

# **FM Focus Equity ETF**

FMCX

**a series of Northern Lights Fund Trust IV**

## **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

June 30, 2025

*Listed and traded on:  
the NYSE Arca*

This Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the FM Focus Equity ETF (the “Fund”) dated June 30, 2025. The Fund’s Prospectus is hereby incorporated by reference, which means it is legally part of this document. You can obtain copies of the Fund’s Prospectus, annual or semi-annual reports without charge by contacting the Fund’s distributor, Northern Lights Distributors, LLC or by calling the Fund at 1-888-530-2448. You may also obtain a Prospectus by visiting the website [www.FMCX.com](http://www.FMCX.com).

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>THE FUND</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TYPES OF INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>INVESTMENT ADVISER AND TRADING SUB-ADVISER</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>THE DISTRIBUTOR</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO MANAGER</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO TURNOVER</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>DESCRIPTION OF SHARES</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TAX STATUS</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>OTHER INFORMATION</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>APPENDIX A – PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	<b>A-1</b>

## THE FUND

---

The Fund is a non-diversified series of Northern Lights Fund Trust IV, a Delaware statutory trust organized on June 2, 2015 (the “Trust”). The Fund utilizes the ActiveShares® methodology licensed from Precidian Investments, LLC (“Precidian”). The Trust is registered as an open-end management investment company. The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees (the “Board”). The investment objective of the Fund is to seek long-term capital appreciation, to which the Fund adheres under normal market conditions.

The Fund may issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest (“Shares”). All Shares have equal rights and privileges. Each Share is entitled to one vote on all matters as to which Shares are entitled to vote. In addition, each Share is entitled to participate equally with other Shares (i) in dividends and distributions declared by the Fund and (ii) on liquidation to its proportionate share of the assets remaining after satisfaction of outstanding liabilities. Shares are fully paid, non-assessable and fully transferable when issued and have no pre-emptive, conversion or exchange rights.

The Fund is managed by First Manhattan Co. LLC (the “Adviser”) and uses Vident Advisory, LLC dba Vident Asset Management as its trading sub-adviser (the “Trading Sub-Adviser”). The Board may start other series and offer shares of a new fund under the Trust at any time.

Prior to June 28, 2024, the Fund was known as FMC Excelsior Focus Equity ETF.

The Fund issues and redeems Shares at net asset value (“NAV”) only in aggregations of 5,000 Shares (each a “Creation Unit”). The Fund issues and redeems Creation Units principally in exchange for a basket of securities (the “Deposit Securities”), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment (the “Cash Component”), plus a transaction fee (unless waived). Shares of the Fund are listed, subject to notice of issuance, on the NYSE Arca (the “Exchange”). Shares trade on the Exchange at market prices that may be below, at, or above NAV.

The Fund reserves the right to offer creations and redemptions of Shares for cash. In each instance of such cash creations or redemptions, transaction fees, may be imposed and may be higher than the transaction fees associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. See PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES below.

### Exchange Listing and Trading

Shares are listed for trading, and trade throughout the day, on the Exchange. There can be no assurance that the requirements of the Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of Shares will continue to be met. The Exchange may require the Adviser to make available to the Exchange or Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), upon request, the daily portfolio holdings of the Fund.

Under listing requirements, the Adviser is required to erect and maintain a wall (a “fire wall”) between the personnel engaged in the investment advisory business of the firm and the personnel engaged in the broker-dealer business of the firm with respect to access to information concerning the composition of and/or changes to the Fund’s portfolio and/or the Creation Basket (as defined below). Under the fire wall policy, the Portfolio Manager, together with other personnel who make decisions pertaining to the Fund’s portfolio composition or who have access to information regarding the Fund or to the Creation Basket, are subject to the Adviser’s inside information policy described below. This policy is designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material non-public information about portfolio management related positions, such as information regarding the Fund’s portfolio, proposed changes to the Fund’s portfolio and changes to the Creation Basket. The listing requirements also require service providers, such as the AP Representative, the Custodian (as defined below), the verified intraday indicative value (“VIIV”) provider and the Distributor to be subject to procedures reasonably designed to prevent the use and dissemination of material nonpublic information regarding the Fund’s portfolio, changes to the portfolio or the Creation Basket. If such entities are registered as a broker-dealer or are affiliated with a broker-dealer, the entity must also agree to erect and maintain a fire wall between the person or entity and the broker-dealer with respect to access to information concerning the composition and/or changes to the Fund’s portfolio or Creation Basket.

The Exchange may, but is not required to, remove Shares from listing under certain circumstances, including if: (1) following the initial twelve-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of the Fund, there are fewer than 50 beneficial holders of Shares; (2) the Exchange has halted trading in Shares because the VIIV is

interrupted pursuant to the rules applicable to the Exchange and such interruption persists past the trading day in which it occurred or is no longer available; (3) the Exchange has halted trading in Shares because the NAV is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time, the holdings of the Fund are not made available on at least a quarterly basis as required by the 1940 Act, or such holdings are not made available to all market participants at the same time pursuant to the rules applicable to the Exchange and such issue persists past the trading day in which it occurred; (4) the Exchange has halted trading in Shares pursuant to the rules applicable to the Exchange and such issue persists past the trading day in which it occurred; (5) the Trust has failed to file any filings required by the SEC or the Exchange is aware that the Trust is not in compliance with the conditions of any exemptive order or no-action relief granted by the SEC to the Trust with respect to the Fund; (6) any of the continued listing requirements set forth in rules applicable to the Exchange are not continuously maintained; (7) any of the applicable continued listing representations for the Fund are not continuously met; or (8) such other event shall occur or condition exists that, in the opinion of the Exchange, makes further dealings on the Exchange inadvisable. In addition, the Exchange will remove Shares from listing and trading upon termination of the Trust or the Fund.

The Exchange may consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion to halt trading in the Shares. Trading may be halted because of market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in the Shares inadvisable. These may include: (a) the extent to which trading is not occurring in the securities held by the Fund; or (b) whether other unusual conditions or circumstances detrimental to the maintenance of a fair and orderly market are present. If the Exchange becomes aware that: (a) the VIIV for the Shares is not being calculated or disseminated in one second intervals, as required; (b) the NAV for the Shares is not disseminated to all market participants at the same time; (c) the holdings of the Fund are not make available on at least a quarterly basis as required under the 1940 Act; or (d) such holdings are not make available to all market participants at the same time (except as otherwise permitted under applicable law), it will halt trading in the Shares until such time as the VIIV, the NAV, or the holdings are available, as required.

As in the case of other publicly traded securities, when you buy or sell Shares through a broker, you may incur a brokerage commission determined by that broker, as well as other charges.

## **TYPES OF INVESTMENTS**

---

A discussion of the Fund's investment policies and the risks associated with an investment in the Fund is contained in the Prospectus. The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, the Prospectus.

An investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding that the value of the Fund's portfolio securities may fluctuate in accordance with changes in the financial condition of the issuers of the portfolio securities, the value of securities in general and other factors that affect the market.

An investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in securities, including the risk that the general condition of the securities market may deteriorate. Securities are susceptible to general securities market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence changes. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic or banking crises.

The existence of a liquid trading market for certain securities may depend on whether dealers will make a market in such securities. There can be no assurance that a market will be made or maintained or that any such market will be or remain liquid. The price at which securities may be sold and the value of the Shares will be adversely affected if trading markets for the Fund's portfolio securities are limited or absent, or if bid/ask spreads are wide. The performance of the Fund may vary due to asset valuation differences. The Fund may fair value certain of the securities it holds, although it is not expected that securities will need to be fair valued because all of the portfolio securities (other than cash equivalents (which are short-term U.S. Treasury securities, government money market funds, and repurchase agreements)) will be exchange-traded on a regulated, U.S. exchange. There may also be differences between the Fund's portfolio as a result of legal restrictions, cost or liquidity constraints. Similarly, liquidity constraints also may delay the Fund's purchase or sale of securities.

## ActiveShares® Methodology

The Fund is an actively managed ETF that utilizes the ActiveShares® methodology licensed from Precidian. The Fund operates in reliance on an exemptive order from the SEC (the “Order”), which incorporates by reference the conditions and restrictions of a previous order issued to Precidian ETFs Trust to permit the operation of ActiveShares. The Order presently limits the types of investments that the Fund may hold to those listed in the application for the Precidian Order. Under the terms of the Order, the Fund is permitted to invest only in the following investments, which, if listed, must trade on a U.S. exchange contemporaneously with the Shares: exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), exchange-traded notes, exchange-listed common stocks, exchange-traded preferred stocks, exchange-traded American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), exchange-traded real estate investment trusts, exchange-traded commodity pools, exchange-traded metals trusts, exchange-traded currency trusts and exchange-traded futures for which the reference asset is one in which the Fund may invest directly or, in the case of an index future traded on a U.S. exchange, is based on an index, the components of which are a type of asset in which the Fund could invest directly, as well as cash and cash equivalents (which are short-term U.S. Treasury securities, government money market funds, and repurchase agreements). Although the Fund may invest in securities of companies of any capitalization, the Fund will not invest in “penny stocks,” as defined by Rule 3a51-1 under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. The Fund will not borrow for investment purposes or hold short positions. The Fund also will not purchase any securities that are illiquid investments at the time of purchase. The Fund’s investment strategies and practices are subject to these limitations as well as the other limitations described below and in the Prospectus.

## Securities of Other Investment Companies

The Fund may invest in securities issued by other investment companies. The Fund intends to limit its investments in accordance with applicable law or as permitted by Rule 12d1-4 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). Among other things, such law would limit these investments so that, as determined immediately after a securities purchase is made by the Fund: (a) not more than 5% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the securities of any one investment company; (b) not more than 10% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the aggregate in securities of investment companies as a group; (c) not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund; and (d) not more than 10% of the outstanding voting stock of any one closed-end investment company will be owned by the Fund together with all other investment companies that have the same advisor. Under certain sets of conditions, different sets of restrictions may be applicable. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its proportionate share of that investment company’s expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations. Investment companies in which the Fund may invest may also impose a sales or distribution charge in connection with the purchase or redemption of their shares and other types of commissions or charges. Such charges will be payable by the Fund and, therefore, will be borne directly by the Fund’s shareholders.

To the extent applicable, the Fund intends to rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-4 under the 1940 Act which in conjunction with one another allow registered investment companies (such as the Fund) to exceed the limitations set forth above, provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired funds) do not exceed the limits on sales loads established by FINRA for funds of funds, and the registered investment company “mirror votes” any securities purchased pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F).

## Exchange Traded Funds

**Non-Transparent ETF Structure Risk.** Unlike most actively managed ETFs, the Fund does not provide daily disclosure of its portfolio holdings, and AP Representatives are required to maintain information regarding the Creation Baskets in confidence and to purchase deposit securities and sell redemption securities for Authorized Participants in a manner designed to obscure portfolio related information. Instead, the Fund files its portfolio holdings with the SEC quarterly and provides a verified intra-day indicative value (VIIV), calculated and disseminated every second throughout the trading day. The VIIV is intended to provide investors and other market participants with a highly correlated per share value of the underlying portfolio that can be compared to the current market price. There is, however, a risk that shares of the Fund may trade at a wider bid/ask spread than ETFs that publish their portfolios on a daily basis, especially during periods of market disruption or volatility, and therefore,

may cost investors more to trade. Because the Fund trades on the basis of the VIIV, it may trade at a wider bid/ask spread than traditional ETFs that publish their portfolios on a daily basis. Accordingly, the Adviser or its designee will monitor on an on-going basis how shares of the Fund trade, including the level of any market price premium or discount to NAV and the bid/ask spreads on market transactions. Should there be extended periods of unusually high bid/ask spreads, the Board will consider the continuing viability of the Fund, whether shareholders are being harmed, and what, if any, action would be appropriate to among other things, narrow the premium/discount or spread, as applicable. Potential actions may include, but are not limited to, changing lead market makers, listing the Fund on a different exchange, changing the size of Creations Units, changing the Fund's investment objective or strategy, and liquidating the Fund. There is also a risk that the market price may vary significantly from the NAV and, thus, the underlying value of the Fund significantly from the underlying NAV of the Fund. There is also a risk that, despite not disclosing the portfolio holdings each day, some market participants may seek to use publicly available information, including the VIIV, to identify the Fund's investment strategy and engage in certain predatory trading practices that may have the potential to harm the Fund.

**Early Close/Trading Halt Risk.** An exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities, or the ability to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments may be restricted, which may result in the Fund being unable to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments. In such circumstances, the Fund may be unable to rebalance its portfolio, may be unable to accurately price its investments and/or may incur substantial trading losses. In addition, due to the non-transparency of the portfolio a trading halt in a portfolio security could cause discrepancies between the VIIV and NAV of the Fund resulting in uncertainty on the part of the Authorized Participant that results in wider, less liquid markets. Any security for which trading has been halted for an extended period of time will be disclosed on the Fund's website, [www.FMCX.com](http://www.FMCX.com).

- **Authorized Participant and AP Representative Risk.** The creation and redemption process for the Funds occurs through a confidential brokerage account ("Confidential Account") carried by an agent, called an AP Representative, on behalf of an Authorized Participant. Each day, the AP Representative will be given on a confidential basis by the Fund or the Custodian the names and quantities of the securities to be deposited, in the case of a creation, or redeemed, in the case of a redemption ("Creation Basket"), allowing the AP Representative to buy and sell positions in the portfolio securities to permit creations or redemptions on the Authorized Participant's behalf, without disclosing the information to the Authorized Participant. The Fund may have a limited number of institutions that act as Authorized Participants and AP Representatives, none of which is obligated to engage in creation or redemption transactions. To the extent that these institutions exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to process creation and/or redemption orders, Fund shares may trade at a discount to NAV and possibly face trading halts and/or delisting. This risk may be more pronounced in volatile markets, potentially where there are significant redemptions in ETFs, generally. The fact that the Fund is offering a novel and unique structure may affect the number of entities willing to act as Authorized Participants and AP Representatives. During times of market stress, Authorized Participants may be more likely to step away from this type of ETF than a traditional ETF.
- **Absence of an Active Market.** Although shares of the Fund are listed for trading on one or more stock exchanges, there can be no assurance that an active trading market for such shares will develop or be maintained by market makers or Authorized Participants. Authorized Participants are not obligated to execute purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units. Because this is a novel and unique structure, this could influence the number of entities willing to act as Authorized Participants. In periods of market volatility, market makers and/or Authorized Participants may be less willing to transact in Fund shares. The absence of an active market for the Fund's shares may contribute to the Fund's shares trading at a premium or discount to NAV. If a shareholder purchases Fund shares at a time when the market price is at a premium to the NAV or sells Fund shares at a time when the market price is at a discount to the NAV, the shareholder may sustain losses. The Fund's non-transparent structure may lead to larger premiums or discount than those observed in relation to transparent ETFs. In addition, market participants may attempt to reverse engineer the Fund's trading strategy which, if successful, could increase opportunities for trading practices that may disadvantage the Fund and its shareholders.

The Fund may also invest in underlying ETFs. ETFs are often passive funds that track their related index and have the flexibility of trading like a security. They are managed by professionals and typically provide the investor with diversification, cost and tax efficiency, liquidity, marginability, are useful for hedging, have the ability to go long and short, and some provide quarterly dividends. Additionally, some ETFs are unit investment trusts.

ETFs have two markets. The primary market is where institutions exchange “creation units” in block-multiples of, for example, 5,000 shares for in-kind securities and cash. The secondary market is where individual investors can trade as little as a single share during trading hours on the exchange. This is different from open-ended mutual funds that are traded after hours once the NAV is calculated. ETFs share many similar risks with open-end and closed-end funds.

#### Concentration of Investments

The Fund may be susceptible to an increased risk of loss, including losses due to adverse events that affect the Fund’s investments more than the market as a whole, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are concentrated in the securities of a particular issuer or issuers, country, group of countries, region, market, industry, group of industries, sector or asset class. Shares are subject to the risks of an investment in a portfolio of equity securities in an industry or group of industries in which the Fund invests.

#### Non-Diversification

Investments focused in sectors, industries, or issuers that are subject to the same or similar risk factors and investments whose prices are closely correlated are subject to greater overall risk than investments that are more diversified or whose prices are not as closely correlated. The Fund is classified as a non-diversified investment company under the 1940 Act. A “non-diversified” classification means that the Fund is not limited by the 1940 Act with regard to the percentage of its total assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. This means that the Fund may invest a greater portion of its total assets in the securities of a single issuer or a small number of issuers than if it was a diversified fund. This may have an adverse effect on the Fund’s performance or subject the Shares to greater price volatility than more diversified investment companies. Moreover, in pursuing its objective, the Fund may hold the securities of a single issuer in an amount exceeding 10% of the value of the outstanding securities of the issuer, subject to restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Tax Code”), with respect to the Fund’s qualification as a RIC under the Tax Code. In particular, as the Fund’s size grows and its assets increase, it will be more likely to hold more than 10% of the securities of a single issuer if the issuer has a relatively small public float as compared to other issuers in the Fund’s portfolio.

Although the Fund is non-diversified for purposes of the 1940 Act, the Fund intends to maintain the required level of diversification and otherwise conduct its operations so as to qualify as a RIC under the Tax Code. Compliance with the diversification requirements of the Tax Code may severely limit the investment flexibility of the Fund and may make it less likely that the Fund will meet their investment objectives. To qualify as a RIC under the Tax Code, the Fund must, among other requirements described below in “Taxes”, meet certain diversification requirements. In particular, at the close of each quarter of the Fund’s taxable year: (A) at least 50% of the value of its total assets must be represented by cash and cash items, U.S. government securities, securities of other RICs and other securities, with such other securities limited, in respect to any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the value of the Fund’s total assets and that does not represent more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer, including the equity securities of a qualified publicly traded partnership, and (B) not more than 25% of the value of its total assets is invested, including through corporations in which the Fund owns a 20% or more voting stock interest, in the securities (other than U.S. government securities or securities of other RICs) of any one issuer or the securities (other than the securities of another RIC) of two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses or related trades or businesses, or the securities of one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships. See “Tax Status” in this SAI for further discussion.

#### Equity Securities

Equity securities in which the Fund is permitted to invest include common stocks and preferred stocks. The value of equity securities varies in response to many factors, including the activities and financial condition of individual companies, the business market in which individual companies compete and general market and economic conditions. Equity securities fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be significant.

### Common Stock

Common stock represents an equity (ownership) interest in a company, and usually possesses voting rights and earns dividends. Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer. Common stock generally represents the riskiest investment in a company. In addition, common stock generally has the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential because increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's stock price.

### Preferred Stock

Preferred stock is a class of stock having a preference over common stock as to the payment of dividends and the recovery of investment should a company be liquidated, although preferred stock is usually junior to the debt securities of the issuer. Preferred stock typically does not possess voting rights and its market value may change based on changes in interest rates.

A fundamental risk of investing in common and preferred stock is the risk that the value of the stock might decrease. Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. Historically, common stocks have provided greater long-term returns and have entailed greater short-term risks than preferred stocks, fixed-income securities and money market investments. The market value of all securities, including common and preferred stocks, is based upon the market's perception of value and not necessarily the book value of an issuer or other objective measures of a company's worth.

### Company-Specific Risk

The possibility that a particular stock may lose value due to factors specific to the company itself, including deterioration of its fundamental characteristics, an occurrence of adverse events at the company, or a downturn in its business prospects.

### Exchange Traded Notes

The Fund generally may not invest in bonds although it may invest in exchange traded notes. Exchange listed notes are a fixed income instrument whose interest and/or principal is linked to the value of one or more other assets, such as equities.

An issuer of an exchange traded note may have the right to redeem or "call" the note before maturity, in which case a fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at lower market rates. Exchange traded notes are unsecured (backed only by the issuer's general creditworthiness). There is a 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.

### Real Estate Investment Trusts

The Fund may invest in securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). REITs are publicly traded corporations or trusts that specialize in acquiring, holding and managing residential, commercial or industrial real estate. A REIT is not taxed at the entity level on income distributed to its shareholders or unitholders if it distributes to shareholders or unitholders at least 95% of its taxable income for each taxable year and complies with regulatory requirements relating to its organization, ownership, assets and income.

REITs generally can be classified as "Equity REITs", "Mortgage REITs" and "Hybrid REITs." An Equity REIT invests the majority of its assets directly in real property and derives its income primarily from rents and from capital gains on real estate appreciation, which are realized through property sales. A Mortgage REIT invests the majority of its assets in real estate mortgage loans and services its income primarily from interest payments. A Hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of an Equity REIT and a Mortgage REIT. Although the Fund can invest in all three kinds of REITs, its emphasis is expected to be on investments in Equity REITs.

Investments in the real estate industry involve particular risks. The real estate industry has been subject to substantial fluctuations and declines on a local, regional and national basis in the past and may continue to be in



the future. Real property values and income from real property continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property may decline due to general and local economic conditions, overbuilding and increased competition, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, casualty or condemnation losses, regulatory limitations on rents, changes in neighborhoods and in demographics, increases in market interest rates, or other factors. Factors such as these may adversely affect companies that own and operate real estate directly, companies that lend to such companies, and companies that service the real estate industry.

Investments in REITs also involve risks. Equity REITs will be affected by changes in the values of and income from the properties they own, while Mortgage REITs may be affected by the credit quality of the mortgage loans they hold. In addition, REITs are dependent on specialized management skills and on their ability to generate cash flow for operating purposes and to make distributions to shareholders or unitholders. REITs may have limited diversification and are subject to risks associated with obtaining financing for real property, as well as to the risk of self-liquidation. REITs also can be adversely affected by their failure to qualify for tax-free pass-through treatment of their income under the Tax Code, or their failure to maintain an exemption from registration under the 1940 Act. By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, a shareholder bears not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also may indirectly bear similar expenses of some of the REITs in which it invests.

#### Depository Receipts

Sponsored and unsponsored ADRs, are receipts issued by an American bank or trust company evidencing ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign issuer. ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets. Unsponsored ADRs may be created without the participation of the foreign issuer. Holders of these ADRs generally bear all the costs of the ADR facility, whereas foreign issuers typically bear certain costs in a sponsored ADR. The bank or trust company depository of an unsponsored ADR may be under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the foreign issuer or to pass through voting rights. Many of the risks described below regarding foreign securities apply to investments in ADRs.

#### United States Government Obligations

These consist of short-term securities issued by the United States Treasury and Treasury bills. Treasury bills have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis. Short-term government bonds are bonds issued by the United States government or its agencies having maturities of less than five years.

#### Repurchase Agreements

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, an investor (such as the Fund) purchases a security (known as the "underlying security") from a securities dealer or bank. Any such dealer or bank must be deemed creditworthy by the Adviser. At that time, the bank or securities dealer agrees to repurchase the underlying security at a mutually agreed upon price on a designated future date. The repurchase price may be higher than the purchase price, the difference being income to the Fund, or the purchase and repurchase prices may be the same, with interest at an agreed upon rate due to the Fund on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Fund generally will be unrelated to the interest rate on the underlying securities. Repurchase agreements must be "fully collateralized," in that the market value of the underlying securities (including accrued interest) must at all times be equal to or greater than the repurchase price. Therefore, a repurchase agreement can be considered a loan collateralized by the underlying securities.

Repurchase agreements are generally for a short period of time, often less than a week, and will generally be used by the Fund to invest excess cash or as part of a temporary defensive strategy. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default by the seller of a repurchase agreement, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses. These losses could result from: (a) possible decline in the value of the underlying security while the Fund is seeking to enforce its rights under the repurchase agreement; (b) possible reduced levels of income or lack of access to income during this period; and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

#### Allocation and Information Risk

The investment strategy used by the Fund is similar to the investment strategy used by the Adviser to manage other client accounts, including a private fund. As a result, in situations in which there is a limited supply of securities called for by the investment strategy, it is possible that the Fund may not be able to acquire the maximum amount

of the securities it seeks. In addition, because the investment strategy used to manage the private fund is similar to that of the Fund, it is possible that investors in the private fund may be able to ascertain the composition of the Fund's portfolio in advance of the public disclosure of portfolio holdings and trade in a manner that adversely affects the Fund.

### Management Risk

The Fund is subject to management risk because it relies on the Adviser and the Trading Sub-Adviser to achieve its investment objective. The Fund runs the risk that the Adviser's investment techniques and the Trading Sub-Adviser's implementation will fail to produce desired results or cause the Fund to incur significant losses. There can be no assurance that key Adviser personnel will continue to be employed by the Adviser or that the key personnel of the Trading Sub-Adviser will continue to be employed by the Trading Sub-Adviser. The loss of their services could have an adverse impact on the Adviser's ability to achieve the Fund's investment objective.

## **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

---

The Fund has adopted the following investment restrictions that may not be changed without approval by a "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund, which, as used in this SAI, means the vote of the lesser of (a) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund represented at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. The Fund may not:

1. Issue senior securities, except as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, which allow a borrowing from a bank where the Fund maintains an asset coverage ratio of at least 300% while the borrowing is outstanding;
2. Borrow money, except (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of the Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Fund has an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and repurchase commitments of the Fund pursuant to reverse repurchase transactions;
3. Purchase securities on margin, participate on a joint or joint and several basis in any securities trading account, or underwrite securities. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from obtaining such short-term credit as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of its portfolio securities, and except to the extent that the Fund may be deemed an underwriter under the Securities Act, by virtue of disposing of portfolio securities;
4. Purchase or sell real estate or interests in real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including REITs);
5. Purchase or sell commodities (unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments) or commodity futures contracts, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options to the full extent permitted under the 1940 Act, sell foreign currency contracts in accordance with any rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, invest in securities or other instruments backed by commodities, and invest in companies that are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities; or
6. Make loans to others, except that the Fund may, in accordance with its investment objective and policies, (i) lend portfolio securities, (ii) purchase and hold debt securities or other debt instruments, including but not limited to loan participations and sub-participations, assignments, and structured securities, (iii) make loans secured by mortgages on real property, (iv) enter into repurchase agreements, (v) enter into transactions where each loan is represented by a note executed by the borrower, and (vi) make time deposits with financial institutions and invest in instruments issued by financial institutions. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.
7. Invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries.

If a restriction on the Fund's investments is adhered to at the time an investment is made, a subsequent change in the percentage of Fund assets invested in certain securities or other instruments of the Fund's investment portfolio, resulting from changes in the value of the Fund's total assets, will not be considered a violation of the restriction;

provided, however, that the asset coverage requirement applicable to borrowings shall be maintained in the manner contemplated by applicable law.

With respect to fundamental investment limitation #2 above, if the Fund's asset coverage falls below 300%, the Fund will reduce borrowing within 3 days in order to ensure that the Fund has 300% asset coverage.

Although fundamental investment limitation #6 reserves for the Fund the ability to make loans, there is no present intent to loan money or portfolio securities and additional disclosure will be provided if such a strategy is implemented in the future.

With respect to fundamental investment limitation #7 above, this limitation is not applicable to investments in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities or repurchase agreements with respect thereto. The Fund will consider the investments of underlying investment companies when determining its compliance with this restriction.

In addition to the requirements set forth in Section 3816 of the Delaware Statutory Trust Act, a shareholder may bring a derivative action on behalf of the Trust only if the shareholder first make a pre-suit demand upon the Board to bring the subject action unless such pre-suit demand is excused. A demand on the Board shall only be excused if a majority of the Board, or a majority of any committee established to consider the merits of such action, has a personal financial interest in the action at issue. A Trustee shall not be deemed to have a personal financial interest in an action or otherwise be disqualified from ruling on a shareholder demand by virtue of the fact that such Trustee receives remuneration from his service on the Board.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

---

The Trust has adopted a policy, to which the Fund is subject, regarding the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings. The Fund and its service providers may not receive compensation or any other consideration (which includes any agreement to maintain assets in the Fund or in other investment companies or accounts managed by the Adviser or any affiliated person of the Adviser) in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings information of the Fund. The Trust's policy is implemented and overseen by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust, subject to the oversight of the Board. Periodic reports regarding these procedures will be provided to the Board. The Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor (as defined below) will not disseminate non-public information concerning the Trust. The Board must approve all material amendments to this policy.

*General Rules/Website Disclosure.* The Fund will not make its full portfolio holdings publicly available on a daily basis. The policy provides that information regarding the Fund's portfolio holdings may be shared at any time with employees of the Adviser, the Trading Sub-Adviser and other services providers to the Fund and affiliated parties involved in the management, administration or operations of the Fund (referred to as "fund-affiliated personnel"). Any dissemination of non-public information regarding the Fund that could be material must occur to all Shareholders and prospective investors at the same time and in a forum typically used to disseminate information broadly. Pursuant to applicable law, the Fund is required to disclose its complete portfolio holdings quarterly, within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter (currently, each February 28, May 31, August 31 and November 30). Typically, public disclosure is achieved by required filings with the SEC, posting the information to the Fund's website that is accessible by the public ([www.FMCX.com](http://www.FMCX.com)), through public release by a third party vendor or through disclosure in the Fund's Prospectus or SAI where required by SEC regulations. The Adviser reserves the right to, in its sole discretion, disclose on the Fund's website a snapshot of the composition of the Fund's portfolio during times of unusual market volatility.

*Confidential Treatment of Portfolio Information.* As required by the terms of the Order, the Adviser, the Trading Sub-Adviser and the Distributor each has adopted a Code of Ethics as required by Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act, which contains provisions reasonably necessary to prevent Access Persons, (as defined in Rule 17j-1) from engaging in any conduct prohibited in Rule 17j-1 ("Code of Ethics"). In addition, the Adviser and the Trading Sub-Adviser have each adopted policies and procedures as required under Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act"), which are reasonably designed in light of the nature of its business to prevent the misuse, in violation of the Advisers Act or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended or the rules thereunder, of material non-public information by the Adviser or the Trading Sub-Adviser or their associated persons (each, an "Inside Information Policy"). In accordance with the Code of Ethics and Inside Information Policy of the Adviser and the Trading Sub-Adviser, respectively, personnel of those entities with knowledge about the

composition of a Creation Basket are prohibited from disclosing such information to any other person, except as authorized in the course of their employment, until such information is made public.

*Ongoing Arrangements.* Under the Trust's policy, the Fund may release portfolio holdings information on a regular basis to its Custodian, its fund accounting agent, an AP Representative, any clearing broker used by an AP Representative, the entity responsible for the calculation of the VIIV, rating agency or other vendor or service provider for a legitimate business purpose, where the party receiving the information is under a duty of confidentiality, including a duty to prohibit the sharing of non-public information with unauthorized sources and to prohibit trading upon non-public information. The Fund may enter into other ongoing arrangements for the release of portfolio holdings information, but only if such arrangements serve a legitimate business purpose and are with a party who is subject to a confidentiality agreement and restrictions on trading upon non-public information. None of the Fund, the Adviser, or the Trading Sub-Adviser or any other affiliated party may receive compensation or any other consideration in connection with such arrangements. Ongoing arrangements to make available information about the Fund's portfolio securities will be reviewed at least annually by the Board.

As of the date of this SAI, the Fund expects to authorize ongoing arrangements with its Custodian, one or more AP Representatives and the party responsible for the calculation of the VIIV that include the release of portfolio holdings information in accordance with the policy.

The approval of the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer, or his or her designee, must be obtained before entering into any new ongoing arrangement or modifying any existing ongoing arrangement to make available portfolio holdings information, or with respect to any exceptions from the policy.

*Release of Limited Portfolio Holdings Information.* In addition to the ongoing arrangements described above, the Fund's complete or partial list of holdings (including size of positions) may be released to another party, provided the party receiving the information has executed a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement, provided that the specific release of information has been approved by the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer or his designee as consistent with the policy and provided that any instance of such disclosure is consistent with the intent and provisions of the Order. By way of illustration and not of limitation, release of non-public information about a select portion of but not all of the Fund's portfolio holdings may be made if required to effect a program or similar trade for the Fund.

*Disclosure to AP Representatives.* On any given business day, the names and quantities of the instruments that constitute the deposit instruments (an in-kind deposit of specified instruments necessary to purchase a Creation Unit) and the names and quantities of the instruments that constitute the redemption instruments (specified instruments transferred in kind in exchange for a Creation Unit) correspond pro rata to the positions in the Fund's portfolio (including cash positions) and, thus, are identical. These instruments may be referred to, in the case of either a purchase or a redemption, as the "Creation Basket." The Custodian provides each AP Representative, or the clearing broker to be used by the AP Representative, before the commencement of trading each business day, the Creation Basket on a confidential basis.

Each Authorized Participant is required to enter into a Confidential Account arrangement with its AP Representative. Similarly, the Fund will execute a confidentiality agreement with each AP Representative and any clearing broker to be used by an AP Representative. Pursuant to the latter, the AP Representative and any clearing broker will be restricted from disclosing the Creation Basket. In addition, the AP Representative and any clearing broker will undertake an obligation not to use the identity or weighting of the instruments in the Creation Basket for any purpose other than executing, clearing and settling creations and redemptions for the Fund. For the avoidance of doubt, any affiliate, agent or personnel of an AP Representative or clearing broker with knowledge about the composition of the Fund or a Creation Basket of the Fund also will be prohibited from disclosing such information to any other person, or using that information for any purpose other than assisting the AP Representative and/or clearing broker with the execution, clearance and settlement of creations and redemptions for the Fund.

The Fund will obtain, both initially and each year thereafter, representations from the AP Representative and any clearing broker related to the confidentiality of the Creation Basket and the adequacy and effectiveness of the AP Representative's and clearing broker's information barriers, cyber security and data protection procedures, and insider trading policies and procedures.

*Other Permitted Disclosure.* The Adviser, Trading Sub-Adviser, the Fund, and any other service provider to the Fund may not disclose the identities and quantities of the portfolio instruments before such information is publicly disclosed and is available to the entire investing public.

The Fund's service providers, including their affiliates, agents and personnel with knowledge about the composition of the Fund or a Creation Basket are prohibited from disclosing such information to any other person, or using that information for any purpose other than assisting the service provider in its provision of services to the Fund. The Trust executes confidentiality agreements or otherwise contractually require confidentiality with any of its service providers who are provided information on the composition of the Fund or the Creation Basket.

The policy permits the Fund to provide the entity responsible for the calculation of the VIIV correct portfolio composition data reflecting all necessary adjustments (e.g., corporate actions) before the open of the Exchange. Such entity is contractually restricted from disclosing information pertaining to the Fund's holdings to any other person, or using that information for any purpose other than the calculation of the VIIV.

The Fund is required to release on its website the identity of an instrument and the weighting of that instrument in the calculation of the VIIV to the extent that (i) it is the subject of or affected by an error in the calculation of the VIIV; (ii) its mid-point price is determined not to reflect its fair market value; (iii) it does not have a readily available market quotation; and/or (iv) it, together with other portfolio holdings, represents 10% of the total assets of the Fund that is the subject of an extended trading halt.

The policy also permits the Fund to disclose, on an as-needed basis, its portfolio holdings to its legal counsel, counsel to the Adviser, counsel to its independent board members and its independent public accountants, in required regulatory filings or otherwise to governmental agencies and authorities, and its sector weightings, yield and duration, performance attribution and other summary and statistical information to the extent such information is derived from portfolio holdings information previously publicly filed on Form N-PORT or Form N-CSR in accordance with SEC rules. The Adviser is permitted, on an as-needed basis, to make such disclosures to its legal counsel.

*Exceptions to the Policy.* The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer, or his designee, may, as is deemed appropriate, approve exceptions from the policy. Exceptions are granted only after a thorough examination and consultation with the Adviser's legal department, as necessary. Exceptions from the policy are reported annually to the Board.

*Protecting the Confidentiality of the Portfolio.* Because the Fund will not publicly disclose its portfolio holdings daily, the selective disclosure of material nonpublic information, including information other than portfolio information, would be more likely to provide an unfair advantage to the recipient than in other ETFs. Accordingly, the Fund and each person acting on behalf of the Fund is required to comply with Regulation Fair Disclosure as if it applied to them (except that the exemptions provided in Rule 100(b)(2)(iii) therein shall not apply). In addition, the Fund's portfolio holdings, including the composition of the Confidential Account, are considered material, non-public information under the codes of ethics of the Fund, the Adviser, the Distributor and the Trading Sub-Adviser and the agreements related to the Fund's other service providers with, or any other party given, access to information about the Fund's portfolio, including the Custodian, the administrator, the fund accountant, all AP Representatives, and the party responsible for the calculation of the VIIV, will include appropriate confidentiality provisions and be generally prohibited from trading based upon this information.

*Quarterly Portfolio Schedule.* The Trust is required to disclose, after its first and third fiscal quarters, the complete schedule of the Fund's portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-PORT. The Trust also discloses a complete schedule of the Fund's portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-CSR after its second and fourth quarters.

Form N-PORT and Form N-CSR for the Fund is available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The Fund's Form N-PORT and Form N-CSR is available without charge, upon request, by calling (888) 637-7798, visiting the Adviser's web site at [www.FMCX.com](http://www.FMCX.com) or by writing to: FM Focus Equity ETF, c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246.

**The Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser.** Personnel of the Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser, including personnel responsible for the management of the Fund's portfolio, may have full daily access to Fund portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for the Adviser to provide its management, administrative, and investment services to the Fund. As required for purposes of analyzing the impact of existing and future market changes on the prices, availability, as demand and liquidity of such securities, as well as for the assistance of portfolio managers in the trading of such securities, Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser personnel may also release and discuss certain portfolio holdings with various broker-dealers.

**Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC.** Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC is the fund accountant, administrator and custody administrator for the Fund; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to the Fund's portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.

**State Street Bank and Trust Co.** State Street Bank and Trust Co. is the custodian and transfer agent for the Fund; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to the Fund's portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.

**Cohen & Company, Ltd.** Cohen & Company, Ltd. is the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm; therefore, its personnel have access to the Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with auditing of the Fund's annual financial statements and providing assistance and consultation in connection with SEC filings.

**Thompson Hine LLP.** Thompson Hine LLP is counsel to the Fund; therefore, its personnel have access to the Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with review of the Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports and SEC filings.

### **Additions to List of Approved Recipients**

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer is the person responsible, and whose prior approval is required, for any disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities at any time or to any persons other than those described above. In such cases, the recipient must have a legitimate business need for the information and must be subject to a duty to keep the information confidential. There are no ongoing arrangements in place with respect to the disclosure of portfolio holdings. In no event shall the Fund, the Adviser, or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings.

### **Compliance with Portfolio Holdings Disclosure Procedures**

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer will report periodically to the Board with respect to compliance with the Fund's portfolio holdings disclosure procedures, and from time to time will provide the Board any updates to the portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures.

There is no assurance that the Trust's policies on disclosure of portfolio holdings will protect the Fund from the potential misuse of holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of that information.

## **MANAGEMENT**

---

The business of the Trust is managed under the direction of the Board in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and the Trust's By-laws (the "Governing Documents"), which have been filed with the SEC and are available upon request. The Board consists of three (3) individuals, all of whom are not "interested persons" (as defined under the 1940 Act) of the Trust or any investment adviser to any series of the Trust ("Independent Trustees"). Pursuant to the Governing Documents, the Board shall elect officers including a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Principal Executive Officer and a Principal Accounting Officer. The Board retains the power to conduct, operate and carry on the business of the Trust and has the power to incur and pay any expenses, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary or incidental to carry out any of the Trust's purposes. The Board, officers, employees and agents of the Trust, when acting in such capacities, shall not be subject to any personal liability except for his own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his duties.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Trust is led by Joseph Breslin, who has served as the Chairman of the Board since July 2015. Under the Governing Documents, the Chairman of the Board is responsible for (a) presiding at Board meetings, (b) calling special meetings on an as-needed basis, (c) executing and administering of Trust policies including (i) setting the agendas for Board meetings and (ii) providing information to the Board in advance of each Board meeting and between Board meetings. The Trust believes that the Chairman of the Board, the independent chair of the Audit Committee, and, as an entity, the full Board, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust, its funds and each shareholder. Additionally, under certain 1940 Act governance guidelines that apply to the Trust, the Independent Trustees meet in executive session, at least quarterly.

## Board Risk Oversight

The Board has a standing independent Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Contract Review Committee, each with a separate chair. The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from its Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial risk and reporting within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information. The primary purposes of the Nominating and Governance Committee are to consider and evaluate the structure, composition and operation of the Board, to evaluate and recommend individuals to serve on the Board of the Trust, and to consider and make recommendations relating to the compensation of the Trust's independent trustees. The Nominating and Governance Committee may consider recommendations for candidates to serve on the Board from any source it deems appropriate. The primary purpose of the Contract Review Committee is to oversee and guide the process by which the Independent Trustees annually consider whether to approve or renew the Trust's investment advisory, sub-advisory and distribution agreements, Rule 12b-1 plans, and such other agreements or plans involving the Trust as specified in the Contract Review Committee's charter or as the Board determines from time to time.

## Trustee Qualifications

Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of his individual overall merits including his: (i) experience, (ii) qualifications, (iii) attributes and (iv) skills. Mr. Breslin has over 20 years of business experience in the investment management and brokerage business and possesses a strong understanding of the regulatory framework under which investment companies must operate based, in part, upon his years of service as an officer and/or Trustee to other registered investment companies. Thomas Sarkany is qualified to serve as a Trustee based on his experience in various business and consulting positions, and through his experience from service as a board member of the Trust and other investment companies. Since 2010, he has been the President of a financial services firm and from 1994 through 2010, held various roles at a publicly held company providing financial research, publications and money management services to retail and institutional investors, including Director of Marketing and Asset Management, Director of Index Licensing, and member of the Board of Directors. In addition to his service as a Trustee of the Trust, Mr. Sarkany serves as a trustee of the Northern Lights Fund Trust II and has previously served as a director of certain public companies. Charles R. Ranson has more than 20 years' experience in strategic analysis and planning, risk assessment, and capital formation in the operation of complex organizations and entrepreneurial ventures. In addition to his service to the Trust, Mr. Ranson serves as an independent trustee to another mutual fund complex. Each Trustee's ability to perform his duties effectively also has been enhanced by his educational background and professional training. The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee's qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes him highly qualified.

The following is a list of the Trustees and executive officers of the Trust and each person's principal occupation over the last five years. The business address of each Trustee and Officer is 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, OH 45246. All correspondence to the Trustees and Officers should be directed to c/o Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, P.O. Box 46707, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

### ***Independent Trustees\*\****

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
Joseph Breslin Year of Birth: 1953	Independent Trustee and Chairman of the Board since 2015	Senior Counsel, White Oak Global Advisors, LLC (since 2016); and President and Consultant, Adviser Counsel, Inc. (formerly J.E. Breslin & Co.) (management consulting firm to investment advisers), (since 2009-2024).	2	Northern Lights Fund Trust IV (for series not affiliated with the Fund since 2015); Director, Kinetics Mutual Funds, Inc. (since 2002); Trustee, Kinetics Portfolios Trust (since 2000); Trustee,

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
				Forethought Variable Insurance Trust (since 2015).
Thomas Sarkany Year of Birth: 1946	Independent Trustee since 2015	Founder and President, TTS Associates, Inc. (since December 2022); and Founder and President, TTS Consultants, LLC (financial services) (since 2010).	2	Northern Lights Fund Trust IV (for series not affiliated with the Fund since 2015); Arrow Investments Trust (since 2014), Arrow ETF Trust (since 2012), Trustee, Northern Lights Fund Trust II (since 2011); Director, Aquila Distributors (1981-2025)
Charles Ranson Year of Birth: 1947	Independent Trustee since 2015	Principal, Ranson & Associates (strategic analysis and planning, including risk assessment and capital formation for entrepreneurial ventures) (since 2003).	2	Northern Lights Fund Trust IV (for series not affiliated with the Fund since 2015); Advisors Preferred Trust (since November 2012); North Country Funds (since February 2025)

### **Officers**

<b>Name, Address and Year of Birth</b>	<b>Position/Term of Office*</b>	<b>Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years</b>	<b>Number of Funds in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee</b>	<b>Other Directorships held by Trustee During the Past Five Years</b>
Wendy Wang 80 Arkay Drive Hauppauge, NY 11788 Year of Birth: 1970	President since 2015	Senior Vice President, Director of Tax and Compliance Administration, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since 2012).	N/A	N/A
Timothy Burdick 80 Arkay Drive Hauppauge, NY 11788 Year of Birth: 1986	Vice President since 2024	Vice President and Senior Managing Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since 2023); Vice President and Managing Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (2022-2023); Assistant Vice President and Counsel, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (2019-2022).	N/A	N/A
Sam Singh 80 Arkay Drive Hauppauge, NY 11788 Year of Birth: 1976	Treasurer since 2015	Vice President, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC (since 2015).	N/A	N/A



Jennifer Farrell 80 Arkay Drive Hauppauge, NY 11788 Year of Birth: 1969	Secretary since 2017	Director (since 2024); Associate Director (2022-2024) and Manager (2018-2022), Legal Administration, Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC.	N/A	N/A
James Ash Year of Birth: 1976	Chief Compliance Officer since 2019	Senior Vice President, Head of Compliance (since 2023); Vice President and Senior Compliance Officer, Northern Lights Compliance, LLC (2019 - 2022).	N/A	N/A

\* The term of office for each Trustee and officer listed above will continue indefinitely until the individual resigns or is removed.

\*\* As of June 1, 2025, the Trust was comprised of 38 other active portfolios managed by unaffiliated investment advisers. The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the Fund and FM Compounders Equity ETF. The Funds do not hold themselves out as related to any other series within the Trust for investment purposes, nor do they share the same investment adviser with any other series.

## **Board Committees**

### **Audit Committee**

The Board has an Audit Committee that consists of all the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include: (i) recommending to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the Trust's independent auditors; (ii) reviewing with the independent auditors the scope, performance and anticipated cost of their audit; (iii) discussing with the independent auditors certain matters relating to the Trust's financial statements, including any adjustment to such financial statements recommended by such independent auditors, or any other results of any audit; (iv) reviewing on a periodic basis a formal written statement from the independent auditors with respect to their independence, discussing with the independent auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the statement that may impact the objectivity and independence of the Trust's independent auditors and recommending that the Board take appropriate action in response thereto to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto with respect to the quality and adequacy of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and internal controls. Mr. Breslin serves as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to an Audit Committee Charter. The Audit Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing nominee candidates for consideration as Independent Trustees as is from time to time considered necessary or appropriate. The Audit Committee generally will not consider shareholder nominees. The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing and setting Independent Trustee compensation from time to time when considered necessary or appropriate. During the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Audit Committee met ten times.

### **Nominating and Governance Committee**

The Board has a Nominating and Governance Committee that consists of all the Independent Trustees. The Nominating and Governance Committee's responsibilities (which may also be conducted by the Board) include: (i) recommending persons to be nominated or re-nominated as Trustees in accordance with the Independent Trustees' Statement of Policy on Criteria for Selecting Independent Trustees; (ii) reviewing the Fund's officers, and conducting Chief Compliance Officer searches, as needed, and providing consultation regarding other CCO matters, as requested; (iii) reviewing trustee qualifications, performance, and compensation; (iv) reviewing periodically with the Board the size and composition of the Board as a whole; (v) annually evaluating the operations of the Board and its Committees and assist the Board in conducting its annual self-evaluation; (vi) making recommendations on the requirements for, and means of, Board orientation and training; (vii) periodically reviewing the Board's corporate governance policies and practices and recommending, as it deems appropriate, any changes to the Board; (viii) considering any corporate governance issues that arise from time to time, and to develop appropriate recommendations for the Board; and (ix) supervising counsel for the Independent Trustees. Mr. Ranson serves as the Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee. The Nominating and Governance Committee operates pursuant to a Nominating and Governance Committee Charter. During the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Nominating and Governance Committee met once.

## Contract Review Committee

The Board has a Contract Review Committee that consists of all the Independent Trustees. The primary purpose of the Contract Review Committee is to oversee and guide the process by which the Independent Trustees annually consider whether to approve or renew the Trust's investment advisory, sub-advisory and distribution agreements, Rule 12b-1 plans, and such other agreements or plans involving the Trust as specified in the Contract Review Committee's charter or as the Board determines from time to time. The Board may also assign to the Contract Review Committee responsibility to evaluate and make recommendations on contracts in unusual situations, for example, where a contract is expected to terminate because of a change of control of an investment adviser. The Contract Review Committee's responsibilities include: (i) identifying the scope and format of information to be requested from service providers in connection with the evaluation of each contract or plan and meet and evaluate such information at least annually in advance of the automatic expiration of such contracts by operation of law or by their terms; (ii) providing guidance to independent legal counsel regarding specific information requests to be made by such counsel on behalf of the Board or the Independent Trustees; (iii) evaluating regulatory and other developments coming to its attention that might reasonably be expected to have an impact on the Independent Trustees' consideration of how to evaluate and whether or not to renew a contract or plan; (iv) assisting in circumscribing the range of factors considered by the Board relating to the approval or renewal of advisory or sub-advisory agreements; (v) recommending to other committees and/or to the Independent Trustees specific steps to be taken by them regarding the renewal process, including, for example, proposed schedules of meetings by Independent Trustees; (vi) investigating and reporting on any other matter brought to its attention within the scope of its duties; and (vii) performing such other duties as are consistent with the Contract Review Committee's purpose or that are assigned to it by the Board. Mr. Sarkany serves as the Chairman of the Contract Review Committee. The Contract Review Committee operates pursuant to a Contract Review Committee Charter. During the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Contract Review Committee met four times.

## Compensation

Each Independent Trustee receives a quarterly fee of \$32,500 to be paid by the Trust within 10 days of the commencement of each calendar quarter for his service as a Trustee of the Board as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred for attending regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings. In addition to this quarterly fee and any expense reimbursements, the Chair of each of the Audit Committee, Nominating and Governance Committee and Contract Review Committee receives a quarterly fee of \$2,500 for his service as a committee chair.

In the event that an in-person meeting of the Board other than its regularly scheduled meetings (a "Special Meeting") is required, each Independent Trustee will receive a fee of \$5,000 per Special Meeting, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred, to be paid by the Trust or the relevant series of the Trust or its investment adviser depending on the circumstances necessitating the Special Meeting. The Independent Trustees at their sole discretion shall determine when a particular meeting constitutes a Special Meeting for purpose of the \$5,000 fee.

The Independent Trustee fees are paid from the unitary fee paid to the Adviser by the Fund. No officers receive compensation from the Trust.

The table below details the amount of compensation the Independent Trustees received from the Fund during the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025. Each Trustee is expected to attend all quarterly meetings during the year. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

<b>Name and Position</b>	<b>Compensation From FM Focus Equity ETF</b>	<b>Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Funds Expenses</b>	<b>Annual Benefits Upon Retirement</b>	<b>Total Compensation From Trust and Fund Complex* Paid to Trustees</b>
Joseph Breslin	\$3,545	\$0	\$0	\$4,420
Thomas Sarkany	\$3,545	\$0	\$0	\$4,420
Charles Ranson	\$3,545	\$0	\$0	\$4,420

\* There are currently numerous series comprising the Trust. The term "Fund Complex" refers only to the Fund and FM Compounders Equity ETF.

### **Management and Trustee Ownership**

As of December 31, 2024, the Trustees and officers, as a group, owned no shares of the Fund or any of the Fund Complex's outstanding shares.

### **CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS**

---

A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of a fund. A control person is one who owns, either directly or indirectly more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control. A control person is one who owns beneficially or through controlled companies more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledged the existence of control.

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding shares and is recognized as the owner of all shares for all purposes. Investors owning shares are beneficial owners as shown on the records of DTC or its participants. The following persons or "groups" (as that term is used in Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act") are DTC members reflecting ownership of 5% or more of the Fund's outstanding shares as of June 6, 2025:

<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Percentage of Fund</b>
Charles Schwab 2423 E Lincoln Drive Phoenix, AZ 85016	8.85%
Pershing LLC 1 Pershing Plaza Jersey City, NJ 07399	87.53%

### **INVESTMENT ADVISER AND TRADING SUB-ADVISER**

---

#### **Investment Adviser, Trading Sub-Adviser and the Advisory and Trading Sub-Advisory Agreements**

First Manhattan Co. LLC, 399 Park Avenue, 27th Floor, New York, NY 10022, serves as the Fund's investment adviser. The Adviser is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

Vident Asset Management, 1125 Sanctuary Pkwy., Suite 515, Alpharetta, GA 30009, serves as the investment trading sub-adviser to the Fund. The Trading Sub-Adviser is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act.

Subject to the oversight of the Board, the Adviser is responsible for the overall management of the Fund's investment-related business affairs. Pursuant to an investment advisory agreement (the "Advisory Agreement") with the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, and in conformity with the stated policies of the Fund, supervises the portfolio investment operations of the Fund. The Adviser has overall supervisory responsibilities for the Trading Sub-Adviser's general management and investment of the Fund's securities portfolio, as detailed below, which are subject to review and approval by the Board. In general, the Adviser's duties include setting the Fund's overall investment strategies in consultation with the Trading Sub-Adviser.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser acts as the investment adviser to the Fund and, as such, performs each of the following, or delegates such to the Trading Sub-Adviser: (i) obtain and evaluate such information relating to the economy, industries, business, securities markets and securities as it may deem necessary or useful in discharging its responsibilities here under, (ii) oversee the process governing the calculation and dissemination of the VIIV ("the VIIV Procedures"), subject to Board oversight, and, no less than annually, review the VIIV Procedures; (iii) formulate a continuing program for the investment of the assets of the Fund in a manner consistent with its investment objective, policies and restrictions, and (iv) determine from time to time securities to be purchased, sold, retained or lent by the Fund, and implement those decisions, including the selection of entities with or through which such purchases, sales or loans are to be effected; provided, that the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser, or their designee, directly, will place orders pursuant to its investment determinations either directly with

the issuer or with a broker or dealer, and if with a broker or dealer, (a) will attempt to obtain the best price and execution of its orders, and (b) may nevertheless in its discretion purchase and sell portfolio securities from and to brokers who provide the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser with research, analysis, advice and similar services and pay such brokers in return a higher commission or spread than may be charged by other brokers. The Adviser also provides the Fund with all necessary office facilities and personnel for servicing the Fund's investments, compensates all officers, Trustees and employees of the Trust who are officers, directors or employees of the Adviser, and all personnel of the Fund or the Adviser performing services relating to research, statistical and investment activities. The Advisory Agreement was last approved by the Board, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at a meeting held on October 16, 2024.

Because the Fund trades on the basis of the VIIV, it may trade at a wider bid/ask spread than traditional ETFs that publish their portfolios on a daily basis. Accordingly, the Adviser will monitor on an on-going basis how Shares trade, including the level of any market price premium or discount to NAV and the bid/ask spreads on market transactions. Should there be extended periods during which shares trade at a significant premium or discount to NAV or of unusually wide bid/ask spreads, the Board will consider the continuing viability of the Fund, whether shareholders are being harmed, and what, if any, action would be appropriate to among other things, narrow the premium/discount or spread, as applicable. The Board will then decide whether to take any such action. Potential actions may include, but are not limited to, changing lead market makers, listing the Fund on a different exchange, changing the size of Creations Units, changing the Fund's investment objective or strategy, and liquidating the Fund.

In addition, the Adviser, subject to the oversight of the Board, provides the management and supplemental administrative services necessary for the operation of the Fund. These services include providing assistance in supervising relations with custodians, transfer and pricing agents, accountants, underwriters and other persons dealing with the Fund; assisting in the preparing of all general shareholder communications and conducting shareholder relations; assisting in maintaining the Fund's records and the registration of the Fund's shares under federal securities laws and making necessary filings under state securities laws; assisting in developing management and shareholder services for the Fund; and furnishing reports, evaluations and analyses on a variety of subjects to the Board.

The Fund pays an annual management fee (computed daily and payable monthly) of 0.70% of the Fund's average daily net assets, to the Adviser pursuant to the Advisory Agreement. Under the Advisory Agreement, the Adviser has agreed to pay all expenses incurred by the Trust except for (i) the advisory fee; (ii) any front-end or contingent deferred loads; (iii) brokerage fees and commissions; (iv) any Rule 12b-1 fees; (v) acquired fund fees and expenses; (vi) fees and expenses associated with investments in other collective investment vehicles or derivative instruments (including for example option and swap fees and expenses); (vii) borrowing costs (such as interest and dividend expense on securities sold short); (viii) taxes; and (ix) extraordinary expenses.

The Advisory Agreement continued in effect for two (2) years initially and continues from year to year provided such continuance is approved at least annually by (a) a vote of the majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval and by (b) the majority vote of the Board or the vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. The Advisory Agreement may be terminated without penalty on 60 days written notice by a vote of a majority of the Board or by the Adviser, or by holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares (with respect to that Fund). The Advisory Agreement shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment.

The Adviser and the Board have chosen to engage the Trading Sub-Adviser in part because of the Trading Sub-Adviser's prior expertise and performance in advising other accounts. Pursuant to the Trading Sub-Advisory Agreement, the Trading Sub-Adviser, under the supervision of the Adviser, agrees to implement portfolio investment decisions made by the Adviser for the Fund in accordance with applicable law and the investment objective, policies and restrictions set forth in the Fund's current Prospectus and this Statement of Additional Information, and subject to such further limitations as the Trust may from time to time impose by written notice to the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser. However, the Trading Sub-Adviser is not responsible for management of the Fund's investments.

As compensation for the trading sub-advisory services it provides to the Fund, the Adviser pays the Trading Sub-Adviser a monthly fee. The fee paid to the Trading Sub-Adviser by the Adviser is paid from the Adviser's management fee and is not an additional cost to the Fund. The Sub-Advisory Agreement continues in effect for an

initial two year period and will continue in effect for successive twelve-month periods, provided that the Board annually approves the Trading Sub-Advisory Agreement for continuance.

For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Adviser earned \$678,141 in advisory fees, and the Adviser received an annual net advisory fee, in an amount equal to 0.70% of the Fund's average daily net assets. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2024, the Adviser earned \$554,453 in advisory fees, and the Adviser received an annual net advisory fee, in an amount equal to 0.70% of the Fund's average daily net assets. For the fiscal period ended February 28, 2023, the Adviser earned \$423,464 in advisory fees, and the Adviser received an annual net advisory fee, in an amount equal to 0.70% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

A discussion of the matters considered by the Board in connection with the renewal of the Investment Advisory Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement is available in the Fund's Form N-CSR dated February 28, 2025.

### **Codes of Ethics**

The Trust, the Adviser, the Trading Sub-Adviser, and the Distributor have each adopted codes of ethics (each a "Code") under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that governs the personal securities transactions of their board members, officers and employees who may have access to current trading information of the Trust.

In addition, the Trust has adopted a code of ethics (the "Trust Code"), which applies only to the Trust's executive officers to ensure that these officers promote professional conduct in the practice of corporate governance and management. The purpose behind these guidelines is to promote (i) honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships; (ii) full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that the Trust files with, or submits to, the SEC and in other public communications made by the Fund; (iii) compliance with applicable governmental laws, rule and regulations; (iv) the prompt internal reporting of violations of the Trust Code to an appropriate person or persons identified in the Trust Code; and (v) accountability for adherence to the Trust Code.

An AP Representative will not trade securities in the Confidential Account on behalf of an Authorized Participant other than buying or selling the securities included in a Creation Basket to be delivered to or received from, respectively, the Fund. Pursuant to the Confidential Account agreement, the AP Representative is restricted from disclosing the Creation Basket. In addition, the AP Representative undertakes an obligation not to use the identity or weighting of the securities in the Creation Basket for any purpose other than executing creations and redemptions for the Fund.

### **Proxy Voting Policies**

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Policies") on behalf of the Trust, which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies to the Adviser or its designee, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Policies require that the Adviser or its designee vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Fund and shareholders. Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the Adviser's interests and the Fund's interests, the Adviser will resolve the conflict by voting in accordance with the policy guidelines or at the client's directive using the recommendation of an independent third party. A copy of the Adviser's and proxy voting policies is attached hereto as Appendix A.

*More information.* Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund during the most recent 12-month period ending June 30 will be available without charge, upon request, by (1) calling the Fund at 1-888-530-2448; (2) visiting the Fund's website, [www.fmcx.com](http://www.fmcx.com); and (3) accessing the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available by calling 1-888-530-2448 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

## THE DISTRIBUTOR

---

Northern Lights Distributors, LLC (“NLD” or the “Distributor”) located at 4221 North 203rd Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, NE 68022 (the “Distributor”), serves as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Fund pursuant to an ETF Distribution Agreement with the Trust (the “Distribution Agreement”). The Distributor is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and each state’s securities laws and is a member of FINRA. The offerings of the Shares are continuous and the Distributor acts as an agent for the Trust. The Distributor will deliver a Prospectus to persons purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. The Distributor has no role in determining the investments or investment policies of the Fund.

The Distribution Agreement provides that, unless sooner terminated, it will continue in effect for two years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year, subject to annual approval by (a) the Board or a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, and (b) by a majority of the Board by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Distribution Agreement may at any time be terminated, without penalty by the Trust, by vote of a majority of the Board or by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Trust on 60 days’ written notice to the other party. The Distribution Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

The Fund does not pay the Distributor any fees under the Distribution Agreement. However, the Adviser pays an annual fee to the Distributor plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Distributor in connection with activities performed for the Fund, including, without limitation, printing and distribution of prospectuses and shareholder reports, out of its own resources.

### **Rule 12b-1 Plans**

The Trust, with respect to the Fund, has adopted the Trust’s ETF Distribution Plan Pursuant to Rule 12b-1 pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the “Plan”) for Shares pursuant to which the Fund is authorized to pay the Distributor, as compensation for Distributor’s account maintenance services under the Plan. The Board has approved a distribution and shareholder servicing fee at the rate of up to 0.25% of the Fund’s average daily net assets. Such fees are to be paid by the Fund monthly, or at such other intervals as the Board shall determine. Such fees shall be based upon the Fund’s average daily net assets during the preceding month and shall be calculated and accrued daily. The Fund may pay fees to the Distributor at a lesser rate, as agreed upon by the Board and the Distributor. The Plan authorizes payments to the Distributor as compensation for providing account maintenance services to Fund shareholders, including arranging for certain securities dealers or brokers, administrators and others (“Recipients”) to provide these services and paying compensation for these services. The Fund will bear its own costs of distribution with respect to its shares. The Plan was adopted in order to permit the implementation of the Fund’s method of distribution. No fees are currently paid by the Fund under the Plan, and there are no current plans to impose such fees. In the event such fees were to be charged, over time they would increase the cost of an investment in the Fund.

The services to be provided by Recipients may include, but are not limited to, the following: assisting in the offering and sale of Fund shares and in other aspects of the marketing of the shares to clients or prospective clients of the respective recipients; answering routine inquiries concerning the Fund; assisting in the establishment and maintenance of accounts or sub-accounts in the Fund and in processing purchase and redemption transactions; making the Fund’s investment plan and shareholder services available; and providing such other information and services to investors in shares of the Fund as the Distributor or the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, may reasonably request. The distribution services shall also include any advertising and marketing services provided by or arranged by the Distributor with respect to the Fund.

The Distributor is required to provide a written report, at least quarterly to the Board, specifying in reasonable detail the amounts expended pursuant to the Plan and the purposes for which such expenditures were made. Further, the Distributor will inform the Board of any Rule 12b-1 fees to be paid by the Distributor to Recipients.

The Plan may not be amended to increase materially the amount of the Distributor’s compensation to be paid by the Fund, unless such amendment is approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). All material amendments must be approved by the Board, including a majority

of the Independent Trustees who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the Plan (the “Rule 12b-1 Trustees”) by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. During the term of the Plan, the selection and nomination of Independent Trustees of the Trust will be committed to the discretion of Nominating and Governance Committee. The Distributor will preserve copies of the Plan, any related agreements, and all reports, for a period of not less than six years from the date of such document and for at least the first two years in an easily accessible place.

Any agreement related to the Plan will be in writing and provide that: (a) it may be terminated by the Trust or the Fund at any time upon sixty days written notice, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Trust or the Fund; (b) it will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act); and (c) it will continue in effect for a period of more than one year from the date of its execution or adoption only so long as such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such agreement.

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGER**

Himayani Puri is the Fund’s Portfolio Manager as well as the portfolio manager for a private fund, which uses an investment strategy that is similar to the investment strategy used by the Fund. Currently, all investors in the private fund are employees of the Adviser. Ms. Puri is a Senior Managing Director, the Director of Research, and a member of the Management Team of FMC Group Holdings, the parent company of First Manhattan Co. LLC. As of February 28, 2025, the Portfolio Manager is responsible for the portfolio management of the following types of accounts in addition to the Fund:

<b>Total Other Accounts By Type</b>	<b>Total Number of Accounts by Account Type</b>	<b>Total Assets By Account Type (in millions)</b>	<b>Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee</b>	<b>Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee (in millions)</b>
Registered Investment Companies	1	\$60	0	0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	1	\$90.2	0	0
Other Accounts	1	\$76.5	0	0

### **Conflicts of Interest**

As a general matter, certain conflicts of interest may arise in connection with a Portfolio Manager’s management of the Fund’s investments, on the one hand, and the investments of other accounts for which the Portfolio Manager is responsible, on the other. For example, it is possible that the various accounts managed could have different investment strategies that, at times, might conflict with one another to the possible detriment of the Fund. Alternatively, to the extent that the same investment opportunities might be desirable for more than one account, possible conflicts could arise in determining how to allocate them. Other potential conflicts might include conflicts created by specific portfolio manager compensation arrangements, and conflicts relating to selection of brokers or dealers to execute the Fund’s portfolio trades and/or specific uses of commissions from the Fund’s portfolio trades. The Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser have adopted policies and procedures and has structured the portfolio managers’ compensation in a manner reasonably designed to safeguard the Fund from being negatively affected as a result of any such potential conflicts.

## **Compensation**

The Adviser offers each of its investment professionals on the research team, whose activities support the Fund and the Adviser's other investment offerings, a compensation plan comprising: (i) a fixed base salary tied to role and job function and (ii) variable incentive compensation tied to (a) contributions to the overall investment process; (b) idea generation; (c) investment performance (measured over 1, 3, and 5+ years) relative to the S&P 500 as well as relevant sector benchmarks; (d) aggregate impact and contributions to investment portfolios; and (e) other objective or subjective criteria determined by executive management of the Adviser, which may include firm/department leadership, management of personnel, risk management/compliance results and overall contributions.

## **Ownership of Securities**

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the portfolio manager in shares of the Fund as of February 28, 2025.

<b>Name of Portfolio Manager</b>	<b>Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the FM Focus Equity ETF</b>
Himayani Puri	\$50,001-\$100,000

## **ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE**

Specific decisions to purchase or sell securities for the Fund are made by the portfolio managers who are employees of the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser. The Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser are authorized by the Trustees to allocate the orders placed by them on behalf of the Fund to brokers or dealers who may, but need not, provide research or statistical material or other services to the Fund or the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser for the Fund's use. Such allocation is to be in such amounts and proportions as the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser may determine.

In selecting a broker or dealer to execute each particular transaction, the Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser will take the following into consideration:

- the best net price available;
- the reliability, integrity and financial condition of the broker or dealer;
- the size of and difficulty in executing the order; and
- the value of the expected contribution of the broker or dealer to the investment performance of the Fund on a continuing basis.

Brokers or dealers executing a portfolio transaction on behalf of the Fund may receive a commission in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for executing the transaction if the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser determines in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of brokerage and research services provided to the Fund. In allocating portfolio brokerage, the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser may select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage, research and other services to other accounts over which the Adviser or Trading Sub-Adviser exercises investment discretion. Some of the services received as the result of Fund transactions may primarily benefit accounts other than the Fund, while services received as the result of portfolio transactions effected on behalf of those other accounts may primarily benefit the Fund. The Fund paid \$10,149, \$12,026 and \$32,014 in brokerage commissions for the fiscal years ended February 28, 2025 and February 29, 2024 and for the fiscal period ended February 28, 2023, respectively.

## **PORTFOLIO TURNOVER**

The Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. The calculation excludes from both the numerator and the denominator securities with maturities at the time of acquisition of one year or less. High portfolio turnover involves correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which will be borne directly by the Fund. A 100% turnover rate would



occur if all of the Fund's portfolio securities were replaced once within a one-year period. The portfolio turnover rate for the Fund was 58% and 53% for the fiscal years ended February 28, 2025 and February 29, 2024, respectively..

## **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

---

### *Fund Administration*

Ultimus Fund Solutions, LLC, (the "Administrator"), which has its principal office at 225 Pictoria Drive, Suite 450, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246, and is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds.

Pursuant to an ETF Fund Services Agreement with the Fund, the Administrator provides administrative services to the Fund, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Administrator may provide persons to serve as officers of the Fund. Such officers may be directors, officers or employees of the Administrator or its affiliates.

The ETF Fund Services Agreement is dated October 20, 2021. The agreement remained in effect for two years from the effective date of the agreement and will remain in effect subject to annual approval of the Board for one-year periods thereafter. The agreement is terminable by the Board or the Administrator on ninety days' written notice and may be assigned provided the non-assigning party provides prior written consent. This agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Administrator or reckless disregard of its obligations thereunder, the Administrator shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

Under the ETF Fund Services Agreement, the Administrator provides administrative services, including: (i) providing services of persons competent to perform such administrative and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Fund; (ii) facilitating the performance of administrative and professional services to the Fund by others, including the Custodian; (iii) preparing, but not paying for, the periodic updating of the Fund's Registration Statement, Prospectuses and Statements of Additional Information in conjunction with Fund counsel, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, and preparing reports to the Fund's shareholders and the SEC; (iv) preparing in conjunction with Fund counsel, but not paying for, all filings under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of the Fund and/or its shares under such laws; (v) preparing notices and agendas for meetings of the Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by the 1940 Act to be acted upon by the Board; and (vi) monitoring daily and periodic compliance with respect to all requirements and restrictions of the 1940 Act, the Tax Code and the Prospectus.

The Administrator also provides the Fund with accounting services, including: (i) daily computation of net asset value; (ii) maintenance of security ledgers and books and records as required by the 1940 Act; (iii) production of the Fund's listing of portfolio securities and general ledger reports; (iv) reconciliation of accounting records; (v) calculation of yield and total return for the Fund; (vi) maintenance of certain books and records described in Rule 31a-1 under the 1940 Act, and reconciliation of account information and balances among the Custodian and Adviser; and (vii) monitoring and evaluation of daily income and expense accruals, and sales and redemptions of shares of the Fund.

For administrative services rendered to the Fund under the agreement, the Fund pays the Administrator the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. For the fund accounting services rendered to the Fund under the Agreement, the Fund pays the Administrator the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. The Fund also pays the Administrator for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Fund incurred \$60,447 in fees for administration services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2024, the Fund incurred \$39,769 in fees for administration services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal period ended February 28, 2023, the Fund incurred \$16,925 in fees for administration services in accordance with the agreement.

### **Transfer Agent**

State Street Bank and Trust Company, One Lincoln Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111, acts as transfer, dividend disbursing, and shareholder servicing agent for the Fund pursuant to written agreement with Fund (the "Transfer Agent"). Under the agreement, the Transfer Agent is responsible for administering and performing transfer agent functions, dividend distribution, shareholder administration, and maintaining necessary records in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Fund incurred \$12,000 in fees for transfer agency services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2024, the Fund incurred \$12,000 in fees for transfer agency services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal period ended February 28, 2023, the Fund incurred \$10,250 in fees for transfer agency services in accordance with the agreement.

### **Custodian**

State Street Bank and Trust Company also serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets (the "Custodian") pursuant to a Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement by and between the Custodian and the Trust on behalf of the Fund. The Custodian's 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. Pursuant to the Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement, the Custodian also maintains original entry documents and books of record and general ledgers; posts cash receipts and disbursements; and records purchases and sales based upon communications from the Adviser. The Fund may employ foreign sub-custodians that are approved by the Board to hold foreign assets.

### **Compliance Officer**

Northern Lights Compliance Services, LLC ("NLCS"), 4221 North 203rd Street, Suite 100, Elkhorn, Nebraska 68022-3474, an affiliate of the Administrator, provides a Chief Compliance Officer to the Trust as well as related compliance services pursuant to a consulting agreement between NLCS and the Trust. NLCS's compliance services consist primarily of reviewing and assessing the policies and procedures of the Trust and its service providers pertaining to compliance with applicable federal securities laws, including Rule 38a-1 under the 1940 Act. For the compliance services rendered to the Fund, the Fund pays NLCS a one-time fee plus an annual asset based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. The Fund also pays NLCS for any out-of-pocket expenses.

For the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025, the Fund incurred \$22,752 in fees for compliance services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal year ended February 29, 2024, the Fund incurred \$24,153 in fees for compliance services in accordance with the agreement. For the fiscal period ended February 28, 2023, the Fund incurred \$18,244 in fees for compliance services in accordance with the agreement.

## **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

---

Each share of beneficial interest of the Trust has one vote in the election of Trustees. Cumulative voting is not authorized for the Trust. This means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of Trustees can elect 100% of the Trustees if they choose to do so, and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will be unable to elect any Trustees.

Shareholders of the current series of the Trust and any other future series of the Trust will vote in the aggregate and not by series except as otherwise required by law or when the Board determines that the matter to be voted upon affects only the interest of the shareholders of a particular series or classes. Matters such as election of Trustees are not subject to separate voting requirements and may be acted upon by shareholders of the Trust voting without regard to series.

The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest. Each share has equal dividend, distribution and liquidation rights. There are no conversion or preemptive rights applicable to any shares of the Fund. All shares issued are fully paid and non-assessable.

## **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM**

---

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the “Program”) as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 (“USA PATRIOT Act”). To ensure compliance with this law, the Trust’s Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program. The Trust’s secretary serves as its Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Fund’s Distributor and Transfer Agent have established proper anti-money laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity and a providing a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Trust will not transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

## **PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES**

---

### **Calculation of Share Price**

As indicated in the Prospectus under the heading “How Shares are Priced,” investors may buy and sell Shares in secondary market transactions through brokers at market prices and the Shares will trade at market prices. Only authorized participants may buy and redeem Shares from the Fund through an AP Representative, and those transactions are effected at the Fund’s NAV. The NAV of the Fund’s shares is determined by dividing the total value of the Fund’s portfolio investments and other assets, less any liabilities, by the total number of shares outstanding of a Fund.

Generally, the Fund’s portfolio securities (including underlying ETFs, which hold portfolio securities primarily listed on foreign (non-U.S.) exchanges) are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on each security’s primary exchange. Securities traded or dealt in upon one or more securities exchanges for which market quotations are readily available and not subject to restrictions against resale shall be valued at the last quoted sales price on the primary exchange or, in the absence of a sale on the primary exchange, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on such exchange. Securities primarily traded in the NASDAQ National Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. Securities that are not traded or dealt in any securities exchange (whether domestic or foreign) and for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available generally shall be valued at the last sale price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask price on such over-the-counter market. If market quotations are not readily available, securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined using the “fair value” procedures approved by the Board. The Board has delegated execution of these procedures to the Adviser as its valuation designee (the “Valuation Designee”). The Valuation Designee may also enlist third party consultants such as a valuation specialist at a public accounting firm, valuation consultant or financial officer of a security issuer on an as-needed basis to assist the Valuation Designee in determining a security-specific fair value. The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving fair value methodologies utilized by the Valuation Designee, at least quarterly, which approval shall be based upon whether the Valuation Designee followed the valuation procedures established by the Board.

Certain securities or investments for which daily market quotes are not readily available may be valued, pursuant to guidelines established by the Board, with reference to other securities or indices. Treasury securities not traded on an exchange may be valued at prices supplied by a pricing agent(s) based on broker or dealer supplied valuations or matrix pricing, a method of valuing securities by reference to the value of other securities with similar characteristics, such as rating, interest rate and maturity or \ at amortized cost when it approximated fair value.

Shares are valued at the close of regular trading on the Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) (the “Exchange Close”) on each day that the Exchange is open. For purposes of calculating the NAV, the Fund normally use pricing data for domestic equity securities received shortly after the Exchange Close and does not normally take into account trading, clearances or settlements that take place after the Exchange Close.

Although the Fund's NAV is only computed once each regular trading day, each Fund's VIIV will be broadcast each second throughout the course of a regular trading day.

When market quotations are insufficient or not readily available, the Fund may value securities at fair value or estimate their value as determined in good faith by the Valuation Designee, pursuant to procedures approved by the Board. Fair valuation may also be used by the Board if extraordinary events occur after the close of the relevant market but prior to the Exchange Close.

### **Creation Units**

The Fund sells and redeems Shares in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the NAV next determined after receipt of an order in proper form on any Business Day. A "Business Day" is any day on which the Exchange is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, the Exchange observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

A Creation Unit is an aggregation of 5,000 Shares for the Fund. The Board may declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of the Fund or Trust and make a corresponding change in the number of Shares in a Creation Unit.

### **Authorized Participants**

Only Authorized Participants that have entered into agreements with the Distributor may purchase or redeem Creation Units. In order to be an Authorized Participant, a firm must be either a broker-dealer or other participant ("Participating Party") in the Continuous Net Settlement System ("Clearing Process") of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") or a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system ("DTC Participant"), and the Authorized Participant must execute an agreement ("Participant Agreement") with the Distributor that governs transactions in the Fund's Creation Units.

Each "Authorized Participant" enters into an authorized participant agreement with the Distributor. Each Authorized Participant creates or redeems Creation Units through an AP Representative. An AP Representative is an unaffiliated broker-dealer with which the Authorized Participant has signed Confidential Account Agreement to establish a Confidential Account for the benefit of such Authorized Participant and that will deliver or receive, on behalf of the Authorized Participant, all consideration to or from the Fund in a creation or redemption.

Each day, the Custodian will transmit the composition of the Fund's Creation Basket (as defined below) to each AP Representative. Acting on execution instructions from an Authorized Participant, the AP Representative may purchase or sell the securities in the Creation Basket for purposes of effecting in-kind creation and redemption activity during the day. Authorized Participants are responsible for all order instructions and associated profit and loss, and are expected to be able to monitor the execution quality of the AP Representative by comparing the price at which they purchase or sell Creation Baskets with the VIIV and the end of day NAV. A creation transaction, which is subject to acceptance by the Distributor, generally begins when an Authorized Participant enters into an irrevocable creation order with the Fund and delivers to the AP Representative the cash necessary to purchase a designated portfolio of securities in the Confidential Account. The AP Representative then delivers the purchased portfolio of securities ("Deposit Instruments") to the Fund in exchange for a specified number of Creation Units without disclosing the identities of the underlying Deposit Instruments to the Authorized Participant, who beneficially owns the securities through the Confidential Account.

Similarly, Shares are redeemed only in Creation Units. A redemption transaction generally begins when an Authorized Participant enters into an irrevocable redemption order with the Fund. The Fund then instructs the Custodian to deliver a designated portfolio of securities ("Redemption Instruments") to the appropriate Confidential Account at the Authorized Participant's AP Representative in exchange for the Creation Units being redeemed. The Authorized Participant will instruct the AP Representative when to liquidate the securities in the Confidential Account, which will be liquidated no later than the end of the day but without disclosing the identity of the Redemption Instruments to the Authorized Participant. The Confidential Account holds no positions at the end of day.

On any given Business Day, the name and quantities of the instruments that constitute Deposit Instruments and the names and quantities of the instruments that constitute Redemption Instruments will correspond pro rata to the positions in the Fund's portfolio (including cash positions) used to calculate the Fund's NAV for that day, and will be identical. These instruments are, in the case of either a purchase or a redemption, the Creation Basket.

An AP Representative will not trade securities in the Confidential Account on behalf of an Authorized Participant other than buying or selling the securities included in a Creation Basket to be delivered to or received from, respectively, the Fund. Pursuant to the Confidential Account Agreement, the AP Representative is restricted from disclosing the Creation Basket, including to the Authorized Participant. In addition, the AP Representative undertakes an obligation not to use the identity or weighting of the securities in the Creation Basket for any purpose other than executing creations and redemptions for the Fund. The purpose of this arrangement is to protect the identity and weightings of the Fund's portfolio holdings.

The prices at which creations and redemptions occur are based on the next calculation of NAV after a creation or redemption order is received in an acceptable form under the authorized participant agreement. In the event of a system failure or other interruption, including disruptions at market makers, Authorized Participants or AP Representatives, orders to purchase or redeem Creation Units either may not be executed according to the Fund's instructions or may not be executed at all, or the Fund may not be able to place or change orders.

To the extent the Fund engages in in-kind transactions, the Fund intends to comply with the U.S. federal securities laws in accepting securities for deposit and satisfying redemptions with redemption securities by, among other means, assuring that any securities accepted for deposit and any securities used to satisfy redemption requests will be sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act.

Because new Shares may be created and issued on an ongoing basis, at any point during the life of the Fund a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act, may be occurring. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner that could render them statutory underwriters subject to the prospectus delivery and liability provisions of the Securities Act. Any determination of whether one is an underwriter must take into account all the relevant facts and circumstances of each particular case. Broker-dealers should also note that dealers who are not "underwriters," but are participating in a distribution (as contrasted to ordinary secondary transactions), and thus dealing with Shares that are part of an "unsold allotment" within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the Securities Act, would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the Securities Act. For delivery of prospectuses to exchange members, the prospectus delivery mechanism of Rule 153 under the Securities Act is available only with respect to transactions on a national securities exchange.

***Costs associated with creations and redemptions.*** Authorized Participants are charged standard creation and redemption transaction fees to offset transfer and other transaction costs associated with the issuance and redemption of Creation Units. The standard creation and redemption transaction fees are set forth in the table below. The standard creation transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant creates a Creation Unit, and is the same regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased by the Authorized Participant on the applicable business day. Similarly, the standard redemption transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant redeems a Creation Unit, and is the same regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed by the Authorized Participant on the applicable business day. Creations and redemptions for cash (when cash creations and redemptions (in whole or in part) are available or specified) are also subject to an additional charge (as shown in the table below). This charge is intended to compensate for brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market impact and other costs and expenses related to cash transactions. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to acquire or dispose of Fund Shares may pay fees for such services.

## **Indicative Value**

***Verified intra-day indicative value.*** The intraday value of Shares, known as the VIIV, is calculated and disseminated every second throughout each trading day by the Fund's listing exchange, through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association.

The Fund's VIIV is also expected to be published by other information providers and quote services, including Yahoo Finance (<https://finance.yahoo.com>) and Bloomberg. The Fund's VIIV also may be available, upon request, through your broker. Certain of the providers and services, such as Bloomberg, require a subscription or account to access the information. If you access the Fund's VIIV through such information providers and quote services, we encourage you to review the terms of each provider or service carefully. These information providers and quote services operate independently of the Fund, and the Fund has no control over, nor is it responsible for, the information published by such information providers and quote services.

The VIIV is calculated to the nearest penny by dividing (i) the sum of the Fund's assets (e.g., the amount of cash and cash equivalents held in the Fund's portfolio, the current value of the securities positions in the Fund's portfolio, plus any accrued interest, and declared but unpaid dividends) minus all accrued liabilities, by (ii) the number of total Fund Shares outstanding. The portfolio used for calculating the VIIV will be the same portfolio used to calculate the Fund's NAV for that day. All of the Fund's portfolio securities will be valued by two separate calculation engines throughout the trading day at the mid-point between the current national best bid and national best offer as disseminated by the Consolidated Quotation System or UTP Plan Securities Information Processor.

The VIIV will be "verified" by comparing the values calculated by the two calculation engines and, if the values are in line, the VIIV will be disseminated through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association. The Fund will also employ a "Pricing Verification Agent" to compare and establish a computer-based protocol that will permit the Pricing Verification Agent to continuously compare the two data streams from the Calculation Engines on a real time basis.

The methodology for calculating the VIIV is available on the Fund's website, [www.FMCX.com](http://www.FMCX.com). Any person may register on the Fund's website to receive an email notification of any such website disclosures. The VIIV is intended to provide investors and other market participants with a highly correlated per share value of the underlying portfolio that can be compared to the current market price. Therefore, under normal circumstances the VIIV is effectively a "real-time" update of the Fund's NAV, which is computed only once a day. Because the Shares trade on the basis of a published VIIV, they may trade at a wider bid/ask spread than shares of ETFs that publish their portfolios on a daily basis, especially during periods of market disruption or volatility, and therefore, may cost investors more to trade. The VIIV is generally determined by using current market quotations. Although the VIIV is intended to provide investors with enough information to allow for an effective arbitrage mechanism that will keep the market price of the Fund at or close to the underlying NAV per share of the Fund, there is a risk (which may increase during periods of market disruption or volatility) that market prices will vary significantly from the underlying NAV of the Fund.

To this end, the Adviser or its designee (or the Trading Sub-Adviser) will request the Fund's listing exchange to temporarily halt trading if, during the process of real time price verification, the indicative values from the calculation engines valuing the Fund's portfolio securities differ by more than 25 basis points for 60 consecutive seconds. The Fund reserves the right to change these thresholds to the extent deemed appropriate and upon notification to the Board. Such a trading halt will be lifted when the two indicative values come back into line. In addition, if at any time securities representing 10% or more of the Fund's portfolio become subject to a trading halt or otherwise do not have readily available market quotations, the Fund will request that the exchange halt trading of Shares. During a trading halt, although the VIIV would continue to be calculated and disseminated, investors in Shares will not be able to freely trade their Shares.

Although the Fund seeks to benefit from keeping its portfolio information secret, market participants may attempt to use the VIIV to identify the Fund's trading strategy, which if successful, could result in such market participants engaging in certain predatory trading practices that may have the potential to harm the Fund and its shareholders.

### **Transaction Fees**

Authorized Participants are charged standard creation and redemption transaction fees to offset transfer and other transaction costs associated with the issuance and redemption of Creation Units. The standard creation transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant creates a Creation Unit, and is the same regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased by the Authorized Participant on the applicable business day. Similarly, the standard redemption transaction fee is charged to the Authorized Participant on the day such Authorized Participant redeems a Creation Unit, and is the same regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed by the Authorized Participant on the applicable business day. Creations and redemptions for cash (when cash creations and redemptions (in whole or in part) are available or specified) are also subject to an additional charge. This charge is intended to compensate for brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market

impact and other costs and expenses related to cash transactions. Investors who use the services of a broker or other financial intermediary to acquire or dispose of Shares may pay fees for such services.

A fixed fee payable to the Custodian is imposed on each creation and redemption transaction regardless of the number of Creation Units involved in the transaction. Purchases and redemptions of Creation Units for cash or involving cash-in-lieu (as defined below) are required to pay an additional variable charge to compensate the Fund and its ongoing shareholders for brokerage and market impact expenses relating to Creation Unit transactions (the "Transaction Fees"). The Adviser may waive or adjust Transaction Fees from time to time. In such cases, the Authorized Participant will reimburse the Fund for, among other things, any difference between the market value at which the securities and/or financial instruments were purchased by the Fund and the cash-in-lieu amount, applicable registration fees, brokerage commissions and certain taxes. In addition, purchasers of Creation Units are responsible for the costs of transferring the Deposit Securities to the account of the Fund.

<b><u>Standard Creation Transaction Fee</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Additional Charge*</u></b>
---	--

\$100	2.0%
-------	------

\*As a percentage of the net asset value per Creation Unit

<b><u>Standard Redemption Transaction Fee</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Additional Charge*</u></b>
---	--

\$100	2.0%
-------	------

\*As a percentage of the net asset value per Creation Unit

Investors who use the services of a broker, or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services.

### **The Clearing Process**

Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a Participating Party using the NSCC system are referred to as transactions "through the Clearing Process." Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a DTC Participant using the DTC system are referred to as transactions "outside the Clearing Process." The Clearing Process is an enhanced clearing process that is available only for certain securities and only to DTC participants that are also participants in the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC. In-kind (portions of) purchase orders not subject to the Clearing Process will go through a manual clearing process run by DTC. Portfolio Deposits that include government securities must be delivered through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system ("Federal Reserve System"). Fund Deposits that include cash may be delivered through the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System. In-kind deposits of securities for orders outside the Clearing Process must be delivered through the Federal Reserve System (for government securities) or through DTC (for corporate securities).

### **Purchasing Creation Units**

#### **Portfolio Deposit**

The consideration for a Creation Unit generally consists of the Deposit Securities and a Cash Component. Together, the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Portfolio Deposit." The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the net asset value per Creation Unit and the Deposit Securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the net asset value per Creation Unit of the Fund and (y) the market value of the Deposit Securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will pay the Cash Component to the Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from the Fund.

On each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on the Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the Adviser or its agent through the Custodian makes available through NSCC the name and amount of each Deposit Security in the current Portfolio Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for the Fund and the (estimated) Cash Component, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit. The Deposit Securities announced are applicable to purchases of Creation Units until the next announcement of Deposit Securities.

Payment of any transfer tax or fee shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing a Creation Unit. The AP Representative must ensure that all Deposit Securities properly denote change in beneficial ownership from the Authorized Participant to the Fund.

#### Custom Orders and Cash-in-Lieu

The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash ("cash-in-lieu") to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security. The Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a Deposit Security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash in lieu of Deposit Securities when, for example, the AP Representative determines that Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities laws or policies from transacting in one or more Deposit Securities. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in accepting Deposit Securities including that the Deposit Securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All orders involving cash-in-lieu, as well as certain other types of orders, are considered to be "Custom Orders." The Fund may enter into other types of Custom Orders.

#### Purchase Orders

To order a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order to the Distributor.

#### Timing of Submission of Purchase Orders

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order no later than the earlier of (i) 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time or (ii) the closing time of the trading session on the Exchange, on any Business Day in order to receive that Business Day's NAV ("Cut-off Time"). The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." An order to create Creation Units is deemed received on a Business Day if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating custom orders and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve Bank wire system, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the "Settlement Date," which is generally the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date ("T+1") for cash and treasury securities and the second Business Day following the Transmittal Date for securities ("T+2").

#### Orders Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) orders may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, the Distributor transmits, on behalf of the Authorized Participant, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Portfolio Deposit to the Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System.

#### Orders Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Portfolio Deposits will be made outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the creation of Creation Units will be effected through DTC. The Portfolio Deposit transfer must be ordered by the DTC Participant on the Transmittal Date in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of Deposit Securities (whether standard or custom) through DTC to the Fund account by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, on T+1. The Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee, must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve System in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive both the Deposit Securities and the cash by the appointed time, the order may be canceled. A canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day but must conform to that Business Day's Portfolio Deposit. Authorized Participants that submit a canceled order will be liable to the Fund for any losses incurred by the Fund in connection therewith.



### Acceptance of Purchase Order

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Fund. The Fund's determination shall be final and binding.

The Fund reserves the right to reject or revoke acceptance of a purchase order transmitted to it by the Distributor if (a) the order is not in proper form; (b) the investor(s), upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of the Fund and if, pursuant to Section 351 of the Tax Code, the Fund would have a basis in the securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit; (c) the Deposit Securities delivered do not conform to the Deposit Securities for the applicable date; (d) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; or (e) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Distributor and the Adviser and Trading Sub-Adviser make it for all practical purposes impossible to process purchase orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems resulting in telephone, telecopy or computer failures; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other informational systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, the Adviser, the Trading Sub-Adviser, the Custodian, a sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify an Authorized Participant of its rejection of the order. The Fund, the Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Portfolio Deposits, and they shall not incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification.

### Issuance of a Creation Unit

Once the Fund has accepted an order, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such NAV. The Distributor will transmit a confirmation of acceptance to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

Except as provided below, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the Fund obtains good title to the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. The delivery of Creation Units will generally occur no later than T+2 except with respect to certain foreign securities.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

### Cash Purchase Method

When cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases. In the case of a cash purchase, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the Portfolio Deposit. In addition, cash purchases will be subject to Transaction Fees, as described above.

### Redeeming a Creation Unit

#### Redemption Basket

The consideration received in connection with the redemption of a Creation Unit generally consists of an in-kind basket of designated securities ("Redemption Securities") and a Cash Component. Together, the Redemption Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Redemption Basket." There can be no assurance that there will be sufficient liquidity in Shares in the secondary market to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. In addition, investors may incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a Creation Unit.

The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the net asset value per Creation Unit and the Redemption Securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the net asset value per Creation Unit of the Fund and (y) the market value of the Redemption Securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from the Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will pay the Cash Component to the Fund.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed: (i) for any period during which the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the NYSE is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the Shares or determination of the ETF's NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstances as permitted by the SEC, including as described below.

#### Custom Redemptions and Cash-in-Lieu

The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of cash-in-lieu to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Redemption Security. The Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a Redemption Security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu of Redemption Securities when, for example, the AP Representative has notified the Fund that the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more Redemption Securities. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in satisfying redemptions with Redemption Securities, including that the Redemption Securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All redemption requests involving cash-in-lieu are considered to be "Custom Redemptions."

#### Redemption Requests

To redeem a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption request to the Distributor.

An Authorized Participant submitting a redemption request is deemed to represent to the Fund that it or, if applicable, the investor on whose behalf it is acting, (i) owns outright or has full legal authority and legal beneficial right to tender for redemption the Creation Unit to be redeemed and can receive the entire proceeds of the redemption, and (ii) all of the Shares that are in the Creation Unit to be redeemed have not been borrowed, loaned or pledged to another party nor are they the subject of a repurchase agreement, securities lending agreement or such other arrangement that would preclude the delivery of such Shares to the Fund. The Fund reserves the absolute right, in its sole discretion, to verify these representations, but will typically require verification in connection with higher levels of redemption activity and/or short interest in the Fund. If the Authorized Participant, upon receipt of a verification request, does not provide sufficient verification of the requested representations, the redemption request will not be considered to be in proper form and may be rejected by the Fund.

#### Timing of Submission of Redemption Requests

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption order no later than the Cut-off Time. The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." A redemption request is deemed received if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating Custom Redemptions and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve System, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the Settlement Date, as defined above.

#### Requests Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) redemption requests may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, the Distributor transmits on behalf of the Authorized Participant, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the redemption. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Creation Unit(s) to the Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System, as described above.

#### Requests Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Redemption Baskets will be delivered outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the redemption will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant must transfer or cause

to be transferred the Creation Unit(s) of shares being redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be delivered through DTC to the Custodian by 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on received T+1. In addition, the Cash Component must be received by the Custodian by 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive the Creation Unit(s) and Cash Component by the appointed times on T+1, the redemption will be rejected, except in the circumstances described below. A rejected redemption request may be resubmitted the following Business Day.

#### Acceptance of Redemption Requests

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust. The Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

#### Delivery of Redemption Basket

Once the Fund has accepted a redemption request, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Redemption Basket, against receipt of the Creation Unit(s) at such NAV, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. A Creation Unit tendered for redemption and the payment of the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf it is acting, will be recorded on the book-entry system of DTC.

The Redemption Basket will generally be delivered to the redeeming Authorized Participant within T+2. Except under the circumstances described below, however, a Redemption Basket generally will not be issued until the Creation Unit(s) are delivered to the Fund, along with the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

#### Cash Redemption Method

When cash redemptions of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions. In the case of a cash redemption, the investor will receive the cash equivalent of the Redemption Basket minus any Transaction Fees, as described above.

### **TAX STATUS**

---

The following discussion is general in nature and should not be regarded as an exhaustive presentation of all possible tax ramifications. All shareholders should consult a qualified tax advisor regarding their investment in the Fund.

The initial capital raise from investors is expected to be made through in-kind contributions of securities from such investors in exchange for Shares. In-kind contributions may qualify for nonrecognition treatment to the contributing parties under Section 351 of the Tax Code, assuming that the requirements of Section 351 are met, which would have corresponding consequences for the tax basis to the Fund in those contributed securities. There can be no assurances regarding the value or tax basis of the contributions in kind, which could result in a negative effect on after-tax returns to investors seeding the Fund, and/or other investors in the Fund.

If for any reason, including the failure of the contributing investors to provide the Fund with accurate information, the initial contribution of assets to the Fund in exchange for Shares fails to meet the requirements of Section 351, the contribution of assets will be treated as a taxable event and the contributing investors would recognize an immediate gain or loss on the contributed assets. The Fund makes no representations as to whether any of such in-kind contributions qualify for Section 351 treatment, or as to any ancillary tax consequences. Additionally, future changes in the Tax Code or regulations and interpretations applicable to Section 351 may impact the ability of contributing investors to take advantage of the deferral of immediate gains or losses on contributed assets. Neither the Fund nor the Adviser gives any assurance to the initial investors as to the tax characterization of their contribution of assets to the Fund in exchange for Shares. Investors making in-kind contributions to the Fund are urged to consult their own tax advisors.

The Fund intends to qualify and has elected to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Tax Code, and intends to continue to so qualify, which requires compliance with certain requirements concerning the sources of its income, diversification of its assets, and the amount and timing of its distributions to shareholders. Such qualification does not involve supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency or bureau. By so qualifying, the Fund should not be subject to federal income or excise tax on its net investment income or net capital gain, which are distributed to shareholders in accordance with the applicable timing requirements. Net investment income and net capital gain of the Fund will be computed in accordance with Section 852 of the Tax Code.

Net investment income is made up of dividends and interest less expenses. Net capital gain for a fiscal year is computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. Capital losses may now be carried forward indefinitely and retain the character of the original loss. Under pre-enacted laws, capital losses could be carried forward to offset any capital gains for eight years, and carried forward as short-term capital, irrespective of the character of the original loss. Capital loss carry forwards are available to offset future realized capital gains. To the extent that these carry forwards are used to offset future capital gains it is probable that the amount offset will not be distributed to shareholders.

As of February 28, 2025, the components of accumulated earnings/(deficit) on a tax basis were as follows:

<b>Undistributed Ordinary Income</b>	<b>Undistributed Long-Term Capital Gains</b>	<b>Post October Loss and Late Year Loss</b>	<b>Capital Loss Carry Forwards</b>	<b>Other Book/Tax Differences</b>	<b>Unrealized Appreciation/ (Depreciation)</b>	<b>Total Accumulated Earnings/(Deficits)</b>
\$ 17,170	\$ —	\$ (1,012,500)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 19,688,103	\$ 18,692,773

The Fund intends to distribute all of its net investment income, any excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, and any excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the Tax Code and therefore should not be required to pay any federal income or excise taxes. Distributions of net investment income will be made semi-annually for the Fund. Distributions of net capital gain, if any, will be made annually no later than December 31 of each year. Both types of distributions will be in shares of the Fund unless a shareholder elects to receive cash.

To be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Tax Code, the Fund must also (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, net income from certain publicly traded partnerships and gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in such securities or currencies, and (b) diversify its holding so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities (for purposes of this calculation, generally limited in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the market value of the Fund's assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities of (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) any one issuer, two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or the securities of certain publicly traded partnerships.

If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M in any fiscal year, it will be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. As such the Fund would be required to pay income taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, at the rates generally applicable to corporations. Shareholders of the Fund generally would not be liable for income tax on the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains in their individual capacities. Distributions to shareholders, whether from the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains, would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Fund.

The Fund is subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on certain undistributed amounts of ordinary income and capital gain under a prescribed formula contained in Section 4982 of the Tax Code. The formula requires payment to shareholders during a calendar year of distributions representing at least 98% of the Fund's ordinary income for the calendar year and at least 98.2% of its capital gain net income (i.e., the excess of its capital gains over capital losses) realized during the one-year period ending October 31 during such year plus 100% of any income that was neither

distributed nor taxed to the Fund during the preceding calendar year. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund expects to time its distributions so as to avoid liability for this tax.

The following discussion of tax consequences is for the general information of shareholders that are subject to tax. Shareholders that are IRAs or other qualified retirement plans are exempt from income taxation under the Tax Code.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

Distributions of net capital gain ("capital gain dividends") generally are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gain; regardless of the length of time the shares of the Trust have been held by such shareholders.

Certain U.S. shareholders, including individuals and estates and trusts, 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 resulting from an investment in the Fund.

Redemption of Fund shares by a shareholder will result in the recognition of taxable gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's tax basis in his or her Fund shares. Such gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets. However, any loss realized upon the redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as capital gain dividends during such six-month period. All or a portion of any loss realized upon the redemption of shares may be disallowed to the extent shares are purchased (including shares acquired by means of reinvested dividends) within 30 days before or after such redemption.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain will be taxable as described above, whether received in additional cash or shares. Shareholders electing to receive distributions in the form of additional shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the net asset value of a share on the reinvestment date.

All distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain, whether received in shares or in cash, must be reported by each taxable shareholder on his or her federal income tax return. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31, if paid during January of the following year. Redemptions of shares may result in tax consequences (gain or loss) to the shareholder and are also subject to these reporting requirements.

Under the Tax Code, the Fund will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all distributions of taxable income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of certain exempt shareholders. Under the backup withholding provisions of Section 3406 of the Tax Code, distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain and proceeds from the redemption or exchange of the shares of a regulated investment company may be subject to withholding of federal income tax in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the investment company with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law, or if the Fund is notified by the IRS or a broker that withholding is required due to an incorrect TIN or a previous failure to report taxable interest or dividends. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld.

#### **Original Issue Discount and Pay-In-Kind Securities**

Current federal tax law requires the holder of a U.S. Treasury or other fixed income zero coupon security to accrue as income each year a portion of the discount at which the security was purchased, even though the holder receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. In addition, pay-in-kind securities will give rise to income, which is required to be distributed and is taxable even though the Fund holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund may be treated as debt securities that are issued originally at a discount. Generally, the amount of the original issue discount ("OID") is treated as interest income and is included in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. A portion of the OID includable in income with respect to certain high-yield corporate debt securities (including certain pay-in-kind securities) may be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. Generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily installments. The Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

Some debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund may be treated as having acquisition discount, or OID in the case of certain types of debt securities. Generally, the Fund will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. The Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

The Fund that holds the foregoing kinds of securities may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary (including when it is not advantageous to do so). The Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution, if any, than they would in the absence of such transactions. Shareholders of the Fund may be subject to state and local taxes on distributions received from the Fund and on redemptions of the Shares.

A brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution accompany each distribution. In January of each year, the Fund issues to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions.

Shareholders should consult their tax advisors about the application of federal, state and local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

---

## **INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1835 Market Street, Suite 310, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year. The firm provides services including (i) audit of annual financial statements, and (ii) assistance and consultation in connection with SEC filings.

---

## **LEGAL COUNSEL**

Thompson Hine LLP, 41 South High Street, Suite 1700, Columbus, Ohio 43215, serves as the Trust's legal counsel.

---

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

The Fund utilizes the ActiveShares® methodology licensed from Precidian. Precidian's products and services are protected by domestic and international intellectual property protections, including, without limitation, the following issued patents and pending patent applications: 7813987, 8285624, 7925562, 13011746, 14528658, 14208966, 16196560.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

---

The audited financial statements and report of the independent registered public accounting firm required to be included in this SAI are hereby incorporated by reference to the [Annual Report](#) for the Fund for the fiscal year ended February 28, 2025. You can obtain a copy of the financial statements contained in the Fund's Annual or Semi-Annual Report without charge by calling the Fund at 1-888-530-2448.

## **Appendix A**

### **First Manhattan Co. LLC**

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

##### ***Background***

In Proxy Voting by Investment Advisers, Investment Advisers Act Release No. 2106 (January 31, 2003), the SEC noted that, “The federal securities laws do not specifically address how an adviser must exercise its proxy voting authority for its Clients. Under the Advisers Act, however, an adviser is a fiduciary that owes each of its Clients a duty of care and loyalty with respect to all services undertaken on the Client’s behalf, including proxy voting. The duty of care requires an adviser with proxy voting authority to monitor corporate events and to vote the proxies.”

Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act requires each registered investment adviser that exercises proxy voting authority with respect to Client securities to:

- Adopt and implement written policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the adviser votes Client securities in the Clients’ best interests. Such policies and procedures must address the manner in which the adviser will resolve material conflicts of interest that can arise during the proxy voting process;
- Disclose to Clients how they may obtain information from the adviser about how the adviser voted with respect to their securities; and
- Describe to Clients the adviser’s proxy voting policies and procedures and, upon request, furnish a copy of the policies and procedures.

Rule 206(4)-6 is supplemented by:

- Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5325 (September 10, 2019) (“Release No. 5325”), which contains guidance regarding the proxy voting responsibilities of investment advisers under the Advisers Act. Among other subjects, Release No. 5325 addresses the oversight of proxy advisory firms by investment advisers; and
- Investment Advisers Act Release No. 5547 (July 22, 2020), which contains supplementary guidance addressing: the risk of voting a proxy before an issuer files additional soliciting materials with the SEC; and associated Client disclosures in this regard.

Additionally, paragraph (c)(2) of Rule 204-2 imposes additional recordkeeping requirements on investment advisers that execute proxy voting authority.

The Advisers Act lacks specific guidance regarding an adviser’s duty to direct Clients’ or Investors participation in class actions. However, many investment advisers adopt policies and procedures regarding class actions.



## ***Risks***

In developing these policies and procedures, First Manhattan Co. LLC (“FM”) considered numerous hypothetical risks associated with the proxy voting process. Examples of such hypothetical risks include the following:

- Proxies are not identified and processed in a timely manner;
- Proxies are not voted in Clients’ best interests;
- Conflicts of interest between FM and a Client are not identified or resolved appropriately;
- Third-party proxy voting services do not vote proxies according to First Manhattan’s instructions and in Clients’ best interests;
- FM does not conduct sufficient oversight of any proxy advisory firms whose services it uses;
- FM votes a proxy before the issuer files additional soliciting materials with the SEC;
- Proxy voting records, Client requests for proxy voting information, and First Manhattan’s responses to such requests, are not properly maintained;
- FM lacks policies and procedures regarding Clients’ participation in class actions; and
- FM fails to maintain documentation associated with Clients’ participation in class actions.

FM has established the following guidelines as an attempt to mitigate the aforementioned hypothetical risks.

## ***Policies and Procedures***

Proxies are assets of Clients that must be voted with diligence, care, and loyalty. FM will vote each proxy in accordance with its fiduciary duty to its Clients. FM generally votes proxies in a way that maximizes the value of Clients’ assets. However, FM Portfolio Manager Teams document and abide by any specific proxy voting instructions conveyed by their Clients with respect to their Clients’ securities. FM’s Proxy Voting Committee is responsible for the proxy voting process.

We have adopted and implemented policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in the best interests of Clients, in accordance with First Manhattan’s fiduciary obligations and Rule 206(4)-6 under the Advisers Act, the proxy voting requirements of the Securities Act, and the Exchange Act. Under the terms of our standard investment advisory contract, we have the right to vote on all matters pertaining to the securities in a Client’s portfolio except as specifically provided otherwise. Our policies and procedures are designed to ensure that proxy voting decisions are made in the best interests of Clients. In fulfilling our proxy voting responsibilities, we recognize the individually tailored account nature of our investment advisory business, the multitude and variety of securities held for Clients and the responsibility for investment decisions vested in each Portfolio Manager, which where applicable, is exercised in conformity with recommendations from the First Manhattan Research Department, for each account under the firm’s supervision. Accordingly, each Portfolio Manager may determine that the specific circumstances of such accounts require that their proxies be voted differently from the manner in which proxies are voted with respect to their own accounts or other accounts under their supervision.

FM's Proxy Voting Committee is responsible for and oversees our proxy voting process. Members of our Operations Department deal directly with third parties to ensure that proxies and related materials are forwarded to Portfolio Managers. The designated staff also works with Portfolio Managers to cast votes, resolve issues with the Proxy Committee, and compile proxy voting reports. FM has retained ISS Governance Services to assist in the proxy research process.

First Manhattan believes that generally there are no material conflicts between Clients' interests and our own insofar as proxy voting is concerned. In the event a material conflict arises, the Proxy Committee will determine how to provide disclosure of such conflict and, if appropriate, how to obtain Client consent to the proxy vote. It is our policy to resolve all conflicts of interest in the best interests of the Client. We have identified the following potential conflicts of interest: (i) where we manage any assets of a publicly traded company and also hold the securities of that company or an affiliated company in the account of a Client; (ii) where we have a Client relationship with an individual who is a (A) corporate director or a candidate for a corporate directorship of a public company or (B) senior executive of a public company, and the securities of that public company are held in the account of such Client; and (iii) where our Personnel is a (A) senior executive or (B) director or a candidate for a corporate directorship of a public company the securities of which are held in the account of a Client which is managed by us. We maintain records to monitor for these items. In the event that any of the conflicts described above should arise, either the Proxy Committee will vote the applicable securities proxies pursuant to our proxy policies and procedures, or we will vote the applicable proxies consistent with the recommendations of ISS (or another third party providing similar services). In the event a Client provides his or her Portfolio Manager with proxy voting instructions on a particular vote, such instructions will supersede these procedures.

Clients are permitted to direct voting in a particular solicitation by contacting their Portfolio Manager in advance of the date of such vote. Clients may obtain records on how we voted their shares by contacting FM. Proxy voting policies and procedures are furnished to all new Clients and are also available on request by contacting First Manhattan Co. LLC, 399 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022, 212-756- 3300, or by e-mailing [at\\_proxyvoting@firstmanhattan.com](mailto:at_proxyvoting@firstmanhattan.com).

## ***Proxy Voting Procedures***

FM has engaged a third-party vendor, Broadridge, to vote its proxies. Broadridge will electronically notify FM when a new proxy notice is established. Currently, FM is set up to utilize a default vote for all proxy notices, which is to always vote with management. The default vote is cast immediately and can be revised manually up until the vote deadline date.

For every proxy notice, the first step is to review if that security is covered by an analyst in our Research Department. If the security is covered by an analyst, the proxy questions will be sent to the analyst for review. Analysts typically use ISS reports as a guide when making their recommendations. If they recommend to vote with management, no changes are needed. However, if they have recommendations outside of the default vote with management, a manual vote will be completed for all shares.

For securities that are not covered by an analyst, reporting is created to identify the number of shares held by each Portfolio Manager. Portfolio Managers then have the option to review reports based on a number of criteria, including the number of shares held, and advise the Client Services team how they would like to vote the shares held for Clients, in the best interest of such Clients. FM maintains all email correspondence with analysts and Portfolio Managers.

The Portfolio Manager of the FM Focus Equity ETF and the FM Compounders Equity ETF (collectively, the “ETFs”) will instruct the FM Operations Department with respect to voting the proxies for securities held by the ETFs.