Any increase in the principal amount of an inflation-indexed security will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though investors do not receive their principal until maturity.

### **Real Estate Investment Trusts**

The Fund may invest in shares of real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), pooled investment vehicles which invest primarily in income producing real estate or real estate related loans or interests. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or hybrid REITs. An equity REIT, which owns properties, generates income from rental and lease properties. Equity REITs also offer the potential for growth as a result of property appreciation and, in addition, occasional capital gains from the sale of appreciated property. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. Hybrid REITs are designed to strike a balance between equity investments and mortgage-backed investments. They will derive their income from the collection of rents, the realization of capital gains from the sale of properties and from the collection of interest payments on outstanding mortgages held within the REIT.

Investors buy shares in REITs rather than investing directly in properties because direct ownership of real estate can be costly and difficult to quickly convert into cash. REITs do not have to pay income taxes if they meet certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). REITs need to meet asset diversification, source of income, distribution and certain other requirements in order to maintain their status as pass-through entities under the Code. REITs offer investors greater liquidity and diversification than direct ownership of a handful of properties.

When profits, revenues or the value of real estate property owned by REITs decline or fail to meet market expectations, REIT share prices may decline as well. Therefore, REITs are subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate, any of which could cause the value of a REIT’s share price to decline. Increases in interest rates typically lower the present value of a REIT’s future earnings stream, and may make financing property purchases and improvements more costly. Since the market value of REIT shares may change based upon investors’ collective perceptions of future earnings, the value of REIT shares will generally decline when investors anticipate or experience rising interest rates. In addition to risks related to investments in real estate generally, investing in REITs involves certain other risks related to their structure and focus including, without limitation, the following: dependency upon management skills; limited diversification; the risks of locating and managing financing for projects; heavy cash flow dependency; possible default by borrowers; the costs and potential losses of self-liquidation of one or more holdings; the possibility of failing to maintain an exemption from the registration

requirements of the 1940 Act; and, in many cases, relatively small market capitalization, which may result in less market liquidity and greater price volatility. Other adverse factors affecting REITs include the extraordinary weakness and volatility in recent years affecting investments backed by real estate-related interests; past overinvestment in residential and commercial mortgages; the recent severe recession; weak economic conditions; and environmental and other considerations.

By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, a shareholder will bear not only his or her proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also, indirectly, similar expenses of the REITs.

### **Investment Restrictions**

The Fund's investment objective may not be changed without a vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares. In addition, the Fund is subject to the following investment restrictions, which may not be changed without the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares. When used in this Statement of Additional Information and the Prospectus, a "majority" of the Fund's outstanding shares means the vote of the lesser of (1) 67% of the shares of the Fund present at a meeting if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares are present in person or by proxy, or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

The Fund may not:

1. Purchase securities which would cause 25% or more of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase to be invested in the securities of one or more issuers conducting their principal business activities in the same industry.
2. With respect to 75% of its total assets, invest more than 5% of the value of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer or purchase more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer (except that such limitation does not apply to U.S. Government securities and securities of other investment companies).
3. Borrow money or issue senior securities if such borrowings or other transactions would exceed more than 33⅓% of the value of its total assets and except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act or the rules, regulations or interpretations thereof.
4. Make loans to other persons except (i) by the purchase of a portion of an issue of bonds, debentures or other debt securities; (ii) by lending portfolio securities in an amount not to exceed 33⅓% of the value of its total assets; and (iii) by entering into repurchase agreements.
5. Underwrite securities of other issuers, except to the extent that the disposition of portfolio securities, either directly from an issuer or from an underwriter for an issuer, may be deemed to be an underwriting under the federal securities laws.

6. Purchase securities of companies for the purpose of exercising control.
7. Purchase or sell real estate, except that the Fund may invest in securities of companies that invest in real estate or interests therein and in securities that are secured by real estate or interests therein.
8. Purchase or sell commodities or commodities contracts, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options thereon.

Except with respect to the percentage limitations relative to the borrowing of money (investment restriction number 3 above), if a percentage limitation set forth above, or stated elsewhere in this Statement of Additional Information or in the Prospectus, is met at the time an investment is made, a later change in percentage resulting from a change in the value of the Fund's investments or in the net assets of the Fund will not constitute a violation of such percentage limitation.

### **Portfolio Turnover**

The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund is calculated by dividing the lesser of the Fund's purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the year by the monthly average value of the securities. Portfolio turnover rates for the Fund may vary greatly from year to year as well as within a particular year, and may also be affected by cash requirements for redemption of shares or implementation of hedging strategies. High portfolio turnover rates will generally result in higher transaction costs to the Fund, including brokerage commissions, and may result in additional tax consequences to the Fund's shareholders. The Adviser anticipates that the Fund's annual portfolio turnover rate will typically not exceed 200%; however, changing market conditions may cause the Adviser to make significant changes in the Fund's investment holdings, and may result in a higher portfolio turnover rate in a particular year. During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 341%, 129% and 196%, respectively.

### **CALCULATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The net asset value of shares of the Fund is determined as of the close of the regular session of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") on each day the NYSE is open for trading. Currently, the NYSE is open for trading on every day except Saturdays, Sundays and the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

For purposes of computing the net asset value of the Fund, securities are valued at market value as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE (normally, 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on each business day the NYSE is open. Securities, other than options, listed on the NYSE or other U.S. exchanges are valued on the basis of their last sale prices on the exchanges on which they are primarily traded. However, if the last sale price on the NYSE is different than the last sale price on any other exchange, the NYSE price will be used. If there are no sales on that day, the securities are valued at the last bid price on the NYSE or other primary exchange for that day. Securities quoted by NASDAQ are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. If there are

no sales on that day, the securities are valued at the last bid price as reported by NASDAQ. Securities traded in the over-the-counter markets, other than NASDAQ quoted securities, are valued at the last sales price or, if there are no sales on that day, at the mean of the closing bid and ask prices. Securities traded on a foreign stock exchange may be valued at their closing prices on the principal exchange where they are traded; however, because the value of such securities may be materially affected by events occurring before the Fund's pricing time, but after the close of the primary markets or exchanges on which such securities are traded, such securities will typically be valued at their fair value as determined by an independent pricing service approved by the Board of Trustees under circumstances where such value is believed to reflect the market values of such securities as of the time of computation of the net asset value of the Fund. As a result, the prices of securities used to calculate the Fund's net asset value may differ from quoted or published prices for the same securities. Values of foreign securities are translated from the local currency into U.S. dollars using currency exchange rates supplied by an independent pricing quotation service.

Pursuant to procedures approved by the Board of Trustees, options traded on a national securities exchange are valued at prices between the closing bid and ask prices determined by the Adviser to most closely reflect market value as of the time of computation of net asset value. Options not traded on a national securities exchange or board of trade, but for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available, are valued at the mean of their closing bid and ask prices. Futures contracts and options thereon, which are traded on commodities exchanges, are valued at their last sale price as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, or, if not available, at the mean of the bid and ask prices.

Fixed income securities not traded or dealt in upon any securities exchange but for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available generally are valued at the mean of their closing bid and ask prices. Fixed income securities may also be valued on the basis of prices provided by an independent pricing service. Debt securities with remaining maturities of 60 days or less may be valued at amortized cost if the Adviser, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, determines that the amortized cost value of the security is fair value.

Investments representing shares of other investment companies are valued at their net asset value as reported by such companies.

In the event that market quotations are not readily available or are determined by the Adviser to not be reflective of fair market value due to market events or developments, securities and other financial instruments are valued at fair value as determined by the Adviser in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. Such methods of fair valuation may include, but are not limited to: multiple of earnings, multiple of book value, discount from market of a similar freely traded security, purchase price of security, subsequent private transactions in the security or related securities, or a combination of these and other factors.

## **ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION INFORMATION**

Shares of the Fund are offered for sale on a continuous basis. Shares of the Fund are sold and redeemed based on their net asset value as next determined after receipt of the purchase, redemption or exchange order in proper form. A fee of 1.5% of the dollar value of the shares

redeemed, payable to the Fund, is imposed on any redemption or exchange of shares within 60 days of the date of purchase.

The Fund may suspend the right of redemption or postpone the date of payment for shares during a period when: (a) trading on the NYSE is restricted by applicable rules and regulations of the SEC; (b) the NYSE is closed for other than customary weekend and holiday closings; (c) the SEC has by order permitted these suspensions; or (d) an emergency exists as a result of which: (i) disposal by the Fund of securities owned by it is not reasonably practicable, or (ii) it is not reasonably practicable for the Fund to determine the value of its assets.

The Fund may pay the proceeds of a redemption by making an in-kind distribution of securities, but it has committed to pay in cash all redemption requests by a shareholder of record, limited in amount during any 90-day period up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the value of the Fund's net assets at the beginning of such period. Such commitment is irrevocable without the prior approval of the SEC. In the case of requests for redemption in excess of such amount, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to make payments in whole or in part in securities or other assets of the Fund. In this event, the securities would be valued in the same manner as the Fund's net asset value is determined. If the recipient sold such securities, brokerage charges would be incurred.

### **SPECIAL SHAREHOLDER SERVICES**

As noted in the Prospectus, the Fund offers the following shareholder services:

**Shareholder Accounts.** A shareholder account allows for voluntary investments to be made at any time. Available to individuals, custodians, corporations, trusts, estates, corporate retirement plans and others, investors are free to make additions to and withdrawals from their account as often as they wish. When an investor makes an initial investment in the Fund, a shareholder account is opened in accordance with the investor's registration instructions. Each time there is a transaction in a shareholder account, such as an additional investment or a redemption, the shareholder will receive a confirmation statement showing the transaction.

**Automatic Investment Plan.** The automatic investment plan enables investors to make regular periodic investments in shares through automatic charges to their checking account. With shareholder authorization and bank approval, the Transfer Agent will automatically charge the checking account for the amount specified (\$100 minimum) which will be automatically invested in shares at the net asset value on or about the first and/or the fifteenth day of the month. The shareholder may change the amount of the investment or discontinue the plan at any time by writing to the Transfer Agent.

**Automatic Withdrawal Plan.** Shareholders owning shares with a value of \$5,000 or more may establish an Automatic Withdrawal Plan. A shareholder may receive monthly or quarterly payments, in amounts of not less than \$100 per payment, by authorizing the Fund to redeem the necessary number of shares periodically (each month or quarter as specified). Payments may be made directly to an investor's account with a commercial bank or other depository institution via an Automated Clearing House ("ACH") transaction.

Instructions for establishing this service are available by calling the Fund at 1-800-HUSSMAN. Payment may also be made by check made payable to the designated recipient and mailed within 7 days of the redemption date. If the designated recipient is other than the registered shareholder, the signature of each shareholder must be guaranteed on the instructions (see “How to Redeem Shares” in the Prospectus). A corporation (or partnership) must also submit a “Corporate Resolution” (or “Certification of Partnership”) indicating the names, titles and required number of signatures authorized to act on its behalf. The application must be signed by a duly authorized officer(s) and the corporate seal affixed. Costs in conjunction with the administration of the plan are borne by the Fund. However, shareholders participating in the plan may be subject to a redemption fee unless total annual redemptions under the plan do not exceed 15% of the initial value of the Fund shares when the plan is established for a shareholder. Additionally, investors should be aware that such systematic withdrawals may deplete or use up entirely their initial investment and that the redemption of shares to make withdrawal payments may result in realized long-term or short-term capital gains or losses. The Automatic Withdrawal Plan may be terminated by the Fund at any time upon thirty days’ written notice. A shareholder may terminate participation in an Automatic Withdrawal Plan by giving written notice to the Fund. Applications and further details may be obtained by calling the Fund at **1-800-HUSSMAN**, or by writing to:

Hussman Strategic Total Return Fund  
c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC  
P.O. Box 46707  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-0707

**Transfer of Registration.** To transfer shares to another owner, send a written request to the Transfer Agent at the address shown above. Your request should include the following: (1) the Fund name and existing account registration; (2) signature(s) of the registered owner(s) exactly as the signature(s) appear(s) on the account registrations; (3) the new account registration, address, social security or taxpayer identification number and how dividends and capital gains are to be distributed; (4) signature guarantees (see “How to Redeem Shares” in the Prospectus); and (5) any additional documents which are required for transfer by corporations, administrators, executors, trustees, guardians, etc. If you have any questions about transferring shares, call or write the Transfer Agent.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST**

Overall responsibility for the supervision of the management of the Trust rests with its Trustees, who are elected either by the Trust’s shareholders or by the Trustees currently in office. The Trustees serve for terms of indefinite duration until death, resignation, retirement or removal from office. The Trustees, in turn, elect the officers of the Trust to actively supervise the Trust’s day-to-day operations. The officers are elected annually. Certain officers of the Trust also may serve as a Trustee.

The Trustees oversee the operations of the Trust in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio governing business trusts. There are currently four Trustees, three of whom are not “interested persons,” as defined by the 1940 Act, of the Trust (the “Independent Trustees”). The Independent Trustees receive compensation for their services as Trustee and attendance at

meetings of the Board of Trustees or committees thereof. Officers of the Trust receive no compensation from the Trust for performing the duties of their offices, except the Trust may compensate its Chief Compliance Officer.

The Trustees and executive officers of the Trust, their addresses and their principal occupations during the past five (5) years are as follows:

Name, Address and Age	Length of Time Served	Position(s) Held with Trust	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years and Directorships of Public Companies	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee
<i>Interested Trustee:</i>				
*John P. Hussman Ph.D. (age 55) 6021 University Boulevard, Suite 490 Ellicott City, Maryland 21043	Since June 2000	President and Trustee	Chairman, President and Treasurer of Hussman Strategic Advisors, Inc.	4
<i>Independent Trustees:</i>				
David C. Anderson (age 66) c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2000	Trustee	Network Administrator for Hephzibah Children's Association (child welfare organization)	4
William H. Vanover (age 70) c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2000	Trustee	Investment counselor with Planning Alternatives, Ltd.*** (registered investment adviser); prior to July 2017, Member of the Board of Susa Registered Fund, L.L.C. (registered investment company)	4
Jody T. Foster (age 48) c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2016	Trustee	President of Symphony Consulting LLC (provider of compliance, finance, marketing, operations and human resources services to public and private fund advisers)	4
<i>Executive Officers:</i>				
Robert G. Dorsey (age 60) 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2000	Vice President	Chief Executive Officer – Managing Director of Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC and Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC	
Mark J. Seger (age 55) 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2000	Treasurer	President, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary – Managing Director of Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC and Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC	
John F. Splain (age 61) 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450 Cincinnati, Ohio 45246	Since June 2000	Secretary/Chief Compliance Officer	Executive Vice President of Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC	

\* John P. Hussman, Ph.D., as an affiliated person of the Adviser, is an “interested person” of the Trust within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the 1940 Act.

\*\* The Fund Complex consists of the Fund, the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund.

\*\*\* If deemed an appropriate investment for a particular client, Planning Alternatives, Ltd. may recommend that such client invest in shares of the Fund.



**Trustees' Ownership of Fund Shares.** The following table shows each Trustee's beneficial ownership of shares of the Fund and, on an aggregate basis, of shares of all funds within the complex overseen by the Trustee. Information is provided as of December 31, 2016.

Name of Trustee	Dollar Range of Fund Shares Owned by Trustee	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares of All Funds in Fund Complex Overseen by Trustee
John P. Hussman, Ph.D.	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
<b>Independent Trustees:</b>		
David C. Anderson	None	Over \$100,000
William H. Vanover	Over \$100,000	Over \$100,000
Jody T. Foster	None	\$10,001 – \$50,000

As of October 1, 2017, the Trustees and officers as a group owned of record or beneficially less than 1% of the outstanding shares of the Fund.

**Trustee Compensation.** No director, officer or employee of the Adviser or the Distributor receives any compensation from the Fund for serving as an officer or Trustee of the Trust, except the Trust may compensate its Chief Compliance Officer regardless of whether such officer is affiliated with the Adviser or the Distributor. Each Independent Trustee receives from the Trust an annual retainer of \$60,000, payable quarterly; a fee of \$10,000 for attendance at each in-person meeting of the Board of Trustees (except that such fee is \$15,000 with respect to the annual meeting of the Board) and a fee of \$4,000 for attendance at each telephonic meeting of the Board of Trustees; a fee of \$3,000 for attendance at each meeting of any committee of the Board; a fee of \$1,500 for participation in each informal telephonic meeting of the Trustees; plus reimbursement of travel and other expenses incurred in attending meetings. The following table provides compensation amounts paid during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 to each of the Trustees:

Trustee	Aggregate Compensation From Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued	Estimated Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation From All Funds in Fund Complex Paid to Trustees*
John P. Hussman, Ph.D.**	None	None	None	None
David C. Anderson	\$ 27,375	None	None	\$ 109,500
William H. Vanover	\$ 27,375	None	None	\$ 109,500
Jody T. Foster	\$ 27,375	None	None	\$ 109,500

\* The Trust is comprised of four series, including the Fund, which constitutes the "Fund Complex." Total compensation for service to the Fund and Fund Complex represents the aggregate compensation paid by the Fund and by the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund, the other series of the Trust. Trustee fees are split equally among the four series of the Fund Complex.

\*\* Interested person of the Trust as defined by the 1940 Act.

## **Leadership Structure and Qualifications of Trustees**

**Board of Trustees.** The Board of Trustees is responsible for oversight of the Fund. The Trust has engaged the Adviser to oversee the management of the Fund on a day-to-day basis. The Board is responsible for overseeing the Adviser and the Fund's other service providers in the operations of the Fund in accordance with the 1940 Act, other applicable federal and state laws, and the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust. The Board typically meets at regularly scheduled meetings four times throughout the year. In addition, the Trustees may meet at special meetings or on an informal basis at other times throughout the year. The Independent Trustees also regularly meet without the presence of any representatives of management. The Board has established an Audit Committee and a Nominating Committee and may establish ad hoc committees or working groups from time to time to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Independent Trustees have also engaged independent legal counsel, and may from time to time engage consultants and other advisors to assist them in performing their oversight responsibilities.

The Board of Trustees is led by the Trust's President, Dr. John P. Hussman, Ph.D. Dr. Hussman is an "interested person" of the Trust because he is an officer and the controlling shareholder of the Adviser. Dr. Hussman, with the assistance of the Trust's other officers, oversees the daily operations of the Fund, including monitoring the activities of all of the Fund's service providers. As President, Dr. Hussman has primary responsibility for setting the agenda for each Board meeting and presiding at each Board meeting.

The Trust has not appointed an independent Chairman or a Lead Independent Trustee. It was determined by the Board that, due to the Board's size (four Trustees), the size of the Fund Complex (four funds) and the strong internal controls and strong compliance culture of the Adviser and other service providers to the Trust, it is not necessary at this time to appoint an independent Chairman or a Lead Independent Trustee. The Independent Trustees have consistently worked well together and have demonstrated an ability to provide appropriate oversight to the operations of the Trust.

**Board Committees.** The Board has established a Nominating Committee and an Audit Committee, the members of which are David C. Anderson, Jody T. Foster and William H. Vanover. Each member of the Nominating Committee and the Audit Committee is an Independent Trustee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing the composition of the Board and the various committees of the Board and for identifying and nominating qualified individuals to serve on the Board. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The principal functions of the Audit Committee are: (i) the appointment, retention and oversight of the Trust's independent auditor; (ii) to meet separately with the independent auditor and review the scope and anticipated costs of the audit; and (iii) to receive and consider a report from the independent auditor concerning its conduct of the audit, including any comments or recommendations it deems appropriate. In addition, the Audit Committee acts as liaison between the independent auditor and the full Board, and pre-approves the scope of the audit and non-audit services the independent auditor provides to the Fund. David C. Anderson serves as Chairman of the Audit Committee and, as such, presides at all meetings of the Audit Committee and facilitates communications and coordination between the Independent Trustees and management with respect to the matters overseen by the Audit Committee. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the Audit Committee met three times.

**Qualifications of the Trustees.** The Independent Trustees review the experience, qualifications, attributes and skills of potential candidates for nomination or election by the Board. In evaluating a candidate for nomination or election as a Trustee, the Independent Trustees take into account the contribution that the candidate would be expected to make to the diverse mix of experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that they believe contribute to good governance for the Trust.

Three of the four Trustees have served in such capacity for more than 17 years. During this period each of those Trustees has participated in regular and, on occasion, special Board meetings. Each Trustee has consistently attended Board meetings, demonstrating a commitment to the Fund and its shareholders. Through their years of service on the Board, these Trustees have developed a thorough understanding of their role and responsibilities to the Fund and its shareholders. For example, the Trustees review the Fund's financial statements, consider the continuance of contracts with service providers, review compliance reports, meet regularly with the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust and select the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm. The Trustees also monitor certain quarterly activities of the Fund, including brokerage activities, pricing and valuation practices, anti-money laundering compliance and code of ethics reports related to personal trading. The Trustees, with the assistance of Trust counsel, also stay current on legal and regulatory changes impacting the Fund.

- Dr. John P. Hussman, Ph.D. is the founder of Hussman Strategic Advisors, Inc., the investment adviser to the Fund, and currently serves as President of the firm. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University and two degrees from Northwestern University: a Master's degree in Education and Social Policy and a Bachelor's degree in Economics, Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Hussman was previously a professor of economics and international finance at the University of Michigan. His academic research centers on market efficiency and information economics and his research on these topics has been published in leading academic journals and trade publications. Dr. Hussman has been active in the financial markets since 1981 and worked as an options mathematician at the Chicago Board of Trade in the mid-1980s. In 1988, he began publishing investment research and in 1993 he became active in portfolio management. The Board has concluded that Dr. Hussman is qualified to serve as a Trustee because of his professional investment experience and his distinguished academic background.
- Mr. David C. Anderson is Network Administrator for Hephzibah Children's Association. He has substantial experience in computer applications and investment research and analysis. Mr. Anderson was employed for nearly 20 years as a research analyst for member firms of the Chicago Board Options Exchange and the Chicago Board of Trade, where he developed online computer trading systems and engaged in options and futures valuation modeling and arbitrage analysis. His research included the fundamental and technical analysis of stocks, options, precious metals and grains. The Board has concluded that Mr. Anderson is qualified to serve as a Trustee because of his expertise on the subject of trading systems and his experience in investment research and analysis, as well as his business experience generally.
- Mr. William H. Vanover, CFP®, CLU®, is the co-founder of, and an investment counselor with, Planning Alternatives, Ltd., a personal financial planning and investment management firm with approximately \$1 billion in assets under management. He

previously served as a member of the Board of Managers of Susa Registered Fund, L.L.C., a closed-end management investment company. Prior to January 2012, he was Chief Investment Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of Planning Alternatives, Ltd. Mr. Vanover has been in the financial services industry since 1973 and specializes in investment counseling and retirement planning. He is a Certified Financial Planner™ and Chartered Life Underwriter. Mr. Vanover was one of the early adherents to the financial planning movement, obtaining his CFP® designation in 1979. The Board has concluded that Mr. Vanover is qualified to serve as a Trustee because of his extensive experience in financial services and investments, as well as his business experience generally.

- Ms. Jody T. Foster is the founder and President of Symphony Consulting LLC, a consulting firm providing compliance, finance, marketing, operations and human resources services to public and private fund advisers in traditional and alternative investing. The firm has provided services to over 200 private and registered funds, ranging from start-up funds to funds with \$10 billion under management. Ms. Foster has been in the financial services industry since 1996 and has held positions with responsibility for, among other things, investment research and performance analysis for asset managers; financial reporting and budgeting; business development and training; information technology; and executive recruiting. She is the founder of the Atlanta Women in Alternatives Group, a 150-member organization comprised of women serving alternative investment firms. The Board has concluded that Ms. Foster is qualified to serve as a Trustee because of her extensive experience in financial services and investment management industries, as well as her business experience generally.

In addition to the qualifications listed above, the Trustees have consistently demonstrated strong character, integrity, ability, sound judgment and superior communication and reasoning skills over their years of service. Furthermore, each Trustee came to the Board with a strong and diverse business background. The Board has concluded that, based on each Trustee's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills on an individual basis and in combination with the other Trustees, each Trustee is qualified and should continue to serve as such. In determining that a particular Trustee was and continues to be qualified to serve as a Trustee, the Board has considered a variety of criteria, none of which, in isolation, was controlling.

**Risk Oversight.** The Fund is subject to a number of risks, including investment, compliance and operational risks. Day-to-day risk management with respect to the Fund resides with the Adviser or other service providers (depending on the nature of the risk), subject to overall supervision by the Adviser. The Board has charged the Adviser with (i) identifying events or circumstances, the occurrence of which could have demonstrable and material adverse effects on the Fund; (ii) to the extent appropriate, reasonable or practicable, implementing processes and controls reasonably designed to lessen the possibility that such events or circumstances occur, or to mitigate the effects of such events or circumstances if they do occur; and (iii) creating and maintaining a system designed to evaluate continuously, and revising as appropriate, the processes and controls described in (i) and (ii) above.

The Board has appointed a Chief Compliance Officer who reports directly to the Independent Trustees and who provides presentations to the Board at its quarterly meetings, in addition to an annual report to the Board in accordance with the Trust's compliance policies and procedures. The Chief Compliance Officer regularly discusses the relevant risk issues affecting

the Trust during private meetings with the Independent Trustees. The Chief Compliance Officer also provides to the Board updates on the application of the Trust's compliance policies and procedures and how these procedures are designed to mitigate risk. Finally, the Chief Compliance Officer reports to the Board immediately in between Board meetings in case of any problems associated with the Trust's compliance policies and procedures that could expose (or that might have the potential to expose) the Fund to risk.

As the use of technology and the frequency of cyber attacks have become more prevalent, the Fund has become potentially more susceptible to operational risks through breaches in cybersecurity. A breach in cybersecurity refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund, or the Adviser or another service provider to the Fund, to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. This could adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders by, among other things: interfering with the processing of shareholder transactions; impeding the Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value; causing the release of confidential information or private shareholder information (which may violate privacy and other laws, including those related to identity theft); or impairing the ability of the Adviser to manage the Fund's investment portfolio. A cyber attack may cause financial losses to the Fund by impeding trading or portfolio management, causing reputational damage, or subjecting the Fund to regulatory penalties, fines, reimbursement or other compensation costs. Additional compliance costs could be associated with corrective measures and/or cybersecurity risk management. Cyber breaches may include, among other things, gaining unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems (through "hacking" or malicious software coding), but may result from outside attacks such as denial of service attacks (i.e., efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users). Cybersecurity breaches of the Adviser or other service providers to the Fund (including its administrator, transfer agent, intermediaries and custodian) or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the risks associated with direct cybersecurity breaches. The Adviser and other Fund service providers have established risk management systems, and implemented policies and procedures, designed to reduce cybersecurity risks. However, no assurance can be given that these systems, policies and procedures will be effective in preventing an impairment of the Fund's operations or preventing a loss to the Fund as a consequence of a cybersecurity breach. The risk management policies of the Adviser and other service providers and their implementation vary among service providers and the Fund does not directly control the cybersecurity systems of issuers, the Adviser or service providers. Not all risks that may affect the Fund can be identified or processes and controls developed to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects, and some risks are simply beyond any control of the Trust, the Adviser or other service providers.

**Identifying and Evaluating Trustee Nominees.** In overseeing the process of identifying and evaluating potential nominees, the Nominating Committee considers a wide variety of factors in considering Trustee candidates, including, but not limited to: (i) availability and commitment of a candidate to attend meetings and perform his or her responsibilities on the Board; (ii) relevant industry and related experience; (iii) educational background; (iv) financial and other relevant experience; (v) an assessment of the candidate's character, integrity, ability and judgment; (vi) whether or not the candidate serves on boards of, or is otherwise affiliated with, competing financial service organizations or their related mutual fund complexes; (vii) whether or not the candidate has any relationships that might impair his or her independence; and (viii) overall interplay of a candidate's experience, skill and knowledge with that of other Trustees. The Nominating Committee has not developed a formal policy with

regards to the diversity of Board membership. The purpose behind the process of identifying and evaluating potential nominees is to find the best possible nominee. In identifying potential nominees for the Board, the Nominating Committee may consider candidates recommended by one or more of the following sources: (i) the current Trustees; (ii) the Trust's officers; (iii) the Adviser; and (iv) any other source the Independent Trustees deem to be appropriate. The Trust has not adopted procedures by which shareholders of the Fund may recommend nominees to the Board of Trustees.

## **INVESTMENT ADVISER**

Hussman Strategic Advisors, Inc. (the "Adviser"), 6021 University Boulevard, Suite 490, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043, serves as investment adviser to the Fund under an investment advisory agreement dated as of September 10, 2002 and last amended as of July 1, 2011 (the "Advisory Agreement"). The Adviser, founded in August 1999, is a registered investment adviser that manages more than \$750 million in assets as of September 30, 2017. John P. Hussman, Ph.D., President and a Trustee of the Trust and President and sole shareholder of the Adviser, may be deemed to control the Adviser. As the shareholder of the Adviser, Dr. Hussman receives benefits from the advisory fee paid to the Adviser.

Subject to the Fund's investment objective and policies approved by the Trustees of the Trust, the Adviser manages the Fund's portfolio and makes all investment decisions for the Fund, and continuously reviews, supervises and administers the Fund's investment program. For these services, the Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee computed at the annual rates of 0.50% of the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets of the Fund, 0.45% of the next \$1.5 billion of such assets and 0.40% of such assets over \$2.5 billion, less any fee deferrals.

The Adviser has contractually agreed to defer its advisory fees and/or to absorb or reimburse the Fund's operating expenses to the extent necessary so that the Fund's ordinary operating expenses do not exceed an amount equal to 0.73% annually of its average daily net assets. This Expense Limitation Agreement remains in effect until at least November 1, 2018. This limit on operating expenses was increased from 0.63% to 0.68% effective November 1, 2014; from 0.68% to 0.70% effective November 1, 2015; and from 0.70% to 0.73% effective November 1, 2016. Any fee reductions or expense reimbursements by the Adviser, either before or after November 1, 2018, are subject to repayment by the Fund provided the Fund is able to effect such repayment without causing ordinary operating expenses to exceed an amount equal to 0.63% annually of its average daily net assets, and provided further that the expenses which are the subject of the repayment were incurred within three years of such repayment.

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the fees payable to the Adviser as calculated under the Advisory Agreement were \$2,062,514, \$2,186,556 and \$2,750,780, respectively; however, in order to meet its commitments under the Expense Limitation Agreement described above, the Adviser reduced its fees by \$138,941, \$266,055 and \$381,335 with respect to the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. Pursuant to the Expense Limitation Agreement, as of June 30, 2017, the Adviser may in the future recoup from the Fund advisory fee deferrals in the amount of \$786,331. Of this amount the Adviser may recoup \$381,335 no later than June 30, 2018, \$266,055 no later than June 30, 2019 and \$138,941 no later than June 30, 2020.

Unless sooner terminated, the Advisory Agreement shall continue in effect until July 20, 2018, and thereafter shall continue for successive one-year periods if continuance is approved at least annually (i) by the Trustees or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund and (ii) by vote of a majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting called for this purpose. The Advisory Agreement is terminable at any time on 60 days' prior written notice without penalty by the Trustees, by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund, or by the Adviser. The Advisory Agreement also terminates automatically in the event of its assignment, as defined in the 1940 Act and the rules thereunder.

The Advisory Agreement provides that the Adviser shall not be liable for any error of judgment or for any loss suffered by the Trust in connection with the performance of its duties, except a loss resulting from willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Adviser in the performance of its duties, or from reckless disregard of its duties and obligations thereunder.

### Portfolio Manager

The Fund's portfolio manager is John P. Hussman, Ph.D.

#### *Other Accounts Managed (as of June 30, 2017)*

Dr. Hussman is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund, three other series of the Trust. As of the date of this Statement of Additional Information, the Fund, the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund are the Adviser's only investment advisory clients. Dr. Hussman is also a Trustee of the Hussman Foundation, Inc. and oversees the investments of various charitable organizations, without direct compensation. Such investments are restricted to money market securities and mutual funds, which may include the Fund, the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund, and may therefore result in indirect compensation to the Adviser in the same amount as is paid by other Fund shareholders.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Type of Accounts	Total Number of Other Accounts Managed	Total Assets of Other Accounts Managed	Number of Accounts Managed with Advisory Fee Based on Performance	Total Assets of Accounts Managed with Advisory Fee Based on Performance
John P. Hussman, Ph.D.	Registered Investment Companies:	3	\$412,843,191	0	\$ 0
	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0
	Other Accounts:	0	\$ 0	0	\$ 0

#### *Potential Conflicts of Interest*

The Adviser does not believe that any material conflicts of interest exist as a result of Dr. Hussman managing, in addition to the Fund, the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund.

The Adviser may occasionally recommend purchases or sales of the same portfolio securities for the Fund and for the Growth Fund, the International Fund and/or the Value Fund. In such circumstances, it is the policy of the Adviser to allocate purchases and sales among the Fund and the Growth Fund, the International Fund and/or the Value Fund in a manner which the Adviser deems equitable, taking into consideration such factors as relative size of the portfolios, concentration of holdings, investment objectives, tax status, cash availability, purchase costs, holding periods and other pertinent factors relative to each series. The Adviser believes that it is highly unlikely that simultaneous transactions would adversely affect the ability of the Fund to obtain or dispose of the full amount of a security which it seeks to purchase or sell or the price at which such security can be purchased or sold.

*Compensation*

Compensation of Dr. Hussman includes a fixed salary paid by the Adviser plus the profits of the Adviser. The profitability of the Adviser is primarily dependent upon the value of the Fund’s assets, as well as the assets of the Growth Fund, the International Fund and the Value Fund. However, compensation is not directly based upon the Fund’s performance or the value of the Fund’s assets.

*Ownership of Fund Shares*

The following table indicates the dollar range of shares of the Fund beneficially owned by Dr. Hussman as of June 30, 2017.

Name of Portfolio Manager	Dollar Value of Fund Shares Beneficially Owned
John P. Hussman, Ph.D.	Over \$1,000,000

**PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS**

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser determines, subject to the general supervision of the Trustees of the Trust and in accordance with the Fund’s investment objective, policies and restrictions, the securities to be purchased and sold by the Fund and the brokers used to execute the Fund’s portfolio transactions.

Purchases and sales of portfolio securities that are debt securities usually are principal transactions in which portfolio securities are normally purchased directly from the issuer or from an underwriter or market maker for the securities. Purchases from underwriters of securities generally include a commission or concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter, and purchases from dealers serving as market makers may include the spread between the bid and ask prices. Transactions on stock exchanges involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions. Transactions in the over-the-counter markets are generally principal transactions with dealers. With respect to the over-the-counter markets, the Fund, where possible, will deal directly with the dealers who make a market in the securities involved except under those circumstances where better price and execution are available elsewhere.



Allocation of transactions, including their frequency, to various brokers and dealers is determined by the Adviser in its best judgment and in a manner deemed fair and reasonable to the Fund. The primary consideration is prompt execution of orders in an effective manner at the most favorable price. Subject to this consideration, brokers who provide investment research to the Adviser may receive orders for transactions on behalf of the Fund. Information so received is in addition to and not in lieu of services required to be performed by the Adviser and does not reduce the fees payable to the Adviser by the Fund. Such information may be useful to the Adviser in serving both the Fund and other clients and, conversely, supplemental information obtained by the placement of brokerage orders of other clients may be useful to the Adviser in carrying out its obligations to the Fund.

While the Adviser generally seeks competitive commissions, the Fund may not necessarily pay the lowest commission available on each brokerage transaction for the reasons discussed above.

Investment decisions for the Fund are made independently from those made for other accounts managed by the Adviser. Any other account may also invest in the securities in which the Fund invests. When a purchase or sale of the same security is made at substantially the same time on behalf of the Fund and another account managed by the Adviser, the policy of the Adviser generally is that the transaction will be averaged as to price and available investments will be allocated as to amount in a manner which the Adviser believes to be equitable to the Fund and such other account. In some instances, this procedure may adversely affect the price paid or received by the Fund or the size of the position obtained by the Fund.

During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, the Fund paid aggregate brokerage commissions of \$183,664, \$314,759 and \$167,713, respectively. The primary reason for the higher aggregate brokerage commissions paid by the Fund during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 was a higher level of trading of the Fund's equity security holdings.

## **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

### **Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent**

Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC ("Ultimus"), 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, serves as the Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent to the Fund pursuant to an Administration Agreement, a Fund Accounting Agreement and a Transfer Agent and Shareholder Services Agreement (collectively, the "Service Agreements").

As Administrator, Ultimus assists in supervising all operations of the Fund (other than those performed by the Adviser under the Advisory Agreement). Ultimus has agreed to perform or arrange for the performance of the following services (under the Service Agreements, Ultimus may delegate all or any part of its responsibilities thereunder):

- prepares and assembles reports required to be sent to the Fund's shareholders and arranges for the printing and dissemination of such reports;

- assembles reports required to be filed with the SEC and files such completed reports with the SEC;
- arranges for the dissemination to shareholders of the Fund's proxy materials and oversees the tabulation of proxies;
- determines the amounts available for distribution as dividends and distributions to be paid by the Fund to its shareholders; prepares and arranges for the printing of dividend notices to shareholders; and provides the Fund's custodian with such information as is required to effect the payment of dividends and distributions;
- oversees the preparation and filing of the Fund's federal income and excise tax returns and the Fund's state and local tax returns;
- monitors compliance of the Fund's operations with the 1940 Act and with its investment policies and limitations; and
- makes such reports and recommendations to the Trust's Board of Trustees as the Board reasonably requests or deems appropriate.

As Fund Accountant, Ultimus maintains the accounting books and records for the Fund, including journals containing an itemized daily record of all purchases and sales of portfolio securities, all receipts and disbursements of cash and all other debits and credits, general and auxiliary ledgers reflecting all asset, liability, reserve, capital, income and expense accounts, including interest accrued and interest received, and other required separate ledger accounts. Ultimus also maintains a monthly trial balance of all ledger accounts; performs certain accounting services for the Fund, including calculation of the net asset value per share and calculation of the dividend and capital gains distributions; reconciles cash movements with the custodian; verifies and reconciles with the custodian all daily trade activities; provides certain reports; obtains dealer quotations or prices from pricing services used in determining net asset value; and prepares interim balance sheets, statements of income and expense, and statements of changes in net assets for the Fund.

As Transfer Agent, Ultimus performs the following services in connection with the Fund's shareholders: maintains records for each of the Fund's shareholders of record; processes shareholder purchase and redemption orders; processes transfers and exchanges of shares of the Fund on the shareholder files and records; processes dividend payments and reinvestments; and assists in the mailing of shareholder reports and proxy solicitation materials.

Ultimus receives fees from the Fund for its services as Administrator, Fund Accountant and Transfer Agent and is reimbursed for certain expenses assumed pursuant to the Service Agreements. The fee payable to Ultimus as Administrator is calculated daily and paid monthly, at the annual rates of 0.07% of the average daily net assets of the Fund up to \$500 million; 0.05% of such assets between \$500 million and \$2 billion; 0.04% of such assets between \$2 billion and \$3 billion; 0.03% of such assets between \$3 billion and \$5 billion; 0.025% of such assets between \$5 billion and \$7 billion; 0.02% of such assets between \$7 billion and \$9 billion; and 0.015% of such assets over \$9 billion; subject, however, to a minimum fee of \$2,000 per month. The fee payable by the Fund to Ultimus as Fund Accountant is \$2,500 per month plus an asset based fee at the annual rates of 0.01% of the Fund's average daily net assets up to \$500

million; 0.005% of such assets between \$500 million and \$5 billion; and 0.0025% of such assets over \$5 billion. The fee payable by the Fund to Ultimus as Transfer Agent is at the annual rate of \$12 to \$22 per shareholder account, depending on the nature of the account, subject to a minimum fee of \$1,500 per month. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, Ultimus received fees of \$289,034 from the Fund in its capacity as Administrator, \$71,319 in its capacity as Fund Accountant and \$75,717 in its capacity as Transfer Agent. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, Ultimus received fees of \$305,865 from the Fund in its capacity as Administrator, \$73,766 in its capacity as Fund Accountant and \$81,379 in its capacity as Transfer Agent. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, Ultimus received fees of \$375,336 from the Fund in its capacity as Administrator, \$82,424 in its capacity as Fund Accountant and \$112,160 in its capacity as Transfer Agent.

Unless sooner terminated as provided therein, the Service Agreements between the Trust and Ultimus will continue in effect until June 7, 2018. The Service Agreements thereafter, unless otherwise terminated as provided in the Service Agreements, are renewed automatically for successive one-year periods.

The Service Agreements provide that Ultimus shall not be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or any loss suffered by the Trust in connection with the matters to which the Service Agreements relate, except a loss from willful misfeasance, bad faith or negligence in the performance of its duties, or from the reckless disregard by Ultimus of its obligations and duties thereunder.

### **Compliance Consulting Agreement**

Under the terms of a Compliance Consulting Agreement with the Trust, Ultimus provides an individual with the requisite background and familiarity with the Federal securities laws to serve as the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer and to administer the Trust's compliance policies and procedures. For these services, the Trust pays Ultimus a base fee of \$70,000 per annum, plus an asset-based fee computed at the annual rate of 0.00125% of the average value of the Trust's aggregate daily net assets over \$1.4 billion. Prior to April 1, 2017, the Trust paid Ultimus a base fee of \$18,000 per annum, plus an asset-based fee computed at annual rates of 0.005% of the average value of the Trust's aggregate daily net assets from \$100 million to \$500 million, 0.0025% of such assets from \$500 million to \$1 billion and 0.00125% of such assets over \$1 billion. The Fund pays its proportionate share of such fee along with the other series of the Trust. In addition, the Trust reimburses Ultimus for its reasonable out-of-pocket expenses relating to these compliance services. During the fiscal years ended June 30, 2017, 2016 and 2015, Ultimus received compliance service fees from the Fund of \$20,514, \$17,660 and \$18,491, respectively.

### **Principal Underwriter**

Ultimus Fund Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor"), 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, is the exclusive agent for distribution of shares of the Fund. The Distributor is obligated to sell shares of the Fund on a best efforts basis only against purchase orders for the shares. Shares of the Fund are offered to the public on a continuous basis. The Distributor is compensated by the Adviser for its services to the Trust under a written agreement for such services. The Distributor is an affiliate of Ultimus, and Robert G. Dorsey and Mark J. Seger are each Managing Directors of the Distributor and officers of the Trust.

## **Custodian**

US Bank NA, 425 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, serves as custodian to the Fund pursuant to a Custody Agreement. Its responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling the Fund's cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, and collecting interest and dividends on the Fund's investments.

## **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Trust has selected Ernst & Young LLP, 312 Walnut Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, to serve as the independent registered public accounting firm for the Trust and to audit the financial statements of the Fund for its fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

## **Legal Counsel**

The Trust has retained Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, 919 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022, to serve as counsel for the Trust and counsel to the Independent Trustees.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Description of Shares**

The Trust is an unincorporated business trust that was organized under Ohio law on June 1, 2000. The Trust's Declaration of Trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to divide shares into series, each series relating to a separate portfolio of investments, and may further divide shares of a series into separate classes. In the event of a liquidation or dissolution of the Trust or an individual series or class, shareholders of a particular series or class would be entitled to receive the assets available for distribution belonging to such series or class. Shareholders of a series or class are entitled to participate equally in the net distributable assets of the particular series or class involved upon liquidation, based on the number of shares of the series or class that are held by each shareholder. If any assets, income, earnings, proceeds, funds or payments are not readily identifiable as belonging to any particular series or class, the Trustees shall allocate them among any one or more series or classes as they, in their sole discretion, deem fair and equitable.

Shares of the Fund, when issued, are fully paid and non-assessable. Shares have no subscription, preemptive or conversion rights. Shares do not have cumulative voting rights. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each full share held and a fractional vote for each fractional share held. Shareholders of all series and classes of shares of the Trust, including the Fund, will vote together and not separately, except as otherwise required by law or when the Board of Trustees determines that the matter to be voted upon affects only the interests of the shareholders of a particular series or class. Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides, in substance, that any matter required to be submitted to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company such as the Trust shall not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each series or class affected by the matter. A series or class is affected by a matter unless the interests of each series or class in the matter are substantially identical or the matter does not affect any interest of the series or class. Under Rule 18f-2, the approval of an investment advisory agreement, a

distribution plan or any change in a fundamental investment policy would be effectively acted upon with respect to a series or class only if approved by a majority of the outstanding shares of such series or class. The Rule also provides that the ratification of the appointment of independent accountants and the election of Trustees may be effectively acted upon by shareholders of all series and classes of shares of the Trust voting together as a single class.

### **Trustee Liability**

The Declaration of Trust provides that the Trustees of the Trust will not be liable in any event in connection with the affairs of the Trust, except as such liability may arise from his or her own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of duties. It also provides that all third parties shall look solely to the Trust's property for satisfaction of claims arising in connection with the affairs of the Trust. With the exceptions stated, the Declaration of Trust provides that a Trustee or officer is entitled to be indemnified against all liability in connection with the affairs of the Trust.

### **Code of Ethics**

The Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor have each adopted a code of ethics. These codes of ethics permit personnel subject to the codes to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund, but prohibit such personnel from engaging in personal investment activities which compete with or attempt to take advantage of the Fund's planned portfolio transactions. Each of these parties monitors compliance with its code of ethics.

### **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

The Trust and the Adviser have adopted proxy voting policies and procedures that describe how the Fund intends to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities. These policies and procedures are attached to this Statement of Additional Information as Appendix B. Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available without charge upon request by calling 1-800-443-4249, or on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### **Portfolio Holdings Disclosure Policy**

The Board of Trustees of the Trust has adopted a policy to govern the circumstances under which disclosure regarding securities held by the Fund, and disclosure of purchases and sales of such securities, may be made to shareholders of the Fund or other persons. The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer is responsible for monitoring the use and disclosure of information relating to portfolio securities. Although no material conflicts of interest are believed to exist that could disadvantage the Fund or its shareholders, various safeguards have been implemented to protect the Fund and its shareholders from conflicts of interest, including: the adoption of codes of ethics pursuant to Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act designed to prevent fraudulent, deceptive or manipulative acts by officers and employees of the Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor in connection with their personal securities transactions; the adoption by the Adviser and the Distributor of insider trading policies and procedures designed to prevent their employees' misuse of material non-public information; and the adoption by the Trust of a code of ethics for officers that requires the Chief Compliance Officer and all other officers of the Trust

to report to the Board any affiliations or other relationships that could potentially create a conflict of interest with the Fund.

- Public disclosure regarding the securities held by the Fund (“Portfolio Securities”) is made in Annual Reports and Semi-Annual Reports to shareholders, and in quarterly holdings reports on Form N-Q (“Official Reports”). Except for such Official Reports and as otherwise expressly permitted by the Trust’s policy, shareholders and other persons may not be provided with information regarding Portfolio Securities held, purchased or sold by the Fund.
- Information regarding Portfolio Securities as of the end of the most recent calendar quarter, and other information regarding the investment activities of the Fund during such quarter, may be disclosed to rating and ranking organizations for use in connection with their rating or ranking of the Fund, but only if such information is at least 30 days old.
- Information regarding the general market exposure of the Fund (such as the average duration of bond holdings and the extent to which the Fund is hedged) may be disclosed, provided that such information is also disclosed on the Trust’s website and the information does not identify specific Portfolio Securities.
- Information regarding Portfolio Securities as of the end of the most recent calendar quarter may be disclosed to any other person or organization at the request of such person or organization, but only if such information is at least 30 days old.
- The Trust’s Chief Compliance Officer may approve the disclosure of holdings of or transactions in Portfolio Securities of the Fund that is made on the same basis to all shareholders of the Fund.
- The Fund’s policy relating to disclosure of holdings of Portfolio Securities does not prohibit disclosure of information to the Adviser or to other Trust service providers, including the Trust’s administrator, distributor, custodian, legal counsel, independent auditor and printers/typesetters, or to brokers and dealers through which the Fund purchases and sells Portfolio Securities. Below is a table that lists each service provider that may receive non-public portfolio information along with information regarding the frequency of access to, and limitations on use of, portfolio information.

<b>Type of Service Provider</b>	<b>Typical Frequency of Access to Portfolio Information</b>	<b>Restrictions on Use</b>
Adviser	Daily	Contractual and Ethical
Administrator and Distributor	Daily	Contractual and Ethical
Custodian	Daily	Contractual and Ethical
Independent Auditor	During annual audit	Ethical
Legal counsel	Regulatory filings, board meetings, and if a legal issue regarding the portfolio requires counsel’s review	Ethical

Printers/Typesetters	Twice a year – printing of semi-annual and annual reports	No formal restrictions in place. Printer would not receive portfolio information until at least 30 days old.
Broker/dealers through which Fund purchases and sells portfolio securities	Daily access to the relevant purchase and/or sale – no broker/dealer has access to the Fund’s entire portfolio	Contractual and Ethical

Such disclosures may be made without approval of the Trust’s Chief Compliance Officer because the Board of Trustees has determined that the Fund and its shareholders are adequately protected by the restrictions on use in those instances listed above.

- The Trust’s Chief Compliance Officer may approve other arrangements under which information relating to Portfolio Securities held by the Fund, or purchased or sold by the Fund (other than information contained in Official Reports), may be disclosed. The Chief Compliance Officer shall approve such an arrangement only if he concludes (based on a consideration of the information to be disclosed, the timing of the disclosure, the intended use of the information and other relevant factors) that the arrangement is reasonably necessary to aid in conducting the ongoing business of the Trust and is unlikely to affect adversely the Fund or any shareholder of the Fund. The Chief Compliance Officer must inform the Board of Trustees of any such arrangements that are approved by the Chief Compliance Officer, and the rationale supporting approval, at the next regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees following such approval.
- Neither the Adviser nor the Trust (or any affiliated person, employee, officer, trustee or director of the Adviser or the Trust) may receive any direct or indirect compensation in consideration of the disclosure of information relating to Portfolio Securities held, purchased or sold by the Fund.

### Principal Shareholders

The following table provides the name and address of any person who owns of record or beneficially 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund as of October 1, 2017.

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Type of Ownership</u>
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. 211 Main Street San Francisco, California 94105	8,396,475.167	27.9%	Record
TD Ameritrade, Inc. P.O. Box 2226 Omaha, Nebraska 68103	2,357,710.828	7.8%	Record

## ADDITIONAL TAX INFORMATION

The Fund has qualified and intends to continue to qualify annually as a regulated investment company, or “RIC”, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). Qualification generally will relieve the Fund of liability for federal income taxes to the extent its net investment income and net realized capital gains are distributed to shareholders in accordance with Subchapter M of the Code. Depending on the extent of the Fund’s activities in states and localities in which its offices are maintained, in which its agents or independent contractors are located, or in which it is otherwise deemed to be conducting business, the Fund may be subject to the tax laws of these states or localities. If for any taxable year the Fund does not qualify for the special tax treatment afforded to RICs, all of its taxable income will be subject to federal tax at regular corporate rates (without any deduction for distributions to its shareholders). In such event, dividend distributions would be taxable to shareholders to the extent of the Fund’s earnings and profits, and, subject to certain limitations under the Code, would be eligible for the dividends-received deduction for corporations and reduced tax rates applicable to “Qualified Dividends” for individuals (as discussed below).

Among the requirements to qualify as a RIC, the Fund must distribute annually no less than the sum of 90% of its “investment company taxable income” and 90% of its net tax-exempt income. In addition to this distribution requirement, the Fund must (1) derive at least 90% of its gross income in each taxable year from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currency, certain other income (including but not limited to gains from options, futures and forward contracts) derived with respect to its business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, or from net income derived from an interest in a qualified publicly traded partnership (“PTP”) as defined in section 851(h) of the Code; and (2) diversify its holdings so that at the end of each quarter of its taxable year the following two conditions are met: (a) at least 50% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is represented by cash, U.S. Government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities (for this purpose such other securities will qualify only if the Fund’s investment is limited in respect to any issuer to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets and not greater than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (b) not more than 25% of the value of the Fund’s total assets is invested in the securities (other than U.S. Government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer, the securities of any two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified PTPs. For these purposes, a qualified PTP is generally a PTP other than one where at least 90% of its gross income is gross income that would otherwise be qualifying gross income for a RIC.

Under the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the “Modernization Act”), there is a remedy for a failure of the Subchapter M asset diversification test, if the failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, subject to certain divestiture and procedural requirements and the payment of a tax. The Modernization Act also sets forth a de minimis exception to a potential failure of the Subchapter M asset diversification test that would require corrective action but no tax. In addition, the Modernization Act allows for the remedy of a failure of the source-of-income requirement, if the failure was due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, subject to certain procedural requirements and the payment of a tax.



The Fund's net realized capital gains from securities transactions will be distributed only after reducing such gains by the amount of any available capital loss carryforwards. As of June 30, 2017, the Fund had short-term capital loss carryforwards of \$64,355,836 and long-term capital loss carryforwards of \$11,530,224 for federal income tax purposes. These capital loss carryforwards may be utilized in future years to offset net realized capital gains, if any, prior to distributing such gains to shareholders.

A federal excise tax at the rate of 4% will be imposed on the excess, if any, of the Fund's "required distribution" over actual distributions in any calendar year. Generally, the "required distribution" is 98% of the Fund's ordinary income for the calendar year plus 98.2% of its net capital gains recognized during the one year period ending on October 31 of that calendar year plus undistributed amounts from prior years. The Fund intends to make distributions sufficient to avoid imposition of the excise tax.

If the Fund purchases shares in a "passive foreign investment company" ("PFIC"), the Fund may be subject to federal income tax and an interest charge imposed by the IRS on certain "excess distributions" received from the PFIC or on a gain from the sale of stock in the PFIC, even if all income or gain actually received by the Fund is timely distributed to its shareholders. The Fund will not be permitted to pass through to its shareholders any credit or deduction for taxes and interest charges incurred with respect to PFICs. Elections may be available that would ameliorate these adverse tax consequences, but such elections could require the Fund to recognize taxable income or gain without the concurrent receipt of cash. Investments in PFICs could also result in the treatment of associated capital gains as ordinary income. The Fund may limit and/or manage its holdings in PFICs to minimize its tax liability or maximize its returns from these investments. Because it is not always possible to identify a foreign corporation as a PFIC in advance of acquiring shares of the corporation, the Fund may incur the tax and interest charges described above in some instances.

Individual shareholders of the Fund may benefit from lower rates applicable to long-term capital gains on certain distributions that are attributable to certain dividends received by the Fund from U.S. corporations and certain foreign corporations ("Qualified Dividends"). Long-term capital gains are generally taxable to individuals at a maximum rate of 20%, with lower rates potentially applicable to taxpayers depending on their income levels. For 2017, individual taxpayers with taxable incomes above \$418,400 (\$470,700 for married taxpayers filing jointly, \$235,350 for married taxpayers filing separately and \$444,550 for heads of households) are subject to a 20% rate of tax on long-term capital gains and Qualified Dividends. Taxpayers that are not in such highest tax bracket continue to be subject to a maximum 15% rate of tax on long-term capital gains and Qualified Dividends. These rates may change over time. Distributions of net short-term capital gains that exceed net long-term capital losses will generally be taxable as ordinary income. In addition, for an individual shareholder to benefit from the lower tax rate on Qualified Dividends (either 15% or 20%, depending on income levels), the shareholder must hold shares in the Fund, and the Fund must hold shares in the dividend-paying corporation, at least 61 days during a prescribed period. The prescribed period is the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date on which the shareholder or the Fund, as the case may be, becomes entitled to receive the dividend. Furthermore, in determining the holding period for this purpose, any period during which the recipient's risk of loss is offset by means of options, short sales or similar instruments is not included. Additionally, an individual shareholder would not benefit

from the lower tax rate to the extent it or the Fund is obligated (e.g., pursuant to a short sale) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property.

It is anticipated that amounts distributed by the Fund that are attributable to certain dividends received from domestic corporations will qualify for the 70% dividends-received deduction for corporate shareholders. A corporate shareholder's dividends-received deduction will be disallowed unless it holds shares in the Fund, and the Fund holds shares in the dividend-paying corporation, at least 46 days during the 91-day period beginning 45 days before the date on which the shareholder or the Fund, as the case may be, becomes entitled to receive the dividend. In determining the holding period for this purpose, any period during which the recipient's risk of loss is offset by means of options, short sales or similar transactions is not counted. Furthermore, the dividends-received deduction will be disallowed to the extent a corporate shareholder's investment in shares of the Fund, or the Fund's investment in the shares of a dividend-paying corporation, is financed with indebtedness. Additionally, a corporate shareholder would not benefit to the extent it or the Fund is obligated (e.g., pursuant to a short sale) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property.

Investments by the Fund in certain options, futures contracts and options on futures contracts are "section 1256 contracts." Any gains or losses on section 1256 contracts are generally considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses. Section 1256 contracts held by the Fund at the end of each taxable year are treated for federal income tax purposes as being sold on such date for their fair market value. When the section 1256 contract is subsequently disposed of, the actual gain or loss will be adjusted by the amount of any preceding year-end gain or loss. The use of section 1256 contracts may require the Fund to distribute to shareholders gains that have not yet been realized in order to avoid federal income tax liability. Foreign currency gains or losses on non-U.S. dollar denominated bonds and other similar debt instruments and on any non-U.S. dollar denominated futures contracts, options and forward contracts that are not section 1256 contracts generally will be treated as ordinary income or loss.

Certain hedging transactions undertaken by the Fund may result in "straddles" for federal income tax purposes. The straddle rules may affect the character of gains (or losses) realized by the Fund. In addition, losses realized by the Fund on positions that are part of a straddle may be deferred, rather than being taken into account in calculating taxable income for the taxable year in which such losses are realized. Because only a few regulations implementing the straddle rules have been promulgated, the tax consequences of hedging transactions to the Fund are not entirely clear. The hedging transactions may increase the amount of short-term capital gains realized by the Fund, which are taxed as ordinary income when distributed to shareholders. The Fund may make one or more of the elections available under the Code which are applicable to straddles. If the Fund makes any of the elections, the amount, character and timing of the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions will be determined under rules that vary according to the elections made. The rules applicable under certain of the elections operate to accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions. Because application of the straddle rules may affect the character of gains or losses, defer losses and/or accelerate the recognition of gains or losses from the affected straddle positions, the amount which must be distributed to shareholders, and which will be taxed to shareholders as ordinary income or long-term capital gains in any year, may be increased or decreased substantially as compared to a fund that did not engage in such hedging transactions.

The Fund may be subject to a tax on dividend or interest income received from securities of a non-U.S. issuer withheld by a foreign country at the source. The U.S. has entered into tax treaties with many foreign countries that may entitle the Fund to a reduced rate of tax or exemption from tax on such income. It is impossible to determine the effective rate of foreign tax in advance since the amount of the Fund's assets to be invested within various countries is not known. If more than 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets at the close of a taxable year consists of stocks or securities of foreign companies, the Fund may elect to pass through to its shareholders the foreign income taxes paid by the Fund, provided that certain holding period requirements are met. In such case, the shareholders would be treated as receiving, in addition to the distributions actually received, their proportionate share of foreign income taxes paid by the Fund, and will be treated as having paid such foreign taxes. Shareholders generally will be entitled to deduct or, subject to certain limitations, claim a foreign tax credit with respect to such foreign income taxes. A foreign tax credit will be allowed for shareholders who hold shares of the Fund, and the Fund must hold shares in the dividend or interest paying corporation, for at least 16 days during the 31-day period beginning on the date that is 15 days before the ex-dividend date. Furthermore, in determining the holding period for this purpose, any period during which the recipient's risk of loss is offset by means of options, short sales or similar instruments is not included. Additionally, a shareholder would not benefit to the extent it or the Fund is obligated (*e.g.*, pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Shareholders who have been passed through foreign tax credits of no more than \$300 (\$600 in the case of married couples filing jointly) during a tax year may be able to claim the foreign tax credit for these amounts directly on their federal income tax returns without having to file a separate Form 1116.

The Fund is required to withhold U.S. tax (at a 30% rate) on taxable dividends paid after June 30, 2014 and redemption proceeds paid after December 31, 2018 to certain non-U.S. entities that fail to comply (or be deemed compliant) with extensive registration, reporting and withholding requirements designed to inform the U.S. Department of Treasury of U.S.-owned foreign investment accounts. Shareholders may be requested to provide additional information to the Fund to enable the Fund to determine whether withholding is required.

Any loss arising from the sale or redemption of shares of the Fund held for six months or less will be treated for federal income tax purposes as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amount of capital gains distributions received by the shareholder with respect to such Fund shares. For purposes of determining whether shares of the Fund have been held for six months or less, a shareholder's holding period is suspended for any periods during which the shareholder's risk of loss is diminished as a result of holding one or more other positions in substantially similar or related property or through certain options or short sales.

Certain U.S. shareholders, including individuals and estates and trusts whose income exceeds certain levels, are subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which should include dividends from the Fund and net gains from the disposition of shares of the Fund. U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax on income and gain from an investment in the Fund.

Pursuant to Treasury Regulations directed at tax shelter activity, taxpayers are required to disclose to the IRS certain information on Form 8886 if they participate in a “reportable transaction.” A transaction may be a “reportable transaction” based upon any of several indicia with respect to a shareholder, including the recognition of a loss in excess of certain thresholds. A significant penalty is imposed on taxpayers who participate in a “reportable transaction” and fail to make the required disclosure. Investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning any possible federal, state or local disclosure obligations with respect to their investment in shares of the Fund.

The Code requires that mutual fund companies report cost basis information to the IRS on Form 1099-B for any sale of mutual fund shares acquired after January 1, 2012 (“Covered Shares”). Under IRS regulations, mutual funds must select a default cost basis calculation method and apply that method to the sale of Covered Shares unless an alternate IRS approved method is specifically elected in writing by the shareholder. Average Cost, which is the mutual fund industry standard, has been selected as the Fund’s default cost basis calculation method. If a shareholder determines that an IRS approved cost basis calculation method other than the Fund’s default method of Average Cost is more appropriate, he must contact the Fund at the time of or in advance of the sale of Covered Shares that are to be subject to that alternate election. All Covered Shares purchased in non-retirement accounts are subject to the new cost basis reporting legislation. Non-covered shares are mutual fund shares that were acquired prior to the effective date of January 1, 2012. Cost basis information will not be reported to the IRS or shareholder upon the sale of any non-covered mutual fund shares. Non-covered shares will be redeemed first.

Information set forth in the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information which relates to federal taxation is only a summary of some of the important federal tax considerations generally affecting shareholders. No attempt has been made to present a detailed explanation of the federal income tax treatment of the Fund or its shareholders and this description is not intended as a substitute for federal tax planning. In addition, the discussion does not address the state, local or foreign tax consequences of an investment in the Fund. Accordingly, potential shareholders of the Fund are urged to consult their tax advisors with specific reference to their own tax situation. In addition, the tax discussion in the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information is based on tax laws and regulations which are in effect on the date of the Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information; these laws and regulations may be changed by legislative or administrative action. This summary does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a particular investor or to certain investors subject to special treatment under federal income tax laws, such as insurance companies and non-U.S. persons.

## **PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

From time to time performance information for the Fund showing its average annual total returns may be presented in advertisements, sales literature and shareholder reports. Such performance figures are based on historical earnings and are not intended to indicate future performance. Average annual total returns of the Fund will be calculated for the most recent 1, 5 and 10 year periods. Average annual total return is measured by comparing the value of an investment in the Fund at the beginning of the relevant period to the redemption value of the investment at the end of the period (assuming immediate reinvestment of any dividends or capital gains distributions) and annualizing the result.

Total return is a function of the type and quality of instruments held in the portfolio, levels of operating expenses and changes in market conditions. Consequently, total return will fluctuate and is not necessarily representative of future results. Any fees charged by financial intermediaries with respect to customer accounts for investing in shares of the Fund will not be included in performance calculations. These fees, if charged, will reduce the actual performance from that quoted. To the extent that the Adviser voluntarily or contractually reduces its fees or absorbs certain operating expenses of the Fund pursuant to expense limitation arrangements, the total return of the Fund will be higher than it would be in the absence of such arrangements.

### **Calculation of Average Annual Total Returns**

Average annual total return is a measure of the change in value of the investment in the Fund over the period covered, which assumes any dividends or capital gains distributions are reinvested in the Fund immediately rather than paid to the investor in cash. Average annual total return will be calculated by: (1) adding to the total number of shares purchased by a hypothetical \$1,000 investment in the Fund and all additional shares which would have been purchased if all dividends and distributions paid or distributed during the period had immediately been reinvested, (2) calculating the value of the hypothetical initial investment of \$1,000 as of the end of the period by multiplying the total number of shares owned at the end of the period by the net asset value per share on the last trading day of the period, (3) assuming redemption at the end of the period, and (4) dividing this account value for the hypothetical investor by the initial \$1,000 investment and annualizing the result. The Fund's average annual total returns for periods ended June 30, 2017 are:

1 Year	-3.50%
5 Years	0.47%
10 Years	3.75%

The Fund may also quote average annual total returns over the specified periods (i) after taxes on Fund distributions and (ii) after taxes on Fund distributions and redemption of Fund shares at the end of the period. The calculations assume deduction of all taxes due on such Fund distributions. The ending redeemable value is determined by assuming a complete redemption at the end of the period covered by the computation and, in the case of returns after taxes on distributions and redemption of Fund shares, includes the deduction of capital gains taxes resulting from the redemption or, if appropriate, an adjustment to take into account the tax benefit from any capital losses that may have resulted from the redemption. After-tax returns are calculated using the highest applicable individual federal marginal tax rate in effect on the reinvestment date of a distribution. The tax rates used correspond to the tax character of each component of the distributions (that is, the ordinary income tax rate for ordinary income distributions and the long-term capital gains rate for capital gains distributions). The tax rates may vary over the course of the measurement period. State and local tax liabilities are disregarded, as are the effects of phaseouts of certain exemptions, deductions and credits at various income levels and the impact of the federal alternative minimum income tax and the preferential tax rates for Qualified Dividends. Actual after-tax returns will depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. The after-tax returns are not relevant to investors who hold their Fund shares through tax-deferred arrangements such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts. The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

## Other Quotations of Total Return

The Fund may also advertise total return (a “nonstandardized quotation”) which is calculated differently from average annual total return. A nonstandardized quotation of total return may be a cumulative return which measures the percentage change in the value of an account between the beginning and end of a period, assuming no activity in the account other than reinvestment of dividends and capital gains distributions. The cumulative return of the Fund as calculated in this manner for the period from inception (September 12, 2002) to June 30, 2017 is 95.39%. A nonstandardized quotation may also indicate average annual compounded rates of return over periods other than those specified for average annual total return. For example, the Fund’s average annual return for the three years ended June 30, 2017 is 1.47% and the Fund’s average annual return for the period from inception (September 12, 2002) to June 30, 2017 is 4.63%. A nonstandardized quotation of total return will always be accompanied by the Fund’s average annual total returns as described above.

## Yield

From time to time, the Fund may also advertise its yield. A yield quotation is based on a 30-day (or one month) period and is computed by dividing the net investment income per share earned during the period by the maximum offering price per share on the last day of the period, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Yield} = 2[(a-b/cd + 1)^6 - 1]$$

Where:

- a = dividends and interest earned during the period
- b = expenses accrued for the period (net of reimbursements)
- c = the average daily number of shares outstanding during the period that were entitled to receive dividends
- d = the maximum offering price per share on the last day of the period

Solely for the purpose of computing yield, dividend income is recognized by accruing 1/360 of the stated dividend rate of the security each day that the Fund owns the security. Generally, interest earned (for the purpose of “a” above) on debt obligations is computed by reference to the yield to maturity of each obligation held based on the market value of the obligation (including actual accrued interest) at the close of business on the last business day prior to the start of the 30-day (or one month) period for which yield is being calculated, or, with respect to obligations purchased during the month, the purchase price (plus actual accrued interest). With respect to the treatment of discount and premium on mortgage or other receivables-backed obligations which are expected to be subject to monthly paydowns of principal and interest, gain or loss attributable to actual monthly paydowns is accounted for as an increase or decrease to interest income during the period and discount or premium on the remaining security is not amortized. The Fund’s yield for June 2017 was 0.60%.

## **Performance Comparisons**

Advertisements, sales materials and shareholder reports may compare the performance of the Fund to the performance of other mutual funds with comparable investment objectives and policies or to various mutual fund or market indices, such as those prepared by Dow Jones & Co., Standard & Poor's, Bloomberg, Barclays, Morgan Stanley Capital International and Russell Investments, as well as data prepared by Lipper and Morningstar, Inc., widely recognized independent services which monitor the performance of mutual funds, and the Consumer Price Index. Comparisons may also be made to indices or data published in Money Magazine, Forbes, Barron's, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Business Week, Pensions & Investments, and USA Today. In addition to performance information, general information about the Fund that appears in a publication such as those mentioned above may be included in advertisements and in reports to shareholders.

From time to time, the Fund (or the Adviser) may include the following types of information in advertisements, supplemental sales literature and reports to shareholders: (1) discussions of general economic or financial principles (such as the effects of compounding and the benefits of dollar-cost averaging); (2) discussions of general economic trends; (3) presentations of statistical data to supplement these discussions; (4) descriptions of past or anticipated portfolio holdings for the Fund; (5) descriptions of investment strategies for the Fund; (6) descriptions or comparisons of various savings and investment policies (including, but not limited to, insured bank products, annuities, qualified retirement plans and individual stocks and bonds), which may or may not include the Fund; (7) comparisons of investment products (including the Fund) with relevant market or industry indices or other appropriate benchmarks; and (8) discussions of fund rankings or ratings by recognized rating organizations. The Fund may also include calculations, such as hypothetical compounding examples which describe hypothetical investment results in such communications. These performance examples will be based on an expressed set of assumptions and are not indicative of the performance of the Fund.

Morningstar, Inc. rates mutual funds on a one- to five-star rating scale with five stars representing the highest rating. Such ratings are based on a fund's historical risk/reward ratio as determined by Morningstar, Inc. relative to other funds in that fund's investment category or class. The one- to five-star ratings represent the following ratings by Morningstar, Inc., respectively: Lowest, Below Average, Neutral, Above Average and Highest.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements of the Fund for the year ended June 30, 2017, which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, are incorporated herein by reference to the annual report of the Trust dated June 30, 2017.

## APPENDIX A: RATINGS DESCRIPTIONS

The long-term ratings of Moody's and S&P for debt securities are as follows:

### Moody's Investors Service, Inc.

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 class and are typically in default, with little prospect for recovery of principal or interest.

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.

### S&P Global Ratings

AAA – An obligation rated "AAA" has the highest rating assigned by S&P. 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, B, CCC, CC and 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 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 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 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.

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 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.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Hussman Investment Trust and Hussman Strategic Advisors, Inc. (the “Adviser”)**

#### **Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

As part of their fiduciary responsibilities, Hussman Investment Trust (the “Trust”) and the Adviser intend to exercise proxy votes concerning matters of corporate governance and business practices at the companies in which the Trust invests. The Trust and the Adviser exercise their voting responsibilities with the goal of maximizing the value of shareholders’ investments, subject to reasonable standards of ethical business conduct and social responsibility by the companies in which the Trust invests.

The Trust’s board of trustees has delegated to the Adviser the responsibility of overseeing voting policies and decisions for the Trust. The Adviser’s proxy voting principles for the Trust are summarized below, with specific examples of voting decisions for the types of proposals that are most frequently presented:

#### **General policy for voting proxies**

The Adviser will vote proxies in a manner intended to maximize the value of investments to shareholders, subject to reasonable standards of social responsibility. The Adviser will attempt to resolve any conflict of interest between shareholder interests and the business interests of the Adviser must be resolved in the way that will most benefit the shareholders of the Trust.

When voting proxy ballots, the Adviser gives substantial weight to the recommendation of management, in an attempt to give the company broad flexibility to operate as it believes is appropriate. However, the Adviser will consider each issue on its own merits, and the position of a company’s management will not be supported in any situation where the Adviser determines, in its discretion, that such position is not in the best interests of shareholders (for example, dilution of shareholder interests through option grants), or against reasonable standards of ethical conduct and social responsibility (for example, marketing certain products to minors, and insufficient controls or oversight with respect to foreign workplace standards).

Proxy voting, absent any unusual circumstances, will be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

#### **Election of boards of directors**

While representation by management on the board of directors of a corporation can be of significant benefit in shaping effective business practices, the Adviser believes that the majority of board members should be independent. In addition, key board committees – particularly audit committees – should be entirely independent.

The Adviser will generally support the election of directors that result in a board made up of a majority of independent directors. The Adviser may support efforts to declassify existing boards, and may block efforts by companies to adopt classified board structures.

### **Equity-based compensation plans**

The Adviser strongly favors incentive compensation plans based on increases in “economic value added” (EVA): after-tax operating profits minus capital costs (debt service plus the risk-adjusted cost of equity capital). In contrast, the Adviser generally views stock and option incentive plans as hostile to the interests of shareholders, dilutive, subject to windfalls unrelated to financial performance, ineffective in enhancing the market value of equities, and poorly suited to increasing the long-term cash flows available to shareholders.

The Adviser will generally vote against stock and option incentive plans in any form.

The Adviser supports expensing the full value of option grants on an accrual basis (for more information, please see “How and why stock options should be expensed from corporate earnings” on the Research & Insight page of [www.hussmanfunds.com](http://www.hussmanfunds.com)).

In contrast to option incentive plans, the Adviser will generally vote in favor of employee stock *purchase* plans (*i.e.*, availability of stock purchase by employees at a fixed discount to market value). Though the Adviser sees such plans as less effective than EVA plans, they are acceptable as a legitimate employment benefit, provided that shares purchased under the plan are acquired for no less than 85% of their market value.

### **Corporate and social policy issues**

The decision to purchase a given security includes an evaluation of the company’s industry and products, as well as confidence in management to pursue the best interests of the company. While the Adviser does not specifically restrict investments against particular industries such as tobacco, defense, nuclear power or other areas, the Adviser believes that corporate policy should adhere to reasonable standards of social responsibility. Proxy matters in this category, initiated primarily by shareholders, typically request that the company disclose or amend certain business practices.

The Adviser believes that the marketing to minors of violent media, explicit material, or potentially addictive substances (alcohol, tobacco), or unrestricted availability having similar effect, is unethical and socially irresponsible. The Adviser will generally vote in favor of resolutions to reasonably restrict such practices, provided that the actions required by the resolutions are sufficiently targeted and quantifiable.

The Adviser believes that companies with substantial manufacturing activities in developing countries can substantially limit risks to reputation, reduce legal liability, and enhance financial stability by adopting well-articulated human rights policies. The Adviser will generally vote in favor of adopting such policies, particularly with regard to safety and workplace conditions, provided that they do not include restrictive provisions that unduly limit the ability of the company to operate competitively, or the flexibility of the company to determine the size and compensation of its labor force.

## **Approval of independent auditors**

The Adviser believes that the relationship between the company and its auditors should be limited primarily to the audit engagement, although it may include certain closely related activities that do not, in the aggregate, create a risk of impaired independence.

## **Corporate structure and shareholder rights**

The Adviser believes that shareholders should have voting power equal to their equity interest in the company and will generally vote for proposals to lower barriers to shareholder action (*e.g.*, limited rights to call special meetings, limited rights to act by written consent). The Adviser will generally vote against proposals for a separate class of stock with disparate voting rights.

The Adviser will generally vote for proposals to subject shareholder rights plans (“poison pills”) to a shareholder vote. In evaluating these plans, the Adviser will be more likely to support arrangements with short-term (less than 3 years) sunset provisions, qualified bid/permitted offer provisions (“chewable pills”) and/or mandatory review by a committee of independent directors at least every three years (so-called “TIDE” provisions).

## **Conflicts of interest**

The Adviser recognizes that under certain circumstances it may have a conflict of interest in voting proxies on behalf of its clients. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, situations where the Adviser or one or more of its affiliates, including officers, directors and employees, has or is seeking a client relationship with the issuer of the security that is the subject of the proxy vote. The Adviser shall periodically inform its employees that they are under an obligation to be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest on the part of the Adviser with respect to voting proxies on behalf of clients, both as a result of the employee’s personal relationships and due to circumstances that may arise during the conduct of the Adviser’s business, and to bring conflicts of interest of which they become aware to the attention of the Proxy Manager. The Adviser shall not vote proxies relating to such issuers on behalf of its client accounts until it has determined that the conflict of interest is not material or a method of resolving such conflict of interest has been agreed upon by the Audit Committee. A conflict of interest will be considered material to the extent that it is determined that such conflict has the potential to influence the Adviser’s decision-making in voting a proxy. Materiality determinations will be based upon an assessment of the particular facts and circumstances. If the Proxy Manager determines that a conflict of interest is not material, the Adviser may vote proxies notwithstanding the existence of a conflict. If the conflict of interest is determined to be material, the conflict shall be disclosed to the Audit Committee and the Adviser shall follow the instructions of the Audit Committee. The Proxy Manager shall keep a record of all materiality decisions and report them to the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

## **Proxy voting process**

Reasonable efforts will be made to obtain proxy materials and to vote in a timely fashion. The Adviser may utilize the services of outside professionals (such as Shareholder Services) to assist its analysis of voting issues and the actual voting of proxies. Records will be maintained regarding the voting of proxies under these policies and procedures as required by the federal securities laws and applicable rules.